

Design Resource

Hand Batik Print - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Art of Decorating The Cloth

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Ranjitha M. C.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/hand-batik-print-ahmedabad-gujarat>



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

Hand Batik Printing is an art of decorating the cloth. It is believed that the word Batik is derived from the word 'ambatik' which means 'a cloth with little dots' whereas 'tik' means little dot, drop, point or to make dots and it is also believed that a word 'batik' originated from the Japanese word 'tritik' that defines a resist process for dyeing. Batik print is a very old form of art, whereas the evidence of early batik print has been discovered in the Middle East, Egypt, Peru, Japan, East Turkistan, Europe as well as Central Asia (India and China) as far back as 2000 years ago. Batik was initially practiced in China as early as the Sui Dynasty (AD581 – 618). The history of Indian batik traced back to 1st century AD. During that period, Khatri community people of Gujarat were the only set of artisans for this Batik art. Now there is no single community who involved in this work, there are artisans of various regions who are trained in hand batik print. In India these Batik printing is done in many places such as Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

Batik print is a unique technique of colouring or ornamenting the cloth by hiding a part of it with a wax coat and then dyed so that the waxed area keep their actual colour and when the wax is removed, the contrast between the dyed and undyed areas makes the pattern. Batik art involves three stages such as waxing, dyeing and dewaxing (removing the wax). There are some more sub-processes like preparing the cloth, stretching the cloth on the frame, preparing the dye, dye the cloth, dewaxing and washing. Batik production techniques are generally being divided into three types such as Canting (tjanting or tulis), Cap (block printing) and Silk screening (screen printing). Hand Batik printing portrays an array of themes, which include religious themes as well as abstract patterns. The batik print on fabric represents cultural elements of their respective states and also influenced by the nature.



Dress material printed with the various design Pattern.

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Artisan who work for hand batik printing.



Artisan filling the fabric with bright color.



Display of completely batik printed fabric.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools that are used for Hand Batik Print:

- **Wooden printing blocks:** To get the required design on fabric.
- **Dyeing Vats:** To colour the fabric.
- **Batik Wax:** Used to keep the actual colour of the fabric.
- **Customized Tool:** Small pen like tool is used to apply the colour.
- **Cotton Fabric:** A basic material for batik print.
- **Water:** To wash the fabric.
- **Wajan:** A container, which holds the molten wax.
- **Table:** To fix the fabric.



Raw materials used for batik printing.

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Bottle sponge applicator used to color on the fabric.



Molten wax color used for printing process.



Chemical color solution for batik printing process.

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Making Process

Batik refers to the wax-resist dyeing technique that is used in textiles. The selection and preparation of the cloth for the batik print is one of the important steps. Cloth made of natural materials like cotton and silk are used for the Batik print so that the fabric will absorb the wax that is applied for the dye resisting process. It is very essential that the fabrics must have high thread count so that the design qualities of batik can be provided. A cloth that is used for a batik print is washed neatly to remove starches and other sizing materials. Then the washed cloth is dried and ironed.

Different types and qualities of wax are used for batik print. Most commonly beeswax and paraffin wax are used because of its malleability and friability and the addition of resins will increase the adhesiveness. The perfect combination for batik wax is 30% of beeswax and 70% of paraffin wax but now a day's mostly paraffin wax is used because it is easily available and less costly. The wax must keep in the proper temperature hence the wax container is placed on a small brick charcoal stove to maintain the density of the liquid. Then the cloth that has to be print is fixed on the table and coated with the wax by dipping the wooden printing block in molten wax and tapped on the fabric. Whereas the table has sand on it so that the wax does not spread. After the application of initial wax, the fabric is prepared for the first dye bath using vat dyes and then dipped in hot water so that the wax separates easily from the fabric. Traditionally the dyeing process takes place in earthenware tubs. The fabric is immersed numerous times to attain a dark colour. Then the printed cloth is washed thoroughly with normal water and dried.

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Flow Chart:



1. A cotton fabric is washed to remove starches and other sizing materials.



2. Wooden printing block is dipped in molten wax.



3. The designs are hand printed on the fabric with the help of wooden printing block.



4. The wax-coated fabric is dyed and dewaxed.



5. Dyed and dewaxed cloth is dried.

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Fabric is evenly spread on a table before printing.



Wooden block is dipped in the molten wax color to be printed on the fabric.



Artisan carefully placing the wooden block to print on the cloth.

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Artisan printing the design pattern on fabric.



Fabric is getting dyed in a chemical color solution.

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The fabric is kept for draying.

The patterns are getting colored.



Painted batik print fabric which can be stitched as kurti.

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Products

Hand batik print is a very old and unique art. The colorful batik prints elegance the home furnishings with classiness and style. Household lines, beautiful bags, wall painting and murals with batik works have a great demand in the domestic and also in the international market. The Batik wall hangings highlight the walls with their bright colours and motifs. Whereas hand batik printed kurtis, sarees and wrappers are the favored choices of the fashion populace. Mr. Salauddin from Ahmedabad, who started his own manufacturing unit of hand batik print in Ahmedabad and produce varieties of designed dress materials, dupattas and sarees etc. The price for the batik printed dress materials starts from INR 160.



Batik printing done on the cotton fabric.

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Batik printed dress materials.



White pattern printed on dark green background.

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Contact Details

This documentation was done by **Professor Bibhudutta Baral** and Ranjitha M. C. at **NID, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with Professor Bibhudutta Baral at **[bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)**.

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

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