

Design Resource

Sheet Embossing - Pambarthi

Metal Craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Raghavendra K. M.,
Pragnya G. P. and Aruna Kumari. Y.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/sheet-embossing-pambarthi>



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

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Introduction

Pembarti, located at a distance of 60 Kilometers from Warangal, is famous for sheet metal art. Globally renowned for brassware, artifacts, metal tools and objects of daily use, statues, carvings and castings are extensively made in this village using copper alloys like brass and bronze.

Andhra Pradesh has a history of outstanding workmanship of its Metal workers or “Vishwakarmas”, which can be traced back to the grandeur and glory of the Kakatiya Kingdom. Metal Craft attained the pinnacle of perfection in the high degree of skill displayed by the master craftsmen. The Vishwakarmas of Pembarthi were renowned for their rare skill, both in stone and metal sculpture and were patronized by the rulers for building temple, creating ‘Vigrahas’ – idols of the gods, ‘Vahanas’ – the chariots and other artistic accessories of temple sculpture. The brilliance of their artistry is evident in the magnificent Vigrahas, which are an example of moulded crafts and ‘Keerthi Mukha’, ‘Prabha’ – Pinnacles, which adorn many famous temples of South India.

Brass work has become the occupation of many villagers and these wares are also exported to other countries. When iron use was not known copper and alloys were used for making metal tools and objects of daily use. The early social-historical skill later continuously created objects of art. Statues, carvings, castings still continue to be made in attractive copper alloys like bronze and brass. The methods used are still ancient, traditional ones although the raw material today comes from modern mines and furnaces.



Unique wall hanging is a recent innovation in their designer products.



Floral design is embossed on the traditional plate, which is used in the rituals.

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Buffing process is done to smoothen the sharp edges and gives shine to the product.



Silver metal shields are also made based on orders.

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Artisans engaged in engraving process.



Engraving is done using sharp chisels.

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Shields are made as per customer requirements.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and raw materials used for sheet embossing are:

- **Metal Sheet:** It is used to emboss design on it.
- **Lac (lucca):** It is used to spread on the wooden plank to hold the metal sheet.
- **Chisel:** It is used to carve to design on the metal sheet.
- **Gas Torch Burner:** It is used to melt the lac and join the metal pieces.
- **Acid and Tamarind:** It is used to wash the product.
- **File and Buffer:** It is used to smoothen the edges and give shine to the product.



Karahi- thick, circular, and deep cooking pot used to melt the lac.



Hammers.

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Polish used for buffering.



Metal sheets.



Different sizes of chisels are used in engraving.



Buffering machine.

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Lac is used to give support to the products.

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Making Process

This craft is practiced in Nalgonda district and the craftsmen follow the method of embossing on brass and copper sheets. In this technique, a brass or copper sheet is cut into the required size and shape and fixed on a wooden table with four sides of the sheet covered with lac (lucca). Lac effectively fixes the sheet on wooden plank or table.

Design is drawn on a paper sheet and the sheet is pasted on the brass sheet. The designs are carved on the sheets using fine instruments (chisel). After the basic carving, the paper sheet is removed. Later, the lac is heated and the carved brass sheet is removed from the wooden plank. Further fine carvings are done by hammering the sheet with different shapes and sizes of chisels. The sheet is then cleaned with ash powder and the depth of the embossing is done. Parts of the product are designed and embossed separately and later welded together using gas torch burner. The embossed sheet is then washed with acid and brushed with tamarind water giving the article shine. After washing it is filed to smoothen the edges and buffed to give shine and luster to the surface.



Lac is broke into pieces.

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Lac is melted.



Melted lac is spread on the wooden plank and heated.



Metal sheet is hammered on the sides.



Metal sheet is placed on the melted lac and kept to dry.

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Extra lac on sides are hammered and removed.



The metal sheet is cleaned with tamarind pulp.



The design is drawn on a sheet.



The design sheet is pasted on the metal sheet.

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Artisan carves the design with chisel following the design line.



Detail work is embossed with small chisels.

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Artisan involved in the embossing process.



Sides of the art plate is hammered and flattened.

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Finished product is washed with acid.



The embossed sheet is washed with tamarind pulp.



The article is buffed and polished.



Product is washed with tamarind pulp to obtain shine and luster.

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Sheet metal in the form of Art plate.

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Products

In ancient times sheet embossing was done for king's chariots, temple doors etc. made up of gold or silver. Due to the passage of time, craftsmen started using brass and copper sheets for sheet embossing. The craft is not practiced by many in the current times. The products made are Brass round wall decorative plate, nameplates etc. Trophies, statues of gods, puja utensils or human personalities are also made on demand.



A figure of god Hanuman embossed on brass sheet.



Lion casted in bronze metal.



Traditional pot embossed with striking design.

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Water pots.



Lord Ganesha embossed on silver sheet.



Trophies are done as per customer orders.

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Lord Sai Baba with his devotees embossed on brass metal sheet.

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

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