

Design Resource

## Applique Crafts

The Craft of Motifs on Textiles

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Mr. Antony William

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://dsource.in/resource/applique-crafts>



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## Introduction

### Applique Work

It is believed that the origin and development of the applique work in Orissa dates back to ancient times. The appliqué craft originated in the district of Puri appointed artisans called Darji by caste as sevak- the people appointed by the king of Puri for looking after the day-to-day rituals of Lord Jagannath temple for regular supply of appliqué article required for the day-to-day seba (rites in the temple) of Lord Jagannath. In exchange of the seva, they were provided land ownership for their contribution of appliqué craft for the rituals of Lord Jagannath. During that time, the king also used to determine the quality and price of the appliqué craft to be procured from the suppliers. The available historical evidence on Orissa art and architecture suggest that the appliqué craft of Orissa dates back to the 12th century, when the temple of Lord Jagannath was built at Puri.

However, presently the appliqué work is not confined to any particular caste like “Darjee” rather the other caste people have mobilized into the profession along with the traditional castes in the clusters like Pipili and Puri. The main centre of production is Pipili a small town in Khurda around 20 KM of the state capital. However, due to its origin from Pipili the craft is known all over as Pipili applique craft. The applique products are also exported to many foreign countries.

### • Motifs Used

The Pipili is famous for carefully cut shapes/ motifs of birds, flowers, leaves, and other geometric patterns. The different motifs used are basically belong to animals like Hathi(elephant), Singha (lion), and birds like Mayur (Peacock), Sua (Parrot), Gandamayur (doubleheaded peacock), Bataka (Duck), etc and the motifs of Gach (tree), Patra (leaf), Flowers like malli, padma (Lotus) are also used to decorate it. The beautifully shaped decorative motifs in chandua, the canopy make it more attractive. The use of motifs like, Suryamukshi at the centre of the product and gandamayur, which originated from the imaginations of the Pipili artisans make the Chandua unique.

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## Making Process

Process - Pipli Applique Work

Flat motifs are first cut from cloth and specially prepared motifs are made separately. If more than one of the same cut motifs are required, a stencil is used

These cuts and specially prepared motifs are then superimposed on a base cloth in predetermined layout and sequence.

The process ends with packing of as product & sending it to the market.

The specially prepared motifs may be coloured or white. The base cloth is usually coloured. Some of the specially prepared motifs have exclusive embroidery work and some have mirror work. In heavy canopies, a backcloth for strength additionally supports the base cloth. Appliqué items are also being used in combination with other handicrafts to produce composite products.

### • **Stitching Process**

The stitching process varies from item to item and come under six broad categories  
Namely :

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1. **Bakhia:** It is a simple running stitch which is used either for keeping the patches in position temporarily on the base cloth till they are finally stitched to it.

2. **Taropa:** Under the stitching process the appliqué patches are stitched with the base cloth where the edges of the patches are turned in and then stitched. In the process the stitch is almost concealed underneath the patch.

3. **Ganthi:** The Ganthi stitch that is similar to blanket stitch and buttonhole stitch is used for attractive embroidered motifs.

4. **Chikana:** The chikana stitch that is also called chain stitch is popular in appliqué work. It is an embroidery stitch built up by looping of threads and is used in binding the edges of the appliqué patch without turning, as well as for making textual and ornamental effects on motifs.

5. **Button hole:** The buttonhole stitch is used for mudias (rings) fixed to large canopies for hanging and for fixing round-shaped small mirrors pieces for decoration. It is similar to blanket stitch although the needle is inserted from outer edge in this stitch.

6. **Ruching:** The ruching stitch is used for gathering a strip of cloth to make an appliqué motif like malli.





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## Applique Crafts Items

### Product Diversification:

The growing demand of the Pipili appliqué craft and the recent trends has prompted the Artisans of Pipili to go for product diversification. As a result, the artisans and the master artisans are able to include some new products into the appliqué craft. The artisans are producing new products like Bed cover, Cushion cover, Sofa cover, T.V. cover, Refrigerator cover, Door screen, Round gate, & Flat gate (used on festivals like marriage for decorating the Pandals), etc. The consumers from domestic and external market are also appreciating these products.

### • Famous Items

1. **Chattri** (Traditional Umbrella): Chattri is a traditional umbrella used specially for festivals and religious processions.
2. **Alata**: It is generally used for the religious purposes for decorating and using as manual fan for the Lord Jagannath and other deities.
3. **Troas**(Tarasa): It is used during the religious procession of lord Jagannath and other deities.
4. **Batua**: Batua is a unique Orissa cloth pouch that has usually a semi circular shape with the top being straight.
5. **Lamp Shade**: The most admired & popular product of the artisans of Pipili is lamp stand.
6. **Jhalar**: It is another popular item sort of frill, which is used as border to canopies and also independently used as decorative pieces.

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## Slide Show

Views of the Applique crafts from Orissa:



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- [Online Infomation Centre for Crafts \(http://www.india-crafts.com/\)](http://www.india-crafts.com/)
- [Handmade in India \(http://www.cohands.in/handmadepages/book0.asp\)](http://www.cohands.in/handmadepages/book0.asp)
- [Crafts Council of India \(http://www.craftscouncilofindia.org/\)](http://www.craftscouncilofindia.org/)
- [Craft Mark \(http://www.aiacaonline.org/\)](http://www.aiacaonline.org/)

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