

Design Resource

Plaster of Paris Idols - Ahmedabad

Making of PoP Idols

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S.,

Srikanth and Tejas

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/plaster-par-is-idols-ahmedabad>



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

Plaster of Paris (PoP) is widely used in the interior decoration and murals painting where as other form of plasters like lime plaster and cement plaster are used for other applications. PoP is produced by heating gypsum and was invented by Egyptians near 5000 years ago. The gypsum is crumpled and burnt to make the powder which was later mixed with water to form plaster. Looking at the history, Gypsum was abundantly available in “North of Paris” it was renamed as PoP in the year 1600s. People of France used PoP as decorative plasterwork in house with white color which was famous.

According to the artisan, Mr. Modabhai Chhatrani in 1970 started the idol making process at Ahmedabad, which spread across the country. PoP idol making is famous even today in Ahmedabad and in many other cities of India due light weight, easy to produce and low cost. “Gulbai Tekra” is the largest slum area in Ahmedabad, which is famous for making the PoP idols. The artisan makes Ganesh and Krishna idols in different forms according the experience and imagination. The most demanded and popular idols are lord Ganesh, Durga and Krishna. The locality is commonly and well known by the other name called ‘Ganesh galli’ (in hindi language)

The artisans are highly involved in producing different kinds of PoP idols to supply to the local people and market needs. The idols of PoP products are available both in traditional as well as contemporary designs. The products made are used for worship as well as decorations at home. Rubber-molding technique is used produce PoP idols. Vivid colors are used to paint the idol after retrieving from mold which enhances the attractiveness of the products. The young men and women are involved in making these idols. They supply Ganesh idols to Mumbai and many other places in Gujarat.



Gulbai Tekra is a famous place in Ahmedabad for making POP Idol.

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Two parts of mold are tied tightly, with the use of tier tube strips.



Dark Black color is coated over the white color POP base.

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Idol of Ganesh statue is dried in the sunlight.



Copper, silver and gold bronze colors are used to decorate POP products.

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Artisans of POP idol making.

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Tools and Raw Materials

PoP is the basic raw material used for making idols. All sparkle colors are used to paint and PoP material is purchased from available local markets.

Below are the basic tools and raw materials used for making of PoP Idols:

- **Rubber Mold:** It is made of Silicone rubber, coir and thermocol. Silicone rubber contains the profile of idol, whereas coir and thermocol is used as supporting material to the mold box.
- **Plaster of Paris (PoP):** A powder which is mixed with the water to make a paste.
- **Tire Tube Strip:** To tie the mold tightly.
- **Coconut Fiber:** To fill in the mold which gives strength to idol (from inside).
- **Black Paint:** It is used to paint the Idol.
- **Copper Color:** It is used sprayed to the face or required are.
- **Black Color:** Kerosene, Varnish and Water color are used to make the black color.
- **Gold, Copper, Silver and Bronze Colors:** Used to embellish the idol.
- **Sand Paper:** Sand paper is used sanding the surface.
- **Brushes:** Different sizes of brushes are used for paint the color.
- **Glitters (chakmak):** Glitters or chakmak are used to sprinkle on the product and give a sheen look.

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Black rubber mold is used to form the shape of the product.



Plaster of Paris(pop) is a raw material to make the Idols.



Types of Sand paper used to smoothen the surface of PoP.

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Various size and type of brushes are used to paint.



Golden glitter is used to enhance the luster of the product.



Different types of bronze colors and varnish are to paint the Idol.

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Making Process

Rubber mold making and PoP molding are the two steps used for making Idol. Rubber mold is purchased from mold makers. Silicone rubber is the material in mold sheet preparation. A masterpiece of the idol is carved and used in the preparation of mold. Rubber sheets are obtained as two halves instead of mold box. Thermocol and coir is used to support the rubber sheets. Two half of the rubber mold for idol making is tied tightly with the use of tire tube strips.

In the preparation of PoP mixture, a ratio of two kilogram PoP powder is mixed with one liter of water which dissolves in water easily. Now PoP powder is gradually mixed with water, from side by side until it reaches a uniform and smooth consistency without forming lumps.

Making of the Idol:

The PoP mixture is poured into the rubber mold and wobbled to spread the PoP paste evenly to the complex contours and the extra paste is removed. The PoP paste is again poured into mold to blend the mixture thicker. And the PoP chock-full mold is dried under sun light, for about 30 minutes to 1hour approximately.

The idol is ejected manually with care by opening the 2 halves of the mold. The revealed idol is kept for drying in direct sunlight for 4to 5 hours, to avoid flaws. Different body parts of the idol are sculpted using clay and then attached, in case if the idols with twisted hands or legs.

Beautifying the Idol-Sand paper is used for sanding the surface to make smooth. Idol is painted with black color, which is the mixture of (black water, color, varnish and kerosene). Different sizes of brushes are used while painting the idols. After black color glaze, the idol is blown up with glittering gold, copper, silver and chromatic colors. Painting of Pop idols consists of several steps, which add value.



Powder of POP.

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POP powder is mixed with water to make paste.



Two parts of mold are tied together.



After joining the rubber mold, is tightly tied with rubber strap.

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Rubber and coir mold is tied and kept for molding.



The POP paste is poured into the mold.

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The excess pop in the mold is removed.



The paste is allowed to set in the mold for 30 mins.

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Black rubber is removing safely to maintain the detail.

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After drying the rubber mold is removed to reveal the idol.



Black color, which is a mixture (varnish, black water color and kerosene) is coated to the Idol of lord Krishna.

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Color powder, Varnish and kerosene are mixed in the ratio of 1:3 and applied on the product.



Light pink color is used as a cheek gloss to the Idol.



Yellow color is applied on Sarong.

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The ornaments of the Idol are painted using gold color to enhance the product.



The glitter is added on the ornaments to emboss the product.



The final Product of the Lord Krishna.

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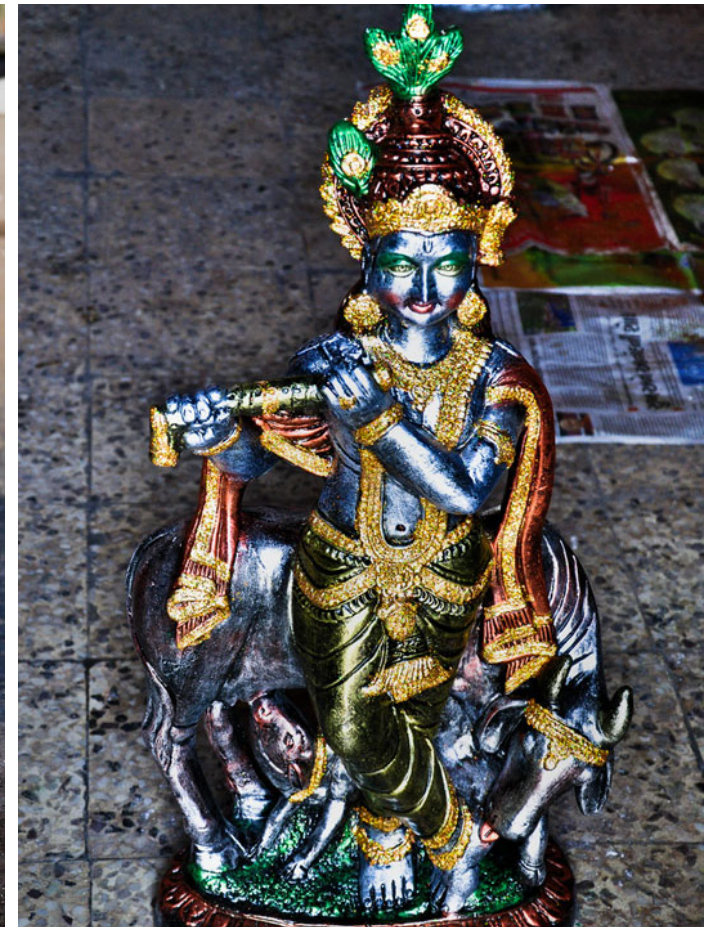
Products

The Products made of PoP include Idols of Ganesh, Lord Krishna, Statue of Goddess Durga, pots – used for household work. The idols have huge demand during festivals like Ganesh chaturthi, Navratri, Diwali etc. Statue of village women is gorgeously depicted on few flower vases which are available with different motifs.

The products available vary in different sizes and ranges. The artisan prepares 10 idols each day. Size of the products varies from 1 ft. to 5 ft. and the cost of the products starts from Rs. 150/- and to Rs. 5000/-.



Art piece of Women holding Vases.



Lord Krishna attractively embellished with gold ornaments used for worshipping.

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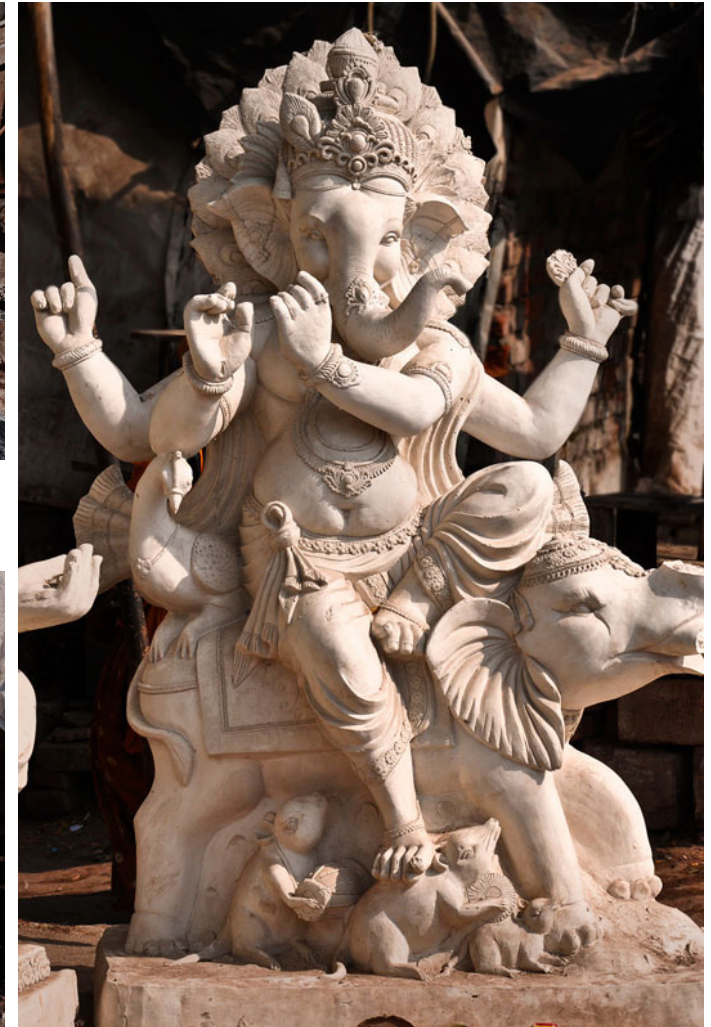
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Wall hanging of lord Ganesh used as home decorator.



The idol of lord Ganesh has huge demand during Ganesh Chaturthi.



Different forms of Lord Krishna and Radha are framed.

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