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INKAT

A close-up of a blue and white ikat textile pattern, featuring a repeating diamond-shaped motif with intricate, slightly blurred edges characteristic of the dyeing process.

A visually beautiful and artistic, textile dyeing and weaving technique involves specific computations that focus on mathematical symmetry.

A close-up of an orange and brown ikat textile pattern, showing a vertical, somewhat abstract design with a textured, woven appearance.

The very term **ikat** is derived from Indonesian mengikat, meaning “to tie” – a reference to the distinctive technique used to create them. A complex, skill-intensive process of marking, tying and dyeing the design into the yarn. This process may be repeated multiple times to produce elaborate, multicolored patterns. When the dyeing is finished all the bindings are removed and the yarns are woven into cloth. The weaving process then reveals the rich and intricate patterns in the resulting fabric.

A close-up of a red and white ikat textile pattern, featuring a large, central, somewhat abstract shape in red and orange, surrounded by white and greenish-grey areas.

From ancient trade ties to a fashion statement across 30 countries, ikat is a really fascinating weave, which universally symbolizes wealth, power and prestige. A shared textile art especially between India and Indonesia.