

Refashioning your wardrobe

Dyeing 101 - I prefer the stovetop method so I have more control over how the color turns out. It's best to use less dye to start out with and if you want more color you can add more in later. Turn the heat on low unless it's a fragile fabric. Then you'll just want to use warm water so it doesn't shrink and ruin the fabric. Follow the instructions on the box and add the recommended salt and detergent. When I have the garment slightly darker than the color I want it, I take it out of the dye bath and rinse well until the water runs clear. Then I wash it in the washing machine with a dishcloth to absorb the extra color.

Fingernail Polish – Use fingernail polish instead of leafing pens on jewelry, zippers, buttons, etc. It lasts a long time, and there are tons of colors to choose from. You can use iridescent colors to tone things down as well if something is too bold or bright. I've also used fingernail polish to cover a patent leather purse and it turned out really well and has held up over time. Fingernail polish remover is also great at taking off the shine on patent leather items if you don't want the high shine.

Making flowers – See handout on how to make flowers. You can attach flowers to hats, scarves, purses, shoes, belts, etc. Materials needed: Fabric, pins and/or clips, felt, hot glue gun.

Shoe clips – You can buy the clips to make your own shoe clips online. Just do a search for “shoe clip findings”. Use flowers, ribbon, unused earrings, bows, etc. I like to attach a piece of felt in between the metal of the clip and the item being glued on to form a stronger hold, especially if both items are metal. I usually just use a glue gun and it has worked well for me.



Painting on T-shirts - This is an easy way to create patterns on your clothing items. You can use doilies, stencils, foam stamps, or even tape to make stripes!

My favorite paint to use is regular **spray paint**. It works best if you use darker spray paints on lighter fabrics since lighter colors on dark fabric won't show up well. I also found that it's better to do it outside in the sun instead of the shade. The paint dries faster and doesn't run all over the stencil. Let paint dry for at least 24 hours and then the garment can be washed. Spray paint works best for Type 2 and 3 colors. It's also really easy to “dirty” a T3 garment by spraying a light mist of a copper or brown colored spray paint over the item. This also works well to soften or “gray up” Type 2 clothing using a gray spray paint.

Tulip Fabric Spray Paint (around \$7 for 4 oz.) works very well, but only comes in Type 1 and Type 4 colors. Type 4's could use the black to spray over faded items to make them look new and saturated again.

I tried using **Simply Spray Fabric Spray Paint**, but it was very messy and runny and didn't spray on evenly. It had good reviews online though. I found that regular spray paint is less messy and less expensive.

When using stencils, spray the back with spray adhesive so the stencil doesn't move and the paint won't go under the lines of the stencil. Cover the rest of the shirt with plastic bags, cardboard or even paper so the spray paint doesn't go where it's not supposed to.

Another great technique to use is mixing **fabric medium** with regular acrylic paints. This gives you the option to use any color you want, but it does dry a little stiff. Fabric medium can be found at any craft store or even Walmart. A small bottle costs around \$5. The mixture will be quite runny, so I use stencils and a sponge brush to apply the mixture. If using it with craft acrylic paint, you might want to

paint a layer of white first so the colors stay true, especially for T1 and T4's. You can also use **Lumiere** paints on fabric (as well as leather – see shoe section).

Here's another tip: If you have a foil that comes on a shirt and it's not the right type, iron it on a hot setting and the foil will melt off. Just rub the iron off onto a towel after a few inches and keep applying the iron to the foil. The background color will stay the same, but it won't be as noticeable.

Painting shoes & purses: This is a great way to personalize your shoes and purses and bring new life to old items! The best paints I've found for leather and man-made leather are Angelus and Lumiere. For a list of what type some of the colors are see chart below.

Angelus – Biggest color selection. Costs about \$2.40 for a 1 oz. bottle (which will cover several pairs of shoes easily). Make sure you have lots of cotton balls and Q-tips ready for taking off any paint that goes where it's not supposed to. Once the paint dries it doesn't come off. Paint in thin layers and wait until each layer dries well before painting another one on. You will need at least 2 layers of paint before it starts looking good. Use a fan shaped brush for bigger areas so you don't see brush strokes. You can mix colors together to get a custom color as well, so don't be discouraged if you don't find colors that work for you. For example, there aren't many T2 colors available so I make my own by mixing other colors with gray.

Angelus also makes a great dye for suede that keeps it soft and is super easy to use. You just brush it on and let it dry. A small bottle is less than \$4. Just make sure the item is a lighter color than you want to dye it or it will not show up.

Lumiere – These are metallic paints with a beautiful shimmer to them. The cheapest place I've found to buy these is \$3.35 for a 2.25 oz. bottle at Dharma Trading.

Some great websites to order from are Dharma Trading & Turtle Feathers. They both carry the Angelus paints (turtle feathers has a bigger selection and it's easier to tell what the colors actually look like on their website. They also have a line of neon colors that are great for T4's), but only Dharma carries the Lumiere. Dharma Trading also sells iDye for cotton and polyester fabrics, which is supposed to be a good product. www.dharmatrading.com and www.turtlefeathers.net.

For painting shoes and purses, you **MUST** prep surface first before you paint. Just dip cotton ball in alcohol if it's real leather, or for man-made leather use acetone and rub well over entire surface (making sure to get the waxy finish off if there is one).

****I mentioned in the Club Night video that I use fingernail polish remover instead of acetone, but I've found that the paint can crack. Use full strength acetone on man-made leather so you don't risk ruining the paint job.**

Here is a link for instructions on how to paint shoes:

<http://www.dharmatrading.com/html/eng/10275285-AA.shtml>. You can also check out www.sassyfeet.com and <http://glittersweatshop.typepad.com>, which is the same company, for great tips and inspiration.

Another great way to personalize your shoes is with fabric. Cover over cork wedge heels with a great patterned fabric. Just spread Mod Podge (available at all craft stores) onto shoes and then cover with fabric. Trim around the edges and brush another layer of Mod Podge over fabric to help protect it. Then, cover edges with ribbons or cute edging. Glue on with E6000 glue.

If your shoe has too many straps and you find that you don't wear them because they're too "strappy", cut the unnecessary one's off!

Color chart for paints

I don't guarantee the accuracy of this list, but below are some of the paint colors I've seen in person and what type I think the colors fall into. The colors of the paints can look different on various surfaces, however. If you buy a paint that isn't quite right for your type, mix a few colors together to get the correct color. If you're a Type 1 and the color isn't correct, add white, if you're a Type 2, add gray, for Type 3 add a cognac or copper.

Angelus Paints

- Autumn Red – T3
- Blue – T4
- Bone – T2
- Burgundy – T2
- Champagne – T1 or T3 (a yellow tan color in person – looks grayed on the website)
- Chocolate Brown – T3
- Cognac – T3
- Copper – T3 (Metallic)
- Dark Blue – T4
- Dark Bone – T2
- Dark Brown – T1
- Dark Green – T4
- Fire Red – T1
- Green – T4
- Light Brown – T3
- Lt. Green – T4
- Magenta – T4
- Mauve – T2
- Navy Blue – T1 or T4
- Orange – T4
- Pale Yellow – T1
- Red – T4
- Rich Brown – T3
- Sapphire – T4
- Shell Pink – T2
- Taupe – T2 (the Dharma trading website is the better color swatch for this color)
- Turquoise – T1
- Yellow – T4
- Violet – T2

Mix colors to get the desired color. Mixing rich brown and burgundy Lumiere makes a gorgeous shimmery T3 purple brown. Also dark brown and autumn red is a great T3 mix.

Lumiere

- Brass – T1
- Burgundy – T3
- Citrine – T3
- Crimson – T1
- Grape – T4
- Halo Blue Gold – T3
- Halo Pink Gold – T3
- Halo Violet Gold – T3
- Indigo – T1 or T4
- Metallic Bbronze – T3
- Metallic Copper – T3
- Metallic Olive Green – T3
- Metallic Russet – T3
- Metallic Silver – T2
- Pearl Emerald Green – T1
- Pearl Magenta – T1 (could also work as an icy T4 color)
- Pearl Turquoise – T1 (could also work as an icy T4 color)
- Pearl Violet – T1 or T4
- Pearlescent Blue – T1
- Pearlescent White – T2
- Pewter – T2
- Super Sparkle – T2
- True Gold – T3

These colors look amazing mixed together as well for different color combinations. My favorite is a T3 color, mixing Burgundy and Russet. Get creative with your colors! The best website to view the colors is www.dickblick.com. Just click on the item number and it will pull up a sample of the color.