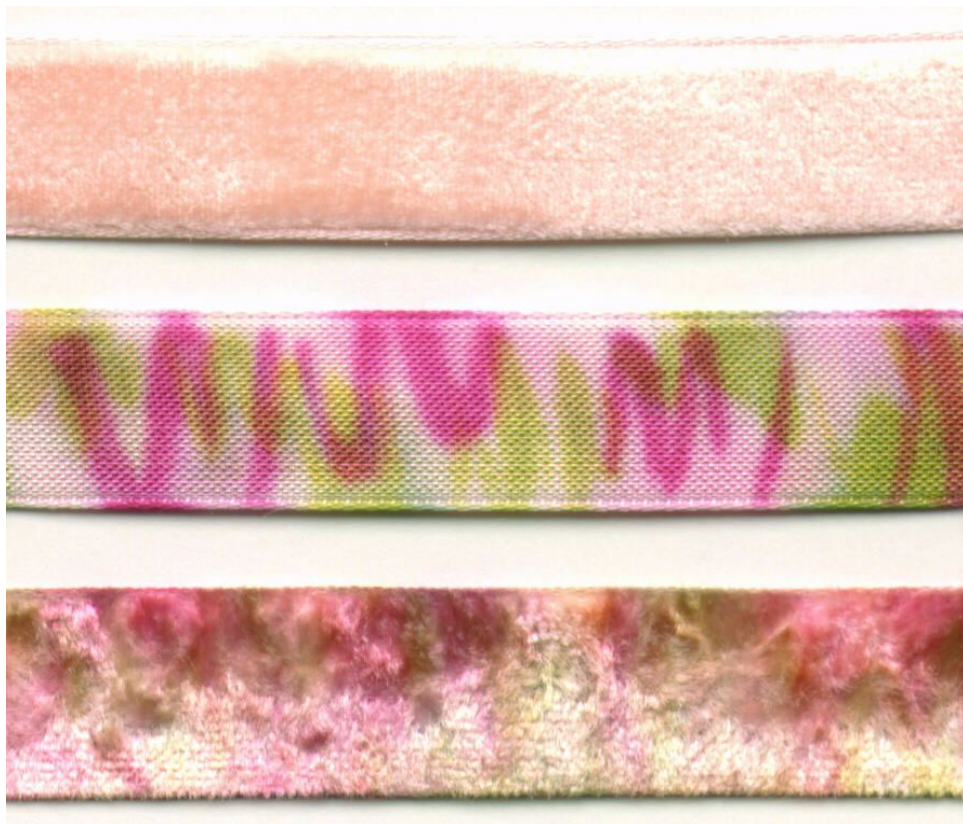


Antiquing Velvet Ribbon

Add a new dimension to your ribbonwork by overdyeing and crushing new rayon velvet ribbon to give it an antique look.



- Follow these easy steps to create beautiful ribbons for your projects.
- Cut a piece of 100% rayon velvet ribbon in a light or medium value. Silk velvet ribbon also works well with this technique, but it's difficult to find. Because of the fiber content, both nylon and polyester ribbons can't easily be dyed, and they won't crush.
- Mix a dye solution of a fiber-reactive dye. Use the appropriate dye for the fiber content of the ribbon. I use a weak solution of Procion™ dye. As with any dyeing project, the more dye you use in the solution, the more vibrant the colors will be.
- Wet the ribbon thoroughly, and wring most of the water out by pulling it between two of your fingers. You want the ribbon to be damp but not dripping wet. Wetting the ribbon allows the dye

to spread more easily throughout the ribbon. Place the ribbon wrong side up on a few folded paper towels. Protect your work surface from the dye with a piece of plastic or foil underneath the paper towels.

- As shown in the second piece of ribbon above, spread the dye on the wrong side of the ribbon with a brush. I use a Chinese sumi brush. Use two or more colors of dye for a variegated look. Let the ribbon rest for a few minutes to allow the dyes to set. Turn the ribbon over, and place it right side up on a few clean folded paper towels. Take the ribbon on the towels to your ironing board. Protect your ironing board with a piece of foil underneath the paper towels to prevent any leak-through onto the ironing board cover.
- With a dry iron on the cotton setting, iron the ribbon dry. As you iron, the pressure of the iron will force some of the dye out of the ribbon into the paper towels. This is why you need a piece of foil underneath the paper towels to protect the ironing surface. Because of the loss of color when ironing, the finished color will be fainter than it initially appeared when you first applied the dye. The third piece of ribbon in the picture shows just how much of the color is lost when ironing. Press down hard and twist the iron in your hand as you iron the ribbon. The heat and pressure from the iron will crush the nap, and give the ribbon a beautiful antique look. For another look, crush the ribbon in your hand into a ball while it is still slightly damp, and then let it dry without smoothing it out. Now iron it. The ribbon will retain some of the creases and never look new again!

Enjoy your beautiful ribbons...

Rayon velvet ribbon can be purchased at <http://www.vintagevogue.com>