

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/introduction>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Introduction

Any south Indian would enjoy the meal with eating on the Banana leaf that was the typical tradition practiced long before. But even today during marriages, festivals and family functions food is served on the banana leaves with varieties of curries and side dishes along with it. In Kerala, most of the houses grow the banana plant at their home surroundings and taken care by themselves. But in Kacheripady of Ernakulam district of Kerala in India, people have found the technique of extracting the fibers from the pseudo stem of the banana plant at the Vimala welfare centre.

They prefer the manual method of extracting the fiber and as there is a shortage, the banana fibers are brought from Tamil Nadu to make into variety of products. There are various types of banana such as the following.

Pisang Mas:

These fruits that are small, thin and straight with sweet taste.

Gros Michel:

These fruits are lesser solid with texture as plum.

Orinoco/ Topocho:

These fruits have thick body and is bigger than the rest of the bananas.

Purple:

These fruits are resistant to illness with a strong flavor.

Apple:

These are more numbers in bunches with a good flavor and nice aroma.

Big Cavendish/ Grand Naine:

These fruits are thick skin and dwarf bananas.

Male:

These fruits are few in numbers with good taste generally fried and cooked.

Bananas are called perennial herbs that aren't the real trees. The trunks of the banana consist of leaf stalks with new leaves rising inside below the ground. Even the flower push through central and emerge from the centre of the crown. It takes about nine months to grow and produce the bunch of bananas with little baby plants (suckers) around the base. The suckers can be taken and planted separately or left with the mother plant to be grown. Bananas generally need an ideal temperature of 26-30°C with lot of water and very rich soil for plantation. Every part of this plant can be used for various end uses, even after cutting the fibers for various products.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/introduction>

1. **Introduction**
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Basket made out of Banana fibres with floral embroidery design.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/introduction>

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Adorable pen stand made out of Banana fibres.



Fancy green sling bag with creative design made out of banana fibres.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/introduction>

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Variety of Bags made out of banana fibres in different styles and forms.



Door mat attractively made out of banana fibres in mix colors.



Small hand vanity bags made out of banana fibres.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/introduction>

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Attractive boxes made out of banana fibres in fashionable designs.



Trendy variety of vanity bags made out of banana fibres.



Coaster mats made out of banana fibres in set of six order.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>

Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required to make the Banana Fibre products.

- **Measuring Tape:** It is used to measure the required length of the fibers depending on the end uses.
- **Scissors:** It is used to cut the required length of Banana fibers.
- **Long Needles:** It is used to stitch the plaited fibers as per the required shape.
- **Cotton Thread:** It is used to stitch the plaited fibers together (usually 1225 thread of Madura coats are used).
- **Smooth Stone:** It is used to rub on the fibre surface for glossy finish.
- **Tumbler with Water:** Fibers are immersed in water in between so that it doesn't break.
- **Blade:** It is used to cut the protracted fibers.
- **Butter Paper:** It is used to implement the fine-looking embroidery designs on the products.
- **Pen:** It is used to draw the required designs on the butter paper.
- **Plank of Wood:** It is used to scrap the fibers from the pseudo stem of the banana plant.
- **Hand Scraper:** It is the metal piece used to take out the fibers from the pseudo stem.
- **Dyeing Tank:** It is used to colour the fibers to the required colours.
- **Plaiting Stand:** It is used to plait the banana fibers.
- **Weighing Machine:** It is used to measure the quantity of the banana fibers.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Synthetic threads are used in stitching the bags, mats and other household products.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Banana fibres are the basic raw material in making the bags and other articles.



A pair of scissors is used to cut, trim the fibres and threads.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>



Soap stone used in removing small procuring fibres and to smoothen the surface.



Needle is used in sewing the bags.



Measuring tape is used to measuring the articles in the process of stitching.



A squeezer which helps in extracting the fibre from the plant stem.

1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Dyeing machine is used in dyeing the fibres in large scale.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and
Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Making Process

After the banana fruit is cut from the plant, the pseudo stems are placed on the plank of wood and threadbare with the hand scraper. The fibers are separated from the pith and dried under sunlight, after which the fibers separated are decided to be taken as raw and fibers to be dyed.

Raw fibers are immersed in water and then taken for plaiting to the required sizes. The fibers separated for colouring (dyeing) are placed into the preheated water of 600c in the dyeing tank. As the water reaches to 600c the direct dye of the required colour is added and stirred well with the stick at intervals, then the fibers are added and heated till it reaches 1000c for about half an hour. Then common salt is added and stirred and this is left for few minutes till the water changes colourless. Fibers are taken out and dried in the shade till it is completely dried.

After the fibers are completely dried it is plaited to small, medium or big sizes as per the requirement on the table with nails (plaiting stand) by applying little bit of water in between so that the fibers doesn't break that easily and the strength is retained.

As per the colour, length and width the plaited fibers are arranged side by side, in circular, in elliptical etc. and stitched each layer by layer such a way that the fibers are held together. As the required lengths are obtained it is curved to the required positions and wrapped accordingly as per the sizes to be made. In products such as bags, purses, table mats etc. designs are drawn on the butter paper placed on the surface and with colour combinations the fibers are stitched to enrich the look of the product.



The stem of the banana plant is cut with the help of a sickle tool.

Separating the layers from banana plant stem.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

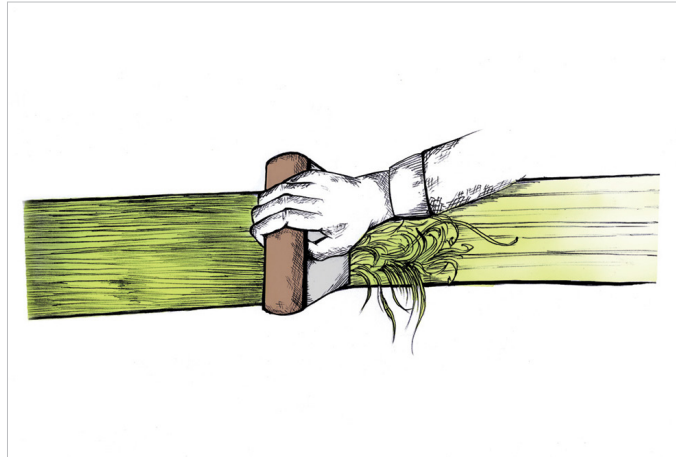
Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

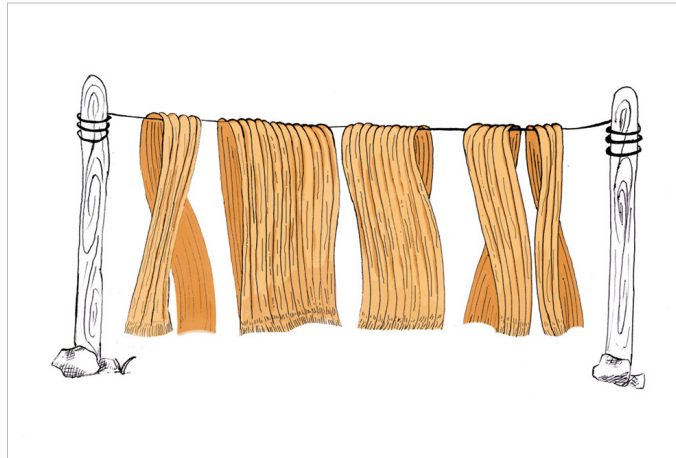
Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>

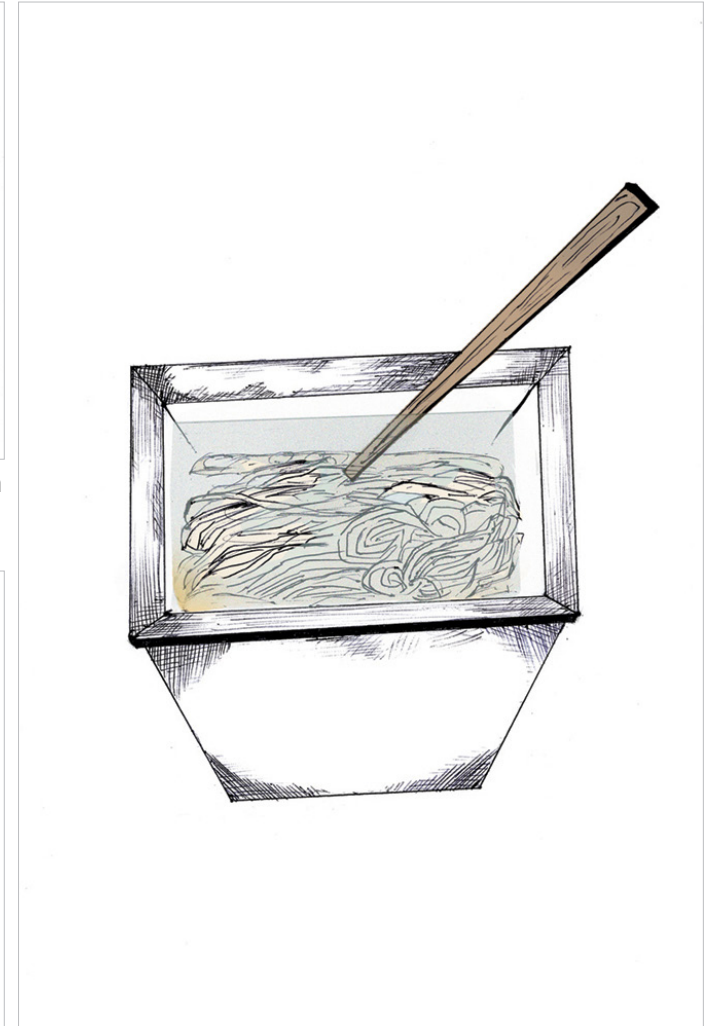
1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Extraction of fibres from the separated layers of banana plant stem.



Drying the wet fibres by hanging them in an open place.



Soaking the fibres of banana plant stem in water to make it soft.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

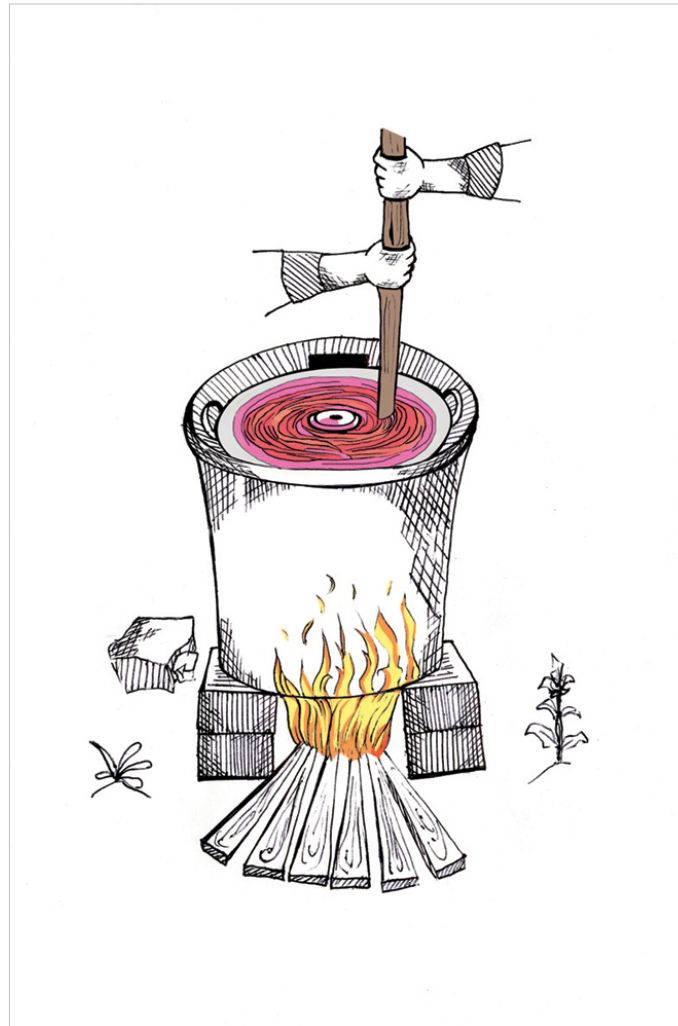
Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



The dried fibres are chemically dyed in process where the color and fibres are added to the boiling water.



Dyed fibres are kept in an open place for drying.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Artisan plaiting the fibres to intertwine like cording and to give it a basic form which becomes easier in usage.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Plaited fibres are corded in bundles.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

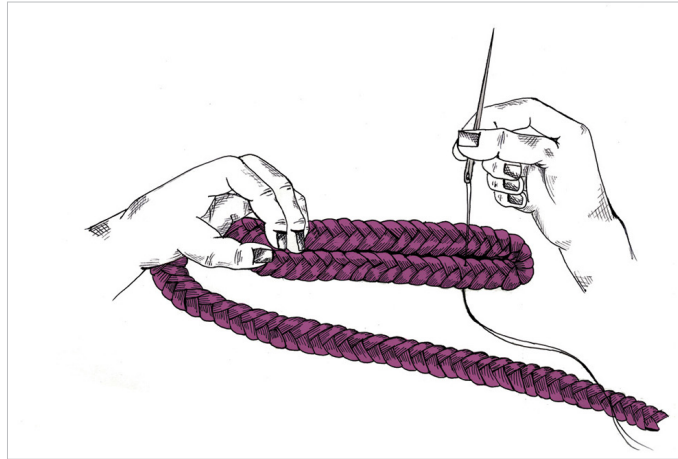
Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

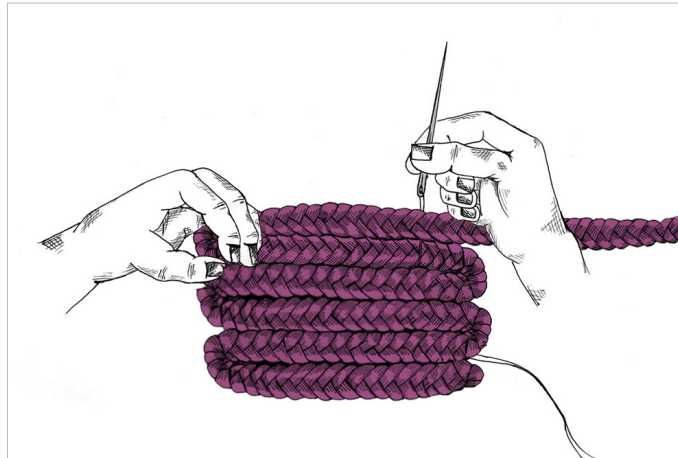
Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Plaited fibres are further stitched by rolling it flat horizontally to make the base of the basket.



The Plaited fibre is stitched in a zig-zag manner to make the body of the basket.



After certain amount of flat rolling and stitching the plaited fibre in a place the artisan stops at the required size of the base of the basket to be acquired.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>



Binding the plaited fibres of the body part by stitching a single plaited fibre on all the sides of the basket.



Removing minute procuring fibers and smoothen the body of the basket with the help of stone.



The design required is drawn on the butter sheet and is appropriately placed on the basket.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



The embroidery design is stitched onto the basket in bright colors with the help of needle and synthetic thread.



Various synthetic color threads are used in embroidery work to make the basket colorful.



The butter sheet is removed, the thread is knotted and cut once the embroidery is done.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

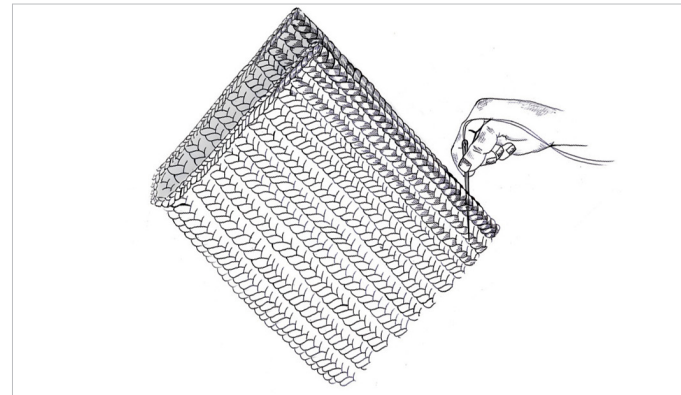
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/making-process>



The body part is now stitched into a shape by folding it in an elliptic cylinder form.



The base and the body of the basket is attached by stitching them together with needle and thread.



The basket is complete after the handles are stitched to it.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/products>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Products

There are different varieties of banana that are found, the fibers can be extracted from all the types and various products can be made with it. Fibers either in the raw form or in the dyed form are taken and plaited, arranged to various forms to make different products as given below. The cost of the smallest product such as the coasters starts from about INR 50 to the big tray box or bag of about INR 2000 as per the type it is made.

Some of the products are as follows:

1. Door mats
2. Mats (various shapes)
3. Baskets
4. Wall hangings
5. Jewellery boxes (small, big)
6. Purses
7. Trays
8. Bags of different sizes
9. Bowls
10. Coasters
11. Pouches
12. Folders
13. Table mats
14. Mobile covers



Eco friendly coiled table mats with attractive color combination.

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/products>



A Basket with lid made out of banana fibre with the color combination of green and half white.



Baskets made out of Banana fibre with a floral embroidery on it.



Eco friendly bags and baskets made of Banana fiber with bright colors.



Sling and vanity bags in various colors made for women customers.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/products>



Banana fibre basket with a two color combination pattern.



Adorable Small lidded fancy boxes made out of Banana fibre.



Decorative bowls and fruit holders made out of Banana fiber in attractive designs and shapes.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/video>

Video



Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. **Video**
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Banana Fiber Craft - Ernakulam, Kerala

Ancient Banana leaf Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fiber-craft-ernakulam-kerala/contact-details>

Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Lija M. G. at [NID Campus, Bengaluru](#).

You can get in touch with

- Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Key Contacts:

Vimala welfare Centre
Chittoor road, Cochin
Kerala
Landphone-04842395650

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
R & D Campus
National Institute of Design
#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road
Bengaluru 560 022
India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054

Fax: +91 80 23373086

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. **Contact Details**