

# Designing T-shirts

## Tie-dyeing: a creative trend for all

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Staff Writer

The Grateful Dead is back, and with it is a new fashion fad — tie-dyed T-shirts in unusual styles and interesting colors.

A trend that began in the late 1960s, tie-dyes have a new following that extends beyond that of Grateful Dead fans. Tie-dyeing originally developed as a faster way to duplicate a similar dyeing process known as "batik," which originated in Africa.

According to experienced tie-dyers, the simplest way to dye a shirt is to tie it into knots, then dip it in a special dye. And if you want more than one color on your shirt, you can simply repeat the

process after the shirt dries from the first coloring.

There are also more innovative dyeing processes, according to UNC sophomore Julia Harry. For example, she said, you can achieve different designs by putting rubber bands around a twisted shirt at different intervals and dipping the shirt in one or more dyes. When the shirt is dry and the rubber bands are removed, the unusual pattern remains.

However, Harry said, shirts dyed in this fashion result in rings of undyed shirt where the rubber bands were placed.

As tie-dyes have become more popular, more creative and detailed ways to dye clothing have

been developed. These involve much skill and practice and are, therefore, usually left to the "experts."

There are very few stores around Chapel Hill that sell tie-dyed shirts. According to John Kernion of Bread 'n Butter, a screen-printing store that does sell tie-dyes, sales aren't very high for the T-shirts.

"It seems that most people want to make their own designs," he said.

However, Anna Krauss, who custom-makes tie-dyes, reported that her sales were excellent. "I'm getting more and more business every week," she said.

Krauss said she specializes in pastel and "earthy" tones, "because most stores sell bright colored shirts." She charges \$6 for her dyeing service if the customer provides the shirt.

And what do the original wearers of tie-dyes think of this new fad?

"It really makes me mad that everyone is wearing them now... they don't mean anything anymore," Harry said.



Tar Heel/Laura Patterson

Tie-dyer Anna Krauss holds up one of her latest fashions



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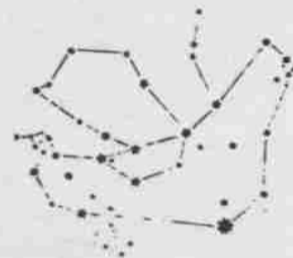
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"I used to wear them about two years ago, but I don't any more because everyone else has them on," Krauss said. "Now, I just make them for other people."

However, UNC student Jon Bricker, president of the campus Grateful Dead Society, is enthusiastic about the increasing popularity of the tie-dyes.

"I think it's great," he said. "I mean, it's better than seeing everyone wear alligator shirts."



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