Dyed Wall Hangings with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Dyed Wall Hangings
- Hey everybody. Welcome to Creativebug. We're coming at you live like we always do on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which means you can write in and ask questions. Today's a really fun one. You might have a lot of questions because there's some great technical challenge. In this one, I thought I'd show you how I made the backdrop for Rebecca Ringquist set. If you checked out our Tuesday live, you'll know that Rebecca was in our studio filming a whole new round of embroidery stitch classes that's going to be released in March. And she always inspires me to make a really interesting set. So if you look behind me, I have these sort of banners that have been dyed with Rit dye and then I've add some embellishment with yarns and other kind of textural elements. So I thought I'd show you how to do that because this would make a great just piece of art for a wall hanging would be a great headboard. If you did like a panel of three, you could do it over a sofa, you could do a photo booth backdrop. Really the sky is the limit. So to do a stove top dye or at home dyeing, you have your washing machine as an option. You can do a stove top as an option. I'm actually gonna use the bucket method, which works great for our studio. I've got a plastic container here with three gallons of the hottest water I can get. So if you can't get really hot water out of your tap, just add a little bit of kettle water to this. Also have a little mini dye happening here or will be having some dye here. And this is about one gallon of water to my three gallons of water. I'm actually gonna add a cup of salt. I'm using Epsom salt, but you can just use table salt. I'm gonna give that a stir and I'm using a plastic or middle spoon. This works fine. We are dyeing in these plastic tubs, which means they might retain some of the dye, but it works great for the size and it's transparent so you guys can see it. Maybe some of you have done some dye at home and you have some hot tips for us. Feel free to write in. We also are gonna do a giveaway for I think a complete set of Rit dye in the original line. So make sure that you follow the link that Ali's about to post so that you can submit your name and enter to in some awesome dye and do some stuff at home. All right, that's pretty dissolved. Now for every three gallons of water I need to add about a pound of fabric. That's the ratio I'm working with. Kona Cotton, that's from joann.com and I'm using about two and a half yards fits in this, sometimes three yards depending on the weight. And you want your fabric to be pre-washed. You wanna make sure you've gotten rid of any residue and wet. So this is wet and I took my two and a half yards. I tore it down in the middle and then tore it half again. So it's a nice banner size. It's about three feet so you guys can see before I put it in. We also wanna add our dye so that I'm not getting any kind of irregular color and I'm not gonna be dyeing the whole thing. Actually, I'm gonna be making two dye baths. So I get this kind of graduated color. I happen to be working with an existing dyed a piece of fabric. This is a peach tone and let's use a little bit of my violet. So give your bottle a shake. And for three gallons of water, you can use about half a bottle of liquid rip dye. If you're working with synthetic fabrics, then you need to be using the other type of dye that rip makes for synthetic fabrics and you'll, I think it's called Dior and you'll see it has a different label. So just check your fabric. We'll stir this and you can do a little test with a paper towel to make sure that the color is how you like it. Now remember when your fabric is wet and when the paper towel is wet, the dye is going to appear darker. So I've got some paper towel here, so hopefully you guys can see that it's a really nice vibrant fuchsia tone or violet tone and I'm happy with that. It's gonna be a little bit darker than this when it dries. So that's good to go. On this side, I need to add a little bit of salt about a

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third of a cup because I'm doing one gallon, so that's a third of my three gallon recipe. So I'm just doing my recipe in thirds. Give that a stir. So because I'm doing over ding, I'm working with fabric that's already been dyed and I'm adding new color to it. I actually thought it'd be interesting to try out some of ritz's new neon colors. This is brand new for their line. The neon yellow is amazing. I'm gonna give it a good shake and we're gonna see what happens over the peach. Could be really interesting. It looks like a really buttery yellow, but I swear it's gonna be neon yellow like a highlighter, just like I used on the backdrop. What's great about the Rit dye is that there are a lot of colors, but you can actually make your own custom blended colors. I would recommend experimenting, but you can also check out Rit dye's website because they have a ton of great color combination recipes. All right, so salt and dye. In both of my baths, my fabric has been pre-washed and is wet. And instead of soaking this entirely in any dye bath, I'm actually gonna do half and half. I'm just gonna use my spoon. If you guys have questions, don't be shy. You can ask 'cause we're live. I was dyeing fabric for like maybe a garment or something. You need to agitate and let this dye sit for anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour to intensify the color. The salt helps the color. You can also use vinegar. You can check out some of their other mordants or things that allow the dye to adhere to the to the fibers of the fabric. I'm not gonna make you watch this for 20 minutes, I just wanna give you a sense of how you would go about dyeing this at home. But you can see already how that dye is taking to the fabric. This color will intensify. I don't want to cross contaminate. - Courtney, I have a question. - Yeah. - What is your favorite color of dye? - Ali has a question for me and she's asking what my favorite color of dye is. It's hard to say because so many of them are really beautiful. The coral is really nice. That's what I used on the banners and I mixed some other colors into it. I have to say that the neons I'm most excited about 'cause they're brand new. I have not tried the neon pink yet. I've only used the neon yellow and I'm really excited about it. So maybe you guys let me know what your favorite colors are and experiment with these at home. Remember that you can write in to do the contest and actually win some dye to experiment with your own backdrops. We also have some great classes using Rit dye on our site, including some ombre dip dyed napkins and Marisa Lynch's over dyed garments from the thrift store to revamp your closet. Okay, so I'm gonna set this aside or let's pretend 20 minutes has gone by 'cause then I wanna show you what I would do next. So carefully you can see I'm wearing gloves. It's also nice to protect your table. I'm working on a drop cloth, but you can work on plastic or a surface that you can wipe down with just like two minutes. You can see how much of that dye is already absorbed into my fabric. And because I'm working with the peach fabric, you are gonna get some color shift between the dye and what you see on your fabric. - We have another question. - Yeah, - This one comes from Marian and she's asking, do you ever use - Hi Marian Precision Dyes. - Precision Dyes. - P-R-O-C-I-O-N - Procion dyes. - Procion. - Hi Marian, welcome. Sorry, I'm probably off camera because I'm switching my water here. And you're asking have I ever used procion dyes? Yeah, procion dyes are a fabric dye that is powder form. I haven't used it in a while. I took a textile design class in college and that's the last time I was like really actively working with them. Rit dye also makes a powder dye. It's great for ice dyeing and it actually, what I'm gonna show you next is gonna be really important if you are using a powder dye, this stuff color fixative stay. This is great if you're going to wash your fabric afterward because we're making wall hangings. These are not gonna be something you're gonna wash probably, but you wanna include this right after you dye your fabric. So let's pretend this had been sitting for 20 minutes to an hour and now I wanna put it into this bath, give this a shake. I'm working with really hot water still and you only need about four tablespoons. The procion dyes, like I said, just like the powder dyes, you can use those. I prefer the

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liquid because the powder, sometimes you can inhale and it's a little bit toxic, so you wanna make sure you're using a mask, but you can use whatever you're comfortable working with. Good question, Marion. - Next question comes from Jill and she says, I've always been afraid that it would make a mess everywhere. How messy is it, you dye. - Hi Jill. Welcome. Jill's asking, how messy is this? Well, you can see I have my gloves on. I hate to say earlier I did splash a little dye on my dress and so I do have to do some recovery work later today. But I would say use an apron. You can work in your kitchen. That's a surface that you can wipe down. And actually it's not too messy, especially if you use the bucket method. In our ombre dipped eye class that Kelly Wilkinson teaches. She shows the stove top method. I believe Marissa Lynch does a washing machine method, so you can try and see they're all pretty good if you protect your surfaces beforehand. It's a great question. Like I said, let's pretend this had been soaking for longer, but the idea for this dye fixative is you're actually gonna agitate your fabric and rinse everything out. You wanna do this for about 15 or 20 minutes and then go into your clear water, running water under a sink or throw it in the washing machine to get all the dye out and to color set your fabric. This is actually a pretty beautiful D, it's like a nice ombre. It's gonna dye a little bit lighter. If I had left this in 20 minutes an hour, I would've had some really saturated dye. So I have a swap out for you to show you what the next step is. - All right, while you do that, - Yeah, - Another question Trina is asking, do you suggest - No more gloves, - Any dye or paint for furniture? I'd like a couch. - Oh, that's an interesting question. So Trina's asking, do you recommend any kind of dye for a furniture like a couch? Well, you actually can dye wood with Rit dye. All of their dye is made in the United States. It's safe. You can port down the drain actually, which is awesome. So it's fine for home deck fabrics, it's great for pillows and things like that. Now if you're working on a full couch that you can't put into a bucket, you might have to brush it on and I'm not sure how easily that that would be for first time. You might have to mix it in with a gel or look for something that's suspended in gel. So you'd have to try it out and let me know how it goes. All right, so here is my banner. Hopefully you guys can see that guy. And I have my fuchsia tone. I dyed this in fuchsia. This is that same peach tone that I was working with. And then this is actually Navy and I've got a hot glue gun set up and a bunch of my favorite yarns. I was trying to make as much room on this table as I can. You guys, good questions on the dye. I don't need my gloves anymore. - All right, we have another question. - Yeah, - Stephanie's wondering how much salt do you add and is it table salt that you add? - Stephanie was asking me about the salt that I added to the mixture. It is one cup of salt for every three gallons of water and dye. I also did that one gallon tub of the neon yellow and I did about a third of a cup of salt. You can use table salt or you can use Epsom salt. I just happen to have that on hand from something that faith did. But if you wanna use table salt, that's totally fine. It's a little bit less expensive. Good question. I've got some roving here and some yarn. You probably have heard me say that I'm not a knitter or crochet, but I actually love yarn and this is the kind of fabric, sorry, I kind of project that is perfect for for using yarn that you have or little scraps of yo roving that you might have on hand. So gather colors that either compliment or even contrast your dyed banner and then you can work with those to create a really beautiful tapestry texture. So I'm gonna start with this yarn and I wanna create bands of it here. And kind of the best way to do that is to cut many, many lengths. I like to have it hang off about three inches on either side. So I might start with like 10 or 15. You might have a trick for doing this. You can go around a yardstick. The length from my hand to my elbow is too short and you can kind of pre-cut all of these to start and then just have them at the ready. So I'll trim that. If you guys remember the yarn banners that I made, that was actually for Rebecca set many, many years ago and we did a how to, that was another project where I used a lot of yarn.

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Again, not as a crochet or knitter, but it's a great way to play with color and texture and bring some easy home decor into your house without spending a lot of money. So that's awesome. - Our next question comes from Phil. - Yeah, hi Phil. - And Phil is wondering how did you get the watercolor effect? - Oh, good question. I didn't mention this. So Phil's asking how did we get this kind of ombre sweet sort of watercolor effect? And that's just from the way that I scrunch, so I don't have my gloves on, but when I laid my fabric in, I just kind of gathered it and set it in and it created these natural kind of striations and color mottling. And I didn't want anything that was too standard because it allows to have these really beautiful effects that I'm gonna use to dictate where I put my yarn. So that's how I got that effect. That's a great question, Phil. All right, so high temp hot glue gun and you are gonna do this, it's a little bit of a slow going process to start, but once you get the hang of it, it's very meditative. You just put in your earbuds and listen to some good music. You're gonna glue two of these on at a time and you wanna make sure that you leave about three inches on either side. And I'm gonna do it in sections. Like I said, I'm working with a high temp hot glue gun. You are gonna use a lot of hot glue for this. And what I'm gonna do is actually straddle that bead of hot glue with my two strands. I'm actually not gonna touch the hot glue 'cause you don't wanna burn yourself. And I like these kind of watercolor effects as Phil was saying, because it dictates where I'm gonna add this textural layer. I was never a hot glue gun fan in my like early artistic career until I discovered the high temp hot glue gun because it actually really stays. It's really super handy. I use it all the time now, especially for set design. - I'm sure someone will ask what glue gun you're you're - Using. Yeah, the answer what glue gun am I using is this is actually a Stanley Glue gun. It's has a high low dual temperature. You can usually find these at your local craft store. You can also find 'em at the hardware store if you're not sure. Good question. Definitely those little mini glue guns, that's not gonna be high temp. Those are not gonna stick as well because we are hot gluing this. This is not a washable wall piece of wall decor, like most wall decor. It's something that you would just spot clean if needed. You could actually weave something, but it would take much more time. It'd be much more time intensive. So this is kind of like my cheat. So it looks kind of woven from a distance, but it's actually just a surface treatment. - All right, the next question comes from Linda and she is wondering can we dye black garments? - Oh, Linda's asking can I re-dye black garments? I think we have a Rit dye specialist hanging out, but I would say, I actually think it's possible they do make like a color remover is what I believe the package is called. That's like basically it's called discharge. When you do that is you're taking away dye and you would do that first and then over dye the garment. So I do, I do think that's possible. I'm not sure if solid black, how effectively you can remove that dye, but I think we might have Jonathan on hand to answer that. And so keep an eye on in the comments. Good question. I have done some discharge dyeing with a bleach pen actually on black and that's been really cool and fun and you could over dye that. So you can see I'm just building up my layers. I'll probably do a couple more of these. You'll get a rhythm right now. Those like woven wall hangings that are so beautiful and out there, if you don't have the time, skill, or money to purchase one, this is like a great alternative. It's a really good quick and easy wall decor for a celebration, a party, you can customize it to your colors. That's the awesome thing about the Rit dye is that you are choosing how to dye your banners. You have a little bit of wiggle room as you're dyeing. So I have a little bit of hot glue there. I'm just gonna do another line or so. Remember I'm gluing these in batches of two and then we'll add some roving just so you can see what that looks like. This hot glue is staying very hot, so I can actually just put on the whole bead now that I'm set up and just work along. - Here's another question from me about the hot glue. So right now you have it in a pan. When working with hot glue, do you recommend having

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a metal or non - Yeah, - Fire safe surface. - A non melty surface. - Non melty surface. - Ali's asking about my hot glue gun choice. So these hot glue guns do come with a little like foot if you will, to stand up and that's supposed to protect you. But honestly, when I'm moving and have a lot of stuff on the table, the likelihood is I'm gonna knock this over and then hot glue is gonna kind of pour onto my table. Usually you can take that off with a razor, but it's a little bit precarious. I like to use one of these enamel pallets. You could use a cookie sheet, you could use some stacked newspaper, something that you don't mind getting hot glue dripped onto. I think this works much better than this little plastic foot. Great question, Ali. Also try to keep anything that might melt from the tip kind of away. All right, I think that's looking pretty good. I like the change in color from this like fuchsia tone into this kind of more berry tone. And we're going back into our peach. Now's a good time to add a new texture or a new color. This is some chunky red heart yarn that I actually really like the look of as is, but it's even better when you pull it apart. So lemme just show you a couple of lengths of this. Remember I like to leave about three or four inches on each side and you could play with that. I mean you could leave really long sides, you could play with some macrame nodding to add more texture. We're kind of doing like a cheat sort of. So we're not putting in the full effort of weaving a tapestry, but we're getting some of the look of that. It's kind of like Semi Homemade with Sandra Lee, if you remember that cooking show. All right, so this yarn and not every yarn is gonna do this. This yarn happens to be made of four separate pieces and just like embroidery floss, if I pull it apart then I'll get two strands each. You wanna be careful not to tangle it, but I actually love this kind of curly texture it creates and it gives a really woven effect from kind of at a distance. So we're gonna pull apart these and then add them to our wall hanging. We did a lot of this kind of stuff with Rebecca and her embroidery floss earlier this week. This would be really cool outside too. Maybe not permanently because your yarn might not hold up. But for a day celebration or a weekend celebration like a wedding, this could work really well. And like I said, you can customize your colors with your Rit dye. - Okay, our next question comes from Marni. Marni says, I missed the beginning. Can you please tell me what type of fabric? - Hi Marni, welcome. If this is the Marni I think you are. Hi, I miss you. How's Detroit? Yeah, I met Marni a Squam many years ago. Isn't nice to hear you from you. So Marnie's asking what kind of fabric I'm using and this is Kona Cotton solid. You can get it on joann.com. And actually if you're new to Creativebug, you can use our code Joann one to get a month free of Creativebug. You can check out Rebecca's class as I mentioned her earlier because we were filming her this week and this was her set that I made. You can check out the yarn banner class that I filmed also earlier and you can get a 30% off coupon to join in to buy your yarn, to make your wall hanging and to buy your Kona cotton solids. It's a quilting cotton, so it's that weight and I actually really love it. It comes in so many colors and it's really fun to over dye with the Rit dye, trying to keep some of that nice curly texture. As I glue this down, I'm gluing this down in the same way, two strands at a time, kind of capturing the glue in between each strand. Depending on how much of this yarn you add to your banner, you're gonna need quite a few hot glue sticks. That is, that is one thing to consider when you're doing this. - Next question comes from Ali. And Ali is wondering, would all yarn types work? I have some thick woolly yarn that might not stick. - Good question. Ali's asking, will all yarn types work? She has some thick wool at home. Yeah, if you use this hot temp glue, absolutely that wool yarn will stick. Something you can do too, and I was gonna show you this in just a sec, is if you're working with really thin strands, you can kind of knot them at the end to create bigger strands. So I have some here. This is a really thin yarn, but I really love the color of it. Now you could also dye your own yarn. You will need to use the other type of dye that Rit makes for synthetic fibers. 'cause most of this yarn has some polyester and so forth in it, so you

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could custom dye your yarn as well. I really liked this color, but it's really thin. So I just tied about 15 strands together with a knot and that'll help me kind of bunch this together and I'll just glue it in points like I'm gonna do the roving in just a minute. So yeah, experiment with your different kinds of yarns. Okay, one more of this and then roving. Good questions you guys. Thanks for tuning in and always asking good questions. Don't forget that there is a link to join the contest to win the Rit dye so that you can try working with it at home. And Ali is posting a link to that. Also, if you guys haven't seen our live shoots before, we do them on Tuesdays and Thursdays and we have an artist in the studio filming. We include them, which is awesome. That's how Rebecca was on our shoot on Tuesday this week. So you like our Facebook page and get a notification every time we go live and we also, we often do giveaways of really cool products like the Rit Dye or Sakura Pens or Rebecca's book in this week's case. All right, that's looking pretty awesome. I love the kind of landscape feel that this has right now. I'm gonna take a look down where the navy is and see if I wanna add any texture here. I do have the same yarn, this chunky yarn in a gray. I think the gray would be really cool. So I might add that I do wanna show the roving as well, and I picked up this really beautiful blush roving, if you haven't used roving before, it's the fibers that yarn is made out of before it's made into yarn. So it's really fluffy, it's great for weavings and I think I might wanna add it here. I'm gonna kind of just run it along and make sure I have enough. Now the woman who's asking about the wool yarn, she's asking for wool yarn would stick. That's probably because it's maybe a little thick or a little fluffy like the roving is. And it's true. Not all of this is gonna stick, but I'm gonna pick little points and really hold it in place so that it sticks. If you have any problems, you can knot your roving first and just glue where the knots are. You could take a little bit of thin yarn like this and actually tie little bits off and use that as a point to where your glue is gonna go so that you have something really finite to kind of push down into. And that can be part of your design. You could leave long bits of this yarn hanging, you could make a tassel there or you can hide it on the back. So these are all things to consider when placing something like roving or really thick yarn. And actually I really like how that looks. So maybe I'll place a few more of those. Again, roving is one of those really beautiful materials that I don't have that many occasions to use. If you guys have checked out our clothespin doll class, which is one of my favorite classes on Creativebug, I definitely love to use roving for their little hair, which is really fun. You can also use it for paper dolls. Maybe you guys have other suggestions for what you've used roving for. All right, we'll just place a few of those. I can go ahead and place more later. I'll start at one end and put a generous little blob of glue there. I don't have a band, but I do have this taper end of roving, so just kind of twist it and tuck it under and I'll use that. I wanna be careful not to burn my fingers. You can also use like the tip of your scissors or a dowel or like a butter knife or something to hold things in place as your hot glue sets up. - All right, I wanna share this from Marni. Marni said it would be neat to do a night scene with black or maybe dye and then use white and yellow yarns or roving to make a moon. - That's such a great idea. Marni Marni was saying in the comments that it would be fun to work with really dark dyes, like a deep blue or black, and then use really bright like star colored yarn and roving to create like a moon or a starry sky. I think that's an awesome idea and I know you could do it. Marni was in my image transfer class at Squam, so she made this awesome image transfer on this huge piece of leather. I will never forget it. All right, so you can see how I'm leaving that roving texture really fluffy. If when you hang this up on the wall, it's drooping in any place. You can come back in with your hot glue and kind of tack it down. But I think that we are having points every three inches or so, and that will be fine. I might wanna add another little tie here, and I'm following along with this navy dye kind of where it created this traveling line as my inspiration for where this is gonna go. And rovings

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really inexpensive. It's super fun to play with. And like I said, it's great in wall hangings. If you've taken Annabelle Wrigley's weaving class on our site, you could do something like that and then add some roving into it for some really cool texture. All right, almost there. It's really fun to also just, like I said, play with the color combinations of the Rit dye. It allowed me to really customize this banner and wall hanging, whereas if I was just using fabric right off the bolt, I wouldn't have as much customization options. I like to do the over dyes. You could try this with a printed fabric also and see what you get. Maybe you have some special fabric from a project leftover and you can play with it and give it a new life by over ding it, and then adding some tapestry texture. All right. I am almost to the end here. This end does not have a taper edge, so it'd be harder to roll it over. I'm gonna add one more tie just to keep everything together at the end and to glue it down. All right, so I love how that looks. It's really fun. I could actually just keep adding yarn to all of this over and over and over. And you can see on the backdrop, I've added different yarns and different textures. Again, this is something that you could do and just, you could pin this on the wall with map tacks, but I actually hot glued mine to a dowel. If you're good at sewing or that's your go-to, you could create a little pocket sleeve by just folding this over and doing a stitch in a coordinating color here. You could actually make that stitch before you dye your fabric and have it all be seamless. You can play with your different yarn materials, play with different roving, and then hang this up, like I said, as a backdrop. Could be for a photo booth, could be for a wedding or baby shower. You could also do something over your couch or over your bed because it's very lightweight and it's not gonna fall down and hit you on the head if there's an earthquake. So it's really versatile. It's really fun and easy to do. Thank you guys for joining us. Don't forget to sign up for our Facebook Lives just by liking our page on Facebook. And don't forget about the raffle copter where you can win the Rit dye and experiment at home. And we'll see you next week.

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