

Welcome to Jane Callender's shibori stream online **interactive** classes

Welcome!

You have successfully booked into 'Shibori Stream'

I look forward to meeting you and sharing shibori techniques and skills. I hope these will both inspire and enable you to develop your own shibori practice and give you the confidence and direction to progress at home during these rather challenging times.

The following information will begin to get you started in gathering together the things you will need. Essential for the first class is a sketch/note book and pen, a needle, strong thread, two pieces of ironed fabric about 18" x 13" and a ruler. Please don't be concerned if you haven't got all the requirements or managed to scour any fabric. Much of the time as you would suspect is allocated to teaching - giving out information, working on explanatory drawings on screen share, demonstrating, offering possibilities and different approaches. Not so much time is allocated to practical endeavour during the session as you will have the week in which to progress and be productive at home.

You will be shown some webcam videos and these will be available after each session to view again on the Members Page. Some will be silent but hopefully all will have audio soon. You will also be sent a set of comprehensive notes to provide further back up after the class. We will be working some techniques together and in the first class one of the things we will be looking at is the starting knot and taking a look at buffers.

You will be sent a Zoom link for the class. Please save it, the meeting ID and pass code. Save it as a hard copy also as it will be the same for every class. The sessions are dependant on good Internet connectivity but we are all at the mercy of various glitches and ether goblins so please be patient at these times. The Zoom will be open approximately 15 minutes before the class is due to start to allow for settling in and sorting any technical issues that may arise.

First Session: *Hira-nui*. Stitching on single thickness fabric for pattern and design.

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Basic requirements

The amount of fabric required for the course will be discussed at the first class. Please see the fabric page. As will marker pens and thread and suppliers.

Requirements for the first session:-

- Approximately 1 meter of White 100% cotton fabric to work samples: Cotton lawn or poplin. It would be worthwhile to have a light, medium and heavier weight fabric available in due course. Bring what you have to start. Avoid old sheeting and calico.
- Water soluble marker pen - not one for quilting as these fade. Or a fabric chalk pencil. Avoid graphite pencil.
- A 6", 12" ruler and a longer ruler if possible - useful to have imperial and metric hatch marks.
- A set square. (You will eventually need a protractor - 360° is preferable - and a compass.)
- Masking tape
- Needles - I like embroidery 8 or 9. A long needle such as a Long Darner or Milliner or Straw. Avoid beading needles which are too flexible. Assorted Sharpes are a good option.
- Scissors for fabric and thread
- Very strong thread - please test this before embarking on lots of stitching. You have to feel absolutely confident that this won't break as it will be put under considerable tension.
- A compass or a plate, or pencil and string or similar with which to draw a circle should you wish to.
- Have nearby an iron and ironing board.
- Note or sketch book and pen or pencil.

Preparation

1. Prior to the class, please scour the fabric using soda ash (or washing soda/soda crystals). Rinse thoroughly. Do not use fabric conditioner. *See Prep Page* for recipes. Please do not worry if you don't have time to do this. You can proceed with what you have in the meantime. We do not indigo dye for a while.
2. Have ready 2 - 3 cut pieces of fabric to test your stitching. Sizes are approximate. Sample size 18" x 13" (45 x 33 cm) - or however your fabric divides up without waste.

Practicalities

Please make that sure you have if possible :-

A clear, flat working space near your computer screen.

Good lighting so that your work surface and you can be clearly seen.

If possibly, please make sure your phone is switched off, and that you have a quite period of time without interruption. Thank you.

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Fabric Guide Page

Please remember that indigo dyes only natural fabrics or fabrics made from natural sources such as Viscose. Natural fabrics are used with natural dyes and fibre reactive dyes also.

We will be working with stitch techniques in the first 6 weekly sessions most of the time, trying out different stitch formats on single and folded fabric to produce samples ready to dye. We will be just touching on other techniques and their relationship to stitch at this stage. It would be worth ordering 2 - 3 meters either in different types of cotton, or as one length of the same. If you would like to order some silk at the same time as the cotton then I would suggest a medium habotai. If you are asked what 'mommy' don't be thrown, and ask for an 8 mm (*see below*)

Nb. Please try to avoid old sheeting as this often tears and rarely takes up the dye evenly. However in these difficult times if it is your only option then just use the stronger areas.

Cotton

Cottons are ideal for stitched techniques, but avoid very open weaves.

Essentials to start with are a cotton lawn, or similar such as a pima cotton, which is a soft cotton. Batiste is a fine but slightly more open weave cotton. Cotton poplin has a tighter weave, is slightly heavier and more robust. When purchasing poplin, either online or from shops or markets, please do specify 100% pure cotton poplin as some retailers sell a polyester cotton mix as a cotton poplin which is termed 'polycotton'. Indigo does not dye polyester so this is one to avoid.

Within these two groups are many options. Navara fine lawn – more expensive but lovely, Cotton Poplin Delphina is the poplin I use in the UK. Some find this difficult to stitch, lawn is softer. Cotton Matting - this is heavier as is Plain Cotton but nice to stitch. Muslin and mousse are light weight with a looser weave – not so good for stitching but fine for folding and wrapping techniques which we will do later. Some heavier cottons are all suitable but do avoid heavy, dense weaves. I also tend to avoid calicos.

Linen

Medium to light weight linens take up indigo beautifully. Again avoid very loose weaves. Plain damasks are also an option.

Silks

The most popular is Habotai Silk, a plain weave silk which comes in various weights from very light, which is suitable for cylinder wrapping, to heavier weights which are semi suitable for stitching. However silk does tend to hang on to needle stitch holes so be aware of this. If ordering over the phone you may be asked if you want a 5 mm or a 12 mm – don't be thrown. Mm stands for 'mommy' which is how silk weight is measured - a light weight habotai is 5 mm the heavy a 12 mm. I usually use the descriptive term, light, medium or heavy weight. The most popular is the medium, an 8 mm. Other suitable silks - Crepe de Chine, Silk Georgette, Silk Noil. Silk Faille is a good self-healing silk for stitching. It is quite spongy, a bit like the traditional Japanese silk used for Kanoko Shibori. Avoid heavy raw silks such as tussah as they have a saturation point when taking up dye. Silk viscose velvet is also an option for later on

Others

There are several mixes and blends of natural fibres which are also suitable. Bamboo and silk is an option you might like to try. Also banana and silk.

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Prep Page

Scouring for cotton

Remember to always weigh your dry fabric first. The WOF - Weight of Fabric is required when calculating dye recipes for natural and fibre reactive dyes.

Calculated to 200g of dry fabric weight use

Either

15 – 16g soda ash (alkali) and 4 ml textile detergent (Synthrapol aka Metapex)
It doesn't matter if you don't have the detergent at this early stage)

Or

12g washing soda (alkali) and 40g pure soap.

Method

Use a stainless steel or enamel container - not aluminium as alkali reacts to this.

1. Add alkali first to 1 – 3 litres of warm water then add textile detergent or pure soap. Mix.
2. Wet out the fabric first before putting it into the solution. Make sure it is well covered with water, it should not be cramped. Add more water if it is.
3. Bring to just simmering point, and with the water barely simmering, simmer gently for 90 minutes. (½ - 1 hr for fabric prepared for dyeing - FPD.) Keep checking that the fabric is below the surface and turn it regularly - uneven scouring leads to uneven dyeing.
4. Allow to cool before removing from container. If the water is very dirty re-scour with fresh water and ingredients.
5. After scouring make sure the fabric is rinsed thoroughly.

Washing machine recipe

This is ideal for longer lengths of fabric. Add ½ cup of soda ash or ¾ cup of washing soda to the fabric in the washing machine and set on the hottest wash.

FPD Fabric prepared for dyeing

Pure Soap is a mix of natural oil and alkali with a pH of 9-10 i.e. Olive Oil Castile Soap, Orvus Paste or pure soap flakes which need to be dissolved first.

Shibori stitching thread and stencils available from

<https://janecallender.com/product-category/shibori-threads-fabric/>