



# *In Love* WITH INDIGO

BY ANNETTE SINDEL

I have always been drawn to vintage and used things, and pretty much everything I own is secondhand. I feel strongly that we should recycle and reuse what we already have. I appreciate things with character and a story. Using recycled materials, I strive to design and create quality one-of-a-kind garments for my label. I want to offer an alternative to the mainstream clothing industry, hoping one of my garments will become someone's favorite piece in their closet. ▶





While trying to come up with a line of recycled over-dyed clothing for my shop, I fell in love with indigo. I love the natural color and I find it looks good on most people. The unique dyeing process keeps me interested and inspired. I started out experimenting with different shibori dye techniques on white garments. I soon discovered the endless possibilities of over-dyeing existing colors and patterns to get a truly unique look.

## SUPPLIES

- Buckets: 5 gal. (2)
- Detergent: mild
- Dress: cotton/silk/linen, light-colored
- Indigo dye kit: (Jacquard)
- Plastic
- Rubber bands
- Rubber gloves

## TECHNIQUE

Prepare the indigo dye according to the manufacturer's instructions. Have a second bucket filled with warm water next to the bucket with the dye. Place plastic on the floor next to the buckets.

Wash and dry the dress, following the care instructions on the garment. Fold the dress side to side in an accordion fold and fasten the fabric with several rubber bands. Remember that the areas where you place the rubber bands will show the original pattern and color of the dress.

Soak the folded fabric for several minutes in the bucket with warm water. With gloves on, squeeze the excess water and air out of the dress. While still squeezing the fabric, slowly submerge the garment in the dye. Work the fabric gently under water for three to five minutes. This will make sure the dye penetrates the fabric. Take out the garment, squeezing just below the surface to prevent splashing (squeezing fabric while submerging it and when taking it out will prevent oxygen from going back into the dye, lessening its intensity).

The dress will be a bright yellow-green color. Exposing the dress to oxygen will turn it blue. Place the garment on plastic and turn it after a few minutes to allow it to completely oxidize. After about 20 minutes, rinse, untie, and wash the dress with a mild detergent and cool water. To obtain a darker color, repeat submerging the piece in the indigo dye several times. ♦

