

# Filter Paper & Marker Tie-Dye

## Materials:

Large Coffee Filters (15 – 21” diameter)  
Prang Watercolor or Washable Markers  
(any nib style – preferred will work)  
Water

## Optional:

Rubber Bands  
Paper clips  
Rubbing Alcohol

## Equipment:

Protected Work Surface  
Brush to apply Water

## Optional:

Spray Bottle

## Vocabulary:

Tie-dye; blending; color bleed; surface design; long fibered paper; complimentary colors; Resist; color mixing; and the theories of how an ink could be made up of blended colors that in turn could be broken down by varied solubility.

**Introduction:** There are a long list of gorgeous oriental papers used for a great volume of art projects from collage and binding to laminated surfaces and weaving. Along with fabric techniques that feature similar effects these surface design techniques have long appealed through many cultures. The coffee filter is a special long fibered paper that will behave very like a fabric at a very affordable price. The colors used can also be less specialized as they are a paper. The Prang marker line inks are particularly well suited to this as they will respond to different solvents (water and or rubbing alcohol used here) allowing a full spectrum of sophisticated colors to be generated from a single box of markers. The filter paper tolerates the handling as well as can be rolled, stitched, cut and glued, laminated and more when done. It just becomes more soft and fabric like as it is handled.

**Technique:** Roll, twist, scrunch, bunch or whatever you like the filter of your choice. Specific designs can be generated with specific folds. Further secure with rubber bands – paper clips – string whatever of your choice as desired (note – simply twisting yields a very nice effect – so the more advanced tying and folding can be done with more advanced lessons) Apply marker colors – allowing the color to wick/soak from the marker tip into the filter. Leave some space between colors and recognize that the colors will mix, blend and bleed as they soak in. Spray – or brush onto the marker colored areas water (and if desired in different areas – rubbing alcohol. Try not to apply the solvents to the same places – as they will cancel out the special effects you get from them separately) Twist a little extra hard to encourage the trading of colors – and then unfold. If too pale – too much white or any other reason – re-twist and repeat color and solvent applications until you like it.

**Uses:** Stretch in hoop as a sun catcher; cover a book or make a sketchbook. Cover precut mat, use as frame – can be padded or stitched to further embellish. Make rolled paper beads, cover wire or pipe cleaners for a fancy wire sculpting medium; laminate to any flat or dimensional surface in stead of paint. Collage work – memory papers – quilting – especially in wall hung display pieces. Paper flowers – ornaments – origami – and the list is as long as you can think of things to do with any kind of decorative paper.

Coffee filters come in sizes from 8-3/4” to 10 “ to 15-1/2” to 21” in diameter through institutional sources.

## Grade Level: Pre-K through 12.

Intricacy of design intent and usage after surface decoration allows for varied depth of control and sophistication in the use of the technique.

## Project Time:

One class period for the initial technique more for applications beyond the surface decoration aspects – usually a second session.

## Standards:

Pre-K and lower grade to crumple and apply colors – repeating as necessary to cover as Desired. Middle grades same plus add water to cause bleed and understand the color blends plus to make something out of the paper –like a book cover or frame after. Upper grades – same - adding alcohol for different color blends and more Sophisticated use - weaving stitchery or other deco.