

RUST DYEING

Interesting shapes of rusted objects can be used to create “dyed” stains on your fabric.

1. Work on a tray or other surface that can be inserted into a plastic bag. A rusted tray will add more stains.
2. Spray your fabric with a solution of half vinegar and half water.
3. Using rubber gloves arrange rusted objects on your fabric.
4. Shredded steel wool adds another level of design; negative shapes can be created with objects that don't rust.
5. Spray again with the vinegar/water.
6. Wrap inside a plastic bag and seal for 24 hours.
7. Weight with books to press the steel wool to the fabric [some air needed for reaction].
8. Using rubber gloves, remove the metal and store for your next rust dyeing.
9. Rinse well in a solution of 1/4c. salt dissolved in 4 gal. hot water, then wash well in soapy water.

*** This is not an archival technique as the rust continues to react with the fabric over the years.

Bibliography:

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