

1. Salt Mountains

1. Apply colours to fabric by your chosen method – one colour colouring, five finger foam brush, spray painting – making sure the fabric is completely covered with colour (ie no blank areas). Be careful NOT to go into enemy territory!
2. Spoon or pour on salt heavily in a continuous line until it looks like a little mountain range, at least ½ finger (1/2 cm) high in the middle. As the salt falls off the sides of the mountains, it will probably be around 2 to 3 fingers wide at the base. Apply salt in straight lines or curves to create the patterns, making sure they are about 4 fingers' width apart. By taking the salt off the edges of the fabric, it will 'seem' as if the piece has been cut from a larger piece of that fabric !!!
IMPORTANT: The salt needs room between the mountains for it to 'do its thing'. Do not sprinkle extra salt between the ranges as it will confuse the movement and spoil the effect. However, if a few grains fall between the mountains of their own accord, they will usually create interesting textures.
3. Allow to dry *completely*. It could take several hours, depending on the thickness of the fabric and amount of colour applied ... and, of course, the weather.
4. Scrape off the salt when dry. Keep and re-use. Dry it on a baking tray in the oven if necessary before returning it to its container for reuse.
5. Rinse fabric several times to make sure all saltiness had been removed from the fabric. Heat set using an iron.

The size of the salt grains will determine the size of the 'spotty markings' that remain when the salt has been scraped off.

Try salt hills too, using the same spacing as for the mountains.



FOR SILK, it is best to work with the design area suspended over a frame or embroidery hoop, and apply the colours with a foam brush.



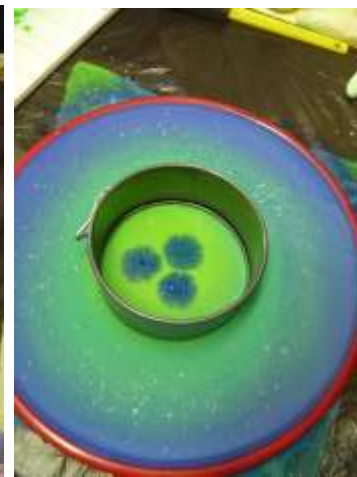
2. Controlled Salting



Although the name of this technique is a contradiction of terms – can we control salt? No not really! – by wetting and colouring the fabric systematically and evenly, then adding a weight to the fabric when stretched over air, any salt we apply will (sort-of) form a regular and interesting design. Sometimes the salt markings go from inward to outward, and sometimes they'll do the reverse. Whichever way the salt decides to work, the results are usually spectacular – and amazing. Enjoy.

IMAGE AT LEFT: Silk was done on plastic flexi-hoop, and a small spring form cake tin ring used as weight. Colours: orange, lipstick, teal (blue + green mix - not on mixing guide). Epsom salt added.

More about this during our workshop, but here are a few images of the stages that I hope will help”...



1. Stretch fabric on hoop and apply water in concentric circles. (It's also OK – and a bit easier - to wet fabric first then stretch it onto the hoop.)
2. Apply diluted colours in concentric circles ...
3. ... working from the inside to outside.
4. Blend colours with fingers.
5. Colour the rest of the fabric outside the hoop.
6. Sprinkle on salt EVENLY, both outside the weight, and inside.
7. Add extra drops of colour into the middle of the design. (Beware of excess / enemy!)
8. Desalt, rinse, and iron when completely dry.

Heaven only knows where the finished version of these images would be by now! Try different colour combinations, different salts, different fabrics, ... I'm not a fan of using different salts in the same piece – too tricky to separate them when desalting – but you can if you wish, then throw that salt away.

Happy salting! ...

Anne