

Design Resource

Lac Bangles - Kalagrama, Karnataka

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav

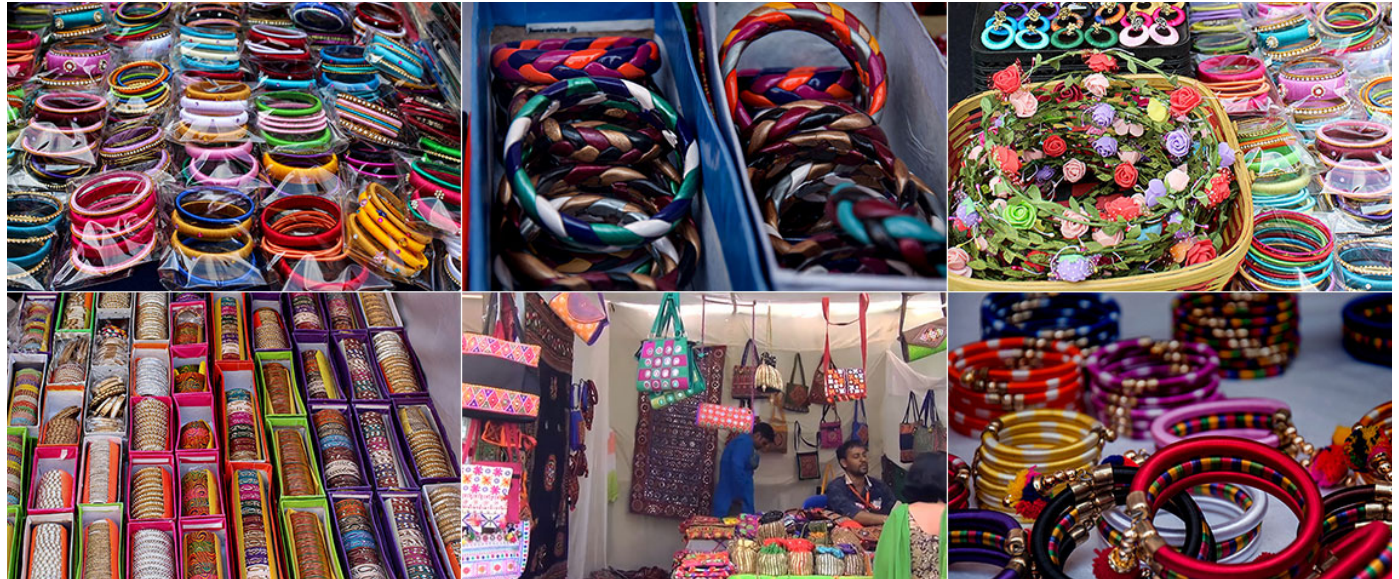
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D.

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/lac-bangles-kalagrama-karnataka>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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Kalagrama

Kalagrama, Kala means art, and Grama, means village, i.e., Artist's village. A place where artisans perform their skills. It is one of the art lovers' hubs and an attractive tourist center of Bangalore. The project of constructing a place called Kalagrama was conceived in 2001 when S M Krishna was the chief minister—tracing the blankets of a rich architectural heritage spread over sixteen centuries in Karnataka, in India unveiling them in a modern context for the Artist's Village. A lot of activities took place at Kalagrama throughout the year. The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was one of them. The event was an immense success on all four days for every art enthusiast of all ages who were a part of the event. It was a natural ambience for artists and art lovers to gather together and be a part of a glorious event.

A four-day Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was organised by the Ministry of Culture, in association with the Department of Kannada and Culture, Government of Karnataka. The event was held at Kalagrama, Bengaluru. The Mahotsav was a fusion of crafts and folk-art forms and dance performances by over 600 tribal and folk artists from across the country. It was held from 5th March to 8th March 2017, having a various assortment of events.

The stage displayed the diversity of India and its culture with a large number of performers. Bestowed by various states in India, the dances had abundant genres like Kud dance, Sirmouri Naati, Punjabi, Haryanvi, Rathwa Adivasi Nrithya, Tarpa tribal dance, Teratal dance, Samai-Dekhani, Bahurupia, Tejaji, Aney-na dance, Bihu dance, warrior dance, Lai Haraoba dance, Jhinjhiya dance, Karma dance, Ghoomer/Panihari dance, Thadiya choufla, Karagam and Kavadi, Oppana/Thirvathara Kali, Lambadi, Pooja Kunitha, Goor Madiya, Koraku Nritya, Dappu Nritya, Dangir Gaja, Sambalpuri, Natwa, Raibansi, Qawwali, Bharatanatyam, Carnatic Vocal and Kathak. The stage came alive with these breathtaking performances.

India is known for its ethnicity. As far as art and culture are concerned, India features amongst the culturally rich countries in the world. Highly skilled artisans increased the fame of Indian handicrafts around the globe. Many rural people still earn their livelihood from their creative pieces of art. Innumerable artisans displayed their art and handicrafts in Kalagrama during Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav for the visitors. Mr. Islam Ahmed is a renowned Lac bangle artist from Jaipur. He showcased his bangle-making skills at Kalagrama.

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Entrance gate of Kalagrama, Bengaluru.



Blankets and cushion stall.



Woollen crochet stall.



Handmade bags, purses, and potalis are displayed at the stall.

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Mr. Islam Ahmed from Jaipur is a master craftsman, and he is the seventh generation of his family in making lac bangles.



Raibansi folk dance from West Bengal.



Classical music performance from Tamil Nadu.



Kathak dance performers from Jaipur.

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Teratali dance from Rajasthan.



Thiruvathirakali performance from Kerala.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and Raw Materials used for lac bangles making are as follows:

- **Lac:** It is a natural material procured from the forest and then goes through several steps of refinement to be finally used in making the products.
- **Coal Burner:** This is used for heating and melting of the lac.
- **Flat Wooden Tool (Hatta):** It helps to roll out the warm lac in equal thickness.
- **Round Wooden Rod:** This is used for sizing the bangles.
- **Tweezers:** It is used to pick the metal bangle while heating and picking the stones to embellish on the lac.
- **Colourful Lac Sticks:** These are used for making colourful bangles.



Lacquer sticks are the primary source to make a lac bangle.

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A coal burner is used to heat the lac to make it flexible for shaping.



The metal sheet piece is used to cut the edges of lac sticks.



The holder is used to hold the lac while heating using coal.



A metal bangle is used to fix inside the lac bangle to get a shape.

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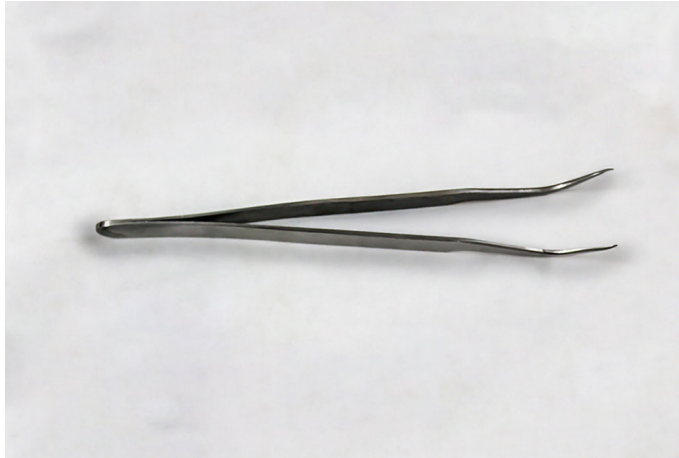
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The tweezers pick the aluminum bangle from the coal and place it on the lac bangle.



A piece of cloth is being used to support the heated lac bangle while mending.



A flat wooden tool is used to press the lac bangle after heating, and a wooden round beam is used to mend the

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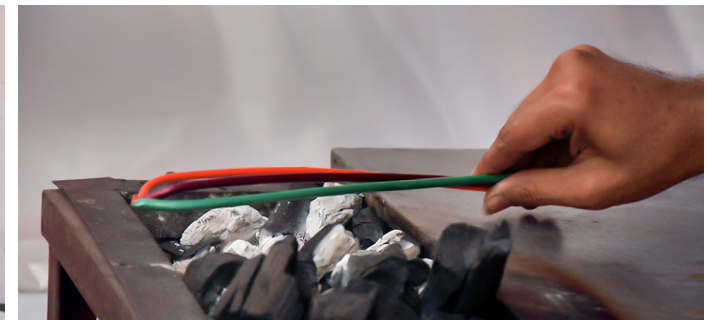
Making Process

Lac bangles are made by using colourful lac sticks. These lac sticks are made by melting lac shellacs in a vessel, and when it is in a semi-molten state colours are mixed with it. These colourful lac sticks help artisans in making bangles in less time. A coal burner is used to make the lac stick soft. When the lac starts heating and softening, it is pressed against a metal plate (Silla) simultaneously in intervals with a flat wooden tool locally known as Hatta. After getting the required length, the craftsmen cut out the rolled-out lac with the metal sheet. Another colour lac stick is also rolled and cut with the same process. The two colourful coils are inserted through each other to make a design. The ends of both coils are heated, joined with each other, and is firmly pressed. The craftsman inserts the completed lac bangle into the round wooden rod to give it a proper size and shape. Preheated aluminum bangle is inserted into the lac bangle. A flat wooden tool is used to push the aluminum bangle inside the lac bangle. Once again, the round wooden rod is used to mend the bangle in a circular shape. Then the bangle is heated to hold the aluminum bangle tightly inside the lac bangle. The bangles are finished with embellishments with stones or beads, and a few are kept simple with vibrant colour combinations.

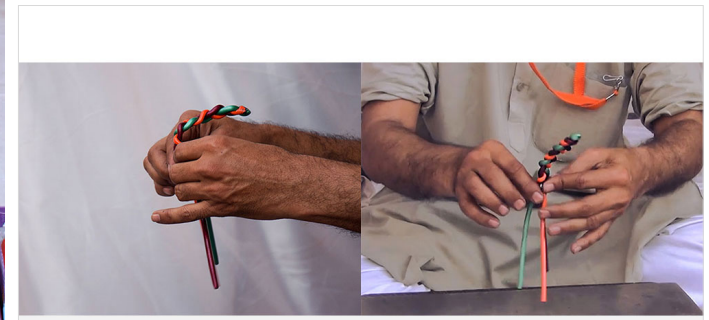
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Artisan is picking the best lacquer sticks to make the bangle.



The lac sticks are being heated to make it flexible.



Artisan is using three heated lac sticks for pleating.

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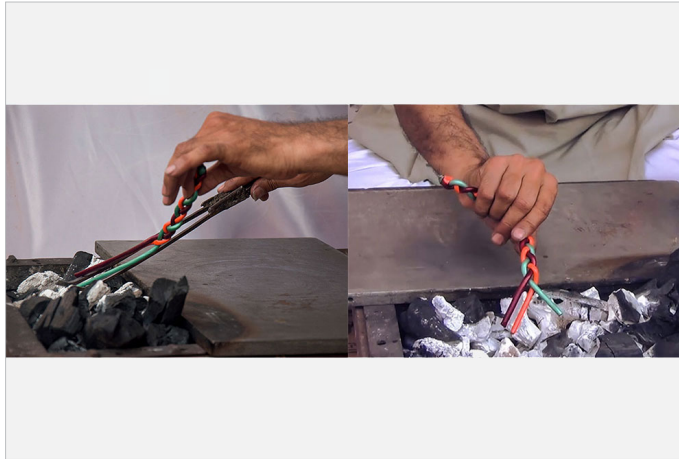
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Heating the bottom part of lac sticks to make it more flexible for pleating.



Artisan completed pleating the lac sticks.



With the help of a metal sheet piece, the artisan is trimming the corners of the pleated lac sticks.



By using a flat wooden tool, the artisan is flattening the pleated lac.

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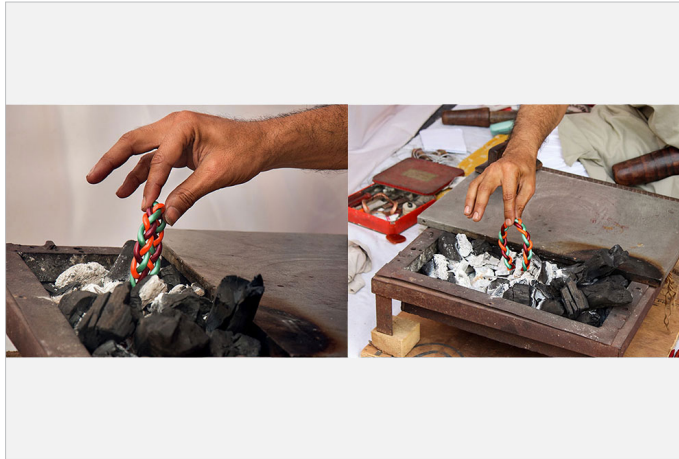
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The corners of the lac are being heated.



After heating the corners, the artisan joins both the end together.



Once it is joined, it gets the shape of a bangle; with the holder's help, the bangle will be heated again.



The artisan is shaping the lac bangle with his hands on the edges

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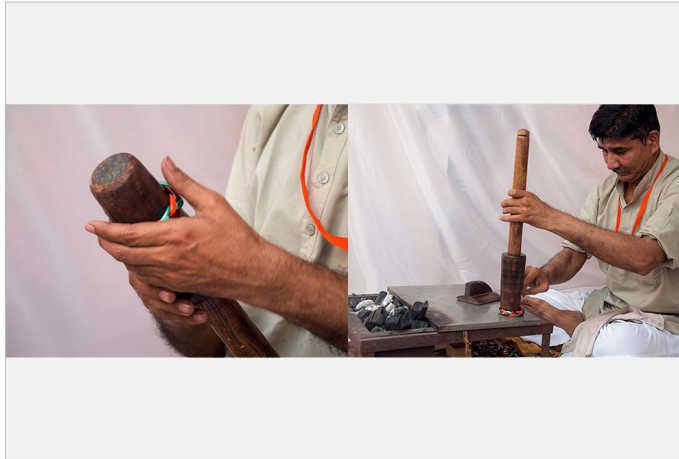
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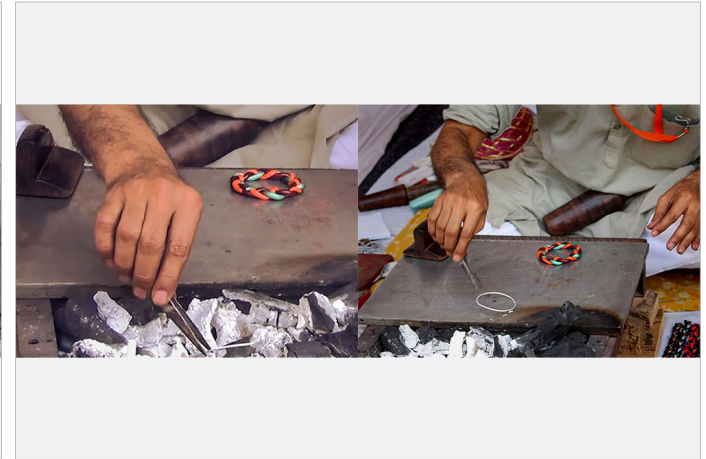
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A round wooden rod is used to mend the bangle in a circular shape.



An aluminum bangle is being taken out from the coal burner.



Artisan is placing heated aluminum bangle on the lac bangle.



Artisan is pressing the lac bangle with a flat wooden tool to push the aluminum bangle inside.

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After the lac bangle is pressed, the artisan uses a wooden round beam to mend the bangle in a circular shape.



It is being heated to hold the aluminum bangle tightly inside the lac bangle.



The artisan has picked out a piece of cloth to support the heated lac bangle.



Artisan is spinning the round wooden beam with a lac bangle on it with the support of the cloth piece to shape it.

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The output of the lacquer bangle looks aesthetic and glossy.

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Products

Handicraft stalls displayed in Kalagrama are Kani Pashmina woolen shawls, Kinnauri / Kullu shawls, Punjabi Tilla Jutti, Phulkari, Sandalwood work, Jackets and bags made out of leather, tie and dye fabrics, sea-shell products, books, bead-work items, Bharat embroidery work, pottery, dry flower handicraft, Banarasi sarees, Lac Bangles, Jaipuri blankets, Rajasthani bedsheets, bamboo craft, coconut shell craft, Dhari craft, Lampshade craft, Loha shilp, Block-print, wooden toys, Kohlapuri Chappal, stone and wood carving products of Odisha Raghurajpur, Patachitra craft, etc. Mr. Islam Ahmed from Rajasthan displayed vibrant lac bangles. His live stall attracted a large number of art lovers.



Mainly designed lac bangles from Jaipur' Rajasthan' are being arrayed.

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Multiple lacquer sticks are being pleated and made into colourful bangles.



Single lac stick turns to be a fancy bangle or bracelet.



Different gift products such as earrings, artificial flower crowns, bangles, etc., attract the buyer's attention.

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Different types of designer lacquer bangles are exhibited at a stall.

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