

Design Resource

## Batik Printing - Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Batik Printing - One Among The Various Kinds of Prints

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Sandhya B.  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/batik-printing-ujjain-madhya-pradesh>



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## Introduction

The largest city in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh is Ujjain. It is located 23.17°N & 75.79°E with an average elevation of 494meters. It is an ancient city situated on the eastern bank of the Kshipra River and the most notable in the Malwa region. Geographically located in the western part of India, and is north of the upper limit of Vindhya Mountain ranges. It is one of the holy cities of India and a known pilgrimage center. Some of the sacred places in the city are the Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga – an ancient temple, Kal Bhairav temple, ISKCON temple, Gopal Mandir. It is also famous for well-known event Kumbh Mela. It is the world's largest religious gathering and held once in twelve years at one of the four places in the rotation (Haridwar, Allahabad, Nashik and Ujjain). The state has some of the beautiful places to see and appreciate yet it is not that known as the place for tourist destination like the rest of the states in India. With places like Khajuraho, Mandu, Ujjain, Sanchi there are some other places that are very interesting to visit. Madhya Pradesh is the center for some of the best monuments of various religions. In addition to the sightseeing, the handicrafts of Madhya Pradesh have diverse traditions and is the charm of the state. Some of the known crafts include textile weaving, hand printing, carpet weaving, lacquer ware, glass beads and stone beads, metal jewelry, rag dolls and toys. Precisely talking of Ujjain there are numerous kinds of prints that are manufactured in the city and are in demand all over the nation.

Batik Printing is one among the various kinds of prints, and is much known in the Ujjain city. Bed sheets, dress materials and more contain this kind of prints. Melted wax is used for the kind of batik printing and dyed. Batik is a combination of art, as there is a free moment of the hand while working on the patterns which are artistically done and craft, the way the whole process of waxing and designing takes place. This form of designing cloth has been skillfully carried on over for centuries. The Indonesia-Java's batik is considered to be the ancient and finest of all. The word batik is Javanese (Java-Place in Indonesia) in origin and gets form the word 'titik' which means dot. It was highly developed in the island of Java in Indonesia and the finest batik till date is said to be from this place. The cloth is washed, patterns are marked or sometimes drawn directly on the cloth with the help of a pen-like instrument called Tjanting. The wax flows through the column on a wooden handle and forms lines and dots as it moves on the fabric. The cloth is dyed and the wax is removed by treating it with hot steaming water. This is the basic process of batik printing, the process can be repeated while obtaining more colors.

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Beautiful peacock design made on dupatta (long scarf).



Portray of beautiful lady on chudithar.



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Experienced artisans involved in batik printing.



Well bleached cotton fabric used in batik printing.



Skilled artisan waxing the design before dyeing.

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Batik printing is a technique of wax resist dyeing.

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Artisan applying different colors in small area using sponge.



Indonesian style of waxing on fabric.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

The tools that are required for the Batik Printing:

- **Bleaching Machine** - Fabric is bleached in the machine to get a white tone.
- **Pot** - The pot is used to melt wax under certain temperatures.
- **Wax thermometer** - Is used to check with the temperature of the wax.
- **Tjanting** - Is used to make the melt wax flow through the column.
- **Flat brushes** - Brushes are used to coat the fabric with melt wax.
- **Newsprint paper** - Is used to sketch the required designs.
- **Fabric** - Cotton and silk fabrics are used, on which the waxing takes place.
- **Wax** - Bee wax and paraffin wax are mixed together and used.
- **Print blocks** - Wooden blocks are used to print the melt wax.
- **Paint brush** - Paint brush is used to spread the melt wax.
- **Sponge** - Sponge is used to apply colors to spaces formed by motifs.
- **Plastic bowls** - Are used to mix colors.
- **Scissors** - Are used to cut the fabric.
- **Hypo liquid** - Is the effective whitener for fabrics.
- **Butter paper** - Is used to transfer the design on the fabric.
- **Stylus** - Customized stylus made of coconut husk is used to outline the designs.

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- **Sand table** - The table frame filled with sand is used to place fabric and apply the melt wax.
- **Colors** - Various colors are used to dye the fabric.
- **Water tank** - Fabric is washed in open water tank after dyeing.
- **Acid solutions** - Some acid solutions help retain the colors (Sulphuric & Nitric).



Wax is one of the main raw material.



Scissors are used to cut the cloth in required size.



Traditional canting tool used for applying wax on fabrics.



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Melted wax and stencils are used to print design on cloth.



Mixture of bleaching powder and water is used to make fabric white.



Cotton fabric is one of the main raw material to make different products.

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Canting tool used for applying wax on fabric in Indonesian style of batik printing.



Nitric acid powder is added to make the color stay permanently.

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Different color are used on fabric in batik printing.



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## Making Process

The cloth is initially rolled on a beam, 100 plus meters of cloth is rolled on a beam and cleansed. Bleach is done for about four hours to give the cloth a white wash. Hypo liquid an effective whitener of cloth is used. The cloth is washed and dried under sun for two hours. The dried cloth is folded according to the needed lengths. The sizes vary according to the material it is going to be used as finally-the sizes for bedsheets, dress materials, salwar suits and other products depend respectively. The liquid that is used to wash cloths and give it a white shine is referred as hypo-liquid and is used according to the quantity of the cloth otherwise the cloth might tear when the quantity of that liquid is more.

The beginning of designing is with wax, the design is got on the cloth with the help of butter paper. The design is first traced on a butter paper and pierced with dots. That paper is placed on the cloth and a light color is spread on the paper, the color settles on the cloth in a dotted format and acts as guide line to begin with wax.

The wax is melted in a pot. Bee wax and paraffin wax are used, they are melt together and with a help of tjanting tool the wax is transferred on to the fabric. A special type of table with a bed of sand is arranged. The fabric is placed on a sand table to avoid the spread of the wax lines. Outlines of the patterns are marked with Tjanting or stylus made of coconut husk. The Batik Printing is an ancestral work and is passed on from generations. People have been in this work for more than hundreds of years, initially working with vegetable dye and adapting to melted wax methods. The manufacturing of Batik printing is taken to a new level. In those days there were only two colors that were being used. Currently number of desired colors can be obtained by multiple dyeing.

The cloth has to be first treated, it is washed and bleached in the beginning. The cloth is allowed to dry and folded to needed lengths. The designs are marked on the cloth with the help of butter paper. The wax outlines are given with help of Tjanting. Flow of pen-like (Tjanting) tool along the designs is very artistic. The designs are marked on the cloth, the cloth is placed on the sand table so that the wax doesn't spread while printing and also the wax doesn't become sticky like on the plane table. The colors are filled in the gaps. These colors when dipped in acid solutions get there original colors. Blocks are used to print, the wooden blocks are dipped in the melted wax and pressed on the cloth. Once the filling of colors in the required gaps is done, it is dipped in acid solution to obtain the real colors. Multiple dyeing happens when two or three colors are required, the colors are blocked with melt wax and process is carried out. After all the colors, the base color for the fabric is given. The colors are achieved and only the dyeing of a base color is left. The fabric is dipped in the base color solution and washed in water. The process of dewaxing takes place only after attaining a base color. The cloth is dipped in a hot water solution and the wax gets melted. This way the patterns formed with wax, after dewax looks nearly white and looks beautiful. The patterns that are used are florals, human figurative, depending on demands of the clients the designs are achieved. Large areas of the cloth are sometimes covered entirely with wax and once dry, the fabric is crushed, to break the cooled wax. After dyeing, this gives the typical cracked effect characteristic of Batik.

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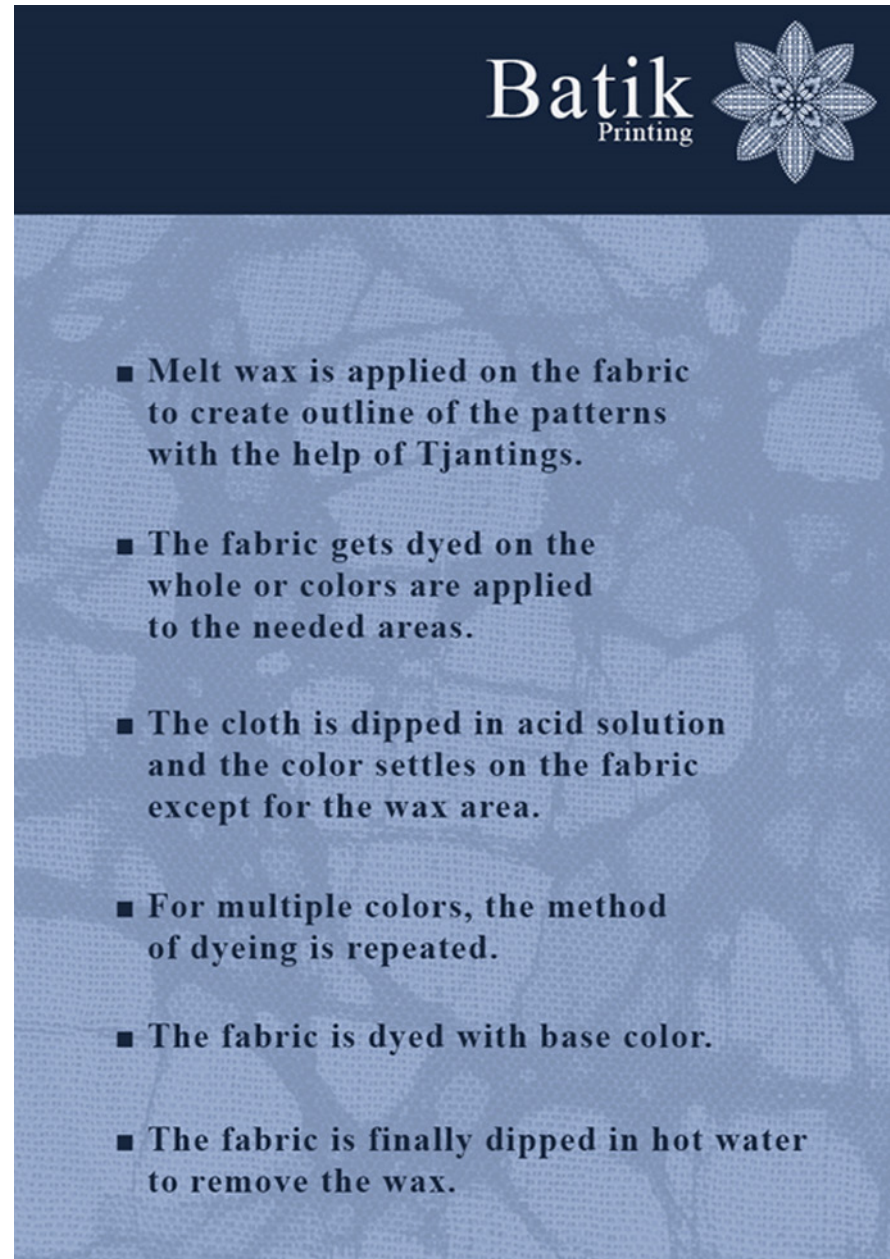
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Flow Chart:



The flow chart is titled "Batik Printing" and features a decorative floral logo. The background is a light blue pattern of batik designs. The text is presented in a list of steps, each preceded by a square bullet point.

- Melt wax is applied on the fabric to create outline of the patterns with the help of Tjantings.
- The fabric gets dyed on the whole or colors are applied to the needed areas.
- The cloth is dipped in acid solution and the color settles on the fabric except for the wax area.
- For multiple colors, the method of dyeing is repeated.
- The fabric is dyed with base color.
- The fabric is finally dipped in hot water to remove the wax.

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The cotton fabric is folded evenly for bleaching.



The cotton fabric is placed in the machine for bleaching.





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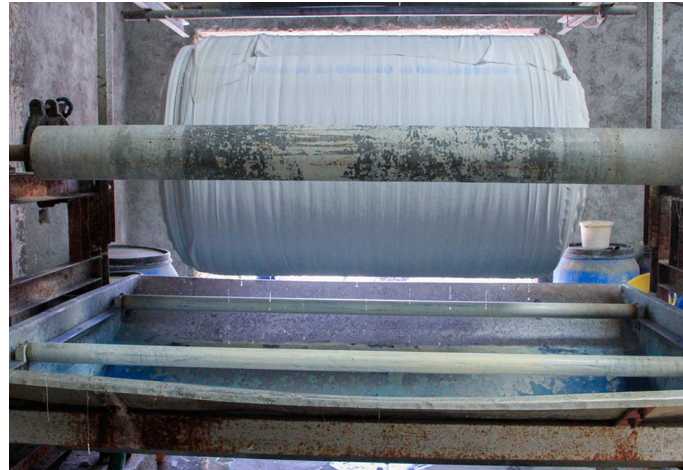
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The fabric is bleached in the machine using the mixture of bleaching powder and water.



The fabric is pulled out from the bleaching machine to dry it.



Fabric is dried under sunlight.

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The fabric is placed on the layer of mud to reduce spreading of wax on cloth.



Stencil is dipped into melted wax to apply on cloth.



By placing the stencil design is printed on the cloth.

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Using traditional canting free hand designs are made on fabric.



Indonesian style is done using canting.



Different portrait of ladies are designed on the fabric.

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Wax is applied on the portrait to retain its color.



Required color is applied on the particular area using sponge.





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Fabric is then soaked into plain water to remove acid content.



Designed fabric is soaked into the mixture of sulfuric acid and water.



Fabric is dyed with light color first.



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Required color liquid and nitric acid powder is mixed with water to give the fabric a permanent color.

The Fabric is soaked into the solution to attain its color.

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The fabric is washed in plain water to remove acid content.



Soda is added into hot water for dewaxing.



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Fabric is soaked in soda water to remove wax.



Fabric is washed in plane water.



The fabric is kept under sunlight to dry.



The final product is packed in plastic cover of its size.

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## Products

Batik painted clothes – bed sheets, home furnishings, door covers, salwar suits, saree, stoles, dupatta, table covers, hankies, pillow covers, stationery for corporate uses and more are manufactured. The price starts from INR 350 and goes up to thousands of rupees. There are cotton and silk fabric that gets printed. There is more market for silk currently, with the same amount of work that goes in both cotton and silk fabric batik printing, the price of silk fabric is higher. More than five colors are used in recent days and the quality of the print technique is enhanced. The market runs successfully and the demand for batik print products are witnessed from all over the world.



Beautifully made bedspread with unique design.



Price range of the products start from INR.400.



Portrait of peacock with various colors made on a dupatta.



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Various colors and design patterns of batik printed sarees.



Dark color salwar suit with contrast color designs on it.



Salwar suit with unique flower design.

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## Video



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## Contact Details

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

### Key Contacts:

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