

Design Resource

Angora Rabbit Wool Weaving

The Craft of Weaving

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
<http://www.dsource.in/resource/angora-rabbit-wool-weaving>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Materials
3. Knitting Process
4. Shawl Weaving
5. Products
6. Contact Details



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Introduction

Darkot is located in Munsiri tehsin of Pithoragarh district. Angora rabbit's fibre is light, soft and silky textured and especially known for its good thermal insulation characteristics. However sheep's wool also has good insulation characteristic but, weight of rabbit's wool decrease in weight by 20% when compared to sheep's wool. Angora rabbits are highly bred by many families of Darkot village.

Fibre is shorn once in every three months. The sheared wool is carded and spun into spools and spindles. The prepared thread is loaded into loom and weaved to make shawls, mufflers and sweaters. Women folk make knitted products with rabbit fibre during their leisure time.

Angora Rabbit:

Angora is one of the varieties of rabbit bred which is especially known for its extreme soft and long fibre. In Darkot village, Angora rabbits are largely bred for their long angora wool for making rabbit wool products. The silky textured angora wool products are ideal to wear in high-altitude regions. Rabbit fibre is sheared once it's grown long enough for thread making and spinning. In Darkot, two colours of rabbit fibre available are white and brown.

Rabbit Care:

Rabbits are very delicate, hence more care is taken. They are placed in very clean and cool place. They are fed with dry grass and wheat and provided lots of water to drink. Life span of rabbit is 12 years.

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Artisan with their creative hand-knitted sweater and cap.



Weaving is done using traditional pit loom..



Angora rabbit.

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Traditional method of spinning wool and thread is directly used for weaving.



Hand woven woollen cap.



Weaving is majorly practiced by women folk.

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Tools and Materials

• List of Tools:

Different tools used for weaving process are:

Spinning Wheel:

It is used to spun wool.

Bamboo spool:

It is a bamboo pole used to process weft while weaving.

Spindle:

Rabbit fibre is manually spun onto spindles.

Loom:

A basic floor loom is set up permanently for weaving woolen shawls, stoles and mufflers.

Knitting Needle:

These needles of varying in sizes are used while knitting caps and sweaters and etc.

• Raw Material:

Angora rabbit wool is the main raw material used in weaving process. The cost of fibre ranges from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 per kg. White, grey and brown are the colours of rabbit wool used for weaving shawls, caps, mufflers and sweaters.e.

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White and grey rabbit wool (un dyed) is the basic raw material.



Pedals of loom.



Needles used in knitting process.



Small piece of bamboo pole used as fly-shuttle.

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Knitting Process

Small caps, sweaters are knitted manually using knitting tools. The artisan manually weaves the products through knitting method. Two needles are used at a time for weaving wool thread into products such as caps, small sweaters, socks, hand gloves and monkey caps. Purely hand knitted products are very soft in texture and light weight and can withstand with cold weather especially in high-altitude regions.



Two needles are used for knitting.



The size of the needle is changed according to the pattern.

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Two knitting needles help to create different colour patterns.



Threads are interlocked to create design pattern.



Wool strand is rolled over to the knitting needle.



Different weaving pattern has different visual appeal.

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The new loop is pulled based on immediate existing loop.



Artisan creating stockinette stitch pattern.



Different colored yarns are knitted using two needles.



Plain and two colored cap made of rabbit wool.

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Shawl Weaving

Rabbit fibre undergoes several processes like carding, spinning, gola making, preparing warp and weaving. The looms are very basic with reed and healds, warpers beam and weavers beam. Bamboo pole is loaded with woolen thread and then processed to weave weft. Bamboo pole (works as fly-shuttle) is passed through the shed of warp opening and both are interlocked. Pure rabbit wool is used for weaving shawl or cap. For making sweater rabbit wool is mixed with Marino wool in the ratio of 50:50. It takes 3 days to finish the weaving of one shawl.



Two needles are used for knitting.



The size of the needle is changed according to the pattern.

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A contrasting background with a naturalistic art of mother pampering lord Krishna.



The elongated painting of baby Krishna with king and queen in vibrant colors, which allure the importance.



A dramatic abstraction of the lord Krishna makes the art monumental.



The aesthetic paint which have been ornamented with a pure gold plated on golden foil.

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Products

Rabbit wool products are well known for its elegant look and simplicity. The un-dyed products like-mufflers, stoles, shawls, caps and winter coats.

In Darkot, woolen products are created in two methods one is weaving and the other method is by knitting method. The process of creating yarn into beautiful caps, shawls, mufflers and sweaters is very creative and done with minimum tools. Women artisan of Darkot village are not only skilled in making woolen products, they also take care of agriculture during rainy season.

Products are mainly marketed to Delhi and local markets of Munyari, Almora and other districts of Uttarakhand. Products are also exhibited for sale in annual festival of Gangotri in summer.



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Contact Details

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