

# **Stained and Scorched –Transforming Fabric With Lemon Juice and Heat**

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## **Materials**

Light coloured fabric

Lemon Juice

Plastic or Glass cup

Newsprint

Paintbrushes and/or other tools for “painting” the fabric

Iron

## **Directions**

### **Preparation:**

1. Cut fabric into desired size. Smaller pieces work best for experimenting.
2. Pour lemon juice into a small container and place fabric on several layers of newsprint to absorb the lemon juice,
3. Paint on the lemon juice using a paint brush, Qtip or tool of your choice. Let the material dry. Because the lemon juice is barely visible when dry, paint small sections at a time and then heat and scorch them. You can add further details and repeat the process.

### **Scorching:**

1. Set the iron to the cotton setting.
2. Place the hot iron on the painted areas and continue ironing for several minutes as it will take this long to scorch and darken the fabric. When you can see the scorched areas clearly, you can add more details with the lemon juice and, when dry, iron again. You can paint over previously scorched areas which will add further interest to your design, once scorched. The more heat you apply and the longer you apply it, the darker the scorched areas will become. You can also iron the fabric when wet, being careful that the wet fabric doesn't stick to the hot iron.

### **Notes:**

1. Orange juice, milk, vinegar, honey and white wine can have a similar effect due to their mild acidic content.
2. The acid in lemon juice acts as a bleaching agent and the fabric you produce may degrade over time. If you are concerned about this, soak the finished pieces in a solution of water and baking soda and follow with a hand wash and rinse. The scorched area may be somewhat lighter.