

Design Resource

## Leharia Tie and Dye - Jaipur

Leharia Tie and Dye, Jaipur

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Rohit R. Chandak

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/lehar-ia-tie-and-dye-jaipur>



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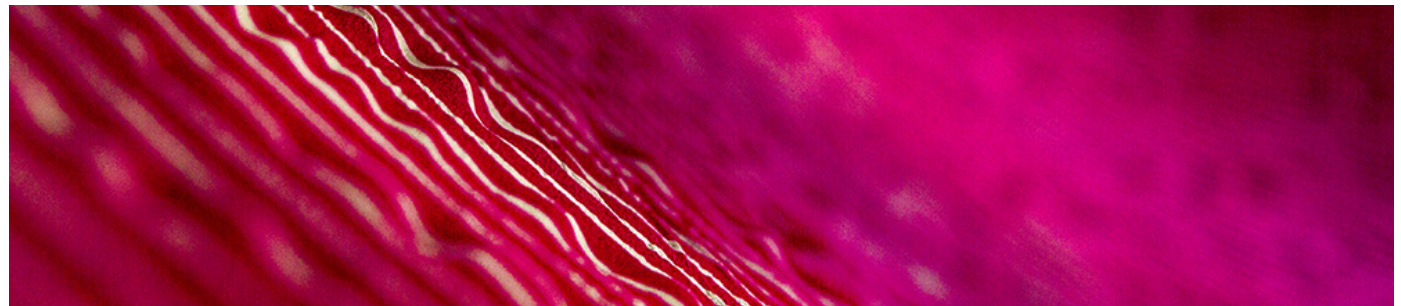
<http://www.dsource.in/resource/lehar-ia-tie-and-dye-jaipur/introduction>

## Introduction

Leharia, A Rajasthani word clearly signifying waveforms of water, from which almost all of its designs are inspired. There are a numerous kinds of resist dyeing known popularly today, like traditional tie and dye, Bandhani, batik etc., one among them being Leharia. Leharia technique of tie and dye is practiced majorly or can even say only in parts of Rajasthan such as Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Nathdwara and mainly in the pink city Jaipur, which is capital of Rajasthan.

Tie and Dye forms of craft are one of the oldest form of coloring fabrics in numerous patterns and designs. Its exact records of existence are unclear though it is believed that it is brought from various regions like Kutch and Sindh by Muslim Khatri cast people to Rajasthan, where it is widely adopted and is in much practice till date by many people including the Muslim Khatri cast. It is a home based craft and does not requires any complex equipments, generally ladies in the household do most of the Leharia tie and dye method in home as a part of their income. The cloth used can be of cotton or silk depending upon the requirement, generally they do dyeing in bulk to reduce the production cost and upon the market requirement, Leharia pattern waveform consists of alternate pattern of colored and white cloth and upon the requirement, artisan colors the cloth in single or multicolor, usually in single color, maroon, red, shades of yellow, orange, blue, pink, and green are used widely and in multicolor theme usually rainbow color theme is followed.

In this technique the cloth piece is twisted and knots are tied to it in a precise gap all over it, with the help of a thread, which will resist the dye thus forming the design of alternate color patches and small gap of whites, which Leharia is famous for Leharia process dyed cloth has always been famous among Rajput clans and local women's and it still is, majorly for the male, Paggar / Pagri, Rajasthani style of turban is made out the dyed cloth which is considered auspicious and defines dignity of a man, and is usually used during ceremonies such as marriage, puja and other festivals. For female, it is generally used as a dupattas (Scarf) to be worn with saree or with a traditional dress, there are sarees made with Leharia tie and dye process, which is also famous among the people of Rajasthani, especially Marwari community.



A close view of finished leharia process dyed stole.

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Image showing tied cloth bundles being kept in copper pot to be washed.



Image showing dyed fabric being put to dry under the sun.



A leharia artisan displaying freshly dyed cloth.

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Women artisan posing for a photograph, after a hard day's work.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials used for the process of Leharia Tie and Dye:

1. A piece of cloth, made of either cotton or silk, onto which dyeing has to be done.
2. A reel of thread used to tie the twisted cloth piece acting as resisting agent for dye.
3. An wooden stand, made up of horizontal wooden plant with a vertical pole, onto which the twisted cloth is wrapped around, for tighter grip.
4. Chemical dye of various colors and shades, used in coloring the cloth piece.
5. A large copper vessel in which clothes are dyed.



An wooden stand on which the fabric which is to be dyed, is twisted and rolled, so that it can be tied precisely on every interval.

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A fabric used to make leharia tie and dye stole and other product out of it.



A vessel containing dye powder, to be mixed with water and boiled, for further usage.



A reel of thread used to tie fabric before dyeing, so that the dye does not stick to the are where it is not required.

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## Making Process

The making process in Leharia involves various simple steps, which are done mainly in backyards of homes or in any free space, by women's mostly.

Generally, cotton or silk cloth is used for dyeing in this process, the cloth brought from market is washed off to remove any residue such as starch, sand, dirt etc., the wet cloth is then dried for further process, ensuring flawless white piece of cloth. After the cloth is dried, it is twisted with the help of two members, one at either end, it is twisted such that it creates enough tension, and then is transferred onto a wooden stand, consisting of a horizontal table with vertical cylindrical pole, the twisted cloth piece is wrapped around the wooden pole firmly, such that it does not loosen up the carefully done twisting, the wrapped cloth is slowly removed bit by bit and threads are tied to it tightly, which acts as a resisting agent, from dyes. Knotting is done in a precise and regular interval of gap onto the cloth, parallel to each other, which gives cloth its signature waveform kind of a design after dyeing. After the knotting is done, cloth is unwrapped, knotting distance depends on the intricacy of design required, from nearby knotting to knotting with larger distance in between and with more thicker and thinner knotting. After the knotting is completed, the cloth is dipped in water, to make it absorb the further dyeing process, once ensuring the cloth is absorbing water, it is dipped in dye based solution, depending upon the color required and upon the intensity of the color, mostly chemical based dyes are used in the process, dyeing depends on the requirement of the end product, from rainbow colored cloth, which consists of multiple pastel shades of color depicting rainbow, to single color stoles. It is then put to dry as it is with the knots, once dried, the knots are carefully removed, so as not to damage the cloth and is washed for one final time, and is put to dry.

It is then ready to be used as scarf, turban etc.

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### A Flow chart showing process of Lehariya tie and Dye.

Readymade plain cloth is brought in bulk from the market.

It is then washed thoroughly to remove off any dirt, starch and other impurities and is let to dry

The cloth is then twisted from two diagonal opposite ends, to form a very tight tension.

It is then rolled onto a wooden pole, and is opened a bit by bit, tying it with a thread all over its length, in regular and precise gaps

The tied fabric is then dyed in chemical based dyes, which involves boiling the fabric in hot water and chemical dye in it

The fabric is then squeezed off to remove excess water, and is let to dry naturally

As it dries, knots are removed and the cloth is revealed with its signature wavy pattern

It is washed again with plain water, and is packaged to be sold.



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Artisan twists the fabric from both the ends, till the necessary tension is created.

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The twisted fabric is then rolled onto a wooden stand.



Artisan carefully rolls the twisted fabric such it does not gets untwisted in the process.

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It is then opened bit by bit and a thick thread is tied on precise gap from each other.



After the rolled fabric is tied to the required length, it is removed from the wooden stand.

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The place where the thread is tied, will not be affected by the dye making process, and hence constitutes the design pattern, which the Leharia craft is famous for.



Artisan then boils the dye powder in a vessel, adding water to it.

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After the dye is dissolved completely, it is poured onto a larger container.

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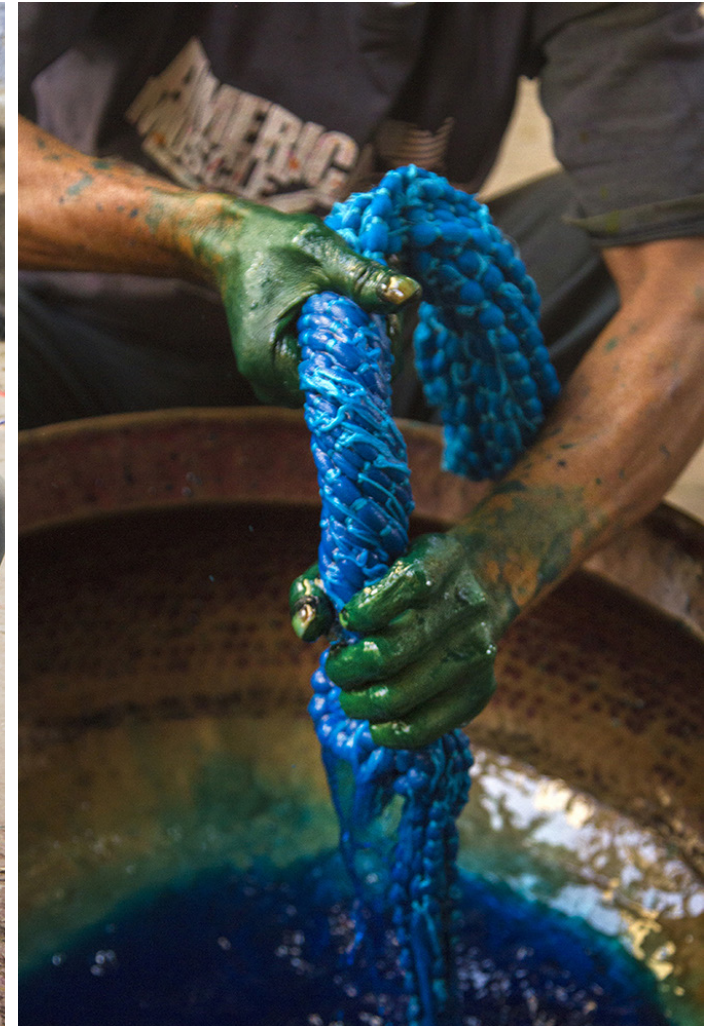
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Artisan then adds the required quantity of water to the vessel and the tied fabric is dipped into it, to soak up the dye.



After a thorough wash with dye, artisan then squeezes the excess dye water from the fabric.

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It is then let to dry naturally under the sun.



Artisan then removes the tied thread from the fabric and is washed to remove the curls.



It is finally dried once again, ready to be packaged, or for use.

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## Products

There are numerous product range for women's, especially Scarf, which is wore on an Indian dress such as salwar kameez and even sarees are dyed in this process, majorly worn by Marwari community.

For men, a Rajasthani turban, "Pagri" is made out of Leharia dyed cloth piece, wore especially during religious ceremonies such as marriage, puja etc.



A multi colored stole, dyed with Leharia tie & dye process.



A turban used in marriage and other special occasions.

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A flat turban, made out from leharia process dyed fabric.



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Rohit R. Chandak at [NID Campus, Bengaluru](#).

You can get in touch with

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

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