

Design Resource

Silver Ornaments - Kolhapur

Anklets or Leg Ornament

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-ornaments-kolhapur>



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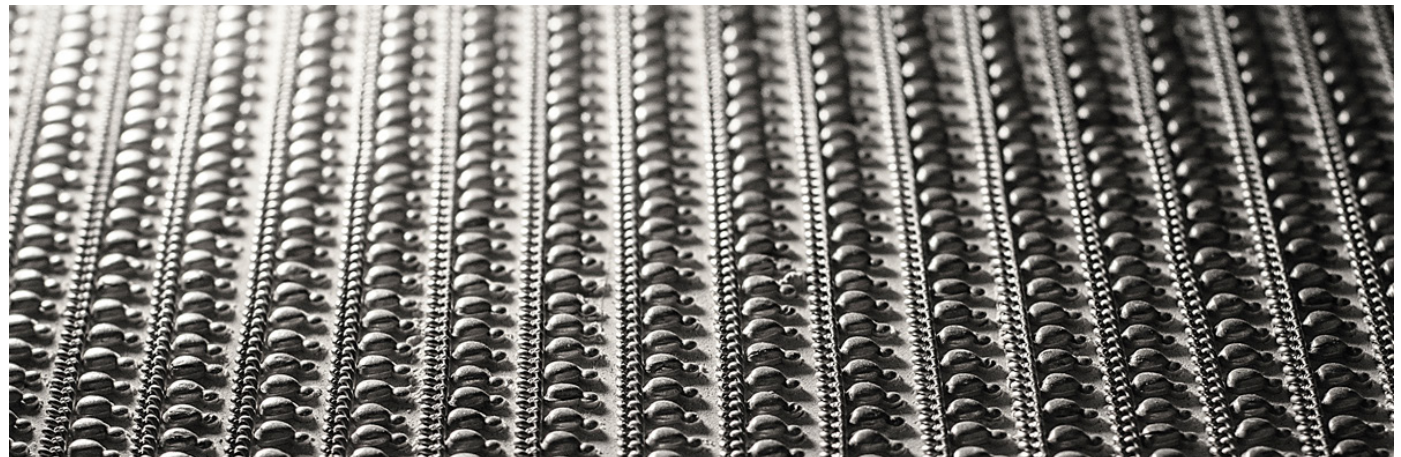
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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-ornaments-kolhapur/introduction>

Introduction

There was a time in India when an Indian woman walks, the people around recognizes that she belongs to a particular community due to the jingling sounds produced repeatedly as she move due to the payal (anklets or leg ornament) that she wears on her feet, making different sounds. As per the tradition of India, it is important that a woman wears the ornaments on her ear, feet, hand, neck, fingers, waist, and forehead and covers her head with a veil (cloth) when the elders are around her as a sign of respect to them. Silver ornaments like anklets, bangles etc, are widely used among many communities in south India as it is affordable compare to gold ornaments. Silver ornaments like payals (anklets)/ made in Hupari village of Kolhapur district in Maharashtra. Hupari village is about 24 kms from the city of Kolhapur surrounded by other villages like [Pattankodoli, Rendal and Vasagade] which also works on the silver ornaments. Most of the people in this village work in their houses, converting their living room to working areas during the working time (day time) and rest of the time they convert it to the living room. Most of the houses in this village are occupied with the art of making the silver ornaments.

It is believed this art of making the silver ornaments was taught by Aman Rao Krishna Ji Poddar in 1950, who relocated to this village from Kolhapur city. At the beginning he trained few people in order to support him in the completion of his orders, later they trained many others and the art of making the silver ornaments spread across this village. Gajashri, Roopali, Chunchung, Kandroae, Thrisula etc. are well known designs of payals made in Hupari village. Generally leg ornaments are light and hollow, however “Kadaga” is also a leg or can be like a bangle that are heavy and solid with chain bands fringed with little bells, spiral coils or consecutive rings one over other encircling the hand or feet, which is especially the privilege of an (Indian) women. Payal consists of two to five strings made up of small, large medallions with beads of different shapes (like round, cylindrical, barrel-shaped and ribbed) and also multi color rings.



In the metal tray silver pieces are arranged on a layer of wood ash.

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Silver biscuits are melted at high temperature and poured into molds to convert it into rods/wires or thin sticks.



Die machine is used to cut the silver sheet in required shape.

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Silver rods are passed through the rolling machine and converted into wire.



Silver beads and chain are arranged accordingly for soldering process.



Pieces are arranged using a tweezers and this process is referred as the Chaadi process.

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Hooks are attached with chain to tight.



Meena color is applied to embellish the anklet.



Ghungroos are made separately and attached to anklet in the end.

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Final product of the silver, which are known as payal (Anklets).

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Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials used in the hand-crafted Hupari jewelry which is a careful, intensive process.

- **Iron Rod:** For segregating ornaments to avoid the stickiness.
- **Flame Torch:** It is used to heat the silver to annealing temperature, for all soldering or melting metal casting.
- **Metal Tray:** To spread the wooden ash powder.
- **Pliers (Katari):** They are used to cut the ornaments.
- **Parallel Pliers (Gava):** Parallel pliers are used to holding piece of silver level for filling and for keeping close.
- **Pliers (Pakad):** Comes in different range and sizes and are used to bend sharp corners in wires silver plate.
- **Iron Tongs (Sawan):** They are holders used to hold crucibles while casting process and also for safer and easier handling.
- **Meena Color:** This color is basically used for applying on anklet to give voguish look.
- **Hardner:** It is mixed with Meena to make thin paste to apply on anklet.
- **Wooden Ash:** Absorbs the excess flame away from the work bench while soldering.
- **Needle:** To mix Meena color.
- **Vibrator:** It is (electro plating) for polishing.
- **Rough Polish:** Used to rub on the products for getting striking shining.
- **Gauge Plate:** It is used to check the diameter of wire or to produce different profile.
- **Dies Cutting/Press Tool Machine:** There are different types of dies as per the requirement.
- **Rolling Down:** It is primarily used to decrease the thickness of silver.

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- **Crucible:** Different sizes of crucibles are used to melt the silver.
- **Hammer:** It is used to stretch the silver.
- **Mold:** Molds used to pour the melting liquid of silver to make rods.
- **Soldering Material:** By heating a gola (mixture) of borax, nav-sagar with water and copper sulphate.
- **Silver Biscuits:** Silver biscuits are converted into silver rods and further converted to thin sheets to make the silver articles.
- **Pressing Machine:** This is used to convert the silver biscuits into thin sheets.



Silver hooks attached to silver anklets.

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Gold and copper is added to silver as raw material to make silver anklet.



Different types of tools involved in the making process silver anklet.

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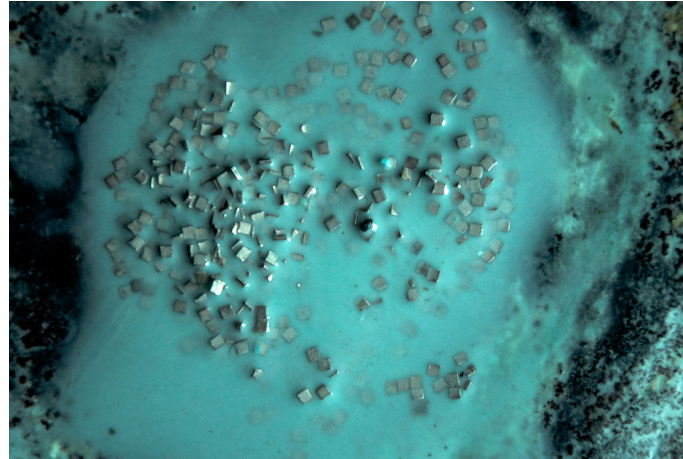
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Soldering solution is used to join different parts together.



Tweezer to hold the article.



Meena color used to apply on anklet to embellish them.

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Rolling machine used to convert the silver rods into wires.

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Making Process

Silver blocks or the waste silver strips of the required weight are melted in terracotta pots (for small quantity) and crucible (for big quantity) with charcoal and coal locally called as bhatti (melting). It is usually preferred to be done in the early morning to avoid the heat during the day especially in afternoon. Generally small quantity (30kgs) of silver is melted in terracotta pots. Casting frames are coated with groundnut oil to which the molten material is poured and allowed to set in the form of rods. Silver rods are immersed in water and placed in the rolling machine to form strips of silver and silver wire (thar) for design cutting process. Soot machines (locally called) are also used to make thin long rods and filed to square, round and rectangle shapes. As per the required designs the strips and wires are passed through the press tool machine to obtain the required design and pattern on silver.

The designs are joined by soldering as per the number of strings and beads of different shapes arranged in metal tray on a layer of wood ash. The parts of the silver jewellery are placed to each other with the help of a frame and holder (plucker) to keep the parts together which is locally referred to as the Chaadi process. Further, the two parts of the pattern of designs of the payal (string & beads) are joined by adding the flux (soldered material) in between by coating with the soldering material made by heating a gola (mixture) of borax, nav-sagar with water and copper sulphate. After all the parts are arranged, the material is heated through a flame torch (burner) at about 700 degree which is generally referred to as Jaali process.

During the Jalli process the material turns blacker and payals are rough polished in a drum contains soap nut solution, fiber balls and water for about half an hour to obtain a sliver finish. Only on the required parts of the ornament it is colored with enamels locally called as meena color which is usually brought from Agra. After each color is applied on the ornament it is dried absolutely in the bhatti (drying using electric bulbs) made by the artisan, then the next color is applied on it and dried. The silver products are further polished in the electroplating vibrator to give the final finish.

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The molted silver is poured in an iron mould (metal).

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Silver biscuit and copper pieces are melted in crucible at high temperature.



These iron molds are specially made for jewelry making process.

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Silver rods.



The silver rods are passed through rolling machine and converted into silver strips and wires.



Using dye machine silver sheet is cut as per requirement.

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The silver wire is passed through dye cutting machine, where the wire is converted into strips and cut into pegs.



Silver articles are placed accordingly to the design pattern.



The pieces are arranged on platform, made of wood ash.

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Design piece, which has to be placed on the chain, are soaked in soldering solution.

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The soaked pieces are placed on the chain accordingly.



Craftswomen are also involved in this process.



The arranged pieces are heated to solder using flame torch.

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Some anklets are joined together manually by fixing small pegs in between the pieces.

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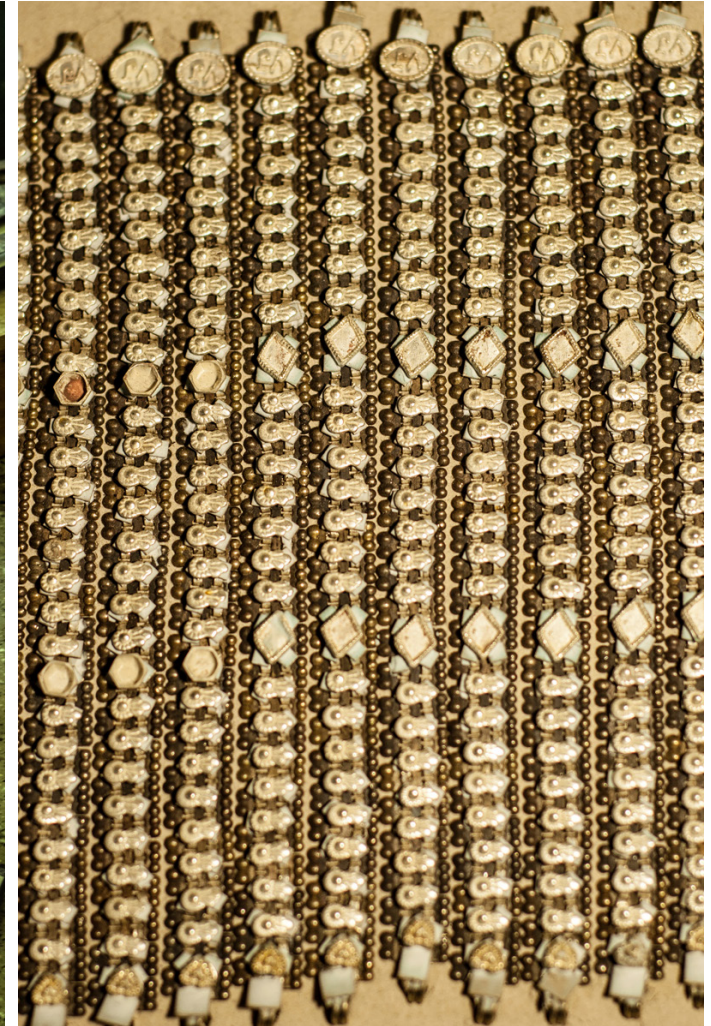
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A metal wire is used as support to hold the pieces together.



Soldered anklets.

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Pegs helps to fix the both ends of the anklet.



Meena colors are used to embellish the anklet.



Meena color is mixed with hardener to stick to anklet.

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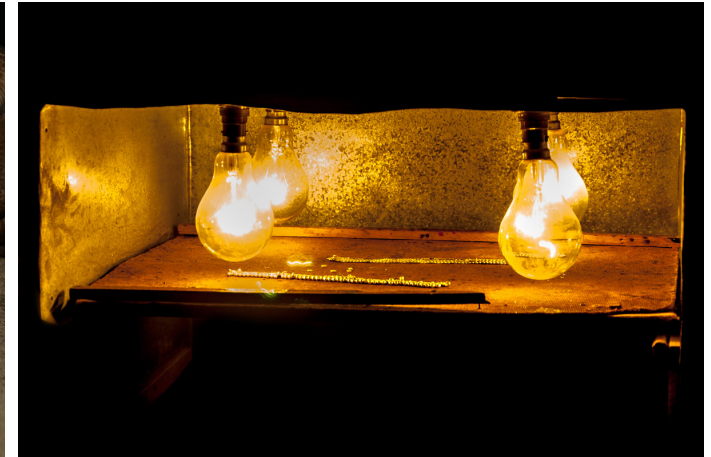
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Different shades of meena color solution are applied on the required areas of anklet.



Anklet is heated to dry in a small box fixed with lights.



Final product is washed in soap nut solution and polished.

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Products

Silver ornaments are an art form in which different designs are cut individually to the desired size or shapes and assembled to form an object. It is a unique art which requires expert craftsmanship to produce silver products that are attractively designed to create varied range of products with intricate and magnificent patterns. This unique art form is done only in Hupari Village. The price of silver anklets start from the range of Rs1000 to Rs3000.

- **Silver Anklets:** Silver anklets that catch fancy at once. Embellished with Green and Red color Meena studded, and gives the beautiful design and sheen. These anklets look very attractive made from silver have an excellent durable finish as well. The beads are polished to give a gleaming look.
- **Waist Chain (KamarPatti):** Waist chain for infants with hanging silver balls and jingle on it (especially for girl children).
- **Utensils for Pooja (plates)**
- **Statues of Gods and Goddess**
- **Incense Stick Holders**
- **Wick Lamp**
- **Karpur Aarti or Camphor Burners,** are some of the products of silver



Mango shaped anklets.

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Anklet made for babies, consists of more ghungroos as they give pleasant sound.

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Anklets made of floral design.

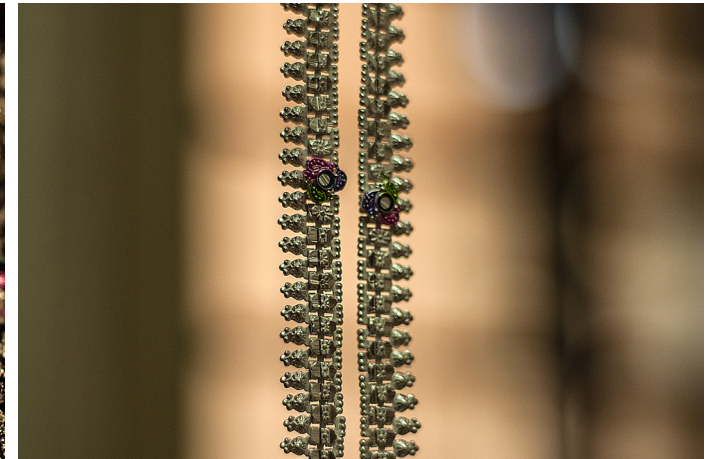


Minute details are carved to give more elegant look to the products.

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Colors are applied in between the design to make them look more attractive.



Simple designed anklets embellished for ladies.

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Video



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