

Design Resource

Sanganer Block Printing

Jaipur, Rajasthan

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

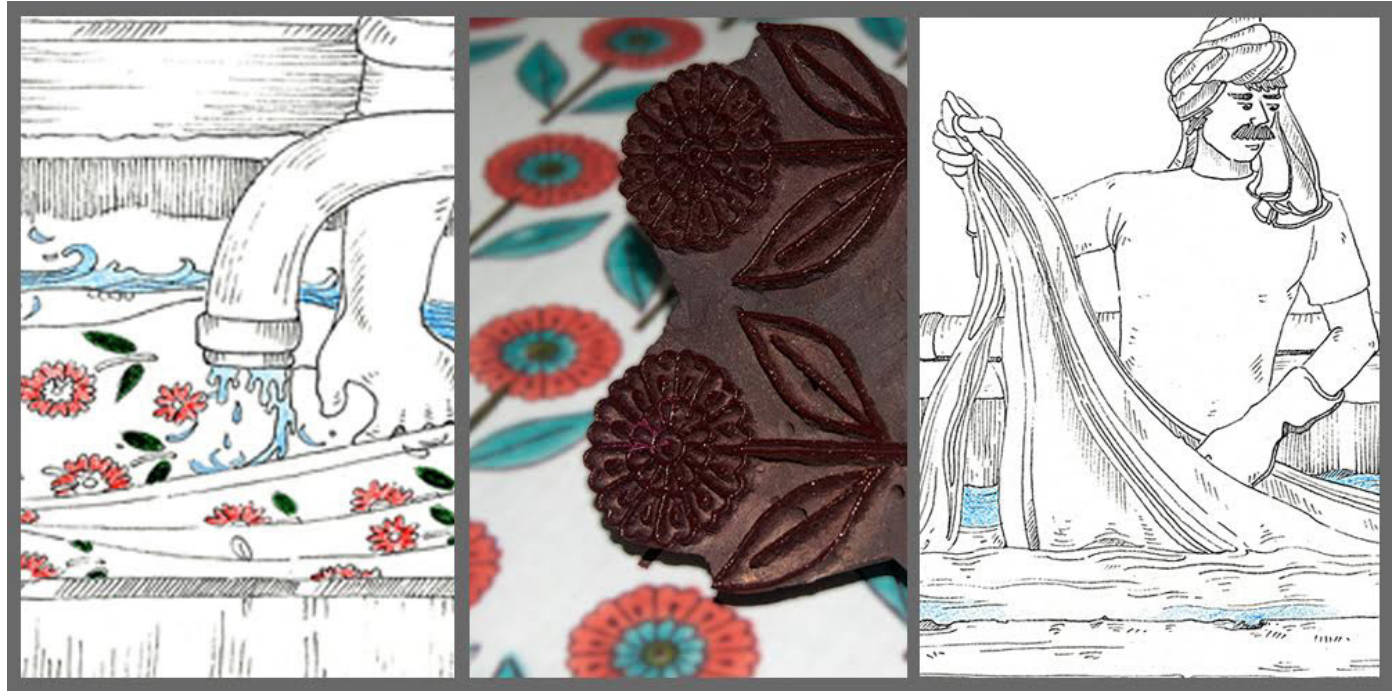
Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/sanganer-block-printing>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
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Introduction

Sanganer printed cloths are typically found with yellow, green and blue colour designs that are usually inspired by the nature and on the local bases. Mostly famous for the curves, delicacy and fineness with motifs generally characterized as flowers, fruits, animals and geometrical patterns.

Sanganer is a traditional textile village which is about 16 kms from the city of Jaipur that is specially known for the block print textiles and also for the handmade papers. Jaipur is the capital of the state of Rajasthan in India that are specially known for the hand block print textiles, Jain temples and the handmade paper industry. These prints are mostly known for the uniqueness that it has with its patterns in bright colours printed on the white backgrounds.

Rajasthan is itself a hub of crafts that holds most of the traditional crafts. Hand block printing is done in many places and each place contributes to the cultural, historical, geographical influences with the regional variations having typical styles of its own. It is also the river water of Saraswati that also supports to bring in the special quality and radiance to the distinctively printed fabric.

It is said that the Sanganer village is one of the major center that has more than 5000 block printers with very intricate block cutting and printing units. Highly known for the bright colours with delicate lines printed against the white backgrounds. It is said this craft prevailed since the olden days of 12th century and during the reign of Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh, patronage of the Jaipur royal family who mostly invited people from Gujarat and Andhra for developing new designs. Since Sanganer was the blessed and idle place with soft water, clay and also suitable for the sun bleaching of the fabrics. Chhipa community is more found engaged in this craft in Sanganer who is said to have the origin from the Northern and Western India from various times, also from Punjab or Sindh.

Each area contributes in a distinct way of printing on the fabrics with its own local aesthetics, distinctive design elements, patterns, colour schemes and style of doing the uniqueness in the craft. As the above aspects influences the craft it can be differentiated with its origin and region wise.

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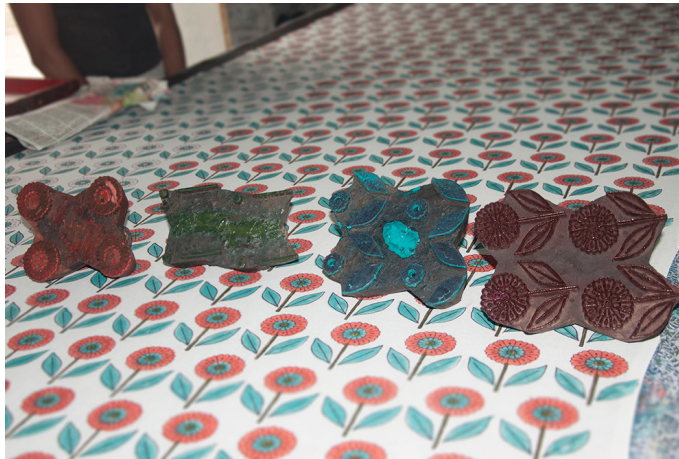
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Artisan carefully placing the wooden block to be printed onto cloth.



Set of four wooden blocks used in printing of single motif.



Two artisans working on a single piece of cloth, printing different colors of same motif.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials required for the making of Sanganer Block printing:

- **Pins:** It is used to tighten the cloth on the table.
- **Printing Table:** It is used for spreading cloth evenly for printing.
- **Wooden Blocks:** Different patterns are engraved on the wood surface for printing.
- **Wooden Tray with a Bamboo Lattice:** It is used for spreading the colours uniformly.
- **Chalk:** It is used to mark the points on the cloth surface for a smooth printing.
- **Scale:** It helps in identifying the areas to be printed.
- **Brushes:** It is used to clean the surface of the wooden blocks for better printing.
- **Tray Trolley:** It is used for easy working on the printing table.
- **Woolen Cloth:** It is used to be laid on the wooden tray.
- **Vegetable/ Natural Dyes:** These dyes are specially extracted from vegetables, fruits and nature.



Sap green color printing die for block printing.

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A wooden block, which is carved with the initial outline of the motif.



A wooden block of motif which gives leaf and a part of flower its color.



Block which gives color to stem, in the motif.



A final block of the motif, which gives flower its color.

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Stock of red colored printing die.



Turquoise colored printing die, being used in block printings.

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A roller pedestal which holds a tray filled with printing dye.

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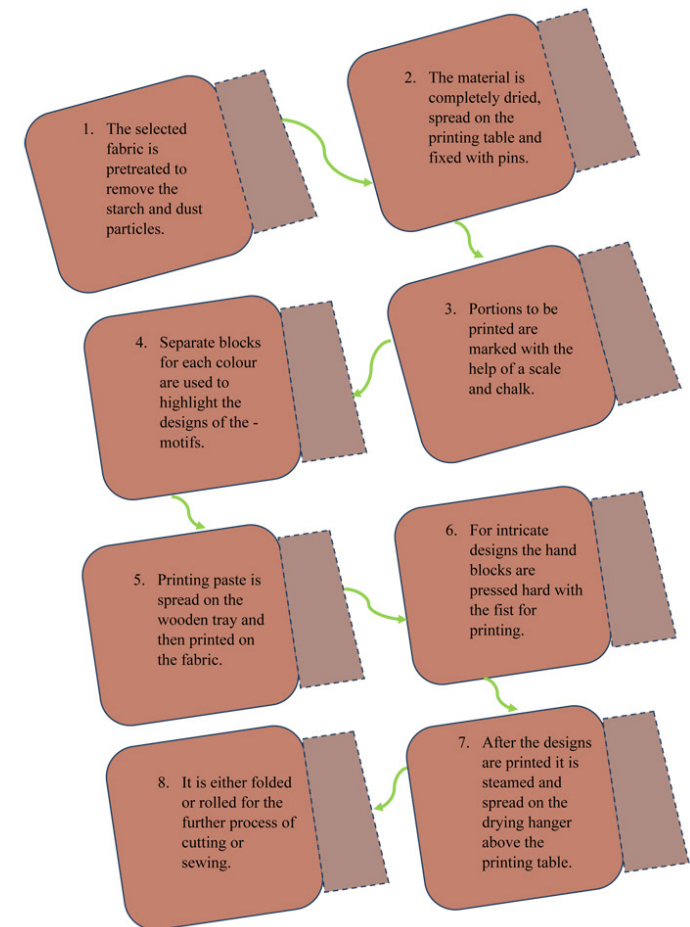
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Making Process

The fabric to be printed is pretreated to remove the starch and the dust contains on it. The running material is then spread and dried completely depending on the weather conditions. After the material is completely dried it is spread on the printing table and fixed tightly with the pins. The portions to be printed are clearly marked with the help of a scale and chalk.

Separate blocks are used for each colour to be highlighted with the designs of the motifs. After the printing paste is spread on the wooden tray the designs are printed on the fabric. For outlines the blocks are tapped and the colour is printed, for intricate designs the hand blocks are pressed hard with fist for printing. After all the colours of the design blocks are imprinted it is steamed and spread on the drying hanger which is above the printing table. It is then either folded or rolled for the further process of cutting or sewing.



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Clothes brought from market are washed off thoroughly for any dirt and starches.



It is then dried in the sun, so that the printing process takes place.



Dried cloth piece is being attached to block printing table, with the help of steel pins.



Wooden die block is dipped in the printing dye color, such that the motifs get inked.

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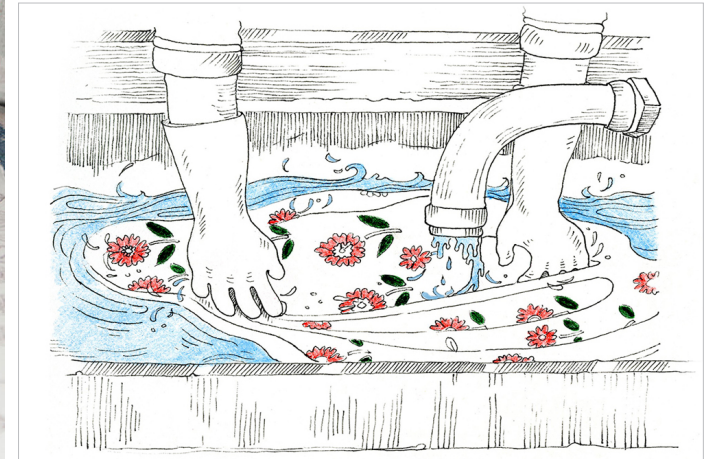
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Artisan then places the wooden block carefully, forming continues design pattern.



Number of blocks are used for a single pattern of design, few work as a outliners and few as fillers.



Final touches are done by carefully filling up the gaps in motifs with colors.

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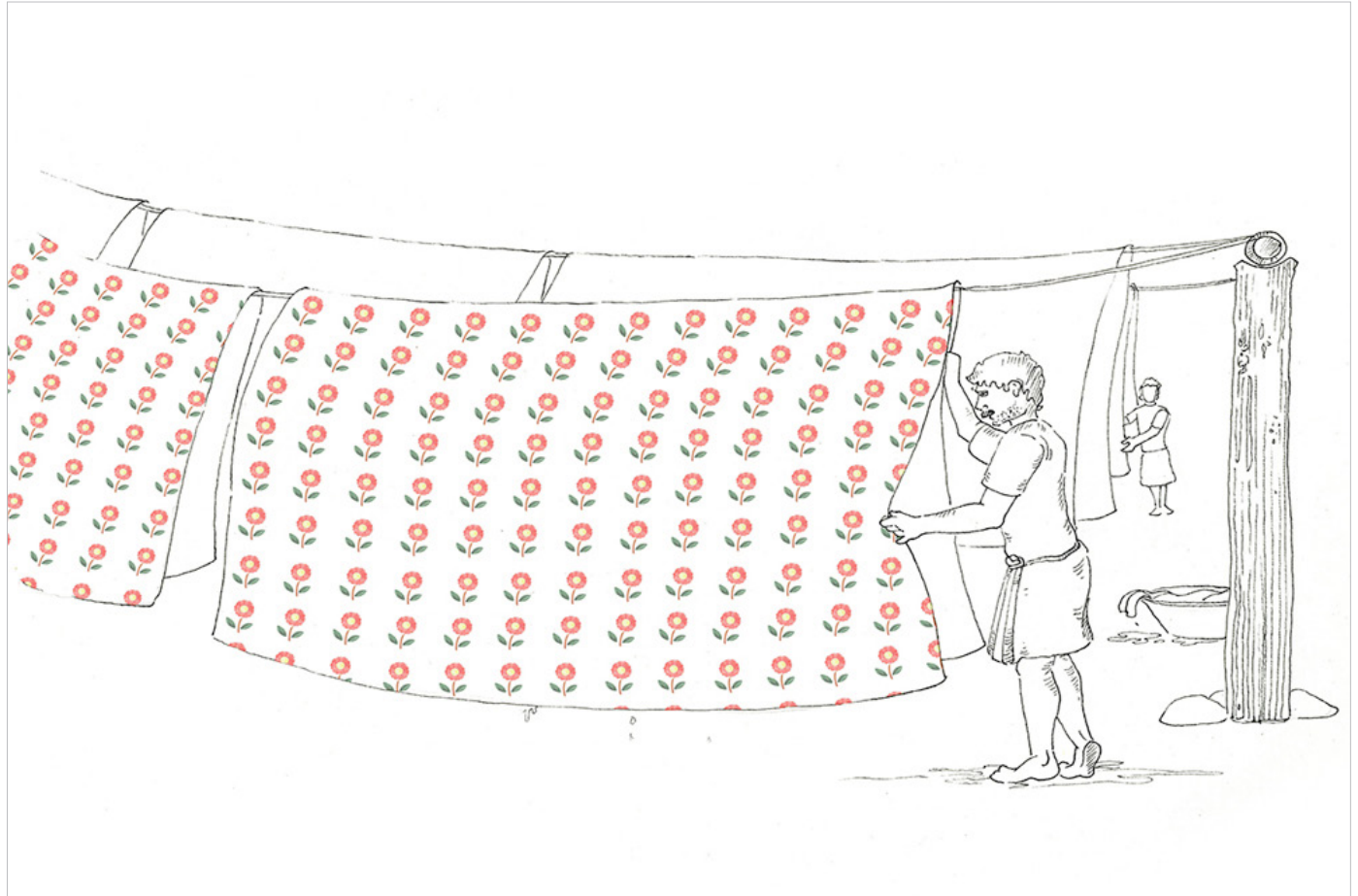
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After block printing is done, the cloth is hung, so that the ink dries.

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After the ink dries, it is washed again with hot water, such that the ink stays permanently on it and the excess ink is washed away and dried naturally.

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Products

Large varieties of bed spreads, cushion covers, dress materials, running materials, curtains etc. are the varieties of products made with Sanganer Block Print fabrics.



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Contact Details

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