

Design Resource

## Patola Saree Weaving - Patan

Double Ikat Style Sarees

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, B. Srikanth, Lija M. G. and Smitha S.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/patola-saree-weaving-patan>



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## Introduction

Patola weaving is one of the difficult forms of weaving in the world which follows the double ikat (tie and dye) style for the warp and weft yarns dyed according to the pre-design patterns before dyeing. As Patan of Gujarat in India is one of the places where few of the weavers still practice this craft. At one time silk were woven in the most of the cities of Gujarat, Jalna in Maharashtra and Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh. Usually the flora, fauna, elephants style, motifs of flowers, jewels, abstract geometrical patterns, maidens dancing are some of the patterns done as the borders of the saree, where the craftsmen visualize the pattern of dyeing for the warp and weft yarns which are woven zigzag at even place so that the warp and the weft yarns meet precisely towards the right place to achieve the desired patterns style and colorful diversity. Patolas are characterized by their intricate -bold patterns, juxtaposed with figurative motifs tied and dyed till the complete patterns to be obtained are created.

As per the craftsmen, King Kumarpala in around 12th century had shifted to Patan and initiated about 700 weavers for the Patola weaving. It takes about six months to a year of time for making the Patola fabric from pre-loom to post-loom. King ensured that there were regular supplies of the new Patola fabric every morning for his visit to the temple, where the fabric considered being pure and auspicious. There was a custom followed in this region that, during the ceremony of the Shrimanta (Godhbarai in Hindi) i.e. during the ritual of the seventh month of the pregnancy of a women, patola saree with figures of dancing women, elephants and parrots were usually gifted to her. It is also gifted to the Gujarati women, girls as sign of social status that she maintains as her own property in her wedded household. Few of the silk weavers from the Slavi caste, whose ancestors basically originates from the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra chose Gujarat as their domicile for the skills of making the patola saree during the 12th century.



Multi colored sari with geometrical designs.

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Design patterns are marked on the yarn which is tied with cotton thread soaked in water.

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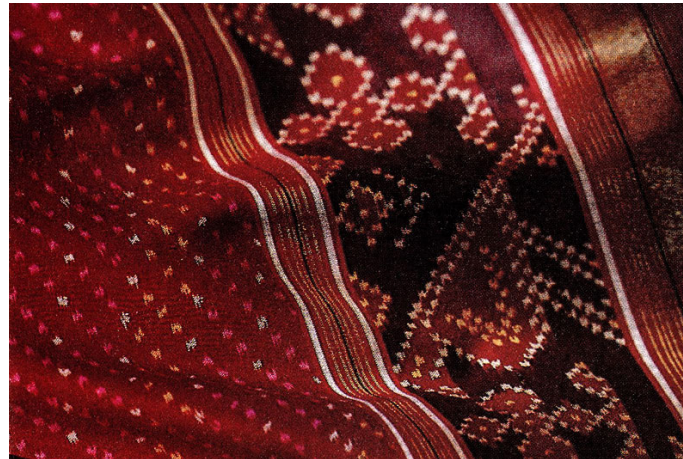
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Hand woven Patola sari with simple design and fine finishing at the border.



Weaved patterns are arranged properly with the help of a needle.



Green, black red and yellow is the most used color combination in patolasaree weaving.



Craftsman involved in tie and dye process.

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Zari is added in the weave to give a rich look to the saree.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

The best raw silk available in the market is preferred for the production of Patola saree weaving.

- **Slant Loom:** Slant Loom is used to interlace the warp and weft yarns.
- **Bamboo Poles (Kamthi):** Bamboo poles are used to fasten the warp beam at the further end of the loom.
- **Wooden Sword or Beater (Vi):** It is use to held the interlaced yarns together near the cloth beam.
- **Cloth Beam (tor):** The woven fabric rolled on to the beam on the loom.
- **Shuttle (Nali):** Shuttle is use to insert the weft thread into the loom.
- **Yarn Winder (Parita):** Yarn winder is use to wind the yarn to the spindle.
- **Vessels for Dyeing:** Vessels are used to apply the color on the silk yarn.
- **Quill like Iron Needles:** It is use to adjust the slight shifting yarns and ensure perfect color alignment.



Dyed silk yarn used to weave the saree.

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Coal is used as die to mark the design on the yarn.



Whetstone is used to sharpen the needles.



A sharp needle is used to remove the tied threads.



Yarn winder (Parita) is used to wind the yarn and convert them into spindles.

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Iron needles are used while weaving to arrange the design patterns in order.



Water is used to soak the threads.



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Graph of the design used as references.



Cotton thread is soaked in water and tied on the warp to form the design in tie and de process.



Bamboo sticks are inserted between the warp to separate the threads.

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## Making Process

Patola sarees are well known for their distinctive geometrical style and colorful diversity, where the selected raw silk brought from the silk market are twisted which gives strength to the saree. Twisted bundle of yarns are held on to the Aadha frame to which a thread immersed in the ink are used to mark on the yarns which are then tied with a thread dipped in water and tied tightly to the silk yarns. To obtain the selective motifs of floral, tiger and elephants on the saree, the warp and the weft yarns are characterized as per which the yarns of silk weft and warp are tied separately, so that only the color to be obtained on the part of the yarn are only left open. The parts of yarns that are colored are tied with the threads tightly and the open parts are immersed in the second color. This process is repeated depending on the number of colors required for the warp and weft yarns which takes minimum of about 75- 80 days for coloring. Coloring of the silk yarn is usually done with the acid dyes for better uptake of the color and also made from vegetable extracts and natural colors usually from flowers, marigold, sunflower, root bark, turmeric, madder, indigo etc.

The warp and the weft ikats are aligned properly to manipulate, create the sheds and mend the broken ends. Usually each warp consists of series of warp yarn and single weft yarn that binds the warp yarns together. The segregated yarns are set up to the loom each time as there is no fixed framework. Patola saree making are usually in an inclined position which is fastened by a pole in the front and positioned in a slanted horizontal. Half heddles are used to be held on a wooden rod (two main and two supporting rods) and shuttle used for this weaving is usually made of bamboo. Looms are arranged such a way that more light falls on the left of the loom through natural and artificial light which provides good illumination on the tilted weaving area by angular reflection such that the action doesn't hamper the weavers vision. The loom is slant for the perspective view of the far ends of the woven area of the patola fabric.

One weaver is positioned to the lower right side and the other weaver stands on the right side near the cloth beam distributing and organizing their work. Right side weaver operates the shed stick/ beater and throws the shuttle from right and operates the pressure bar with handle to change the sheds. Both the weavers check for the matching of the weft and warp to adjust the slight shifting with the pointed quill like needles for perfect color alignment. Only about five to six inches of the fabric can be woven for about three hours in a day. Bamboo shuttle is made to move to and fro through the warp sheds. Even today patolas are woven on a primitive hand operated harness looms which are usually made out of bamboo strips and rosewood.

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Thread inked in black coal solution.



The inked thread is used to mark the designs on the yarn.

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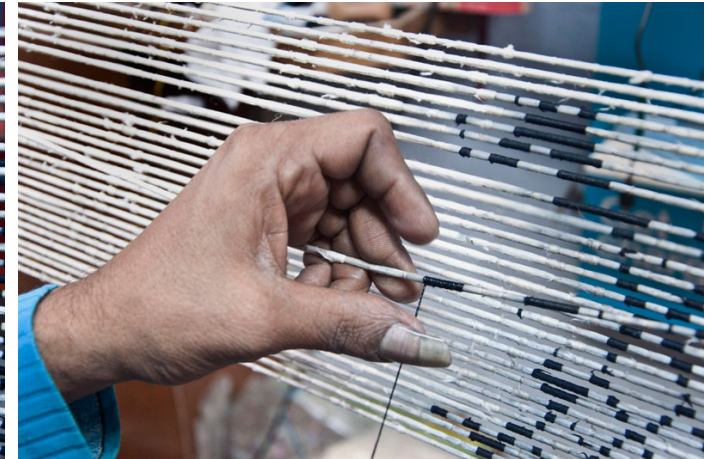
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The markings are tied with cotton thread soaked in water.



This process of coloring is known as tie and dye process.



When dyed the exposed and untied area absorb the color.



To color the tied area the threads are removed and areas which are colored and dyed again in different color.

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The process is repeated till the required number of colors to be dyed.



Sharp needle is used to remove the tied threads after dyeing.



Yarn designed with geometrical pattern.

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The dyed yarn is arranged to an iron pole for warping process.



Plain color dyed threads are added in the warp where it is required.



The plain color dyed thread is basically added in the ends to weave as borders.

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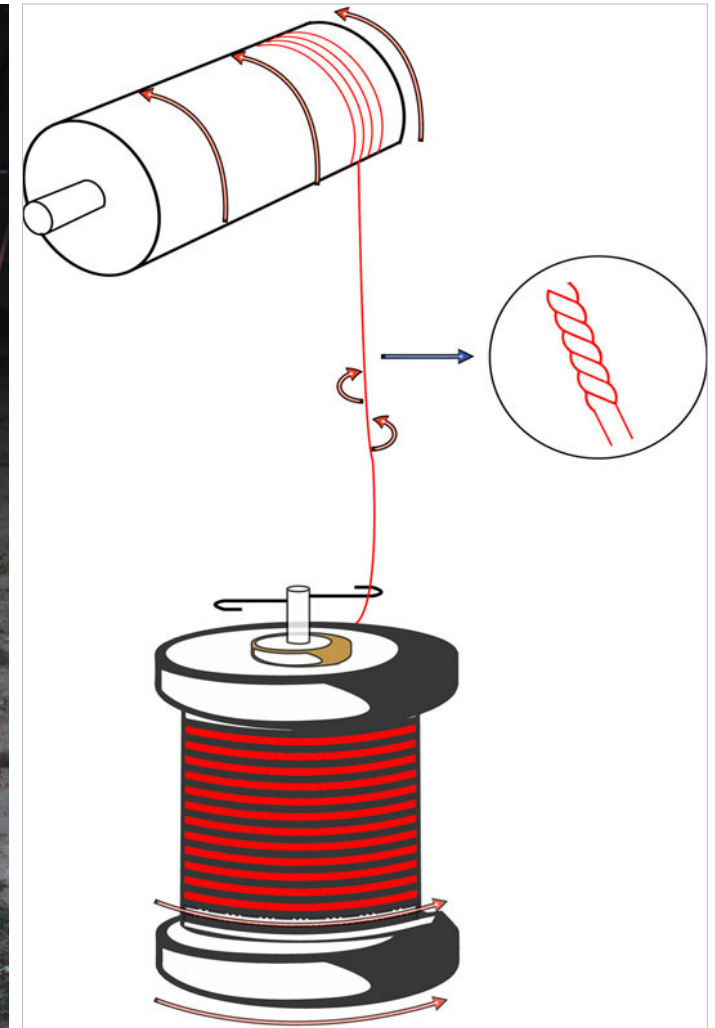
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The threads are untangled and arranged properly.



Twisting is done to add strength to the thread.

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The warp is attached to loom and the weaving is begun.



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Rosewood rod is used as hand beater to weave the saree.



Bamboo shuttle is used to interlock the thread while weaving.

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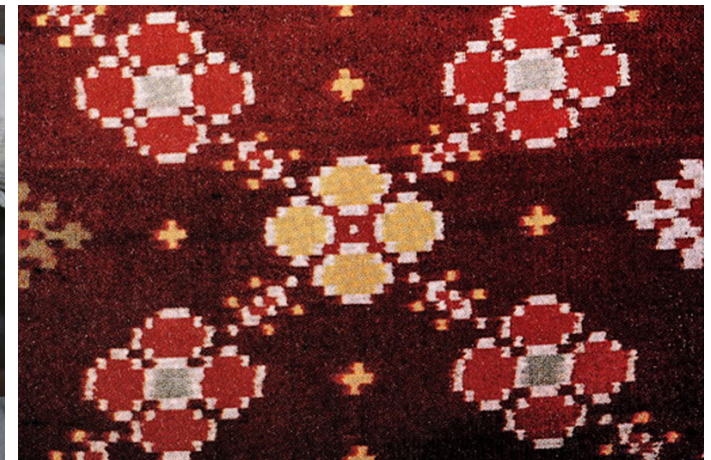
The warp is checked in timely intervals for breakages and corrected.



An iron needle is used to arrange the thread according to the design pattern.



To consume time craftsmen use three needles at ones to cover more threads together.



Final output of the patolasaree weaving.

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## Products

Patola or the double ikat saree are usually renowned for their geometrical and colorful ranges with motifs of flowers, jewels, flora fauna, parrots, elephants, dancing figures with plain, dark and colored borders on pallu and body of the saree.

- **Saree:**

Unstitched garment of about 5.5 to 6 meters length, which is usually draped by Indian women.

- **Scarves:**

A piece of fabric which is worn around the neck and near the head for warmth and covering.

- **Dupattas / Stoles:**

Long scarf used with the Salwar kameez.



Saree weaved with animal and floral motifs.

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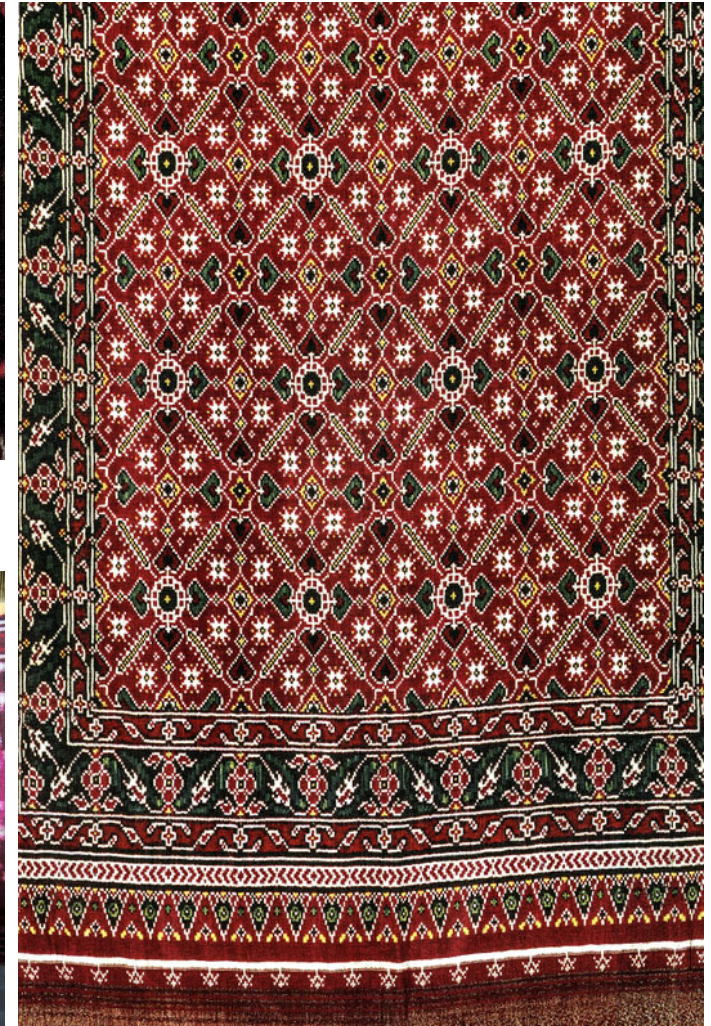
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Combination of black, yellow and red are most common color used in patola saree weaving.



Patola saree weaving involves lot of calculations to form the design point of view.



A bright color patola shawl with floral and geometric patterns.

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The saree is mostly weaved with bright color threads.

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The saree is woven with both cotton and silk thread.



Scarfs and shawls are also woven in patola design.



The borders are woven with zari thread to give a rich look to the saree.

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## Video



Patola Weaving - Ahmedabad

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## Contact Details

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