

Design Resource

Bracelet Making - Goa

Arm Ornament

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/bracelet-making-goa>



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<https://dsource.in/resource/bracelet-making-goa/introduction>

Introduction

A cylindrical-shaped ornament that is worn on the wrist is known as a bracelet. A universal form of jewellery is worn by both genders, and they seem more typically associated with women. It is a very much popular ornament used to embellish the upper arm since prehistoric times. It has been used for various purposes like decorative, protective, and in rituals. When worn, it functions as a supportive article for a wristwatch or any religious charms. It is also worn in different places like when it is worn around the ankle it is called an anklet or ankle bracelet. There are various types of bracelets. Charm bracelets are best known for that. These bracelets carry the personal decorative charms (pendants) that denote the core possessions in the wearer's life. They are recorded in history in almost every civilization. Bracelets have served as the great religious importance that was worn to express the wealth and power. It indicates one's social status. They were given as gifts between families and friends. The word "bracelet" dates back to the ancient Greek word 'brachille' which means "of the arm". However, the bracelet's exact history is unknown as their roots trace back before the written texts. In fact, it is considered that early humans used animal hides and wrapped them around their wrists.

The oldest bracelet that is recorded as per the archeological evidence is the ancient Egyptians, Sumerians in Southern Mesopotamia, and civilizations of ancient China wore bracelets during 5,000BC. Later in 1995, scientists discovered that a bracelet that dates back to 7,500BC was found in Turkey. These crafted bracelets during this era were stones, shells, wood, bronze, and copper. After the bronze era, the bracelets made of silver and gold came into existence as the symbol of status. Going back to 2000BC, Chinese carved cuffs and bangles from jade. Bracelets of gold were made with intricate designs on them, having the elaborate patterns of animals and mythical creatures were etched. These gold bracelets were also common in India, but bracelets of beads and colourful metals have got great demand in recent times. The ancient Greeks wore these cuffs both on their upper and lower arms as decorations. The soldiers used metal bracelets as part of the armor during the time of battle as protection. In later days Romans army adopted this practice, and even Romans used golden bracelets as their jewelry. The bracelets' uniqueness was that the bracelets were of a coiled design that resembled snakes, but this particular jewelry lost favor among men.

During the 17th century, women wore bracelets that set the considerable revival. They often wore bracelets made of ribbon. By 19th-century chains, bracelets set the trend that was decorated in ivory and coral. Later in the Victorian era, charm bracelets came into existence. By the 20th century, bracelets were produced in mass and were accessible in almost all designs. Plastic bracelets became common among teenage girls; charming bracelets with gold or sterling silver plated were included in fashion accessories. It is this time men's bracelets came back to fashion and also link chain bracelets for men added to the trend. Thus the trend of wearing bracelets among men and women is as strong as ever. These bracelets have a profound impact on modern jewelry, which is not going away any time soon. Mrs. Violanta D'souza, an artist from Arpora village, Bardez taluk of North Goa, is well versed in making bracelets. She is a homemaker, and during her free time, she engages herself in making this beautiful

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art of bracelet making. She is a self-taught artisan and got inspired by seeing it somewhere; hence she started this art and enjoyed making these beaded bracelets.



Mrs. Violanta D'souza and her friends are involved in making handicrafts.

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Artisans are showcasing their handcraft products.



Beautifully hand-made bracelet with attractive gems in-between.



Mrs. D'souza engaging her free time.



Attractive bangle made with pearls placed on it.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and raw materials that are used for making bracelet are as follows:

- **Seed Beads:** These are the basic materials used for making the bracelet.
- **Diamond:** It is used for decorative purposes in the bracelet.
- **Thread:** It is the key element used for making the bracelet which is the main support.
- **Needle:** It is used for inserting beads into the thread while making the bracelet.
- **Scissor:** It is used for cutting off the excess thread.
- **Hook:** The metal hook is inserted at the end of the bracelet.



Pearls are the primary raw material for bracelet making.

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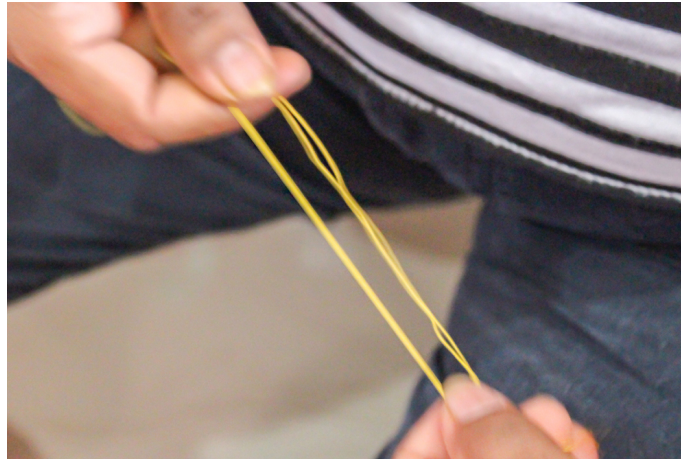
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Nylon threads are used to make the bracelet.



A scissor is used to cut the thread to the required size.



Gems are used to decorate, and hooks are used to attach the bracelet.

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Making Process

Artisan Mrs. Violanta D'souza from Goa makes the two-strand bracelet using crisscrosses. Initially, seed beads are bought. The required length of thread for the bracelet is taken. Thread is inserted in the needle, and double strands of thread are taken for each side using a different needle. On one end of the bracelet, both side strands are tied together to the clasp. Later one by one, approximately ten beads are inserted through the needle on the left side of the bracelet (thread). Likewise, the other (right) side of the bracelet (thread) also follows the same pattern. When the strand set is ready, these strands are got together, and the beads are inserted in a crisscrossing manner. Thus, forming a pattern of a small circle. Further, the same pattern is carried throughout repeatedly. At the end of the bracelet is the hook tied. And in every small circular pattern that is formed in the bracelet is decorated with the artificial diamond by sticking them in-between the two strands of the bracelet or sometimes even they (diamonds) are tied to both the strands together. Thus, the bracelet making process gets completed, and the beaded bracelet is kept ready for sale.



Pearls are inserted into the nylon thread.

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The pearls are inserted in the required quantity according to the design.

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Gems are inserted in-between to make it attractive.



Few more pearls are inserted.

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The pearls are arranged according to the design.



A small piece is placed at the end of the design.



The threads are tied together to keep the pearls in place.



A hook is tied at the end of the bracelet.

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The excess thread is trimmed.



A ring is placed at the other end to lock the bracelet.



Beautifully made bracelet.

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Products

Bracelets are the cylindrical-shaped ornaments that are worn encircling the wrist that is the most popular form of a jewel. Culturally and historically, the bracelet is worn alone and sometimes in multiples by both women and men. They are worn for decorative purposes, and they also indicate one's social status. Materials used for bracelets are innumerable. There are various types of bracelets that suit different occasions. These are worn by the people of all cultures across the globe. The cost of the bracelets made by the artist Mrs. Violanta D'souza ranges from INR.150.



Beautifully made bangles with golden colour pearls.



Beautifully made pearl bracelet.

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Video



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This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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

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

Key Contacts:

Ms. Violanta D'souza

H. No 262 Ghorbath Waddo,

Arpora Bardez - Goa

Maharashtra, India

Mobile: 09822381227

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)

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