

Design Resource

## Silk Saree Weaving II

Melukote Silk Weaving

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silk-saree-weaving-ii>



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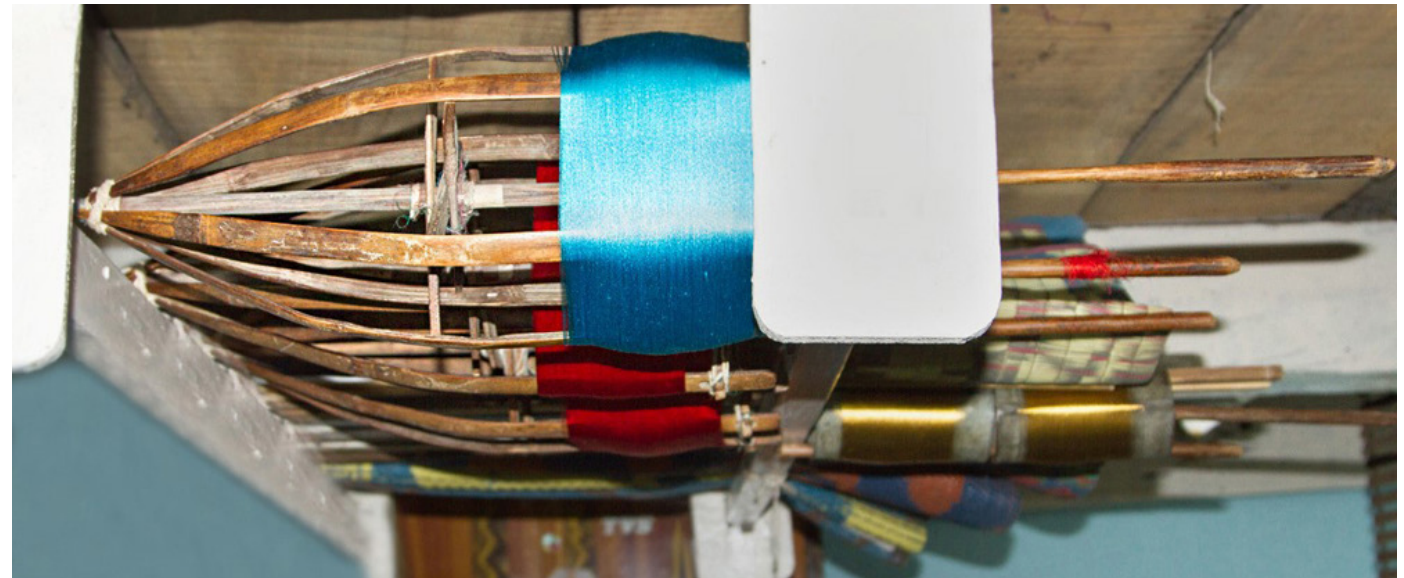
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## Introduction

Silk process involves the process of drawing the continuous filaments from the cocoons to the raw silk yarns that are generally suitable for the weaving process. Silk making involves a lot of process from the leaves picked from the fields, to the batches of silkworms reared inside their houses for about five to six times in a year. In Melukote of Karnataka it was mainly the families belonging to the main agricultural backgrounds from the local caste communities that were largely involved in the process. It is also believed that these communities were able to lead a good living from agriculture.

The silk saree weaving was documented from the Melukote of the Mandya district of Karnataka of the South Indian region. Melukote is famous for temple's constructed on the hill tops which is said to be about 51 kms from Mysore and about 133 km from Bangalore. It is said the name of this place is derived from the Narayana swamy temple that is built on the hillock of the granite rocky hill-range which is surrounded by the fort.

Saree's are generally considered as the unstitched garment that is commonly worn by an Indian women. It is still one of the traditional dress that is found to worn across the country. Silk sarees are generally known for their intricate works with the value added Zari work that is generally considered special. The weavers of Melukote belongs to this place and the art of weaving them is said to doing from their three generations as per their knowledge.



Loaded pirns arranged and kept on the attic.

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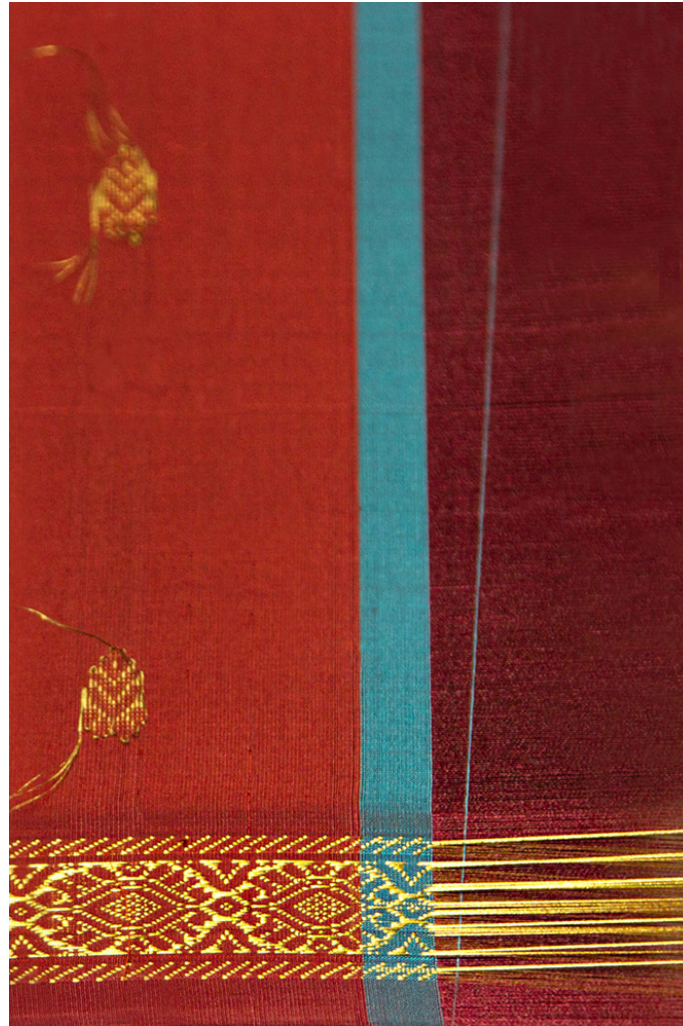
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The close look of the border design in silk saree.



Colored silk saree being weaved by an artisan.



Pirns spun with colored silk threads, used for weaving.

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The loom used for silk saree weaving at Melukote.

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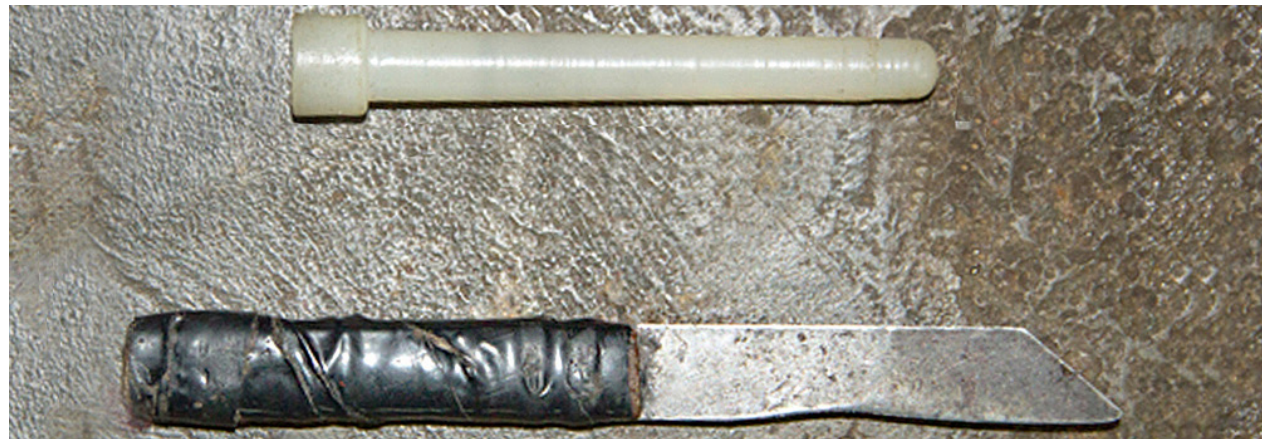
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## Tools and Raw Materials

The Melukote silk weaving requires the following tools and raw materials for the making of the silk sarees:

- Silk Yarns: Coloured silk yarns provided by Priyadarshani are generally preferred for the making of Saree's.
- Phirki (bamboo swift): It is used to wind the silk yarns uniformly.
- Fly Shuttle: It is used insert the weft yarns for weaving.
- Plastic Pirns: It is winded with the silk yarns for weaving.
- Charkha: It is winding equipment where the yarns are wound on to the pirns.
- Punch Cards: To input the pattern of designs to be woven.
- Spools: To insert the buta designs in the silk saree.
- Measuring Tape: To have an account of the designs to be woven.
- Small Knife/ Scissors: To cut the extra yarns of the buta designs.
- Starch: To apply on the woven fabric surface for strength purpose.



The plastic pirn and the knife used for different purpose in weaving process.

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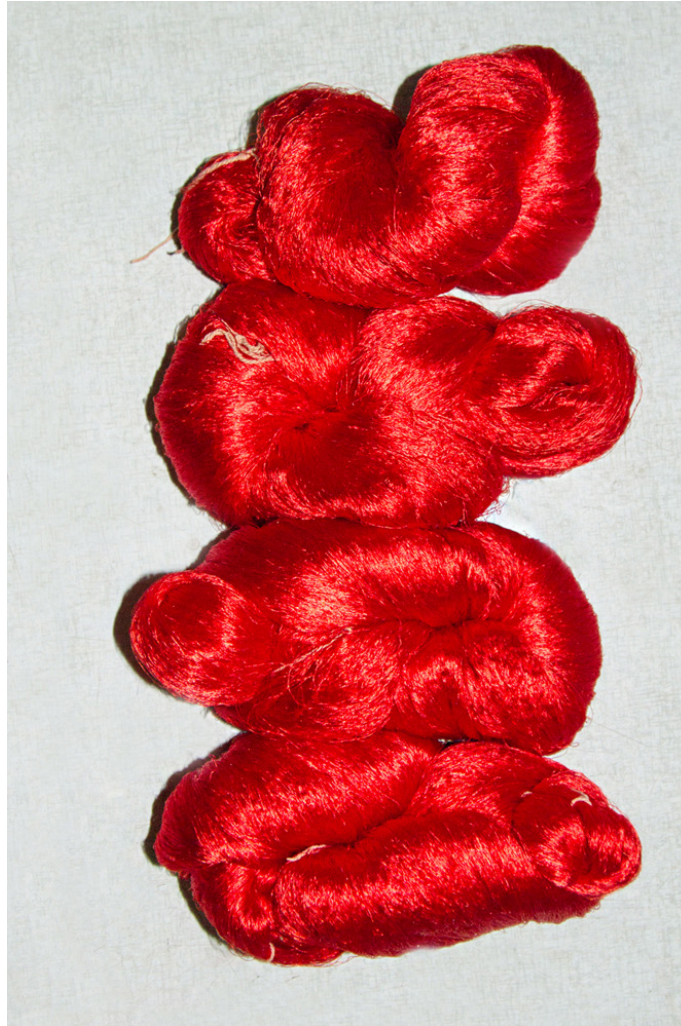
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The silk yarns which are given by Priyadarshini organization to the weavers.



Different colored silk yarn are spun onto the pirns.

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The Zari which is spun to the pin is soaked in water before putting it to the fly shuttle.



Spindles wound with silk thread.

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The loom, used in Melukote for silk saree weaving.



Spools loaded with the zari threads are used for buta designs.



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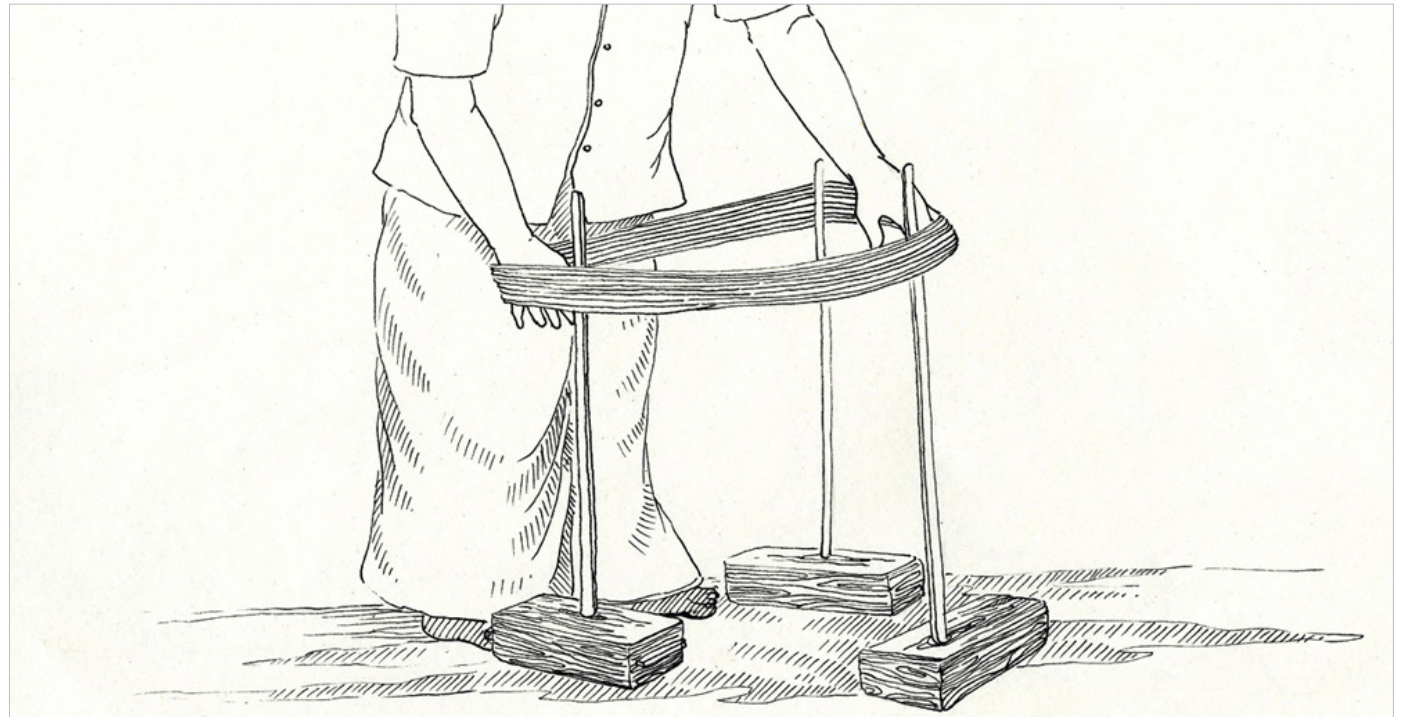
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## Making Process

Silk yarns are brought generally from Bengaluru are provided by Priyadarshini Organization for the weavers at the Melukote. The yarns are wound on to the plastic pirns for weaving purpose, raw silk usually wound on bobbins doubled and twisted as per the warp and the weft purpose.

The Hank of Silk yarns are degummed and dyed as per the colours required for weaving. Warp yarns are generally stretched and looped in the open air with the bamboo poles placed in between the layers of yarn. The newly made warp is pieced or knotted to the previous saree, if the design pattern remains the same and it is rolled on the beam.

Silk yarns are woven by the operation of the treadles and the fly shuttle either used single or double in some cases. For the insertion of buta designs the coloured / zari threads are inserted with help of the spools which are generally inserted by the hands as per the pattern of designs. The pattern of designs for the borders are generally with zari and coloured yarns that differentiates its designs with the punch cards.



Silk yarn is put into the tripod stand for the purpose of winding the silk thread.

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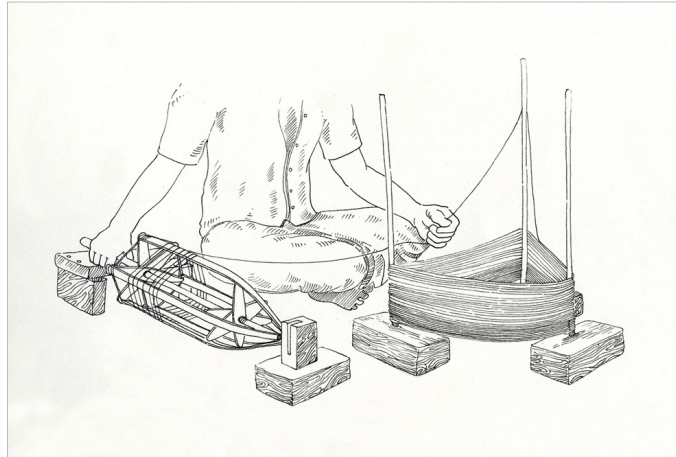
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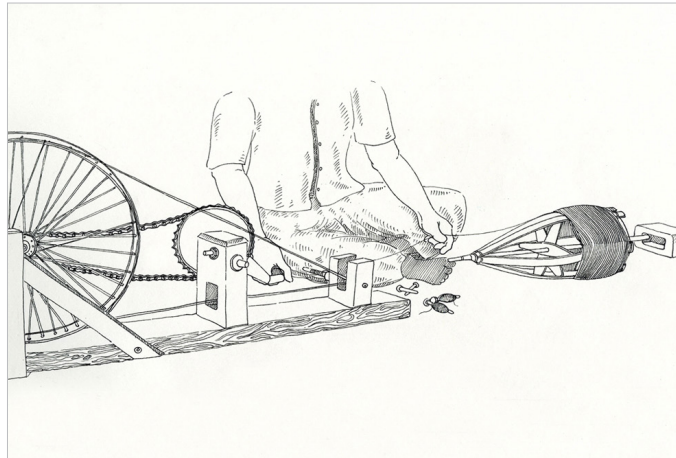
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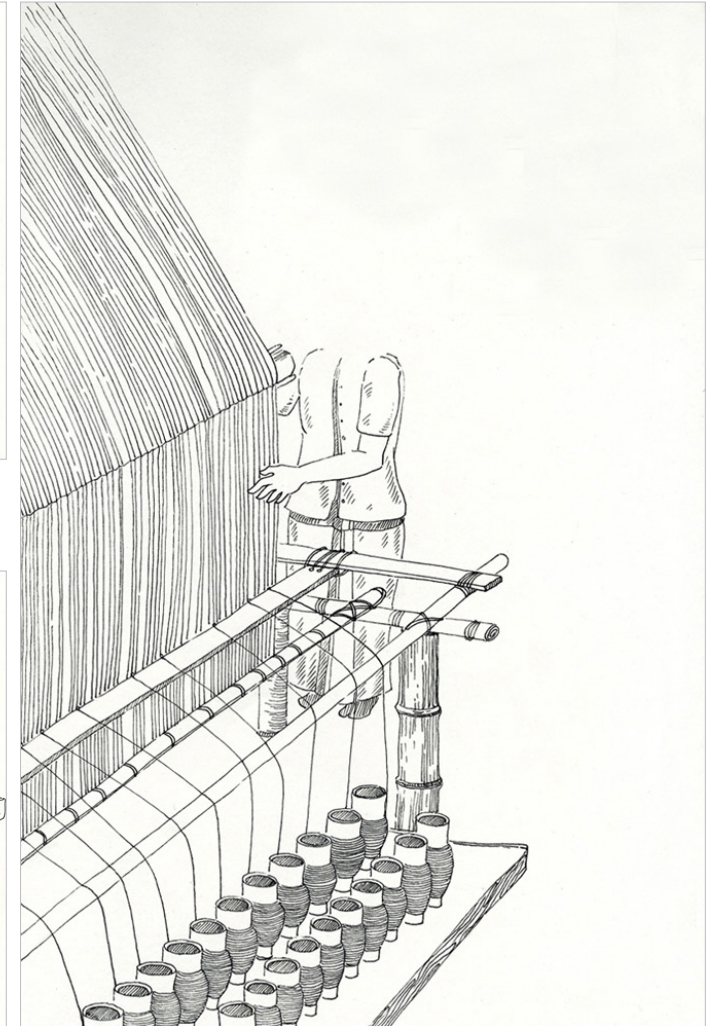
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The silk thread is being wound to the spindle from the tripod stand.



Pirn is being spun with silk thread.



Warping process.

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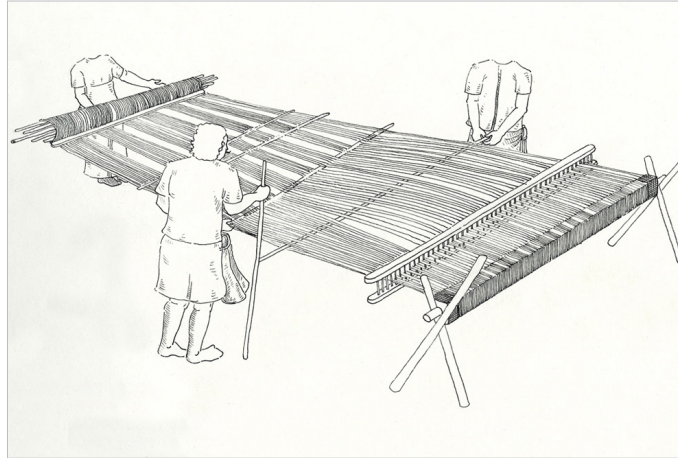
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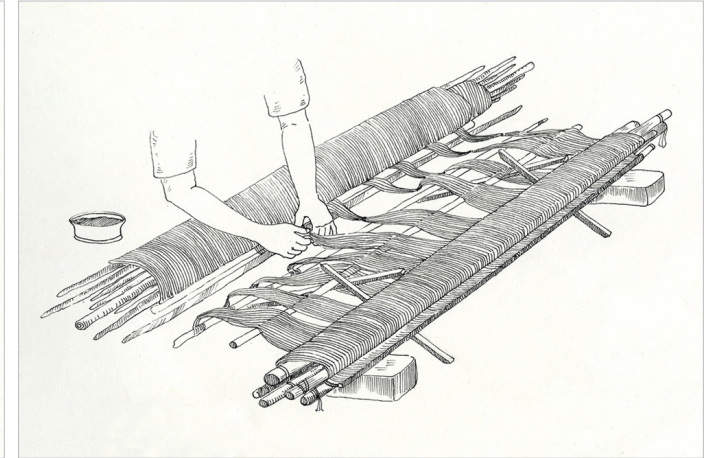
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Street sizing is done to loosen the silk threads before it is weaved.



Attaching of warp to the loom is being done.

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The artisan is arranging the colored silk threads for weaving.

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The zari threads are also ensured and inserted in loom before weaving the saree.



Fly shuttle is been loaded with pirn for the weft process.



Artisan is weaving the silk saree.

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Zari threads are inserted for the buta design in the process of silk saree weaving.



Then the starch is applied onto the saree for the stiffness.

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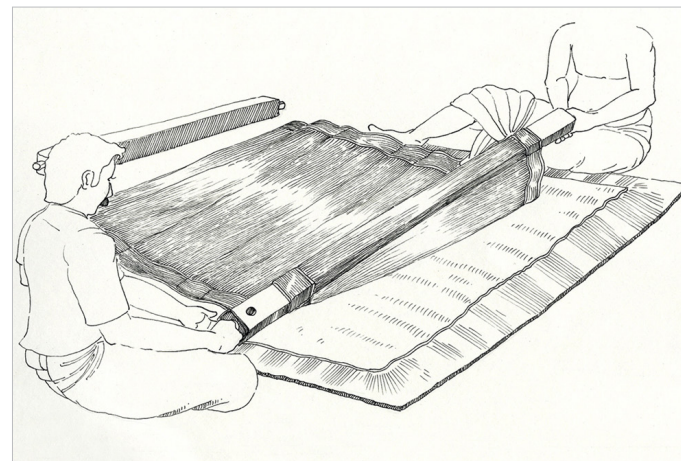
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The extras of zari threads are removed through the help of knife.



Newly weaved saree is being unfolded from the wooden beam.



Then the saree is been folded in a particular manner.

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## Products

Melukote Silk sarees are the typical silk sarees with buta designs of flower or mango etc, as per the specifications given by Priyadarshani located in many parts of Karnataka. As it is the part of the Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation that provides a wide support to the weavers.

Solid colours of any part of the saree is obtained by using similar colours in the warp and weft, with one of the borders having solid colours that is one of the features of the traditional saree weaving of India. The woven saree is given back to Priyadarshani as the raw materials of silk are provided by them. The weaver weaves as per the pattern and hands over products back to this organization for distribution and sales where the weaver gets the labour cost on a day basis. These sarees are specially woven by the weavers of the region with limited looms where most of the weavers are surrendering their jobs and leaving.



Melukote silk sarees are generally of solid colors.

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These sarees are famous for buta designs in golden zari.



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Lija M. G. at [NID Campus, Bengaluru](#).

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

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