

Design Resource

Bamboo Basketry - Bengaluru

Making of Bamboo Baskets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Antony William, Srikanth
and Raghavendra
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/bamboo-basketry-bengaluru>



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

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Introduction

Bamboo crafts are widely used in India for several purposes in daily life. The natural eco-friendly bamboo is abundantly grown in many parts of India. The strong and durable bamboo products are very popular and bamboo crafts are practiced by many families all over India. Similarly, “Bamboo Bazaar” which is located near Shivaji Nagar and also in K. R. Market in Bangalore is well noted for bamboo works.

People and Place:

Many families are engaged in practicing bamboo craft. These families have migrated from Nanjangud in Mysore District of Karnataka State and settled in Bangalore from past 45 years. The artisans procure raw material from Belgaum in Karnataka to produce many kinds of bamboo products.

The procured bamboo is first cleaned and its outer layer is removed. Then splits of bamboo are used to make different types of products like furniture, mats and containers. The artisan makes attractive baskets by combining colorful bamboo strips during the weaving process.



Bamboos are brought and stored in the warehouse.

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Colorful window screens made of bamboo strips.



Artisan making tiny bamboo baskets.

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Bamboo mat made of bamboo splits.



Women engaged in making colorful bamboo baskets.



Artisans with their finished products.



An old artisan engaged in basket weaving.

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Colored bamboo strips are used to decorate bamboo baskets.



Artisan splitting the bamboo.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and raw materials that are used for making bamboo basketry are:

- **Big Knives:** It is used to peel the skin before immersing the bamboo in water.
- **Small Knife:** It is used to cut extra bamboo sticks during making process.
- **Measurement Tape:** It is used to measure the length of the bamboo while cutting it to desired pieces.
- **Hacksaw Blade:** It is used to cut the bamboo into pieces according to required size.
- **Chisel:** It is used to peel the skin of the bamboo to make the outer surface smooth.
- **Thread:** It is used to tie the bamboo during mat weaving.
- **Hammer:** It is used to hammer the nails into furniture.
- **Nails:** It is used especially in furniture making.
- **Bamboo:** The raw materials are brought from Belgaum district in Karnataka. They are measured in 'Gala' (1 bundle), each Gala consists of 10 bamboos.
- **Water:** Bamboos are immersed in water which helps the bamboo to become soft and flexible to bend.
- **Commercial pigments/paints and local color powders:** It is used for coloring bamboo craft.
- **Thin metal wire/strip:** It is used to give support to the base of the product and also to keep it stiff. Once the product is halfway complete the metal strips are removed slowly from the basket.

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Bamboo- the main raw material used in basket weaving.



Hacksaw blade and different types of knives are used in making process.



Suspended stone weights are used mat weaving process.

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Making Process

Making process starts by splitting lengthy bamboo into small thin pieces. In case of basket weaving, the artisan cuts 32 splits from single bamboo. The outer skin of bamboo is peeled and soaked in water for few minutes as it is easy to weave the baskets with soaked bamboo. Initially the base part is made with splits of 1-inch width bamboo. Small splits of bamboo are used to weave the walls of basket. The weaving patterns of base may differ from product to product like carrying baskets, shopping baskets, containers, storage baskets and fruit baskets.

Bamboo basket consists of three parts:

- Base part
- Walls and
- Rim

Initially, the base part is made with thick 1-inch bamboo strips. A thin strip of one inch metal sheet is inserted to the base along with bamboo to give more strength to the bamboo basket. Once base weaving is completed, the side walls are weaved with small round shaped bamboo strips. Weaving is done by arranging the bamboo strips in criss-cross manner. During the side wall weaving of a basket, the colored bamboo strips are inserted to enhance the outer look.

Bamboo strips are dyed by immersing the bamboo strips in a color solution made by mixing color powder and water. Once the side walls are weaved, the rim of bamboo basket is made by fixing broad and thick strip of bamboo to the formed basket. The rim helps for better grip. A handle made of bamboo strips is added to the few products like fruit and flower baskets.



Cutting lengthy bamboo into small thin pieces.



Bamboo is split into small strips and soaked in water.

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The strips are arranged to make base of the basket.



Small thin strip of bamboo is inserted to base to begin weaving.



Aligning and tightening the base after every round of weave.



Base part of the basket is weaved and kept to dry.

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Thin metal strips are inserted into the base to keep the base stiff.



Water is sprinkled on the bamboo base to make bamboo soft.



The artisan weaving basket in criss cross pattern.



The inserted splits of bamboo are tightened by pulling.

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Colored strips of bamboo are used to decorate the basket.



Colored strip is being inserted into the basket while weaving.



The extra strips are removed after weaving.



The basket is weaved and kept ready for sale.

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Products

The range of most useful products varies from place to place. The bamboo artisans of Bangalore mainly concentrate on home based and business based products. Fruit baskets, small containers, sieves of different sizes and shapes all come under house hold products. Huge and wide containers are made mainly for flower and vegetable vendors. Ladders, bamboo furniture, bamboo mats and window screens are also made.



Small screen made of bamboo.



Ladders made of bamboo poles are kept for sale.



Range of bamboo baskets and house hold products.

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Another type of container used for storage purpose.



Bamboo rice winnows are first weaved and colored.

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Circular shaped wide containers.

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You can get in touch with him at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

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