

Design Resource

Jute Cotton Bag - Bijapur, Karnataka

Jute Cotton Weaving and Bag Making
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and
Rohit R. C.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/jute-cotton-bag-bijapur-karnataka>

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Introduction

One of the most affordable & hundred percent biodegradable, Jute is a vegetable fiber extracted from Bast or Skin of a plant (generally called Jute Plant). It can be spun into ropes, threads & can be used as a fabric. It is given the name “the Golden Fiber” for its color & high cash value.

Chimmalagi a small village of Bijapur district is one of the rehabilitation & relocation project during the construction of Almatti Dam. Due to the relocation of number of villages, government provided necessary training through Income Generation Program (IGP) in craft of different kinds in various relocated villages with which the livelihood of the people can be supported & to lessen psychological, financial & social impact, which could have appeared while relocating these villages.

Conducting training and workshops on jute & jute cotton fabric after relocation through IGP in Bijapur succeeded their carrier forward the production of this particular fabric in the same setup. It is still successfully running from the year 1996 / 97 and supports many of the families especially women's in the vicinity.

For making the fabric, Handlooms are still used due to shortage of electricity in the village and charkha wheel to create thread reels, these traditional method suits the area & reduces the dependability of external factors like electricity in this case. Fabric with width of twelve, eighteen, twenty four & forty eight inches are produced here which later is used in production of laundry bags, hand bags etc., which is again hand stitched by women's locally to export quality precision.



Woven jute fabric is cut into the required shape and stitched manually into the final product.

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Colorful jute bags are woven with the combination of threads entailing cotton and jute material.



Jute and cotton threads of various colors are woven into different patterns to make the bags.

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Craftsmen follow the traditional method for spinning process using Charkha.



Laundry bag made of jute and cotton thread to which leather handles are attached to carry.

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The thread is passed through warping process to strengthen the quality of the threads.



Pedal weaving looms are used to weave the fabric.

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Women artisans are the major workers in this craft.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and Raw materials used here are commonly available in the market locally, which can be brought for minimal cost. And machines used in weaving, warping and charkha for winding can be set up easily, and does not require any electricity.

1. **Jute Threads:** Thin ropes are used almost the size of cotton yarn usually used in natural color form.
2. **Cotton Yarn:** Dyed with green, blue, red, black along with many other colors as per requirement.
3. **Charkha Wheel:** A hand peddled wheel mechanism, used in unwinding the yarn from a larger lot to transfer to bobbins.
4. **Handloom Machine:** Hand and foot operated workbench which is used in weaving of fabric.
5. **Warping Machine:** Used in unwinding threads from number of bobbins to form a set of threads.
6. **Bobbin:** A cylindrical plastic roll on which cloth yarn is wrapped to make a reel.
7. **Pirn:** A tool which is fed into shuttle of the loom which carries thread.
8. **Scissor:** Usually used for cutting the fabric.
9. **Needle:** Used in sewing the fabric ends, to form a product.
10. **Blade Cutters:** Sharp object to cut threads and ropes.
11. **Cotton Clothes:** Fine lining cloth made of cotton to give finishing to the interior of product.
12. **Leather Handles:** Pre-stitched Handles made of leather, which are durable, leather is used for its strength and it also gives a richness to product.
13. **Rope:** Cotton rope.
14. **Measurement Tape:** Used in measuring fabric before cutting it in required sizes.

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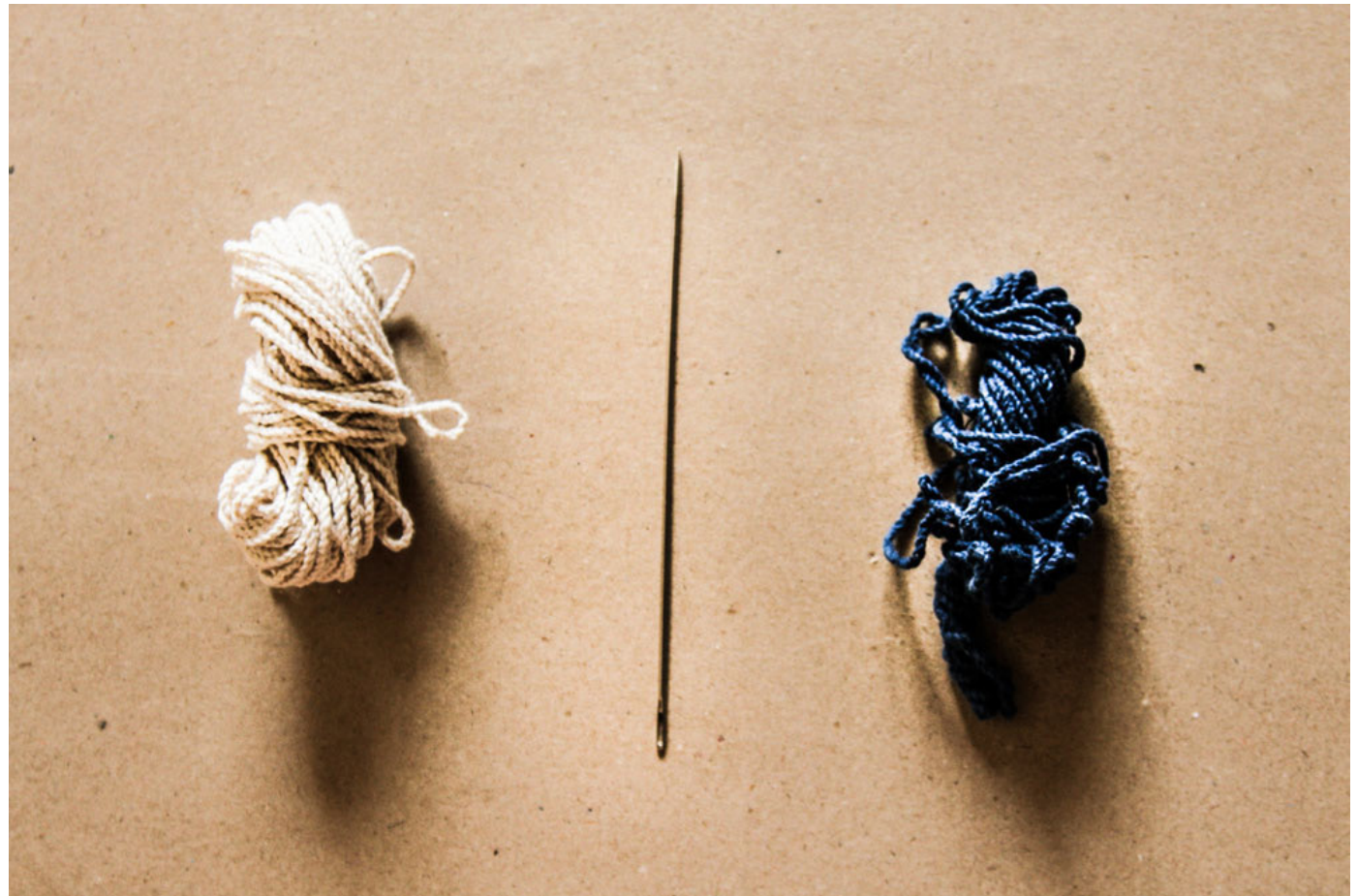
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Needle and thread is used to stitch the bags.

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Wool yarn is combined with jute yarns to weave the fabric.



Warped threads are spun on the warping wheel.



Threads are wound on plastic spurns to make spindles.

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Spool of jute yarn are used in weaving the fabric to make jute bags.



Wooden frame are used to hold the spool in the warping process.

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Cutters are used to cut out the excess threads.



Pedal weaving loom is used to weave the required fabrics.



Scissors are used in cutting and shaping the fabric into required length.

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Charkha is used to make spindles.



Woven fabrics with varying patterns.

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Making Process

The bag making starts with the weaving of hundred percent jute or Hybrid of Jute Cotton fabrics. In jute fabric, jute threads are used both in horizontal and vertical stitching, in jute cotton, jute is used in horizontal fashion (in shuttles of loom) to hide the roughness, and to give a detailed finish through cotton thread overlaying, jute cotton fabric is in more demand because cotton can be easily dyed in numerous color options and fine smooth texture feel.

Jute & Cotton threads comes readymade according to required size, quantity & color to the weaving center, as almost all the fabric made now a days is of hybrid of jute & cotton, jute is used inside the interlacing of cotton threads. Both jute and cotton thread which comes in bundles are processed as follows to feed into the hand loom:

Jute:

Huge reels of jute thread is fed into charkha. Which helps it to unwind from a bigger lot to shift to a much smaller reel, called "Pirn" which is fed into shuttle of handloom. Jute used here is generally soft to use, and is bit thicker than thread. Which provides durability.

Cotton:

Cotton thread comes in yarn type bundle, which is also fed into charkha to create bobbin with cotton yarn. Numbers of these cotton thread bobbins are placed in a long wooden stands, which makes up a "Creel" which is then rolled onto a warp beam to create a seamless parallel bunch of threads, rolled on a roller (beam lad), it is placed on a handloom machine, and this process collectively is called as "warping". From there individual thread is drawn into two sets of heddle shaft, later on passing into the reed, which prevents the tangling of threads while weaving. Heddle shaft is connected to a foot-operated pedal which while pedaling lifts up alternate heddle shaft which in turn lifts alternate half of the cotton threads, during this process a gap is created between two heddle shafts and shuttle (which is carrying jute thread) travels to lay out jute thread, which then is locked by "Beater", the completed part of weaving is collected by cloth roller placed on weaver's side simultaneously. This process continues at a greater speed to produce continues length of fabric as per required width and length.

The completed fabric is then distributed among different villages nearby; to make a laundry basket the fabrics is rolled to form a cylinder and are hand stitched near the joining. It is given a lining from inside with rough jute cloth to give it rigidness and cotton lining on top of it for smooth user-friendly surface. One end of the basket is closed with the same fabric, cut into circular form and is stitched around the edges, forming the lower end of basket. To the upper end two leather handles are added on opposite ends, along with a rope lining to form rigid support, which can withstand maximum weight, and is hand stitched in similar fashion.

An optional cloth pouch kind lining is given from inside which can be closed & opened with pulling the threads attached to it.

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Cotton yarn or woolen yarn is mixed with jute yarn to make the bag.



The yarn is set on the wooden wheel.



Wooden wheel is then attached to the charkha to make spools of the yarn.



Spools of cotton yarn.

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Spindles are also made to insert it in the fly shuttle for weaving.



Thread is spun on small plastic spurns to make spindles.

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The spools are fixed to the wooden frame for warping process.



Threads are pulled from the spools and passed through the reed.

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Threads are then spun on the warping wheel.



Warping process is done to remove the tangles and strengthen the quality of the thread.



After the required amount of thread is spun the threads are separated.



The ends are knotted together and sent for the further process.

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Warped threads are drawn through the heddle shaft.



Threads are pulled through the loop of the heddle wire.



After the drawing process warp beam is fixed to the weaving loom and weaving of the fabric is started.



Plain and stripes design are woven in the fabric.

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Basically pedal yarn is used to weave the fabric.

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Woven fabric with stripes design.



Fabric is cut into required size and joined together to form a cylindrical basket, and the ends are joined by sewing manually.

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After the sidewalls are weaved base for the basket is cut and weaved.



Ends are tightly stitched with thread and are knotted to prevent the thread from loosening.

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Leather handles are stitched to the basket to hold or carry it.



Finished product.

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Products

Products made here are sold locally and most of them are exported. Handbags, multipurpose baskets are also made along with the popular Laundry Basket. An estimate of nearly fifteen to twenty bags is produced per day in a unit. With nearly 8 to 10 people involved in weaving, stitching & finishing of the product. The products are priced from the range of two hundred rupees for a pouch till one thousand five hundred to two thousand five hundred for laundry baskets, depending upon the sizes. Each product carries a tag with product description on it, along with artisan's picture, which would have helped to make it happen.

1. Laundry Bag:

Cylindrical in shape, with leather handles, used to hold clothes which are to be washed, generally used near the washing machine.

2. Ladies Handbags:

Handbags of different size, shapes and patterns are made according to the current market needs.

3. Multipurpose Baskets:

To stock fruits, vegetables or any other dry goods.

4. Pencil Pouch:

Its used to keep pencils, pens & other Stationaries.

5. Side Bags:

It is used mostly by college students, which can carry optimal amount of documents.



Carry bag made of jute and cotton yarn.

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Laundry bag woven with coloured fabric stripes.



Cylindrical shaped bag with a cover on top, which is attached with a rope to tie.

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Jute bag used for laundry purpose.



Ladies handbag made from jute and printed fabric for the base.

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Contact Details

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