
Lumi: Sunfold Printed Scarf with Jesse Genet of Lumi

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(bright acoustic guitar music) - Hi I'm Jessie Genet, founder of Lumi. I've been printing fabric with light for over 10 years, and today I'm gonna show you the sunfold technique. I'll walk you through the steps of manipulating your fabric to create different designs, and show you how you can customize a wide variety of fashion accessories using the technique. You can print it in the afternoon and wear it out at night. That's how quick this process is. (bright acoustic guitar music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- If you're working with the Sunfold Printing Kit, then it includes an eight-ounce bottle of blue Inkodye, an eight-ounce bottle of red Inkodye, and an eight-ounce bottle of Inkowash Detergent for washing you prints after. You also get two pairs of black gloves to wear during the printing. And then you'll also need to gather a few extra things. For this activity, you'll need a bowl or a bucket to actually dip and submerge your pieces, your printed pieces, a stir stick to stir your dye in with some water, water to dilute your dye, since we recommend diluting for this process, and then also whatever you'd like to print. Today, we'll be printing a silk scarf. You can print any natural material, so go to your closet, look at the items inside, read the tags, and see what they're made out of. You can print anything made out of materials like cotton, viscose, rayon, wool, silk. And also size doesn't matter. Essentially, because we're gonna be submerging the piece in diluted Inkodye, you can feel ambitious and do larger projects. I've Sunfolded light-colored jeans and things like that, as well. So once you have your materials, you also need to make sure you have a work surface. Now, I'm using a board here that's dedicated to printing, but you could use a piece of foam core, a piece of cardboard, or even a piece of plastic. You just want to make sure you can actually pick it up to take it outside when we're ready for exposing.

Chapter 3 - Design and Dye Scarf

Ideas for folding and twisting fabric

- With Sunfold Printing there are lots of different ways to scrunch, fold, twist your fabric to create beautiful elegant design. I'm gonna work with this wet piece of silk to actually show you how to manipulate it. And over here you can see how that print would turn out. Start here with what I like to call the pinch and twist. So, with this technique, a couple inches from the corner I'm taking a little piece of fabric, getting ahold of it, pulling it up a little bit and twisting it. You can twist it to different extents depending on how pronounced you want the effect to be. And I'll just keep doing that across the fabric. Kinda pulling it up and twisting it. These will each create a little twist effect right around them. And because the sun will only print what it sees, all the little pieces of fabric hidden in the twist will stay white. Depending on the thickness of your fabric you'll get different effects. You might need to go back and make sure each one turns into a little twist as you go. I like how that looks. And I kinda like pressing them down making sure they're gonna create a nice little shadow. I'm doing them in an actual kind of rectangular pattern. You could do them randomly. But, I like to create a little bit of an organized chaos. So, I'm doing one last one here in this corner. Then, I'm going to go back and check the ones in the middle. Press them each down and that looks perfect.

This design would turn into this pattern over here. Our next pattern is going to be in the shape of an "X". I'll show you how that works. So to get this beautiful effect, you're going to take a single finger and push in at the center of one side of your fabric. And because this silk is so thin I'm getting a lot of beautiful little tiny folds. I'm gonna stop right at the center, there. And then I'm gonna do the same thing from this side. Creating a bunch of tiny little folds. And I'll stop right there. You could go all the way, but I like to have a printed area in the center. So, I'm gonna leave it a little bit like that. So I'll have more color in the center. I'm gonna take my finger over here and do the same thing. This is kind of why it's an "X", because you do it on all sides. And I'm gonna take my finger here and push in one more time. That's that. So, this folding pattern, will turn into this result. Moving onto our next technique, I'm gonna fold our wet piece of silk back out and get it ready for the design that I call the "Palm Scrunch". Very technical term. Essentially, we take our palms and we kind of scrunch in at the center. Creating a bunch of what seemingly haphazard folds in the center. Now, you could do "Palm Scrunch" essentially all over the fabric. But, I like doing it in a band across the center because, again, it's kind of like organized chaos. I get this really scrunchy, interesting pattern along the middle. But, I get fields of color at the top and the bottom. Which, to me, has a little bit more of a designed feeling to it than all scrunched random. So I create nice little, beautiful folds in here and if you want them to be more pronounced and more jaggedly essentially. You can crush them down to make them flatter. And that will give them crisper edges. Because the sun prints everything that it touches. So if you press down, you'll get crisper edges on those prints. And this design will turn into this result. I'm gonna flatten this back out again. And we're going to do the bow tie print. So, this one's rather simple and creates a really elegant look. Take one finger and push in at the center of one side. Again all the way to the middle or close to the middle. And then come in from the opposite side at the center and pull in again. Creating what looks very much like a bow tie. For this you'll go all the way in. This bow tie, which is very similar to half of our "X" fold, will turn into this beautiful printed pattern. Our next design is called the "Accordion". And this one involves a bit of a pleating technique. So I'm going to take the fabric and essentially fold it over itself, creating even folds. Kind of like how you'd fold a fan made out of paper. I like to keep them even. The more folds you do the more lines you'll get on your finished print. So I'm just going to fold this last bit here and this is what it will look like. Now, I like to kind of sit it down and make sure that each fold is getting its moment in the sun. Pun 100 percent intended. And kind of squish it down a little bit so that each one is getting some sun coverage. And that's how we'll print this one. And this will turn into this design over here with the vertical lines. Now our next one is the "S Fold". This one is a little bit asymmetric. And I'll show you how to create it. I start with my fabric laid back out straight. I'm gonna take my finger and I'm gonna push in about a third or a fourth of the way down the side this time instead of the middle. And I'm gonna push in, similarly trying to go a little bit almost to the middle and then I'll stop. And then from the opposite side, again just a third or a fourth now from this end I'm going to push in. So this is sort of asymmetrical and I can choose to stop here and leave more kind of field of color in the middle or I can choose to go further and push it in. I'll push this one in and I think I'll come back, push this one a little further too. So you can see the pronounced "S" pattern. And this, turns into this beautiful print over here. With these nice fields of color and some actually nice little lines. And then also this more kind of swooshy magenta shape in the middle. Hopefully this has all given you some ideas for how to start your sun folding. Using a wet piece of fabric or even wetting the garment that you intend to sun-fold is a great way to get a feel for folding and testing your ideas. But from there you can actually just go and put your piece into inkodye and sun fold it yourself. Now, I hope this has given you some ideas. The sky is the limit, this

is just seven techniques out of 100's that you could try and experiment and develop yourself.

Prepare dye and create design

- The great thing about the sun fold technique is that we actually recommend diluting your Inkodye, which gives you a lotta printing power per bottle, and you can do a lot of projects. So for our silk scarf, I'm gonna dilute our red Inkodye, one part dye to three parts of water. To get a feel for how the dilutions look, you can see these swatches here. This is full-strength Inkodye red. This is a one-to-three part dilution, this is a one-to-six part dilution, and this is a one-to-nine part dilution. We recommend diluting just as much Inkodye as you can use in that day for those projects. If you do choose to dilute more, you need to make sure you're saving in a perfectly dark environment. I've already got one cup of water here in this container. I'm doing a one-to-three dilution, one part red Inkodye, three parts tap water, so it's important that I start by shaking my Inkodye, make sure the dye is fully dispersed. So you just wanna shake for 10 to 20 seconds, make sure that everything is properly shaken up. I'm just gonna pour 1/3 cup of dye into my other measuring cup. Now you wanna make sure not to use containers that you also use for food, so these are craft cups, and same thing goes for my bowl. You'll see if this is your first experience with Inkodye, it comes out of the bottle with just kind of a milky, translucent color. I'm gonna stop right at 1/3 of a cup. And this will make a lot of dye, more than enough to make my scarf, also to do other projects after. I'll start by pouring my dye into the bowl. If I wanted to get it all out, I could use a mini-spatula, but I'll be good with that right now. And then I'm also going to pour my water, and again, this was one cup of water. Now it looks the same color, but just a little bit more watery. And I'm gonna take this paint stick. I could also use my black gloves, I've already put black gloves on that are included in my kit. Any kind of craft gloves will work, or rubber gloves. And I'm gonna stir up my dye, make sure that it gets fully blended with the water. Inkodye is water-based, so it shouldn't be too difficult to get it to mix up very nicely with the tap water. You just wanna make sure it's fully blended before you submerge your scarf or whatever piece you're working with today. That looks good, and now I'm ready to soak this piece. I'm just going to simply put it right in and push it under. I wanna make sure the whole scarf gets soaked up with dye, so I'm gonna push it all the way under, and I've got my gloves on, so I can feel free to kinda squeeze, and make sure that it gets fully absorbed into the fabric. I don't wanna leave any white areas, because if I do, they will remain completely unprinted. It's a little bit easier to soak pieces like silk that are so thin. If you're working with a very thick material, like if you were doing this on a sweatshirt, for instance, could be a little bit more challenging, and you might wanna use more water, since it will absorb a lot more dye. If you're just starting out, I actually recommend working with something that's not too thick, so it won't give you too much trouble, and you won't need to use too much dye to soak it. So now I'm wringing it out, and I'm just kind of gently squeezing it to get the excess dye out. With any Inkodye process, you don't want it to be soaking wet or dripping wet. You're just looking for it to be fully saturated with Inkodye. So this looks pretty good to me. I don't see any white spots or any blank areas. It looks like it's ready for printing. I'll clear away my other materials, because I've got my project board right underneath. If you're working at home, any rigid surface that you can pick up and carry outside will be a great project surface. I'm using a wood board, but foamcore or cardboard work really nicely as well. So I'm gonna spread out my fabric, kind of get it nicely laid out, and I'm gonna do the x fold today. So that means that I'll start from the center of one of my sides, and I'm gonna take my finger and push it in. Now with silk, I get a bunch of tiny little folds as I push. Using different materials will create very different effects. If you use a thicker material, your folds will be bigger, and not as kind of tiny

and detailed as we're getting with the silk, so thin materials hold a lot of folded detail, but not as much color. The colors that you'll get will be lighter on them, whereas thicker materials hold a lotta color but the folds will just be bigger and less detailed. So it's really a balance, and it depends on what look you're going for. Now I'm actually going to kinda tidy this up a bit. I don't actually like how my natural pulling covered over a lot of these beautiful folds, so I'm gonna fold that back, and I'm gonna do the same thing on this side. So sometimes I like to put my finger back where it was and give things a little tug, kind of clean up some of my beautiful folds, and once it's looking how you like it, and you're seeing all your little folds there, you're ready to take it out in the sun and print it.

Chapter 4 - Finish

Print and wrap up

- So we're outdoors with our Sunfold prints and the process is happening right before our eyes. We're actually able to see the sun start developing color right as we watch. And in full sunlight between the hours of like 11:00 and 1:00 p.m. when the sun is brightest, your print may take 10 to 12 minutes in the sun. If you're working on an overcast day or if the sun is lower in the sky because it's later in the day, you may want to leave it out for longer, even up to 30 or 40 minutes. It's kind of hard to leave your print out for too long. So you should err on the side of leaving it out for a couple minutes more than you think it needs, because the sun is actually doing two things at once. It's developing the color, which is what you're watching. And it's also making your print permanent. So it's setting the color in the fabric. And if you bring in your print too early, then your print might actually fade a little bit in the wash. So leave it out for at least the 12 to 15 minutes, and then come back inside and you can enjoy it for a very long time to come. This is the fun part. We get to see what we made out in the sun. So I'm going to take and pull slowly, slowly just because along the magic part, to see what we created with those folds. I can pull from each side to show our little folds made on the silk scarf here. And this is the scarf we made in the sun. But we're not done, yet. There's one more step to make sure this looks this way forever. And that's washing. So we take our Inkowash Detergent and we put three capfuls of it into a hot wash. You can use the hot/cold cycle on your machine. Now if you're doing a whole afternoon of printing, what I like to do is turn my washing machine on and let the barrel fill up, put the Inkowash inside, and then as soon as I finish each print, throw it in. So you can pause the wash cycle so that the barrel's just full and you can throw your prints in as you go. So if you're doing printing over a couple hours, you can finish your print, throw it in, finish a print, throw it in. And when you're done for the afternoon, you can start the cycle again and let them all wash out together. You can even wash different colors together, as well. It shouldn't cause any problems or leave any residue on your machine. We actually recommend you do two washes that way, with the Inkowash detergent. Then after that, you can wash your Sunfold prints with all your other laundry with light colors, tumble dry, just as you normally would. Here's our finished and washed Sunfold printed silk scarf. Now you'll see that it's actually kind of a pink color. That's partially because we diluted the Inkodye in water. But it's also because of the material. This silk is very thin, so it doesn't hold a lot of color. If we wanted a bright red, we would have used less dilution with water, and also a thicker material that holds more dye. But I think it turned out quite beautiful. And now it's ready to wear. We also have here to show you a couple throw pillows. This one is printed on an oatmeal-colored linen with magenta Inkodye. You'll notice it has the S-fold pattern. And that's how we created this effect. We also have a cool two-tone effect. So this throw pillow is made using a sort of bowtie-looking pattern. But I used blue linen and then printed plum

Inkodye over top of it. And that gave us a really neat two-tone effect. And last but not least here, I have what started out as just a plain, pale pink pashmina. And then I printed with diluted red Inkodye. And I made a big Sunfold print. Play with scale. Try Sunfold printing something large, like a pashmina, or maybe curtains. And one you've tried that technique, maybe try coming back with a second color. So this has been printed with red. But after it's washed and dried, you could come back and Sunfold blue over it in the opposite direction, creating a whole nother effect. Whether it's for home decor or for fashion, with the Sunfold technique, you can create some beautiful and very sophisticated designs very quickly.