

Design Resource

## Making of Tribal Jewellery - Karamul, Orissa

Handcrafted Tribal Jewellery

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Sowmya B. N.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://dsource.in/resource/making-tribal-jewellery-karamul-orissa>



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### Introduction

Orissa has the largest number of tribes in India. There are as many as 62 tribes in Orissa having different styles of living. It is seen that the women folk of most of the tribes, wear typical ornaments made out of brass/bell metal/silver/white metals made by a particular section of artisans mainly found in Rayagada, Phulbani, Gajapati, Koraput, Nawarangpur and Dhenkanal districts. The significance of this community specific. With design intervention the artisan could make wide range of fashion jewellery for the modern society. There is scope for export of such jewellery.

Major population in Orissa is tribal. The number of tribes that reside in Orissa is the highest anywhere in India. All the districts of Orissa have a tribal population in it. The Heritage and crafts of Orissa are enriched with different categories of products such as Applique, Tribal jewellery, Dhokra casting, Wood carving etc.

In Orissa, few tribes are in a better economic position and are well mixed up in the society. They are also the most backward in the economic ladder of Orissa. Different tribes have different culture, traditions, language and observance. The most important tribes are the kandhas, Bondas, Koyas, Gadabas, Gondas, Santhalas and Mundas. Each tribe has its own music, dance and rich socio-cultural traits.

Tribal jewellery is the spirit of primal mankind articulated in shapes and designs. The strong-minded character, strength of spirit, cultural back ground, ideas and legends of these people were handed down from generations to find a safe haven in the various tribes and their ethnic culture.

Tribal jewellery made by indigenous tribal artisans using local materials to create objects of adornment that contain significant cultural meaning for the wearer. Authentic handcrafted tribal jewellery is very different from what you will find in department stores. Tribal jewellery of Orissa is becoming popular in international market day by day. Its demand is increasing in market with every passing day. The tribal jewellery of Orissa is considered as very ethnic, elegant and modern.

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Intricately designed metal pendant.



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Earring made by linking the metal rings together.

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A pendant.



Star shaped tribal jewelry.



Craftsman engrossed in making tribal jewelry.



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Artisan's family who work on making of tribal jewelry.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw material required for making tribal jewellery:

- **Brass Sheet:** Main material used for making tribal jewellery.
- **Marker:** It is used to draw a required shape on the brass sheet.
- **Cutter:** It is used to cut out the desired shape from the brass sheet.
- **Chisel:** These are used for carving the design on the brass sheet and also used for cutting brass metal.
- **Hammer:** It is used to cut out the desired brass sheet.
- **Metal Ruler:** It is used to draw a straight line.
- **Half Round File:** Its used for smoothening the internal curved surface.
- **Nitric Acid:** It is used to dissolve the unwanted marks on the brass sheet.
- **Wire Brush:** It is used to clean the jewelry.
- **Divider:** It is used to marking of distance.
- **Brass Wire:** Material used for finishing of the jewelry and also used for ornamentation.
- **Anvil:** A metal block with the support of this block tribal jewelry are made.
- **Soap Nut:** Its used for cleaning jewelry.

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Metal sheet is the main material that is used for making tribal jewelry.



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Small sized, sharp pointed chisels are used for designing purpose.



File tool is used for smoothening the surface.



Marker is used for making the margins on the metal.

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Water is mixed with nitric acid to dilute the solution.



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Metal wire is used for making the hook of the earring.



Compass is used for measuring the diameter of the design.



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Various sized cutters are used for cutting the metal sheet.



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Metal stand used as the support.



Scale is used for measuring.



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Small chisels are used for embossing the designs.



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Hammer is used while creating the impressions on the metal using chisels.



Metal holder.



Nitric acid is used for cleaning the metal tribal jewelry.

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Brush that is used for scrubbing the surface of the metal product.



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## Making Process

Each jewelry has their own style and patterns of making the jewelry. As presently they are using the same ideology with various techniques and styles in making of the ornaments to decorate themselves. Artisan use different methods to make tribal jewelry.

Artisan take the brass sheet and draw the required shape on the brass sheet using marker. After the desired shape is cut out by using cutter. Once the desired shape is obtained artisan start a designing on the brass sheet. Designing is made by carving the design on the brass sheet using chisel and hammer. Further artisan make the hole at the one end of the object to join the ear hook. The ear hook is prepared by using brass wire by bending. This is one type of technique used by artisans to make jewelry.

According to another technique, artisans cut out the required shape from the brass sheet and in that sheet draw a line using ruler and cut out the central position of the object using chisel and hammer. Later the inner surface of the object is smoothed by using half round file. Once the desired shape is obtained finishing the edges with brass thin wires wound around it. Wounding of brass thin wire is also like ornamentation of the jewelry. Later the prepared jewelry is treated to nitric acid test and washing of the jewelry.

### Nitric Acid Cleaning

Nitric acid solution is mixed with water in an appropriate ratio in a bath then the prepared jewelry immersed in that solution for few minutes. This solution dissolves the unwanted marks on the surface of jewelry. This test gives the brightness to the jewelry. Later the jewelry is taken out from the nitric acid solution then washed in plain normal water.

### Washing

Washing of the jewelry is made by using soap nuts. Dip the 2-3 shell soap nuts in water and immerse the jewelry in that water solution and scrubbed using wire brush. Rinse the jewelry thoroughly in the water solution. Soap nuts clean the jewelry.



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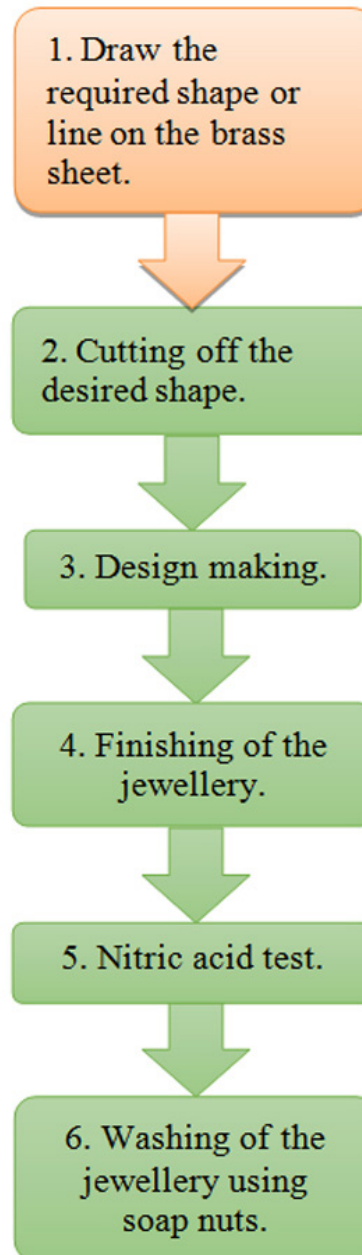
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Flow Chart:



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Using scale required measurements are marked on the metal.



As per the makings the metal sheet is cut.



On the next level, for design purpose the dimensions are measured using compass.



Further they are marked for the design purpose.



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On the markings impressions are made using chisel.



When necessary the excess of metal is cut off and the surface is smoothened using file tool.



A glimpse of the impression made using chisel.



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Then the metal surface is hammered to obtain an even surface.



If necessary, metal wire is wound as per the design and the excess wire is cut off.



It is again flattened.



A metal loop is made for the earring to link a hook to it.

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A metal hook is attached to the metal earring.



Further the metal jewelry is soaked in nitric acid with water.



Then the surface of the metal product is rubbed with the brush that acts as a natural polish.



A bright and beautiful tribal metal jewelry is thus prepared!

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## Products

Different types of tribal jewelry are made like:

- Tribal Anklets
- Tribal Earring
- Tribal Necklace
- Tribal Bracelet
- Hairpins, hair clips, rings.

Varieties of earring are made namely wheel shaped brass earrings, twisted spring brass earrings, leaf earrings, square brass tribal earrings, spiral shape earrings. The price will be depend on the design.



A pair of earring.

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Various sized pendants for women.



Earrings made by using floral design.



Bunch of leaves made of metal is adorned as an earring.



Intricately made metal earrings by winding the metal wires in a unique method.

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A typical tribal pendant.



Pendant that is worn by women.



Multi-layered chain.



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An antique collection of tribal jewelry.

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## Video



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## Contact Details

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