

Design Resource

## Handmade Paper

Craft of Making Paper by Hand

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Ms. Anisha Crasto and Ms.

Anushree Kumar

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/handmade-paper>

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



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## Introduction

Sanganer is located 30 Km away from Jaipur city in Rajasthan. Handmade paper craft was traditionally practiced in Sanganer. The history of handmade paper crafts dates back to Mughal era around 16th century and continues till date. It was brought in India by Mughal from Turkey. The early paper artisans used to make special paper for the Mughal court. In Jaipur, the craft was patronized by Maharaja Sawai Ishwari Singhji. In Jaipur special paper makers were appointed to work for the royal family. These people used to make paper to write manuscripts. The craft flourished due to its constant demand and new interventions made by the artisans. Sanganer in Jaipur became the main center for making handmade papers.



The prepared papers are allowed to dry naturally.

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Women collecting and piling the dried paper.



Machine used to crush the raw materials.

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Boiling and heating process are carried out in an open space.



The outside view of paper industry.

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## People and Place

The artisans who came from Turkey settled in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and some parts of Pakistan. In Rajasthan, Jaipur became the main center due to the patronization of the rulers. Sanganer in Jaipur was best for the handmade paper industry as it had water and open spaces that are essential for paper making. The craftsmen belong to Kagzi community who traditionally specialized in handmade paper production. The term Kagzi is derived from Kagaz (paper).



Sacks of cloth stacked in the factory.



Artisans involved in different stages of making paper.



Group of men and women involved in packaging of final handmade paper products.



Kagzi's mainly belong to Muslim communities. Therefore a majority of workers are Muslim.

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## Making Process

The making process involves several stages including rag chopping, beating, pressing, drying and cutting. The collected raw material is first bleached as to remove color and whiten the hosiery cloth. The bleached cloth is finely chopped into small pieces. Then the waste paper and the cloth pieces are mixed together with water in a beater. The beater machine finely beats the raw material to make the pulp. The pulp is evenly poured in a mold which contains two frames. The screen holds the pulp and the water drains out. The wet pulp is transferred onto a cloth and pressed to make the thick sheet. This process is repeated until the required uniformity is achieved. The sheets are dried after squeezing the water. The thickness of the sheet depends on the quantity of pulp taken in the mold. For the colored sheets the dye stuff is added in the pulp during the beating process. Some papers are colored externally after the paper is dried. Motifs are created by adding flower petals, leaf and grass during the pressing process. The dried papers are inspected for the quality and then smoothened.



Gathered raw material is checked to clear the impurities.



Paper and the cloth pieces are soaked in water.

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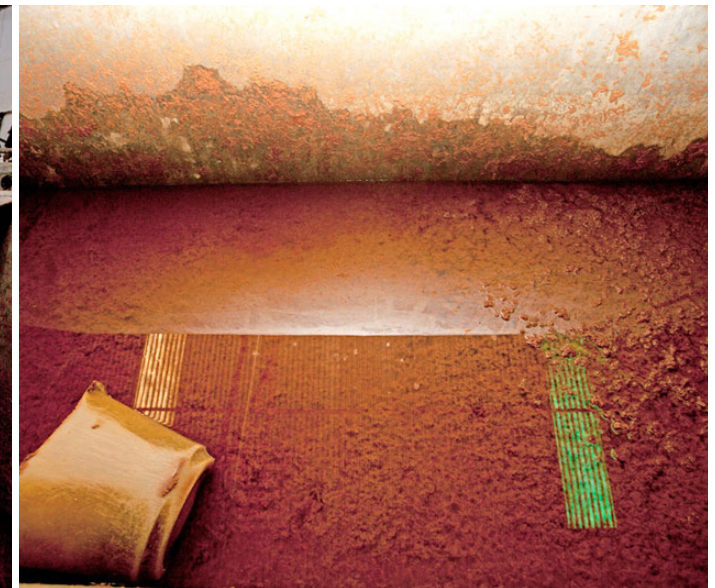
The beater makes the material into soft pulp.



The paper pulp is ready for pressing process.



Dye colors are added to the pulp.



The colored pulp is pressed into sheets.

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The pressed papers are hanged to dry in shade.



The dried papers are stacked according to colors.



The waste material after paper cutting.

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The papers are screen printed to create the patterns.



The artisans involved in creating products out of paper.



Embellished paper used for book binding.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

### Tools:

Varieties of tools and machineries are used in manufacturing as well as product making process. Chopper is used to crush the cloth into small pieces. The paper and cloth pieces are beaten/ pounded and converted into pulp using a beater/ ponding machine. A mould which is covered with a mesh is used to drain the water from the pulp and press as well. The dried paper is cut using scissors. Cutters are used to cut the bulk papers at a time. The papers are screen-printed with the help of screen printers.

### Raw Materials:

The raw materials such as waste paper and hosiery cloth are the main raw material for making paper. Natural materials like, flower petals, grass and silk waste are added to obtain the textures. Different colors are obtained by adding dye stuff to the paper pulp. Some colors are obtained by natural pigments. Fresh river water used in paper making process.



Rag chopper used to chop the clothes into small pieces.

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Machine used for further crushing the raw material and converting it into pulp.

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Wire mesh structure used to press the paper pulp.



Trolley used to transfer the raw material.

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Sieves used in making process.

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Different types of colors used in screen printing.



Screen printing table.

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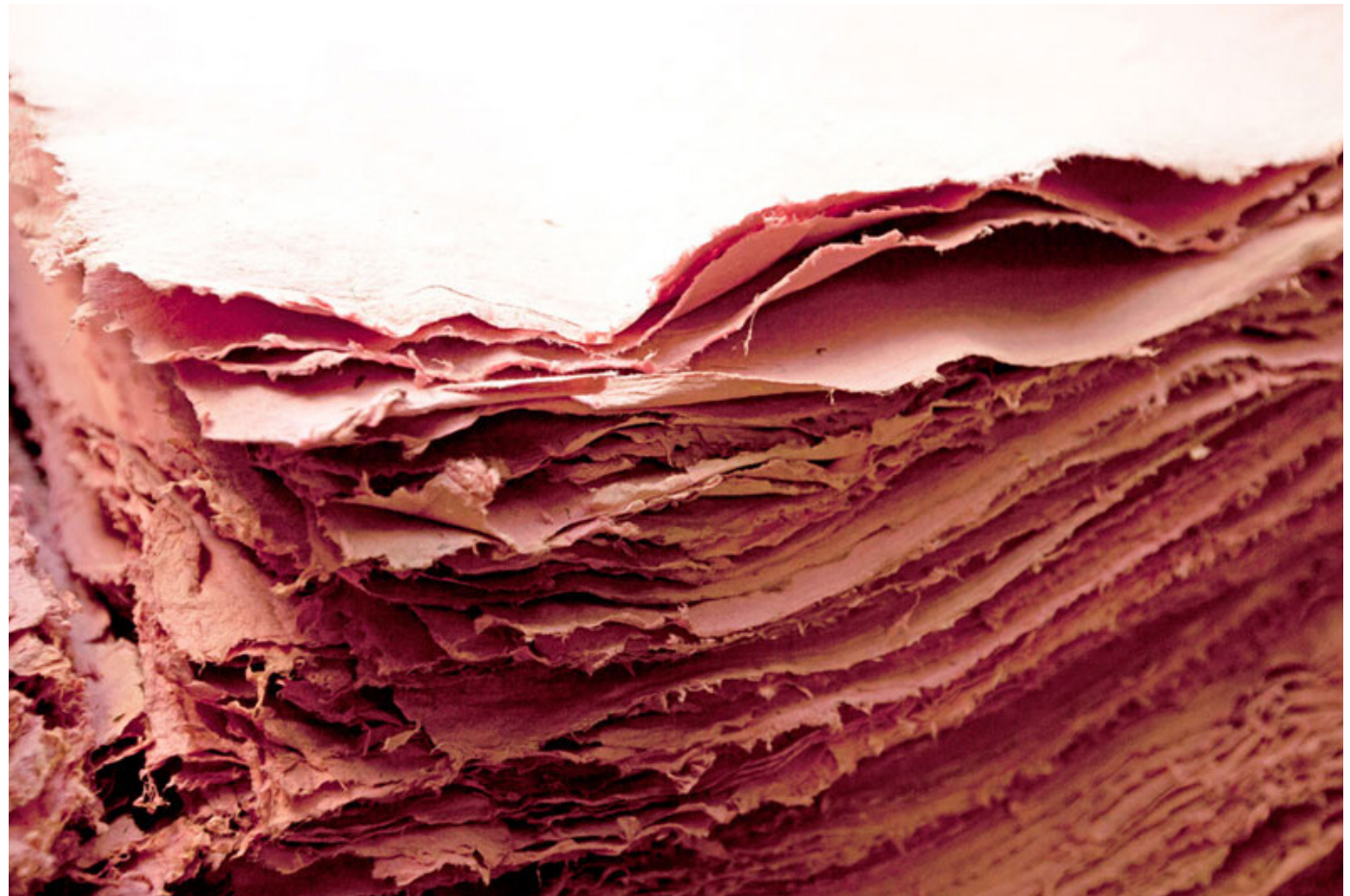
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## Products

The eco-friendly handmade paper is skillfully made without using wood during manufacturing process. Each sheet of paper is created in traditional method. Very natural materials like whole flowers, marigold petals and grass used to create motifs. Motifs are also created by stitching, embossing and painting. Beautifully woven silk cloths are also fixed on the surface of paper as a part of creating latest motifs. Books, Stationery, lampshades, wedding cards, writing pads, paper bags, folders, trays and photo frames are the widely produced products in Sanganer, Jaipur.



The dyed handmade papers used to create variety of products.

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Screen printed paper.



Handmade paper coated with brocade material to be used to make diaries.

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Packaging area in the industry.

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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by **Professor Bibhudutta Baral**, Ms. Anisha Crasto and Ms. Anushree Kumar at **NID, Bengaluru**.

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

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