

Design Resource

Bajuband - Belgaum

Traditional Gold Jewelry

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S.,

Lija M. G., Shruti K. and Smitha S.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/bajuband-belgaum>



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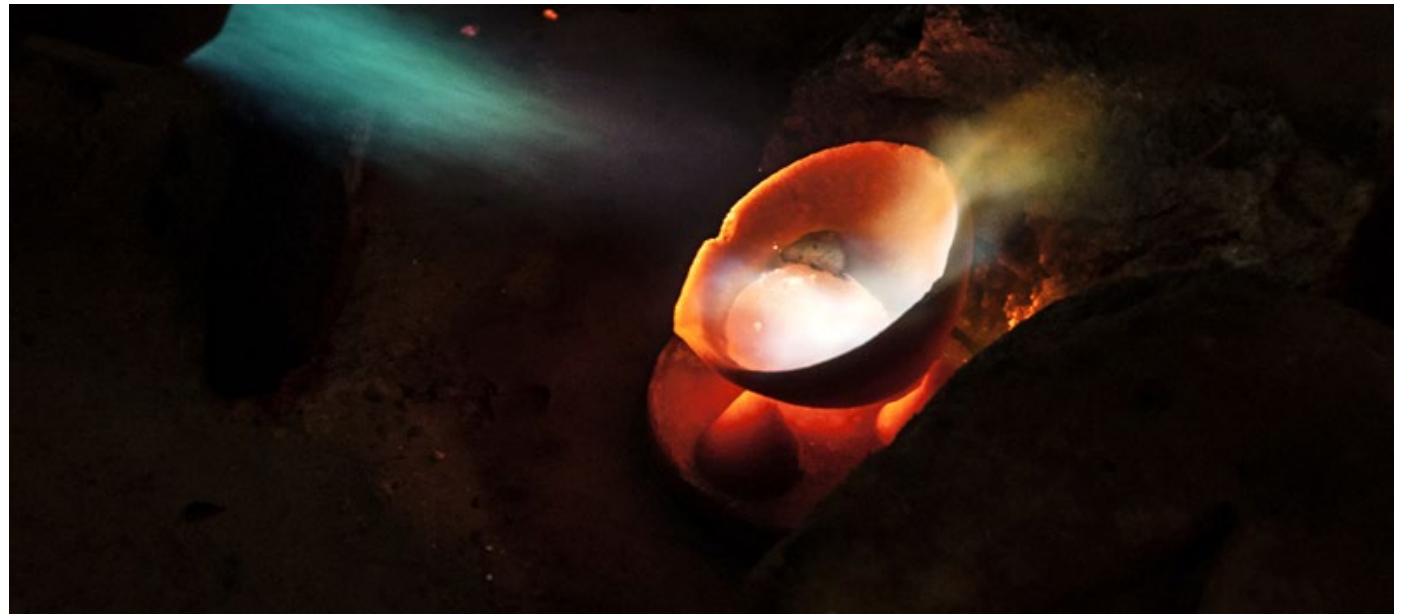
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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/bajuband-belgaum/introduction>

Introduction

Indian jewelry has vast history, which dates back from 5000 years and has occupied a distinct place in India. Traditional and ethnic jewelry are very famous in India and all-time favorite among people. The pattern made in Indian jewelry is extraordinary pattern and form is occasionally astonishing. The traditional and precious components of ornaments have significance position and status in the society. Belgaum is an important district headquarters in the state of Karnataka, which has very rich culture practiced, famous for handmade crafts, which are carried from long generation. Kannada as well as Marathi has influenced the traditions of Belgaum. Most handmade crafts of Belgaum are based on weaving and jewelry making which signifies many occasions and also part of gifts.

Bajuband is one of the traditional gold jewelries made in Belgaum. It's a kind of design that only made in Belgaum and followed from tradition. According to the artisan in Belgaum, Bajuband making was started in the year 1940 which is practiced till today. However wearing Bajuband is in practice since many centuries from king's time. Baajubhand or an armband is an ornament, which decorates the upper part of the arms. It reflects the style, richness and royal. Women and men wore the traditional ornament as well, but at present women mostly wear it on marriage day or any other auspicious occasions on traditional sarees and sleeved attires. Baajubhand has transformed many terms and designs but the concept of making these ornaments remains the same. The ornaments are made with both gold and silver.



Metals like Gold, Silver and copper require high temperature to melt.

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Final product of Bajuband.



The metal is heated with the help of a flame torch.



Craftsmen involved in knitting process.

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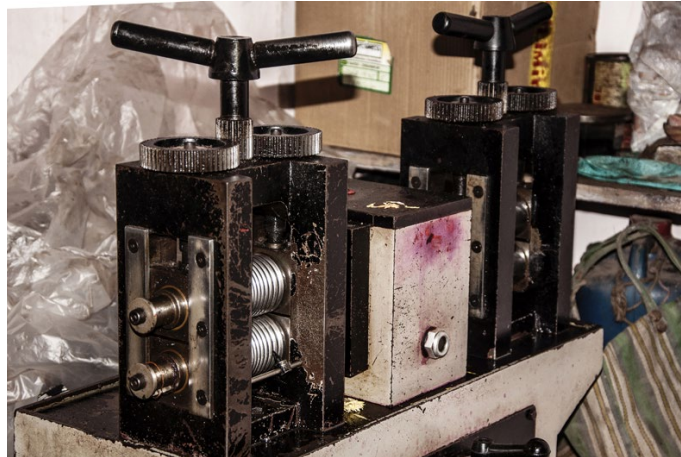
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Gauge plate is used to convert the wire into thin string.



Rolling machine converts the metal rod into wire.



The copper wires are twisted.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The artisan requires varieties of tools and raw materials for making Baju Band. The raw materials and tools are purchased from the local market of Belgaum.

- **Nav Sagar:** It is used to melt gold and silver.
- **Holder:** Holder is used to hold the containers in melting process.
- **Flame Torch:** It is used in melting the element.
- **Rolling Machine:** It is used to convert thick gold or silver rod into wire/string.
- **Cutter:** Cutter used to cut the silver/gold/copper wires.
- **Twisting Electric Machine:** Twisting electric machine is used to twist the wire.
- **Ghad:** Ghad is a traditional machine which is used to convert the thick string into thin wires.
- **Gauge Patti:** Gauge plate used to obtain the required thickness of wire.



Traditional machine called as Ghad is used to convert the wire into thin string.

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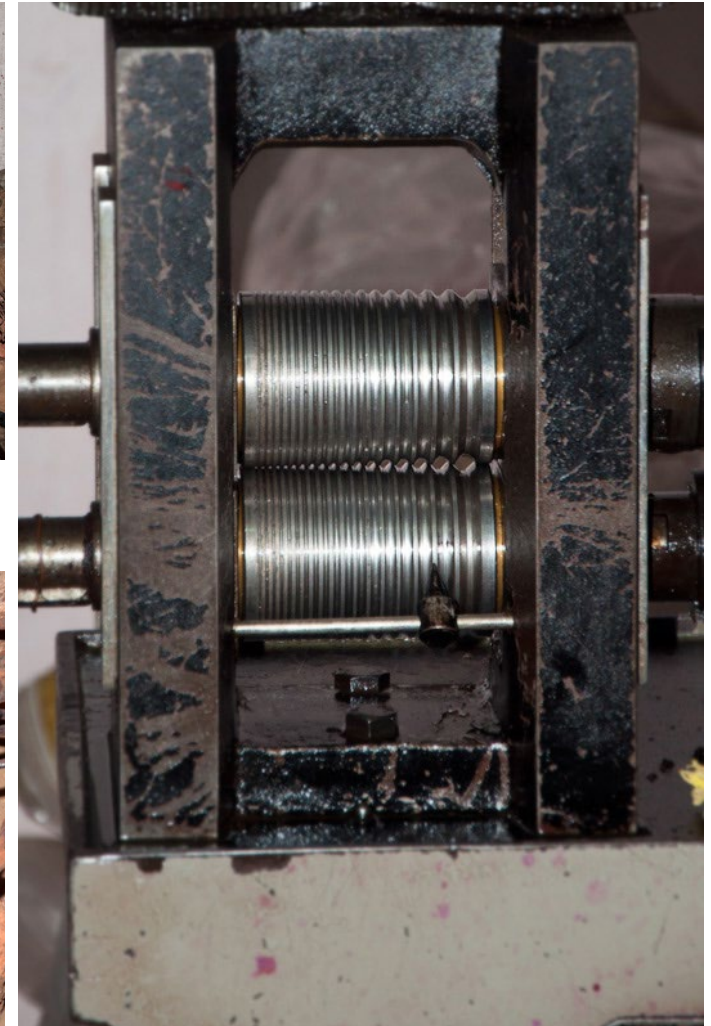
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Manual blower and torch is used to produce the fire.



Gold and silver are the main raw material used to make Bajuband.



Rolling Machines is used for sizing rods to wire.

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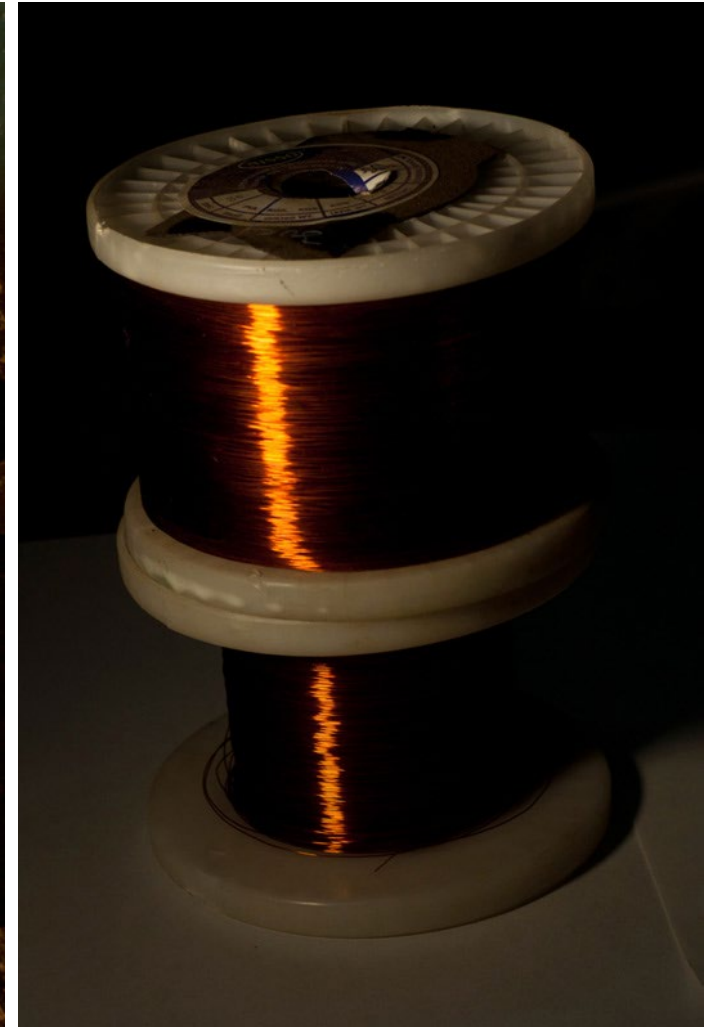
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Different size of gauge plate is used to convert the wire in to required diameter of string.



Copper string is used to make copper Bajuband.

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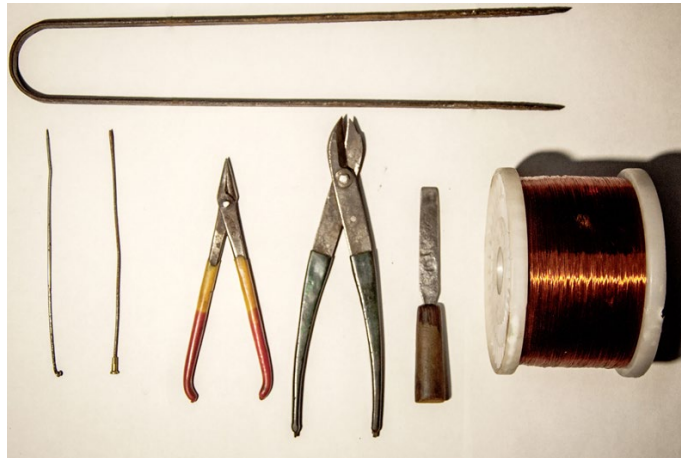
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Wire is attached to an electric motor for the twisting.



Different types of tools are used to make the Bajuband.



Brazier is used to heat the twisted copper wire to remove chemical coating.

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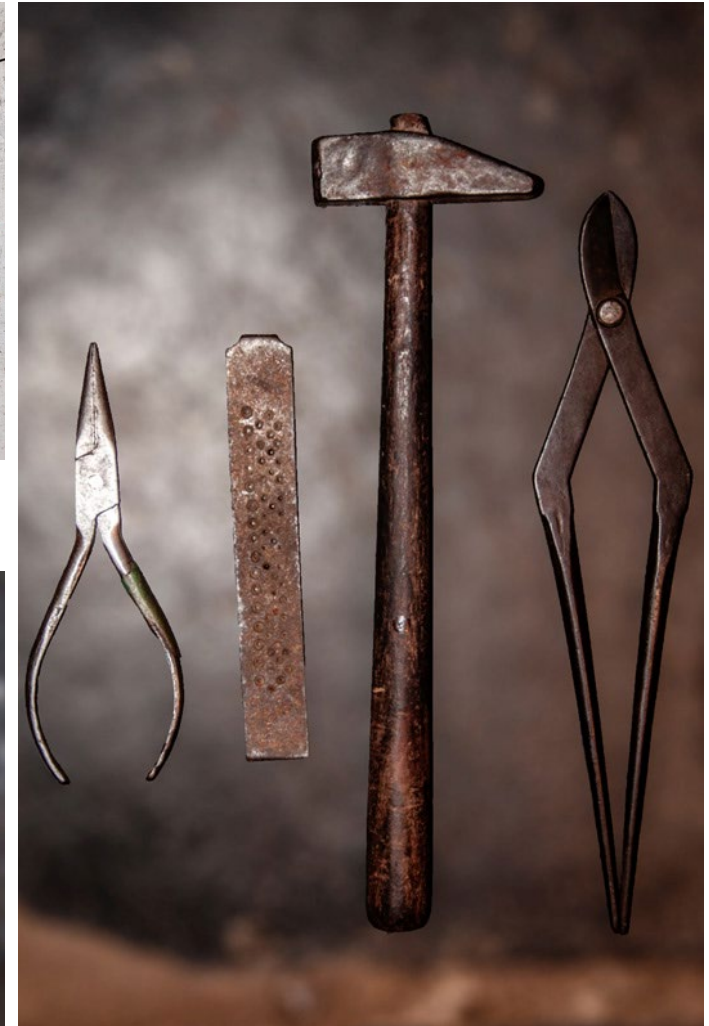
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Varieties of pliers and holders are used in the making process.



Navasagara powder act as catalyst in melting process.



Gauge plate, Hammer and tweezers are the central tools in making process.

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Making Process

Bajuband is a traditional ornament made of gold wire. Basically it is a gold ornament but with the change of time and cause of increase in gold rate, this ornament is also made in silver and copper, which is coated with gold. Gold biscuits are melted and converted into a piece of thick stick (5-8 millimeter). This stick is then passed through a rolling machine, which converts the gold stick into thick wire (3-5 millimeter). The thick wire is attached to a traditional machine called as "Ghad" (In Marathi language) to convert the thick wire into thin gold wire. The machine consists of two lever on both side and gauge plate holder in the middle. One end of the gold wire is rotated to one side of the lever and the other end of the wire is pulled through the gauge plate into thin gold wire. The process of wire pulling is repeated until the required size of 0.75 millimeter of the gold wire is achieved.

The converted thin wire is washed in acid and normal water to remove the impurities. Wires are cut into equal length of 64 inch and then again folded into half which brings the length down to 32 inches. The folded wire is attached to an electric motor which helps to twist the folded wire with each other. The twisting process reduces the length by 6 inches. It requires 30 twisted gold wires to create one medium size Baajubhand. Before twisting, 30 gold wires are divided into two parts. The fifteen wires are twisted clock wise and the other fifteen is twisted anti clock wise. From the 30 twisted wires 15 pairs of wires are made. Each pair consists of one clock wise twisted wire and one anti clock twisted wire. This is done to create the design while knitting the strings. A metal rod is passed through one end of the twisted wire's loop and fixed to wooden plank. The pairs of wires are divided into two parts, one to the left and one to the right. Either side of the strings is held by the artisan's feet. Artisan takes a pair of string from both side and starts knitting or weaving them in the criss-cross manner. After every row of knitting, chisel is used to tight the knit. This process is continued until 9 inches of knitting is done. The excess wire edges are cut using a cutter and hooks are added in the end. The edge of the knitted strip is hammered with the help of flat chisel to create a hollow pattern in the edges. The knitted strip or belt is decorated with stones and pearls to make them look more elegant.

Bajuband is also made with silver and copper wire. To make silver article it is the same process as made for the gold articles. To make copper strip the wire is purchased from the local market. The copper strings are then cut and twisted. The twisted copper wires are heated to remove the chemical coating on them and the washed in acid. The twisted copper wires are then knitted into a 9 inch strip same as the gold or silver strips. The silver and copper knitted strips are gold plated after completion. Artisan of Belgaum weaves the design with copper or silver wire and sends them to Mumbai for gold plating. Other decorative items like stones and pearls are also added to make them look beautiful which completes the process. Bajuband products are sold in Belgaum and different parts of India.

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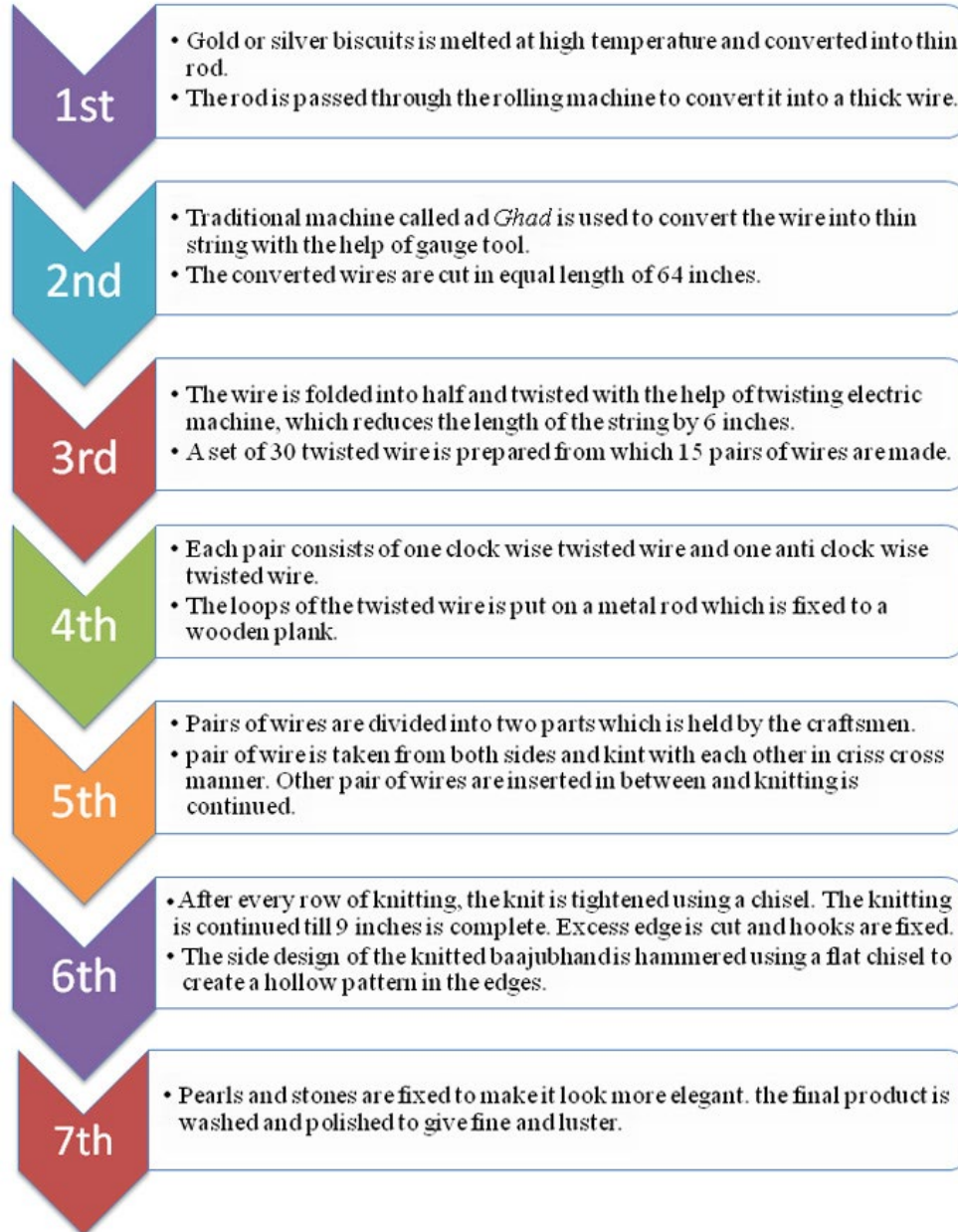
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The gold or silver is placed with other base metal in a crucible.



Charcoal or flame torch is used to generate heat to melt the alloy.



The alloy is heated at high temperature to melt.

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Molted alloy is poured in a mold.



The metal is converted into a thin rod.

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Rod is dipped in diluted sulfuric acid to remove impurity's.

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The rod is hammered to expand the length.



The rod is passed through the rolling machine to convert into a wire.

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The edge of the wire is hammered to make the edge sharp and pointed.



The string is passed through the gauge plate to check the size.



String is pulled through the gauge plate's holes using long nose plier.



Metal wire is rolled traditional machine called as Ghad using lever.

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Metal wire is drawn until the required thickness of the string is obtained.



The string is folded and attached to a twisting electric motor.



Strings are twisted using the electric motor.



Twisted strings are arranged on a wooden plank to knit them into Bajuband.

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Strings are knitted in criss-cross manner.



Flat chisel is used to tighten the knit.



4 to 5 days is required to complete a Bajuband.



The knitted belt is ready for embellishment.

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Copper strings available in the market are measured and cut into equal half.



The 64 inches of copper wires are folded into half and twisted using the hand twister.

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The twisting process reduces the length of the string 6 inches.



A set of 30 twisted strings are bundled.



Brazier is used to heat the twisted copper strings to remove the chemical coating.

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The strings are fixed to a wooden plank and divided into two equal parts, pair of string is taken from both sides and knitted together in criss cross manner.



After every row of knitting, flat chisel is used to tighten the knit.



Each pair of string consists of one clock wise twisted string and one anti clock wise twisted string.

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Knitting completes when it reaches to 9 inches of length.



Sides of the knitted Baajubhand are hammered with a flat chisel for embossing the corner.



The copper Baajubhand is coated with liquid gold and embellished with stones and pearls.

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Products

Meaning of Bajuband is armband or armband made of precious metal in Kannada, Marathi and Hindi language. Generally is worn on biceps of the upper arm.

The names of the designs mainly made are Rudra Ghanti, Chappe Henneke, Segekai Matta amongst which Rudra Ghanti design is more in demand. People from different states give orders for these designs. Gold Bajuband are made on orders whereas silver and copper (gold plated) ones are available everywhere. Other than Bajuband, the artisan also makes different products such as Bracelets, bangles, chains, necklace, Kamar band (waist chain) and the size is 1-1.5 inches in width which suits the size of upper hand.



Bajuband knitted in Segekai Matta pattern.

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Armlet (Bajuband) is known for their stylish designs, ready to wear.



Different style of stone and pearls are studded to embellish the product.



Bajuband jewelry worn on the arms reflects style, richness and royalty.

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Combination of white and pink stone and hanging chain with pearls are another type of design.

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Panaroma View

Melting Process:



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Ductiling Out Process:



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Pan Out Process 1:



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Pan Out Process 2:



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Twisting Process:



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Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S., Lija M. G., Shruti K. and Smitha S. at **NID Campus, Bengaluru**.

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