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### Design Resource

## Embroidered Hanky - Goa

Decorative Fabric

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.

NID, Bengaluru

#### Source:

https://dsource.in/resource/embroidered-hanky-goa

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Tools and Raw Materials
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### Introduction

A hemmed square of a thin cloth is known as a hankie, also called a handkerchief. Usually, it is carried in a pocket or purse, which is used for personal hygiene purposes such as wiping one's hands or face or blowing one's nose. It is a form of kerchief basically made of thin fabric. Sometimes it is also used as a decorative accessory in a suit pocket, known as Pocket Square. Handkerchiefs are made from different types of materials such as cotton, silk, linen, and synthetic fabric. The term handkerchief is derived from two French words, couvrir, which means "to cover," and chef, which means "head." The English renamed it a handkerchief, as in "hand-cover-chief."

Its origin can be traced back to 2000BCE. Wealthy Egyptians firstly used a bleached white linen handkerchief. China also used it around 1000 BCE to protect the head from the sun, as evidenced in some of the statues discovered from this period. By the 14th or 15th centuries, the handkerchief became famous throughout Europe, with the wealthy classes as an accessory. They were made using exotic materials such as silk and were embroidered to create beautiful patterns. French nobles were scented their handkerchiefs for a pleasant smell nearby. Queen Elizabeth was a fan of luxurious handkerchiefs embodied with gold and silver threads and received many gifted ones. During the 16th century, it was introduced as a fashion accessory. Earlier handkerchiefs were kept in pants pockets but gradually moved to the breast pockets of men's suits and sport coats. When two-piece suits came into fashion during the 19th century, it turned into the more popular pocket square. By the 20th century, it became a fashion statement for both men and women.

A plain piece of cotton turned into a stylish, decorative accessory. The handkerchiefs are embellished with silk laces and embroideries. The art of decorating fabric or other materials with needles and thread or yarn is known as embroidery. It may also incorporate different materials such as pearls, beads, quills, and sequins. The origin of embroidery can be dated approximately 30,000 BC. It has been practiced for many years. Some of the earliest embroidery's basic stitches are running stitch, satin stitch, chain stitch, cross-stitch, and buttonhole stitch. These are the important techniques of hand embroidery. The primary stitching tool in embroidery is the needle, which is available in various sizes and types. The base material of the fabric is varying from place to place. Silk, wool, and linen have been in use for many years for both fabric and yarn. Though machine embroidery is also available yet, traditional hand embroidery is much more popular. Traditional folk techniques were passed from generation to generation. Intricately embroidered objects such as religious substances, clothing, and household items have been a mark of wealth and status in many cultures, including India, ancient Persia, Japan, Medieval and Baroque Europe.

Along with other objects, handkerchiefs are also decorated with bright-coloured yarns. These are used to match the sari or dresses worn by women. Ms. Sunanda is an artist who is an expert in handkerchief embroidery. She is from Goa, a state in India.

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Ms. Sunanda, an embroidery artisan.

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### **Tools and Raw Materials**

The tools and raw materials that are used for Embroidered Hanky are as follows:

- Hankie: The key piece of cloth on which the embroidery is being made.
- Scissors: It is used to cut the cloth and thread.
- Colored Threads: Threads are used for making patterns in embroidery.
- Needle: It is used to pass the thread through the cloth in order to let the embroidery unfold.



Yarn thread is used for embroidering hanky.

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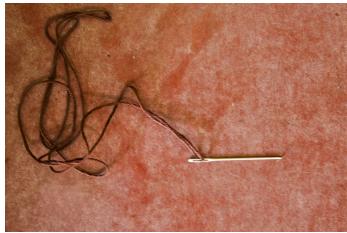
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A threaded needle is used in hand stitching.



The bundle of woolen threads.



The cloth is the base on which embroidery is done.



The Scissor is used in cutting the cloth and threads.

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## **Making Process**

For making an embroidered handkerchief, a finely woven piece of rectangular hankie is taken. The hankie edges are folded on all four sides and stitched using a colored thread in a cross-stitch style. Cross-stitch is a form of sewing and a popular form of counted thread embroidery in which X-shaped stitches in a tiled, raster-like pattern are used to form a picture. Cross-stitch is the oldest form of embroidery and can be found all over the world. There are various kinds of stitching used in embroidery like Running stitch, Cross stitch, Split stitch, Stem stitch, Satin stitch, Chain stitch, etc.

Bright colored cotton threads, in contrast to the hankie color, are chosen. The artisan inserts the thread into the needle. The artisan starts to embroider from one corner of the handkerchief. Using satin stitch, the artisan makes a small rectangle. Leaving a small gap, measuring the size equal to the rectangle made earlier, the artisan makes another rectangle in the opposite direction using the same color. In a similar fashion, two more rectangles perpendicular to the earlier ones are made using the same color thread. Now one can see a plus sign with a square gap in the middle. The gap mentioned above is filled with different color threads using a satin stitch. A satin stitch, also known as a damask stitch, is a series of flat stitches used to cover a section of the background fabric completely. Satin stitch is frequently made with embroidery thread, which has less twist than standard stitching thread. This gives a more uniform effect, with the individual threads' filaments merging. In a similar fashion, along the entire length of the hankie, embroidery is ended. The hankie with beautiful embroidery is being done.

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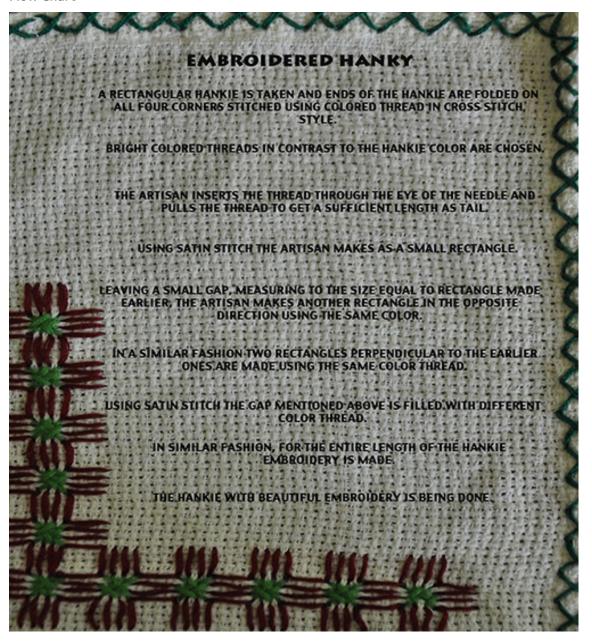
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Flow Chart



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The artisan cuts the cloth for making the embroidered hanky.



A thread is inserted into the needle.







The artisan starts the hand sewing.

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Artisan uses pink and green color woolen threads for making the design.



The geometrical pattern is stitched on the border.



The edges of the cloth are folded for stitching purposes. The artisan used the zigzag pattern of sewing on a



handkerchief border.

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The threads are knotted at the end.



A scissor is used to cut extra threads.



A bordered hanky.

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### **Products**

Very bright colored threads are used for handmade embroidery. The Price of the hankie ranges between INR 10 to INR 50. The size of the hanky is approximately 6-inch x 8-inch.



Red and green threads are used for designing a hanky.



Baby pink colour threads are used to make a design on the hanky.

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'L' shape floral design stitched on a hanky.



Geometrical flower design embroidered on the hanky.



Personalized name embroidered on the hanky.

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### Video



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### **Contact Details**

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.. at NID, Bengaluru.

You can get in touch with him at bibhudutta[at]nid.edu

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

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