

Design Resource

## Banana Fibre Bag

The Art of Crafting Banana Fiber

by

Mr. J. Antony William, Mr. Mahendra and

Mr. Mahesh

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/banana-fibre-bag>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Twine Making
4. Making of Bag
5. Products
6. Contact Details



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## Introduction

Mayasandra is located in Hiriyur taluk of Chitradurga district in Karnataka state. The artisans of Mayasandra are the members of self-help group initiative producing a range products made of Banana fibre. The craft was initiated around 8 years ago and at present there are nearly 15 to 30 families of Mayasandra and surrounding villages who are engaged in producing range of products using fibre from the banana plant. The natural material banana fibre is utilized to create many house hold items.

These artisans have undergone training given by IDF (Initiative for Development Foundation) in Mayasandra and Lakkavanahalli villages. Women are engaged in procuring raw material and in production processes during their leisure time.



Artisans engaged in making Banana fibre bags.

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An woman is carrying a stack of dry Banana fibre.



Fibre is manually twisted and made into twines.



Knitting the banana twine to make bags.

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Banana fibre is knitted and coiled to make different products.



Artisan displaying range of finished products.



Group of artisans with their products at Mayasandra.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

Production process is very simple and requires very basic tools and raw materials.

### Tools Used:

- Scissors for cutting.
- Knitting needles to weave the bags.
- Measuring tape.
- Rubber sheet used as a surface while making Banana twine.

### Raw Materials:

- Banana Fibre

Banana Fibre is the main raw material to make variety of household products and contemporary decorative items. Artisans procure the raw material in and around areas of Mayasandra. The place Mayasandra has good water resource. Hence the entire area has stretches of Banana crops. Due to the abundant availability of Banana fibre, the artisans have initiated making several household items with Banana fibre.



Artisan choosing banana fibre to make twines.

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Banana fibre is twisted on rubber sheet.



Scissor used to cut the extra part of the product.



Using needles, artisans give beautiful shape to Banana fibre.



Proper measurements are done using measuring tape.

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## Twine Making

Banana Fiber is extracted from Banana tree bark after harvesting the crop. The sun-dried banana fibre is procured from the fields early in the morning by women in the household. The collected fibre is washed in water to clear impurities and mud before starting twine making process. First, Banana fibre is peeled and sliced into the required sizes. Then two peeled strands of half inch in width are manually twisted together to make banana rope. The rope is further used to make banana bags and other various products. The artisans make the banana yarn by twisting the peeled Banana strands manually.



Raw material is cleaned in water before peeling.



Banana bark is being sliced.

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Artisan removing pith from the banana bark.



The strands are again washed to make them soft.



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Banana fibre is peeled and kept for twine making.



Artisan making rope by scrolling the banana fiber on a rubber surface by hand.



Handmade Banana yarn.

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## Making of Bag

The Banana twine is first soaked in water so that the fiber becomes soft and supple as it is flexible to make bags. The bag making process is very simple and followed crochet weaving technique. Banana weaving technique is unique when compared to other weaving techniques. The weaver uses their fingers to thread the bags and other products. Base and body of the Banana bag is woven first and then weaving progress to increase the side walls of the bag. The handle of the bag is woven separately and then attached to the bag. The excess Banana yarn after weaving is cut using scissors. Few other products like tea coasters and dining table mats are handmade by braiding the slices of Banana fibre and then coiled to take the required shape.



Banana fibre is soaked in water.



Artisan initiating the bag weaving process.

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Needle plays major role in bag weaving process.



Crochet weaving technique is followed to weave Banana bag.



The closer view of weaving process.

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The side walls of the bag are being weaved.



The wall of the bag is completed.



Handle of the bag is weaved and attached to the bag.



The extra portion after weaving is cut and removed.

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Finished Banana fibre bag.



The fibre is braided to make coasters.



Artisan braiding the Banana fibre.



Braided and coiled tea coaster.

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## Products

Every inch of Banana fibre can be used in making products, there is no end to the scope for items, from bags to other house hold items like dining table mat, lamp, files, purse, mobile cover, onion butti-container, vegetable butti, pen box, cushion cover, door decorator - thorana. The process entails much careful handwork.



Crochet style dining table mat.



Banana fibre bag is beautifully decorated with wooden beads.

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Folder made up of Banana bark.



Folders weaved in different patterns.



Collection of different products.



Coiled table-coaster.

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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Mr. Antony William, Mr. Mahendra and Mr. Mahesh at **NID, Bengaluru**.

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