



## **SILK SCARF PRINTING & DYEING: STEP-BY-STEP TECHNIQUES FOR 50 SILK SCARVES**

*by Melanie Brummer*

*Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Road,  
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055  
2015. Softcover. 144 pages. \$19.95.*

Author Melanie Brummer is a dyer and printer with over twenty years of experience in the fashion and design industry. Her company, Slipstream Fabric Finishes, focuses on training, products, and books. Currently she teaches fashion designers and others about production requirements for dyeing and printing custom fabrics.

Brummer's book focuses on two surface design approaches to embellishing cloth: dyeing and printing. All projects use the versatile fashion accessory, a silk scarf. The scarves come in a variety of weights, sizes, and weave structures, depending on the suggested use of the scarf in each project. These surface design techniques can be done safely and efficiently at home with inexpensive art supplies and minimal equipment. General

instructions for techniques are given in the first part of the book. The book is well illustrated with color photographs. Beginners as well as experienced artists can create unique silk scarves using Brummer's dyeing and printing techniques.

At the beginning of the book, an overview of instructions about dyeing and printing are detailed, but no specific recipes are given. Brummer's projects feature her own Slipstream products, but readers are told that other brands of alkaline dyes may be used following the instructions for specific products. In this book, all dyes are alkaline instead of acid dyes. Alkaline dyes need less contact with silk than other fibers for bonding. Limiting the time the dye is on the fiber retains silk's special sheen. The author is fond of silk, mentioning the properties of silk that make it such an ideal fiber for dyeing. The supply list for each project includes Slipstream dye colors, but if you are using a different brand of dyes you can simply use the list as a guide to approximate the suggested colors.

Printing instructions are based on simple block printing techniques using printing paints or inks. Tools for printing include found objects such as plastic lids, baskets, textured bottles, or other recycled objects. If you want a special motif, instructions for carving linoleum blocks are given for creating your own designs. Each of the fifty designs and their creation are explained in detail and illustrated with several color photos. The techniques can be used separately or together for a mixed-media design. Each technique section has a gallery page giving a photographic overview of the completed projects included in that section.

Brummer is careful to make sure the reader understands the difference between how dye and paint work on silk or other fabrics by providing a chart detailing the differences at the beginning of the book.

Finishing ideas, instructions for hemming and for adding additional embellishments are included. Best of all, information about the techniques can be used to inspire your own fabric designs using other fibers, dyes, and colors, and by adjusting dye-to-fiber contact time.

*Reviewed by Terri Bryson  
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