

Design Resource

Lac Bangles - Hyderabad

The Craft of Decorating Lac Bangles

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Ms. Shruti K.,
Ms. Pragnya G. P., and Mr. Raghavendra K. M.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/lac-bangles-hyderabad>



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

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Introduction

Hyderabad – Lad bazaar in old city is the main production center for lac bangles. The craft was originated over 500 years ago during Mughal period. Lac bangles were worn by women in the royal households, which were decorated with precious stones as a symbol of royalty. The craft flourished over the decades and patronized by many royal families.

The artisan skillfully embellishes the bangle with colors of precious and semi precious stones. The bangles of different sizes and unique designs are created according to the latest trend. Lac bangles of Hyderabad are very popular. Motif designs are created according to the festive occasions as per the market demand.



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Tools and Raw Materials

• Tools:

Tools used in making bangles are simple and available in local market.

Coal burner:

This is used for heating and melting of the lac.

Shallow vessel:

This is generally an aluminum vessel used to melt lac either to make colors or normal lac rod.

Stones and beads:

Stones and beads of different colors are used to embellish the bangles.

Tweezers:

Used to pick the metal bangle while heating and picking the stones to embellish on the lac.

Flat wooden tool:

This is used for pressing and shaping lac bangles for sizing.

Round wooden rod:

This is used for sizing the bangles.

• Raw Materials:

Lac is a natural material procured from the forest and then goes through several steps of refinement to be finally used in making the products



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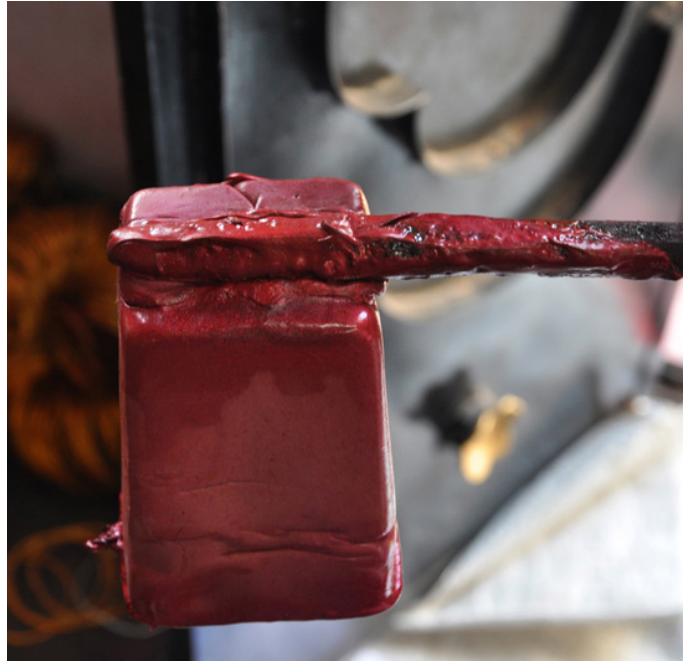
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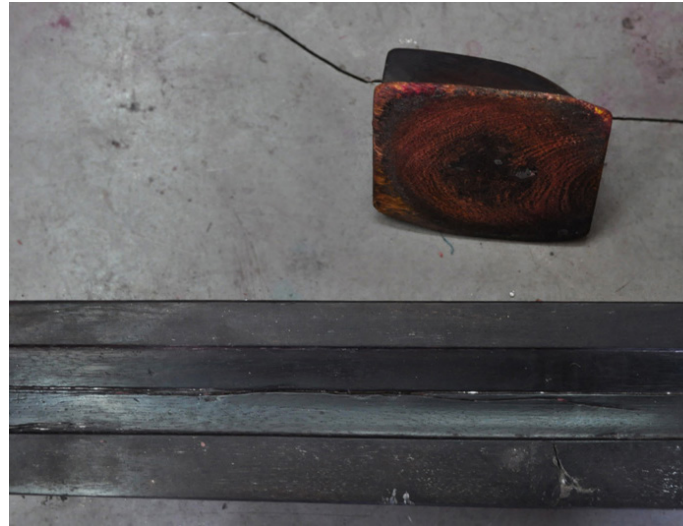
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Making Process

The lac used for making bangles is natural lac which is colored using colored lac by heating it. Melted colored lac is rubbed over normal lac until it absorbs the color. The lac is pressed and stuck on the brass metal bangles.

Bangle Making:

Normal lac is stuck/pasted thickly on a wooden rod and rolled over a flat surface to make it into a cylindrical shape. This lac is then heated slowly over the coal burner. The heated lac is continuously pressed and rolled over the flat iron plate with the help of wooden tool. The colored lac is heated simultaneously and then applied evenly by rubbing it on the lac. Once the color has been applied to the lac base it is again shaped into a thin coil and cut off from the plain lac rod. The width of the bangle varies as per the design incorporated on the bangle. Brass or steel is used as base for the lac. The metals are first converted in the shape of the bangles and the thin lac coil is rolled on the brass or steel base. For a thin lac bangle 3 thin brass bangles are kept together and on that lac coil is rolled, in case of steel base, the base thickness is made according to the required width of the bangle. The thickness and the length of the coil approximately depend on the final shape and size of the bangles. The semi-finished bangle is slipped into a round wooden beam with a tapering end for adjusting to the proper shape. The bangles are kept aside for drying.

Embellishments:

The bangles are normally embellished with pearls, semi-precious stones, mirrors, beads etc. For applying the stones, they are heated over a tin plate kept on a small burner. The base of the stones gets heated and easily melts the lac surface on which they are placed and stick there after cooling. They are picked up one at a time and stuck on the bangle. The process requires great precision. The women members of the artisan's family do the embellishments.



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Products

Beautifully embellished lac bangles of Hyderabad are available in many designs. These bangles have maximum sales during festival and marriage occasions. Traditional bangles are manufactured locally in Hyderabad and glass bangles are manufactured in Firozabad. Earlier stone bangles were very expensive as the stones were imported from other country, but now as the stones are manufactured in India stone bangles are available in reasonable price. Bridal-wear bangles are the main glamor among lac bangles. These bangles have unique designs according to the wedding customs. Artisans also create designs according to customer's demand.



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Contact Details

This documentation was done by **Professor Bibhudutta Baral**, Ms. Shruti K., Ms. Pragnya G. P., and Mr. Raghavendra K. M. 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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