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Cane Furniture - Bangalore Craft of Making Cane Products

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Antony William, Srikanth and Raghavendra

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

https://dsource.in/resource/cane-furniturebangalore

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



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Introduction

Karnataka has very good resources of cane due to its good climatic conditions. Cane is richly cultivated in Karwar, Sirisi, Aagumbe, Onkad and Honnavara areas in north Karnataka. Bangalore being a major city has become the hub of cane products.

People and Place:

Cane artisans of Bangalore import cane from north Karnataka through SSI (Small Scale Indusry) scheme. Nearly five to seven families are scattered in different areas of Bangalore and engaged in production of cane products. Cane is most commonly used material to make furniture and house hold items which are essential for daily life. Cane artisans of Bangalore deliver high quality of design/motif work in their cane products. The products are well known for rich weaving and unique patterns and forms. The tradition of cane work started nearly 30 years back and carried from older generations to present generation.

Malleswaram, Shivaji Nagar, K. R. Market and Jeevan-bheema Nagar in Bangalore are the well noted areas with availability of cane furniture and other cane products. Bangalore being a modern market, cane artisans regularly improve their creative skills to produce new range of cane products in unique patterns to meet the latest trend.



Different types of baskets and trays made of cane.

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Cane furniture displayed for sale.



Chair made of thick cane.

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Artisan involved in removing the outer surface (skin) of Soft thin cane is flexible for weaving and creating patcane after heating it.



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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and raw materials that are used for making cane furniture are:

- Hammer: It is used during cane furniture making.
- Cutter: It is to cut the thin cane.
- Wooden Tool: A wooden tool is used to bend and shape the thick cane.
- Knife: It is used to peel the outer skin of cane after burning it. Another type of knife used to smoothen and beautify the cane texture.
- Kerosene Lamp: It is used to heat the cane.
- Brushes: Different types of brushes used white painting the furniture.
- Rosewood: It's a color polish used to coat the furniture.
- Iron Nails: It is used to pin the ends of thin cane after weaving.
- Resin: Natural polish used to coat over weaved cane.
- Cane: Natural thick cane is brought to Bangalore from different parts of Karnataka. Karwad, Sirisi, Aagumbe, Onkad and Honavara areas of north Karnataka are the major places of cane production.
- Processed thin cane: Cane which is used for binding around cane furniture frame is imported from Malaysia.
- Varnish: After completion of framing work and cane binding, the cane furniture is polished with natural varnish to obtain glossy finish.
- **Colors:** The finished products are painted with off white, black and brown colors/ paints to give classy look to the furniture.

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Thin processed cane.



Kerosene lamp used for heating the thicker cane.



Wooden tool used to bend the thicker cane.

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Strips of leather are cut and tied to the legs of the furniture to strengthen the structure and enhance the outer look.



Thin flattened cane used for binding proposes.



Types of tools used in furniture making.

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Making Process

Making of cane furniture is achieved through several steps:

- Frame making with cane poles
- Polishing and
- Rounding with thin processed cane.

In Bangalore, cane furniture is made by various groups of artisans/ crafts people. Cane poles and thin processed cane which is imported from Malaysia are used in production process.

Initially, lengthy cane poles are cut as per required size. The cane pole is then heated using kerosene lamp and it is bent according to the desired/required shape with the help of shaping tool which is made of wood. Different parts of furniture are bent separately and joined together with readymade flat cane. The cane frame is sent for binding process.

Cane is first soaked in water until it attains moisture and it is weaved around the frame with thin processed cane. Different motif patterns are created while weaving. After completion of weaving, the end parts are joined with nails. Finally, the furniture is polished using natural polish. Three coats of polish are given to attain fine glossy look of cane furniture.



Artisan smoothening the outer surface of cane-peeling off the outer skin.

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Cane is being bent by heating it with the help of kerosene lamp.



A wooden shaping tool used to bend and shape the heated cane.



Water is frequently sprinkled to retain the moisture.

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Thin processed cane is soaked in water to start weaving Three-ply cane is being inserted in criss cross manner. process.



The edge part of thin cane is being sharpened slightly.



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Cane is weaved around furniture frame.



Artisan creating a unique pattern by adding three strands of cane together.



A closer view of weaving and created pattern.



After weaving, the edges/ ends are joined by nailing.

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Thin flattened cane is used to bind the cane furniture frame.



Rubber strips are tightly tied to enhance the outer look Adding flattened cane to furniture gives better supand also to strengthen the lower/ base structure



port/ strength to the entire structure.

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Surface of cane furniture is being smoothened before polishing.



Natural polish is applied for glossy look.

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Products

The furniture made of cane is rich in quality and design. Purely handmade furniture is more durable and affordable than the other wooden furniture. The trendy light weight furniture is flexible and looks elegant and the cane furniture are available for various kinds of functional needs.

The ranges of cane products include sofas, chairs, vegetable and fruit containers of different shapes and sizes. Cane containers are available in circular, oval and swan shapes. Roti containers, stools and other creative and trendy products are also available. All these containers are weaved with cane and colored with rose wood (color polish) for good outer look and classy appeal.







Stool made of cane.

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Sofa made of cane with a style of Jaali motif.



Cane baskets and fruit containers of different shapes.



Huge fruit basket with handle in unique style.



Sofa with different internal weaving pattern.

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This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Antony William, Srikanth and Raghavendra at NID, Bengaluru.

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