Cut from the same cloth

Adding an artistic touch to your Passover Seder



AS BOTH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR AND AN ARTIST with a background in art therapy, I typically find myself going through different creative processes and exploring a broad spectrum of media.

I mostly consider myself a mixed media abstract artist but I'm always searching for innovative ways to introduce myself to new modalities and processes that might seem unconventional.



I grew up in the suburbs creating tie-dye on those sunny summer days in my friends' backyards listening to the tunes of Sublime. In high school, I chose to present a tutorial in front of my peers in my public speaking class about "how to tie-dye." Tie-dye would come and go throughout my life. My inner free spirit would be sparked every time I'd see those vibrant colors swirl together absorbed into the fabric.

This past summer, I tried a new take on the tie-dye, and together with my sister, we explored daily, trying out the same technique but with a different medium: bleach. This artistic process not only inspired me to allow the unexpected to happen. I fell in love with the uncertainty of knowing how the beautiful stain formations would unfold within the bleached fabric.

Recently, curiosity allowed me to use this process to make unique pieces for my family for Passover using a set of old sheets. Each family received a matzah cover, pillowcase, and an *afikoman* bag, all matching and cut from the same piece of cloth. During these uncertain times, we might not be able to be together during the holidays, but we can explore creative ways to stay connected by each having a piece of a whole that was once all together. *

BY RENA GROSSER

Rena Grosser is an Early Childhood Educator at Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School and has a background in Art Therapy. She is also a mixed media artist and believes in the creative process as a model and tool for self-expression and exploration.

DIY

TO MAKE YOUR FAMILY PASSOVER SET, YOU WILL NEED:

- Cotton sheet set *(flat sheet and pillowcases)*
- 20 x 20 Cotton Napkins in various colors—3 per matzah cover set and 1 for *afikomen* bag *(I found multiple sets on Amazon)*
- Bleach
- Ketchup bottle
- Gloves
- Rubber bands
- Liquid acrylic ink *(metallic)*
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Needle and thread
- Iron on letter decals or letter stencils
- Large ribbon
- Stones *(for added embellishment)*

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Wear clothing you don't mind getting bleach on
- Wash the linens separately from other items and hang dry
- Tie-dye in a well-ventilated area or outdoors
- Be sure to wear gloves when working with bleach
- Please assist young children during the process

Steps

1 Fill ketchup bottle with bleach.

2 Create tie dye patterns by fastening fabrics with rubber bands in different ways. I googled *"tie-dyeing tying techniques"* and explored with the different tying methods. There is no wrong way in doing this as each bleach pattern is unique!



3 Apply bleach gradually onto fabric; then soak different sections with the bleach. Be sure to apply to all sides. **Apply drops of liquid acrylic for added shimmer and shine.*



4 Let sit for 20 mins and cut off rubber bands.

5 Hang and dry before washing.



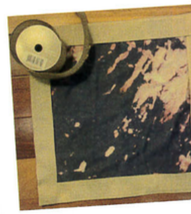
6 Cut flat sheet into 20 inch x 20 inch squares. A ruler can help guide your lines as you cut.





7 Layer 1 piece of the flat sheet squares on top of 3 napkins and glue or sew each corner together for maztah cover.

8 Apply "Matzah" or family name with iron- on decal or paint on with stencil with acrylic paint.



9 Cut 4 pieces of large ribbon for added embellishment for edges, and glue or sew to secure.

FOR *AFIKOMEN* BAG:

1. Fold one square into half to create a triangle.



2. Fold one side in and layer the other side.



3. Fold top down to create a shape similar to an envelope.



4. Hot glue or sew the edges to seals the sides.

