

Design Resource

Pillow Cover Embroidery - Panaji, Goa

Decorative Art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/pillow-cover-embroidery-panaji-go>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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Introduction

Goa is well known for its exotic beaches, heritage architecture, and places of worship. Goa is truly a traveller's delight. Situated in the western part of the country, it is the smallest state in India in terms of area and among the least populous. A place bounded by Maharashtra to its north, the Arabian Sea on the west, and Karnataka on the south and east. It covers a major part of the Konkan region of India. Goa, a multi-culture state has an en-number of handicrafts such as seashell crafts, bamboo crafts, wood carving, paper mache, artificial flowers, and embroidery, etc.

Embroidery has an important place in Goa. During the wedding, every bride brings her embroidery work which is then displayed to demonstrate her expertise in the craft. One can see embroidery has an essential place in every household of Goa which is passed from one generation to another. The origin of this art in India is immemorial but it came to Goa with the arrival of religious and ministers in the Fifteenth Century. The state government of Goa is also encouraging artisans to preserve their traditional handicrafts. They also organize workshops, training sessions for artisans. Ms. Saroja Satish Chari is one of the embroidery artisans from Panji, Goa. She has successfully completed a training program in hand and machine embroidery which is sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Also, she has successfully completed training in garment making. Currently, she has been doing embroidery work at her home during her leisure time. She does this art of embroidery as per the customer's demand.

The art of decorating fabric with needles and thread is called embroidery. It has been practiced for decades. Several kinds of threads are used on all varieties of fabrics for embroidery. A thread and needle are used to stitch scenes, pictures, decorative accents, or any other material on the fabric. The creativity of artisan depends on the stitches used. Each type of design has its own uniqueness. It can be used to decorate apparel of daily use, pillow covers, handkerchiefs, and many more. A widely practiced decorative art has infinite stitches. The most commonly applied art on the fabric is embroidery. This process is time-consuming and painstaking but produces amazing results. Embroidery is used to embellish clothes which are also considered as a symbol of wealth.

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Artisan Ms. Saroja Chari has engaged in pillow embroidery for the last 5 years.



Artisan is involved in pillow cover embroidery.



Artisan received an achievement award from the Ministry of Human Resource Development of India.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and raw materials that are used for Pillow Cover Embroidery are as follows:

- **Cloth:** Usually, cotton cloth is used for a pillow cover.
- **Needle:** The embroidery design is stitched with the help of a needle.
- **Thread:** Different colour threads are used.
- **Carbon Tracing Paper:** It is used to transfer traced patterns onto the fabric.
- **Colour Pencil:** It is used to draw the required design on the cloth.
- **Embroidery Hoop:** A clamping device used to hold the fabric for embroidery. It keeps the fabric stiff and easy to stitch.
- **Scissor:** It is used to cut unwanted threads.



Nylon and cotton threads are used for embroidery purposes.



A wooden embroidery hoop is used for holding the cloth stiffly.

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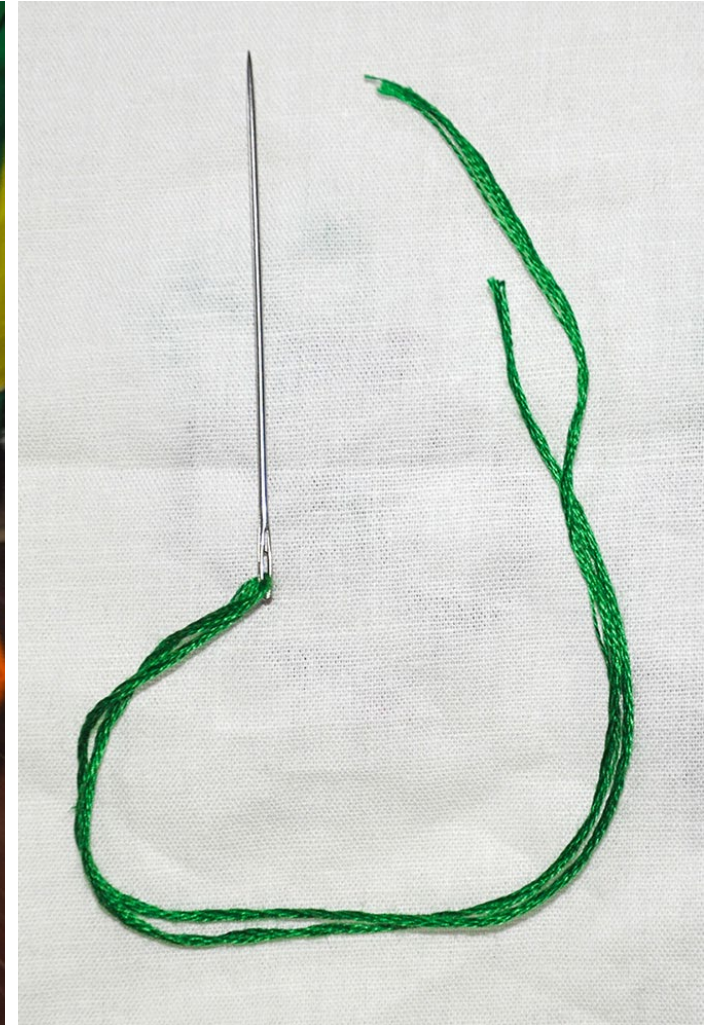
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A plain cotton pillow cover is used for embroidery work. The needle is used for hand sewing purposes.

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Making Process

The first process is to draw the required design on the paper. The drawn design is placed on the cloth and traced by using carbon tracing paper. Now the design is transferred on the cloth. Once the tracing is done, the cloth is carefully fixed to the wooden embroidery hoop. The needle is threaded and a knot is tied at the end of the thread. Then actual embroidery starts. The embroidery involves the different types of stitches. Here artisan uses the backstitch for outline and seed stitch to fill the design. Different colour threads are used to make embroidery art. Once the embroidery is done the extra threads are cut and the cloth is removed from the wooden hoop.

Here artist used two types of stitches, back stitch and seed stitch.

Back Stitch:

The backstitch creates a solid line and is good for outlining a design. It is a very strong stitch. Begin by pulling the needle and thread up through the fabric and do one stitch forward. From underneath, space the needle out the length of the desired stitch, Pull up through the fabric, and the needle and thread brought back down through the end of the previous stitch.

Seed Stitch:

The seed stitch is also considered a running stitch. It is also called a rice grain stitch. This is done by making a running stitch in one single direction until the whole design is filled. This stitch creates lots of small stitches like seeds on the material.

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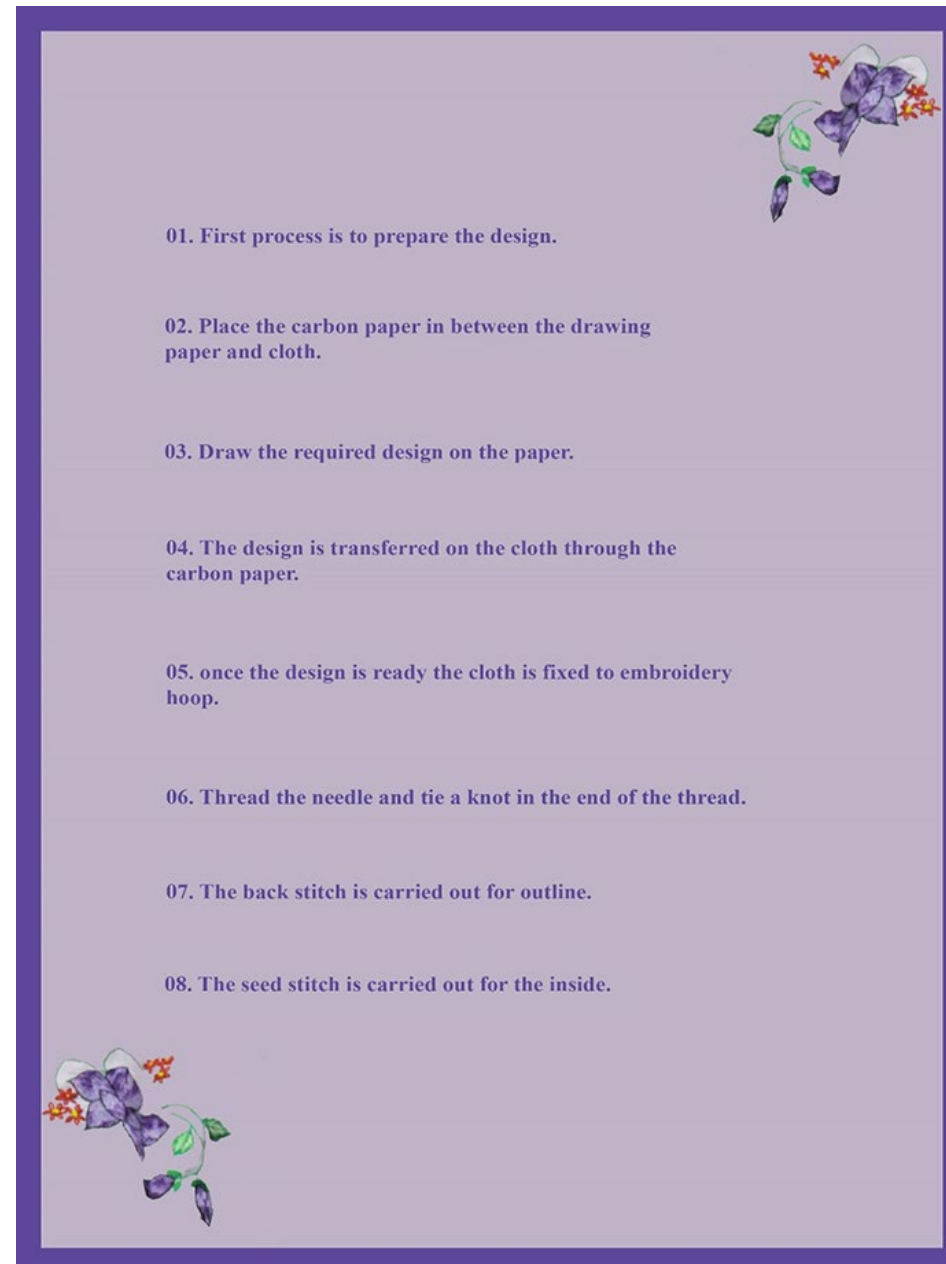
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Flowchart:



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Artisan tracing design on the cloth with the help of a design template.



The required design is highlighting on the cloth with a dark pencil.



Inserting the required colour thread into the needle hole.



The artisan started embroidery on the pillow cover.

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Fills the space with design by different patterns.



Artisan uses seed stitch type embroidery.



Tracing helps to define the design accurately.

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Stitching is done according to the design on the cloth.



Pulling up the needle to make a stitch.



Partially completed flower embroidery design.

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Products

Embroidery has been used to decorate clothing and household furnishings including table linens, tray cloths, and towels. Ms. Saroja makes a variety of embroidery items such as hankies, table clothes, children and ladies garments, pillow and cushion covers, and bedspreads, etc. The price range of the product depends on the embroidery work, workmanship, and materials used.



A pillow covers prettily embroidered with a floral design.

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Video



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

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