

Design Resource

Himroo Weaving - Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Art of Weaving Figure Fabric

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S.,

Lija M. G. and Vijay G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/himroo-weaving-aurangabad-maharashtra>



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

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

Introduction

Himroo word is originated from Persia, woven with pure gold and silver threads for royal families earlier.

Many weavers settled in Daulatabad near Aurangabad from Delhi when king Mohammad Bin Tughlaq shifted the capital and encouraged himroo craft. It is said that Aurangabad city was founded by Malik Ambar and during his reign people were fascinated to settle down in this place. Shawls preferred in olden days were himroo that used to cover the body. Mostly affordable by the Mughal rulers and Britishers made from pure cotton and silk. As raw material used is pure silk and cotton only few people prefer it due to the cost factor. Most of today's Himroo shawls and sarees are mass-produced using power looms. As per the artisan, earlier himroo weaving was done on the double sided loom (locally called as the Pagar loom), Where minimum of two weavers were required, as a weaver and another to assist for interlacing the warp with the weft yarn. Many methods of fusing different materials like cotton with silk, cotton with artificial fibers and cotton with kela (Banana) silk were discovered due to the restriction of using pure silk.

Designs of the ajantha, ellora caves were taken as the reference of the pattern of design with which they still make the pattern. Today most of Himroo shawls and sarees are mass produced by the power looms, only few use their traditional looms. Himroo is an extra weft figure fabric with cotton and silk. It is ideal for stoles, shawls and furnishing material. Most of the designs that are found among them are like ovals, diamonds, circles, octagons, hexagons of geometrical shapes. Fruits like almonds, pineapple, pomegranate etc, flowers like jasmine, rose, lotus, birds, animals and designs of flowering creepers. Also floral inlay designs of Taj Mahal and Bibi ka Makabara.



Different colors of spindles inserted in the fly shuttle.

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



Craftsman involved in the warping process.

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



Himroo shawls displayed for sale.



Traditional jacquard loom is used to weave Himroo.

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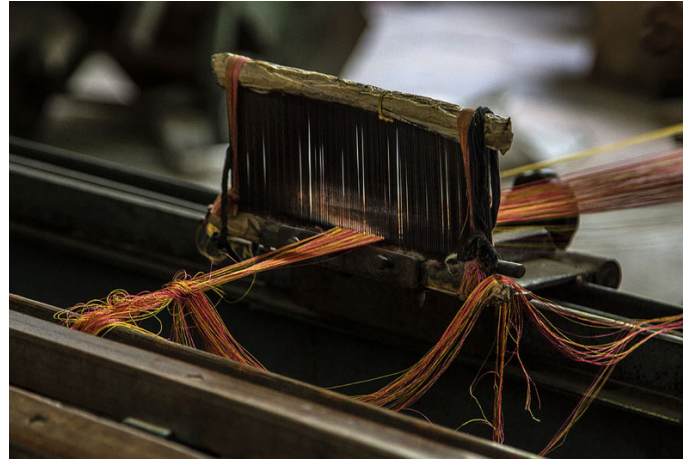
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Threads passing through the reed and rolled on the beam.



The front side of the himroo shawl is faced down while weaving.



Craftsman displaying himroo shawl.

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details

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



Himroo shawl weaved with floral patterns.

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

Tools and Raw Materials

Different colors of cotton and silk yarns are used for weaving the himroo products. At the early stage hand loom was used for weaving but at present power looms are used. Power loom was introduced in Aurangabad. Fine quality of cotton and silk yarns are purchased to make the fabrics.

Listed below are some of the tools and raw materials used for weaving Himroo:

- **Cotton and Silk Yarns:** These are used for weaving the Himroo.
- **Pirns:** Yarns are wound on to for weaving.
- **Fly Shuttle:** It is inserted and passed through layers of yarns to create designs.
- **Traditional Looms and Power Looms:** These are used for weaving the Himroo products.
- **Charkha:** It is used to wind the yarns on to the pirns and bobbins.
- **Bobbins:** These are used for holding the yarns.



Cotton and silk is used as raw material to weave Himroo.

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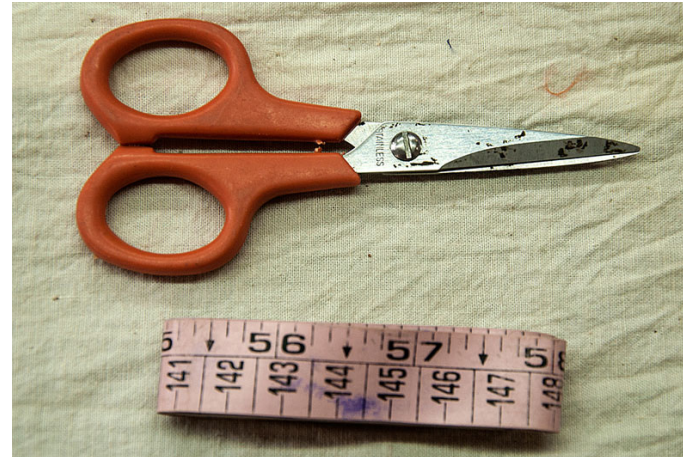
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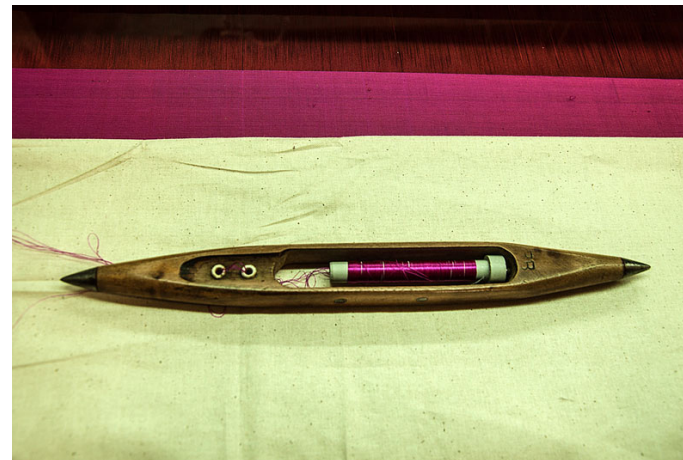
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Tools used to measure and cut the threads or fabric.



Fly shuttle is used to interlock the threads.



Traditional Loom is used for weaving Himroo.

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

Design Resource

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Making Process

In earlier times the himroo weaving was done with minimum of two people, one weaver for different colour threads and another person to pull the strings of the loom. At present many weavers have switched on the power loom. Before weaving the design has to be decided since it is an output of two kinds of yarns. The looms are pit raised looms operated by the power and have four vertical poles at each corner with a wooden frame above. The warp yarns are passed through the arrangements of the frame of the loom. Then the yarns are passed through the four heddle shaft which is held by traditional method with containers having sand of the required quantity and iron rods to give the tension on the shafts for the easy movement of the yarns for the interlacement. The heddles are operated with pedals which are at a slant position in the pit. The weft yarn is inserted by the throw shuttle with different colors as per the pattern of design to be obtained. Only few weavers even today weave the himroo fabrics by hand as many of them have switched on to the mass production with machines where the designs are inserted on the punch cards. It takes minimum of seven to ten days to weave the shawl which usually measure about two meters of length. The cotton and the artificial silk yarns are usually purchased from Malegaon and pure silk from Bengaluru.



Yarns from cones are wound to hank with the help of winding equipment.

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

Design Resource

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Art of Weaving Figure Fabric

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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/himroo-weaving-aurangabad-maharashtra/making-process>

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



Cotton and silk threads are converted into spools and spun into yarns.



The yarns are dyed with required colors.

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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/himroo-weaving-aurangabad-maharashtra/making-process>

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



The yarns are converted into spools using reeling machine.

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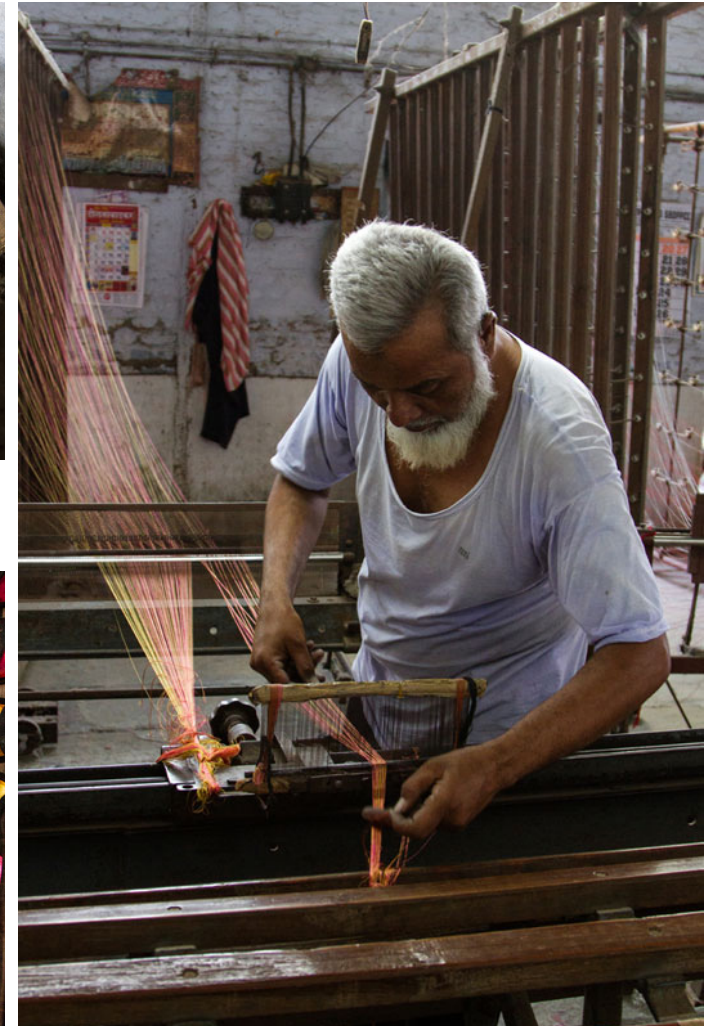
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The spools are used in warping process.



The threads are passed through the reed.



The spools are attached to the creel and connected to the warping machine.

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

Design Resource

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



Threads are wound on the beam.

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Charkha is used to make spindles for the fly shuttle.



Plastic pin is attached to the charkha and the thread is wound on the pin to make spindles.



Spindles are inserted in the fly shuttle, which is passed through layers of yarns to weave pattern.

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

Design Resource

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



It takes seven to ten days to complete a himroo product.

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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/himroo-weaving-aurangabad-maharashtra/products>

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

Products

The designs are weaved by mixing double colors of threads to give more elegant look to the products. The frequently used colors are red, yellow, black, green, white and blue. During the Nizams period sherwanis were made of himroo which was once very popular among the menfolk and intrinsic part of the wedding attire of the groom. The famous designs among the himroo products are Ajanta design which is inspired by the Ajanta Ellora caves and also it is the traditional design of Aurangabad. Some of the other designs are Guldastha design, Ahmedavadi whale, Batha whale, Thotha mina, Tari, Kasthi, Chidiya, floral (pasley design), Choate carri are some of the other designs.

Listed below are some of the Himroo products weaved in Aurangabad:

- Bed sheets
- Bed spreads
- Shawls which are about two meters in length
- Saree
- Pillow covers
- Curtains and furnishings
- Coats
- Cloaks



Maroon color shawl weaved with mango and floral design with zari thread.

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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/himroo-weaving-aurangabad-maharashtra/products>

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



Himroo products weaved in various colors and designs.

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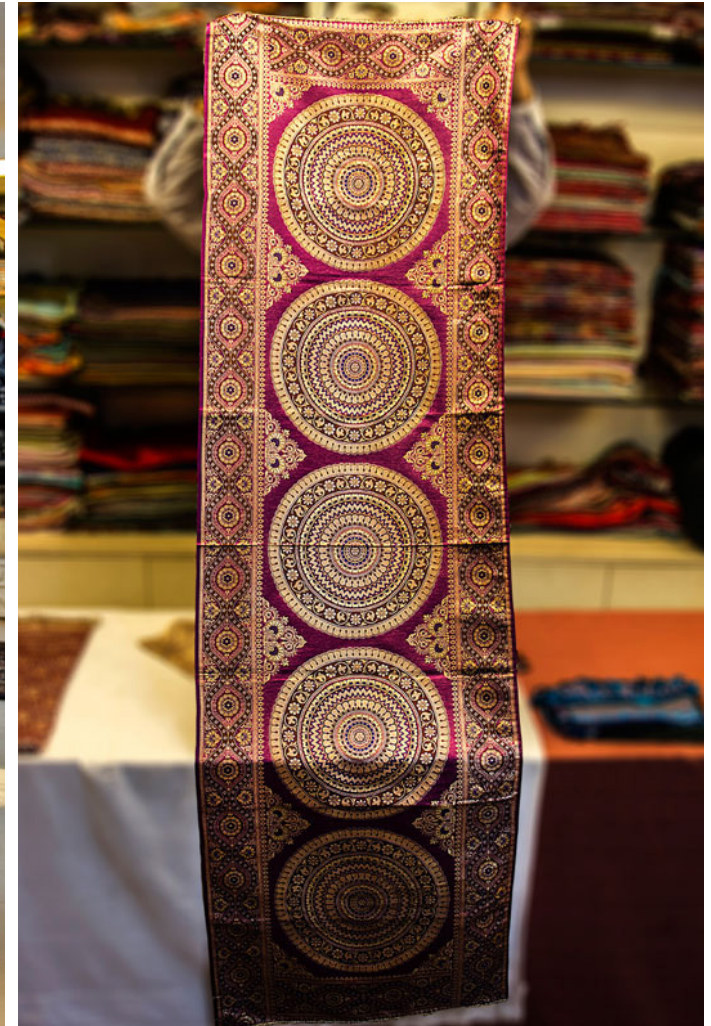
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1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Contact Details



Himroo shawls weaved with floral design.



Himroo products are weaved with bright color threads giving it a royal look.

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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/himroo-weaving-aurangabad-maharashtra/products>



Two meter himroo shawl weaved with green and purple shade.



Himroo bed spread weaved with mango design.



Leftover threads are knotted to create fringes.

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

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



Red, black yellow, golden and green colors are basic used shades to weave himroo.

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Contact Details

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