

Design Resource

## Process of Bandhani

The craft of Tie and Dye

by

Konark Ashara

IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/process-bandhani>



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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/process-bandhani/introduction>

## Introduction

Bandhani is one of the famous textile patterns in India. Bandhani of Gujarat is very famous in India. It's traditional textile of Gujarat. Wadhwan city in Surendranagar district has largest production of these textiles. In Wadhwan town around 75% of families work in this profession. The process of making one Bhandhani is long. This process is complicated and there are so many different skilled craft's men and women are involved in it. In this project I have covered the process of Bhandhani making and how everybody is involve in it and their role in process of making Bandhani.

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## Place Wadhwan Town

City of Wadhwan is situated in Surendranagar district of Gujarat. Wadhwan produces largest amount of Bandhani materials in Gujarat. The Bandhani products of Wadhwan are affordable to common people. 75% of Wadhwan population is engaged in this business in one or the other way. Business of Bandhani was started in wadhwan by the Brahmkshtriya (Khatri) community and still most of the brahmkshtriyas are involved in this business. Now days other communities are also getting involved in this business. Main reason for this is that Wadhwan's bandhani is famous in Gujarat and in other parts of India. Water of Wadhwan is one of the key reason for the development of this business here. Wadhwan is also the place where the Bandhani was born. Wadhwan's soil was also a reason for development of this business. In olden days when colours were made from the natural elements the soil of Wadhwan had widest range of colours available at that time. Later with time, due to modernization and competition now they do not use the natural colour any more. The bandhani of Wadhwan was so famous that other royal families of the state and country also use to buy bandhani from Wadhwan. Surendranagar produces high amount of quality cotton, so good quality cloths were also available here. Because of these reasons Wadhwan and It's Bandhani are famous.



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## Cloth Cutting

Wholesaler buys the cloth from the market and sends it to the person who transfers the design on the cloths. As soon as cloths arrives this person, cut the cloth according to the design. Since Bandhani is a textile pattern one can make Panjabi Dress as well as Saree from bandhani. So the cloth is cut according to the kind of the dress it will be. The cloth from the wholesaler comes in different sizes of width and length according to their requirement. The person who cuts the cloth he is the one who transfers design on the cloth. Hence after cutting he sits to transfer the design through Farma.



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## Farma

Farma is a transparent plastic sheet, on which the design is created first. This design is created Either by Professional Designer or by Wholesaler or sometimes by the craft people themselves. In this case, the craft person is the designer and he sells his design to the wholesaler. Once the design is approved they create small pin holes in the plastic sheet. With the help of these pin holes Design is transferred on the cloth.



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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/process-bandhani/transferring-design-cloth>

## Transferring Design on Cloth

Once the Farma is ready they lay bundle of the cut cloth on the ground. Then they put Farma on top of it. Then with the help of the colour water and Squeeze they transfer the design on cloth. Since the size of the cloth is big, for good transfer, this process requires two people to do it. Once the Design transfer is done this person sends this transferred cloth to the wholesaler who, later Distributes to the ladies who during their free time do the “Bandhej” work.



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## Distribution for Bandhej

Once the design is transferred and delivered to the wholesaler, he distributes this cloths to the Ladies. Bandhejis mostly done by women. These women come to the wholesaler everyday to collect the new design for Bandhej and to return the ready Bandhej which then goes for colouring. When these ladies come to collect the cloth for Bandhej, along with the cloth, they are provided with thread rolls. These ladies have accounts with the wholesaler. He writes and maintains the account for them and pays them accordingly. The payment of these Bandhej is decided by ladies after looking at the design and detail of the work. Smaller the Bandhej more charge and it also varies on the amount of Bandhej needed to be done. In the next chapter I will be explain the porcess of Bandhej.



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## Bandhani Bandhej

Bandhej means tying knots in the specific pattern. This knot is tied because when this tied cloth goes to colour this knot doesn't let that part catch colour so it stays white or whatever colour of cloth has. Bandhej is the main part of the bandhani making. Bandhej is the process which is repeated many times in the making of one Bandhani. Every bandhani mostly has bandhej two times. First time when it's distributed to Ladies for bandhej and then when it goes colour. If the bandhani has two colours as base colour then the people who colour the cloth, also tie a big bandhej which is different than the small bandhej done by ladies based on design. Basically there are two types of Bandhej:

- Bandhej for design
- Bandhej for basic colour

### Bandhej for Design

This Process is mostly done by women at home. So once the distribution of design cloths is done to these women, they do the bandhej at home. Bandhej for design is a very fine small bandhej which needs time and accuracy. Once this bandhej is done it goes back to wholesaler and they send this cloth for colouring. Once the colour is done if design needs more bandhej, then it again goes to the ladies for one more bandhej and then again for colouring.

### Bandhej for Basic colour

This Bandhej is done when the cloth is sent for the colour and it is done by the person who is colouring the cloth. This bandhej is done using polythene and plastic thread as shown in photo. After this bandhej it goes for the colour. After colour this polythene are used again for the bandhej for other similar bandhej. If the design demands more small and different bandhej it again goes for design bandhej. If not then after colour they left it open to sky to dry. In summer it takes around 4-5 hours to dry, in monsoon sometime it takes 2 days to dry in and in winter it takes 6-7 hours to dry.



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## Bandhani Dying

After Bandhej for Colour is done it goes for colour. It is not necessary that every piece of design have Bandhej for Colour. Some might have only design Bandhej. This kind of cloth directly goes for colour. Again the person who has designed it decides colours. In olden days the colours used were natural colours but now a days they use artificial colours.

For making this colour they use below listed materials. This combination can colour around 40 pieces of cloth:

Colour - 350 gm

Alum - 350 gm.

Sodium- 175 gm

Powder - 50 gm

Sulphate Sodium - 50 gm

Water - until it mixture become paste

Acid - 150 gm

Once the colour is made then they dip cloths into it for around 1 -1.5 minutes per cloth. Then it goes for drying. This process is used when base colour is light and the colour, which will now be added, is dark. If it is other way round they have to do another process, which is called 'wet colouring'. In that materials are same but it is done on the stove. After colour it goes for Drying or for removing Bandhej.

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## Bandhani Drying

The drying is done on the terrace. Drying takes some time depending upon the weather conditions. In monsoon it takes around 1.5-2 days to dry while in summer it takes only 4-5 hours. In winter it takes around 6-7 hours for drying. After Drying if there is more bandhej required, then it goes for bandhej through wholesaler or through the colour person depending upon the deal. If there is no more requirement of any Bandhej then it directly goes to wholesaler and wholesaler sends it to retailer. In between this sometime de-knotting of bandhej happens depending upon design. Small amount of de-knotting happens at retailer's end. Wholesaler never does anything. Last process of the bandhni is De-knotting and Packing.



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## Bandhani-Untieing Bandhej

This part of the process takes place at the retailers end. When they get the bandhni from wholesaler they have to iron it and pack it. During packing it the retailer does the deknoting of the bandej. Sometimes they hire somebody for this work. Then it goes on display inside the shop, from where customer buys it and gives that to tailor for stitching.



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## Contact Details

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