

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem>



1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and
Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/introduction>

Introduction

A small village named Rami reddy Palem in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh is famous for wooden reed products. It is situated near to the famous pilgrimage center Tirupati which is 60 Km from away from the railway station and 36 kms from Srikalahasti, it is also one of the well-known pilgrimage center near to rami reddy palem.

Telugu is the local language in this village and an approximate of 20 families work on wooden reeds, however the present generations are not involved in reed making as it involves a lot of man hours and cannot be completed by a single person. To fully complete a wooden reed in one day it usually takes 3 to 4 people. Craftsmen work from morning to night till 10 o'clock to complete a day's target.

The handloom sector in India is one of the largest economic activities, which provides direct employment to around 65 lakh people who are engaged in this activities. It also plays a major role in improving the country's economy contributing around 19 % of the cloth produced in the country. The craftsmen face a huge challenge by powered looms which are semi-automatic however the flexibility, creativity and the craftsmen is what the powered looms cannot duplicate, keeping the handloom sector alive and running.

Reed is an essential part of loom because it makes it easier for the craftsmen to identify loose ends, damages and errors at the initial stages of weaving, it separates the warp threads and holds them in their positions making sure it doesn't get tangled and also used to push the weft yarn securely into place as it is woven. Pit looms, floor looms and mechanized looms use reed.



Few of the experienced craftsmen involved in reed weaving.

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

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/introduction>

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



Reed is one of the essential parts of a loom through which the threads are passed through.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/introduction>

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details



Jowar stems are cut into thin strips, which is weaved into reed.



Jowar strips are tied with cotton thread.



The woven reed will be fifty one inches in length.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/introduction>

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



Skilled worker focuses in aligning the strips to custom the reed.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and
Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details

Tools and Raw Materials

Weaving reeds is being practiced in Rami reddy palem for over 50 year, the primary raw materials which are purchased annually in Pondicherry is jowar stem.

Bamboo sticks are bought from the local market and cotton thread of no 20, which is around 50 rupees for one bundle is used. A bundle of cotton thread can be used to complete 4 individual reeds. A minimum of 3 people is require to complete a reed in a day's time, materials are bought according to people involved on weaving reeds. For a family of four 50,000 rupees worth of jowar stem are purchased.

Tools used in weaving reeds are custom made to suite the Craftsmen:

- **Gutam:** Used to cut jowar stem into small pieces.
- **Paati:** Tool by a which cotton is spun into a yarn and it is a cost effective method.
- **Tugni:** Used to measure exact size of the jowar stem.
- **Knife:** To smoothen required areas.
- **Gutam:** A sickle shaped tool used to cut bamboo into finer small pieces.



Wooden frame is used to weave the reed.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and
Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details



Tool locally called as Gutam is used to cut the Jowar stems into thin strips.



Cotton thread is used to weave the jowar strips into the reed.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details



A wooden tool is used to measure the jowar strips and cut into equal measurements.



Wooden blocks are kept between the bamboo sticks to create space and to insert jowar strips.



Jowar stem is converted into thin strips and weaved into reed.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/tools-and-raw-materials>

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details



Knife is used to scrape out the rough edges.



Sandpaper is used to smoothen the rough edges of the reed.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>

Making Process

In Rami reddy Palem around 20 families are into making wooden reeds, to complete a single reed in a day, a minimum of 3 people are involved. Men and women equally contribute to making of reed. Reed is locally called as Panni in Telugu, reed being an important part of the loom, people are unaware about the difficulties involved in making a reed. Handloom weaving is a well-known craft, whereas reed makers and their whereabouts are anonymous to many craftsmen.

Reeds are made from the stem of jowar plant (Sorghum genus) which is available in Pondicherry currently. Craftsmen purchases the particular material on a yearly basis which costs around 50,000 rupees approximately for a family consisting of 4 members, number of reeds are dependent also on the family, so the materials purchased in a family of 2 is around 30,000 only for jowar plant.

Jowar stem cut into small pieces, and then a customized tool locally called (Gutam) it acts like a stand with a knife (Hine cheve katti) resembles a sickle shape which is fixed firmly. Craftsmen holds the stem at one end then scrapes the excess part, he continues the process until a finer quality is achieved. Reeds are then kept on a wooden peg (Tugni) and cut into equal length. A wooden frame is set up, which is approximately 2 feet from the ground is used for weaving the reeds. Bamboo stick is cut into required shape and then scraped, craftsmen bits the bamboo stick and repeats until the stick is in a straight position. Two bamboo sticks are aligned on the wooden frame with 4 inch in difference before the weaving of reeds starts. A wooden block is kept in between the two bamboo sticks. The top stick is marked equally to one and quarter inch till the end. One and quarter inch is one bit where 60 sticks are stitched. Craftsmen starts knotting each strip on the top and bottom, with two different bundles of cotton thread. Cotton thread no 20 is used in weaving reeds. The total length of a reed is 51 inch consisting of 40 bits together 2400 jowar stem is used in a single reed. Craftsmen uses a unique marking system where he uses the 60th stick as the colored one for marking and precision. The color green is used is locally available in the market, it is boiled and mixed with salt making sure that the color doesn't stick to the fabric when it is on the loom. Climatic conditions matter a lot as rain water are not suitable for weaving reeds, a drop of rain water can make the stem non usable. Weaving of reeds is done in great speed and accuracy making sure that 60 sticks are in one bit, the synchronization of body and mind can be seen while weaving reeds. A knife is used to scrape out any rough textures on the reed. The upper part of the stick, which lies above the bamboo stick, is then stuck using adhesive. A thin sand paper (water sheet) is used to level the stems and smoothen it.

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

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>

A different kind of reed is used for a silk saree, the basic procedure is the same, however starting and ending bit consists of only 30 sticks for the border and the remaining reeds consists of 60 stick, during the time of weaving of a silk saree the force applied on the end of the reed is more compared to a normal saree

1 reed = 40 Bits

1 Bit = 1.25 inch

1 bit which is 1.25 inch consists of 60 sticks
For silk sarees

First and the last bit is 30 sticks
One Reed = 51 Inch Length, 4 inch width.



Bamboo sticks are scraped and the rough edges are removed by using a knife.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>



Pair of bamboo sticks are tied to each other.



The sticks are then tied to a wooden frame.



Jowar stems are used make the reed.



Jowar stems are cut and converted into thin portions.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details



Thin portions of jowar stems.



The cut jowar stems are arranged on a wooden tool.



This tool helps to cut the strips into equal length.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and
Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details



Cotton thread is coiled on to a stick.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details



Required amount of thread is coiled on the stick.



Strips of jowar are arranged between the bamboo sticks.



After each strip is inserted it is been locked by tying it with a cotton thread.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>



The first part of the reed is weaved with red color thread to acquire the required length.



For the next part the required length is measured.



The measurement is marked on the bamboo stick.



Marked place is tied with a cotton thread.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and
Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>



Further weaving of reed is initiated.



A green color strip is inserted to divide the bits.



Finished reed is removed from the wooden frame and it is tied using cotton threads.



Knife is used to scrape out the rough edges and to make it even.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details



Reed is been rubbed by sand paper to smoothen the rough edges.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/products>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Contact Details

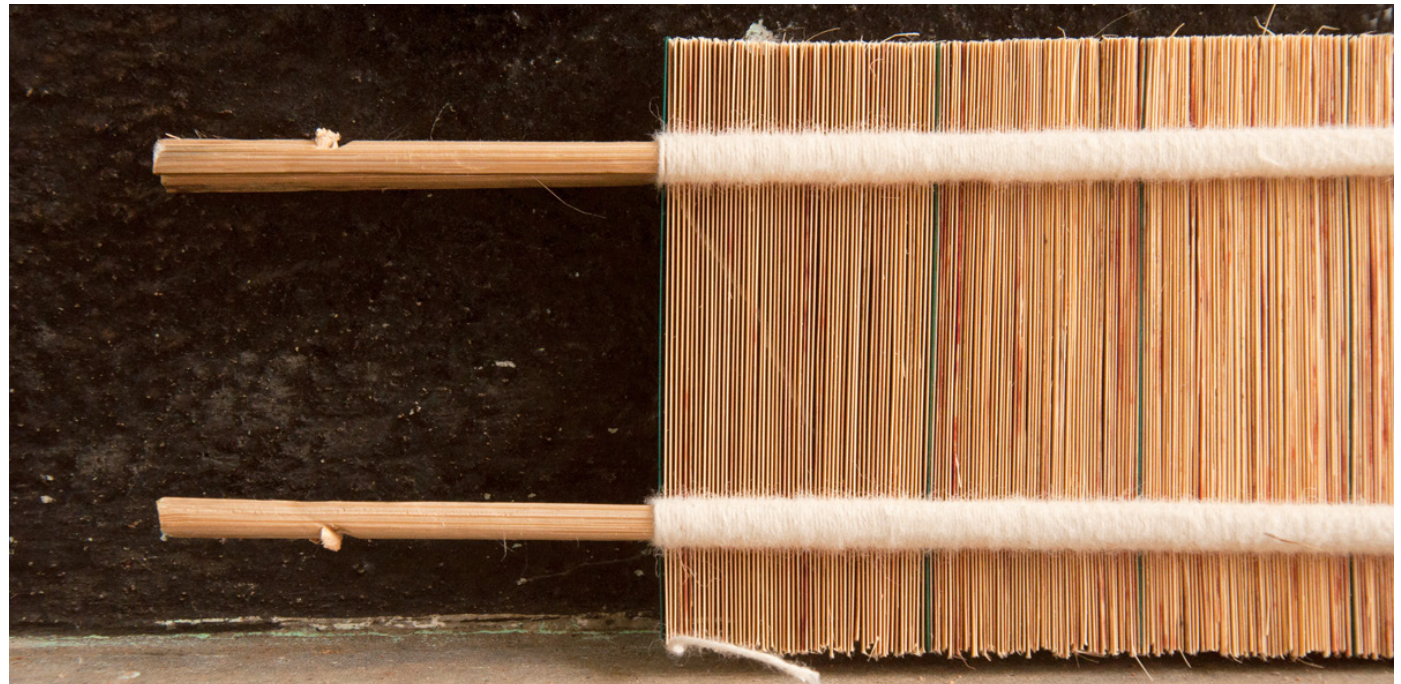
Products

The craftsmen who practice weaving reeds in Ramireddy Palem which has been passed on by generations and the younger generations are not interested in practicing this particular craft as it involves a lot of hard work and dedication to complete a particular reed. There are complications as a family has to invest a lot of money in raw materials prior to weaving. A single reed is sold for 700 rupees to 800 rupees approximately and the raw materials used in a reed come up to 300 rupees, so only 400 to 500 rupees will be labor for 3 people, 150 rupees for each only if the reed is completed in a day. Most of the looms are now equipped with iron or stainless steel because they are long-lasting and reliable whereas bamboo reeds while weaving are vulnerable to opening up at two edges of the reed. A single reed consists of 40 bits and on orders 45 bits can be added. Silk saree reeds are a little different with the first and the last bit containing 30 sticks instead of 60 for borders.

1 reed = 40 Bits

On orders 45 bits can be added

1 bit, which is 1.25 inch, consists of 60 sticks.



Wooden reeds are traditional and important part of a weaving loom.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/products>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Contact Details



Very few weaving industries still continue to use wooden reed to weave the sarees.

Design Resource

Wooden Reeds - Rami Reddy Palem

Part of Loom

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Tejesh J.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-reeds-rami-reddy-palem/contact-details>

Contact Details

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

You can get in touch with

- Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

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

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator

Project e-kalpa

R & D Campus

National Institute of Design

#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road

Bengaluru 560 022

India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054

Fax: +91 80 23373086

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. **Contact Details**