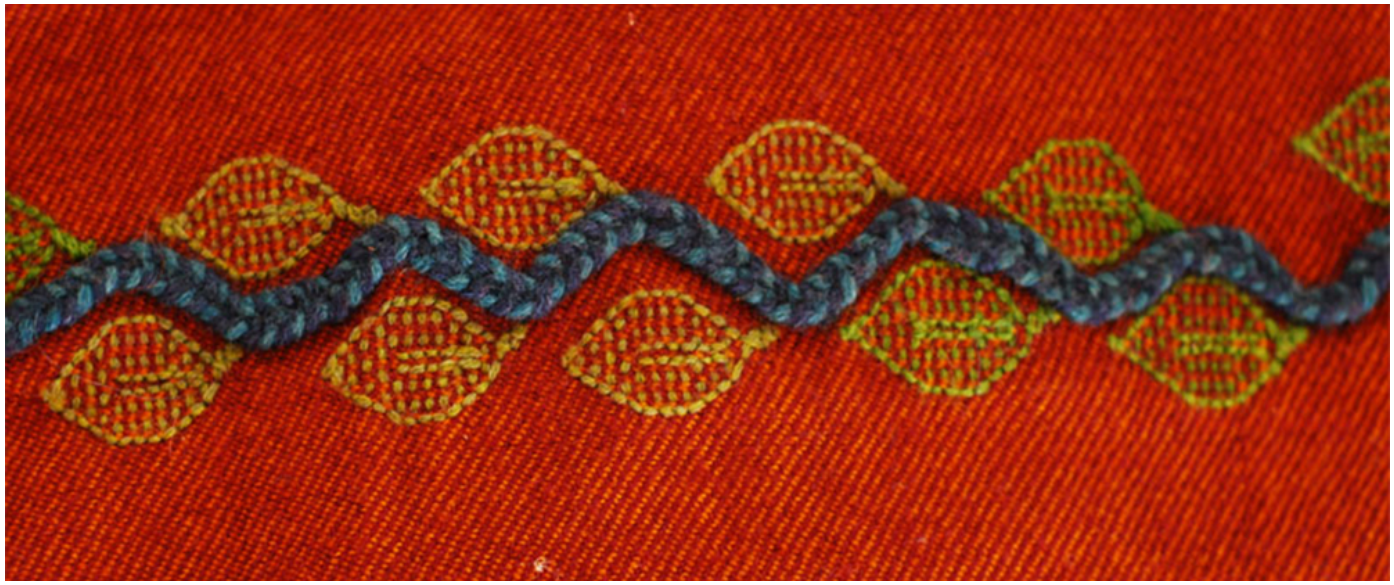
Design Resource

Tana Bana - Bhujodi

The Craft of Weaving

by
Ketki Saxena
IDC, IIT Bombay



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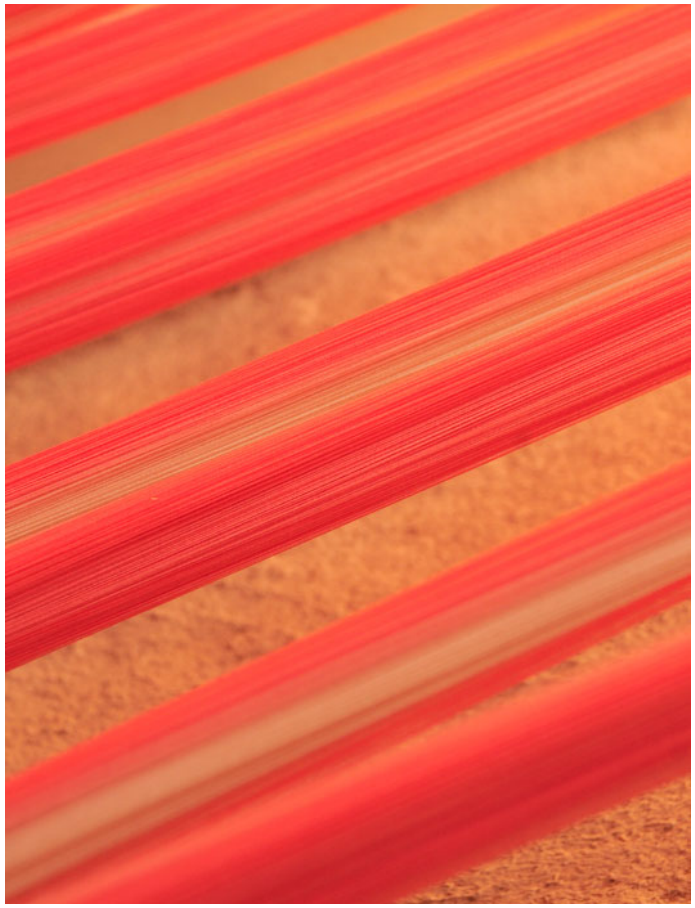
Introduction

About ten kilometers east of Bhuj, lies a 500 years old village Bhujodi, which is house to many artists, most of whom excel at the art of weaving, more popularly known as 'Tana Bana'. This craft is said to have evolved at the time the barter system was practiced. The Weavers depended on the 'Rabaris', the nomadic and cattle rearing community, for wool, milk products and grains and in exchange weaved for them. The local art of weaving provided identity and fulfilled the needs of many communities of the region to cover against the weather.

The weavers of Kutch are Meghwal who migrated from Rajasthan six centuries ago and are commonly known as 'Vankars'. Each intricately woven piece of cloth, inter-wined with the warp and the weft, takes a lot of time to complete depending on its pattern.



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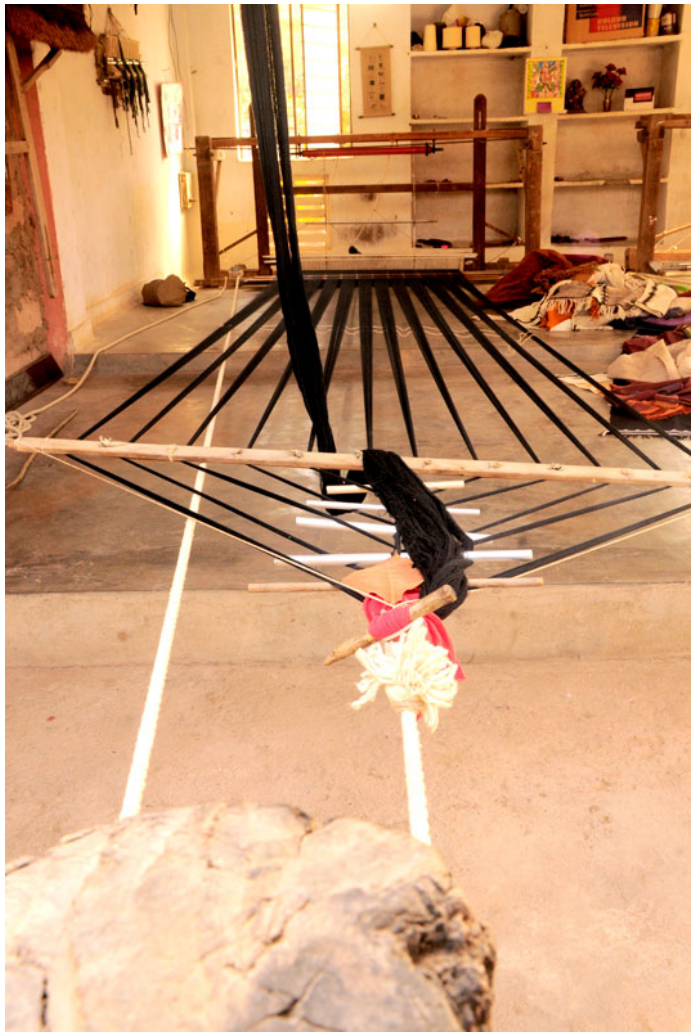

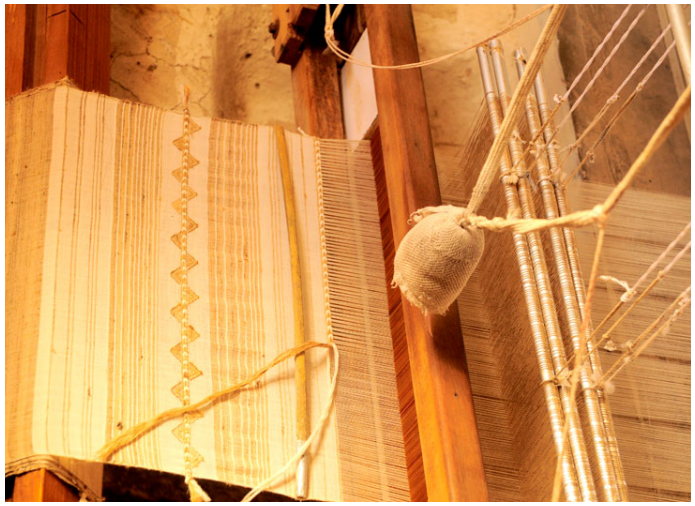

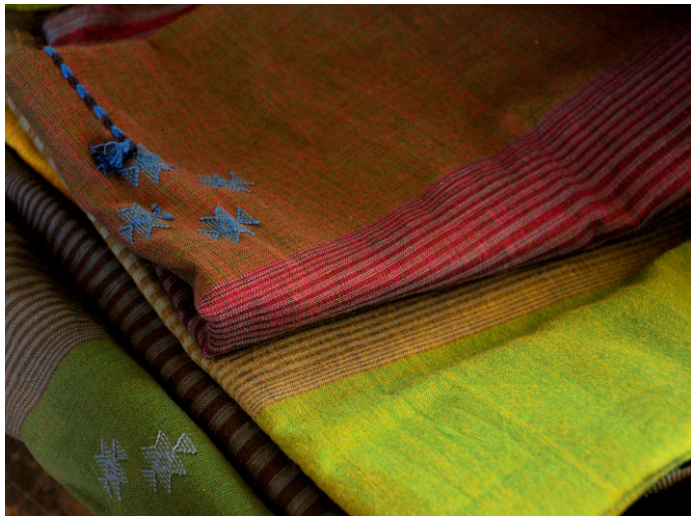

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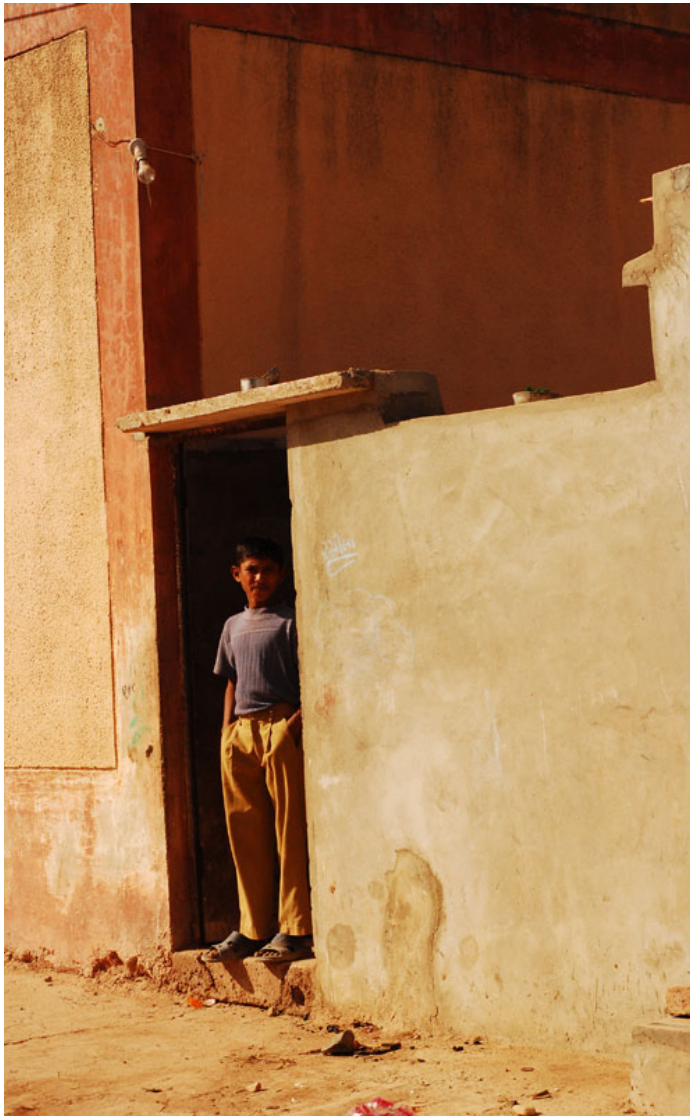
Place

Bhujodi is a major textile hub of Kutch, with the majority of inhabitants involved in textile handicraft production. In the 500-year-old village, most of the weavers have converted their courtyards into their workshops. It is home to approximately 200 weavers.



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People

Vankar Dayalal Kudecha:
He is a traditional weaver, practicing weaving in Bhujodi village, along with his family members. He graduated from Kalaraksha in 2008. His wife Veeru Ben helps him with the work.

Veeru Ben.

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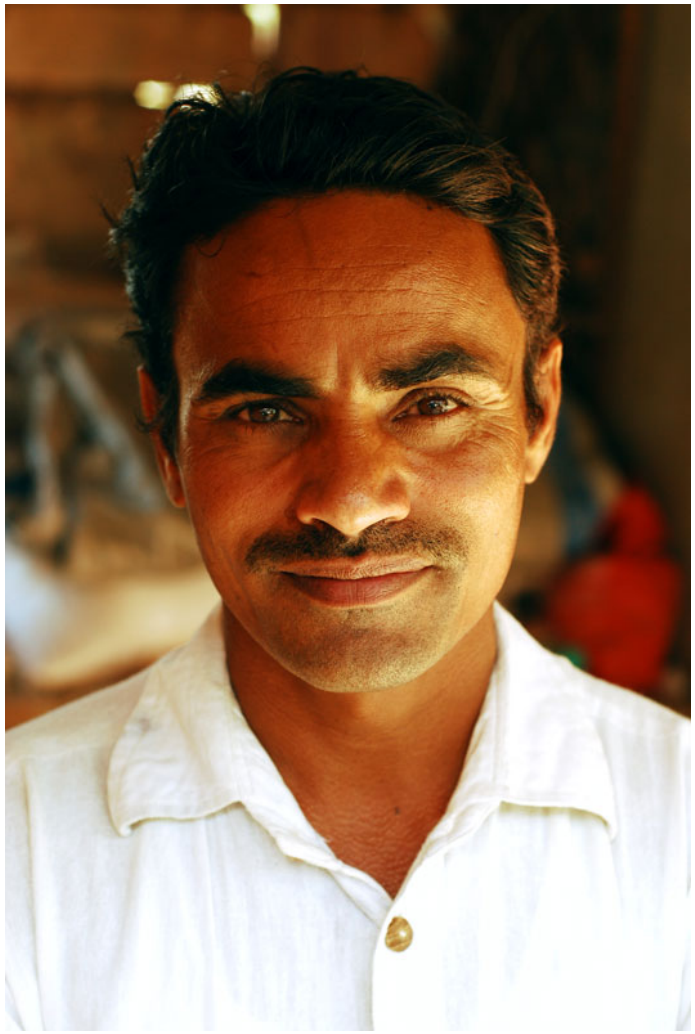

Ramji Maheshwari.

Vankar Dayalal Kudecha.

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Material and Process

Materials:
Traditionally the fabric was woven in wool but more recently, the weavers have started experimenting with a combination of cotton and silk.

- Chaukhta (wooden frame to wrap thread)
- Wheat flour
- Loom

Process:
The yarn, in its raw form, is soft & breakable. It can get easily entangled. Thus, a thin paste of wheat flour with water is boiled and a bunch of woollen strands is soaked in it. It is sun-dried and separated by combing them apart.

Tana – Warping:
This thread is then warped on a wooden frame called 'Chaukta'. Mostly a woman is assigned this job. Preparing the weft – with the help of a hand-made machine that spins the thread onto a spindle, the weft is prepared.

Bana – Weaving:
The yarn is laid on the loom and it is prepared for weaving where the long thread Tana, intersects with Bana, the shorter one, hence weaving here is called 'Tana Bana'. The loom has the shuttle movement controlled by a foot-over pedal. Weaver then starts the intricate work process of passing the thread through the warp manually.

The finishing includes tassels, decorative embroidery, new weaved designs and mirrors among others.

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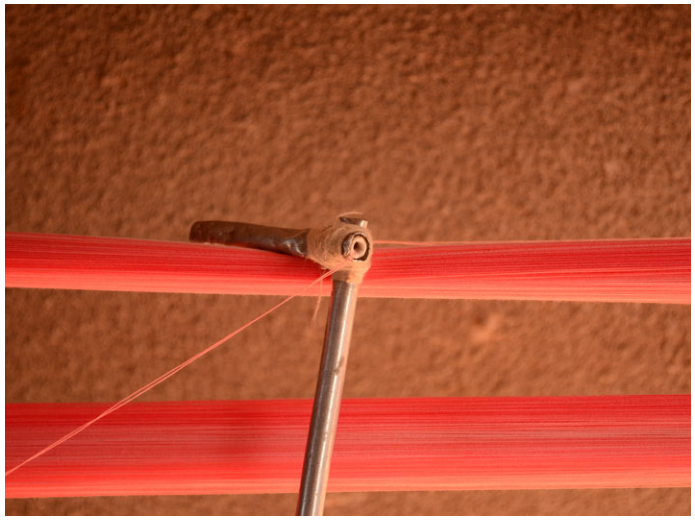

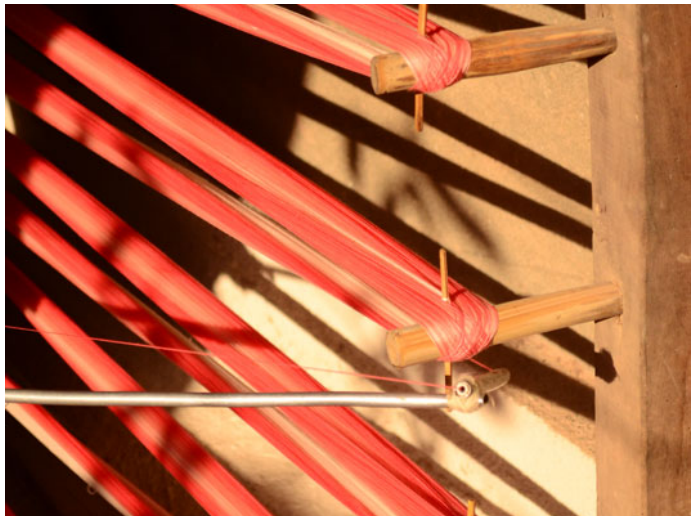

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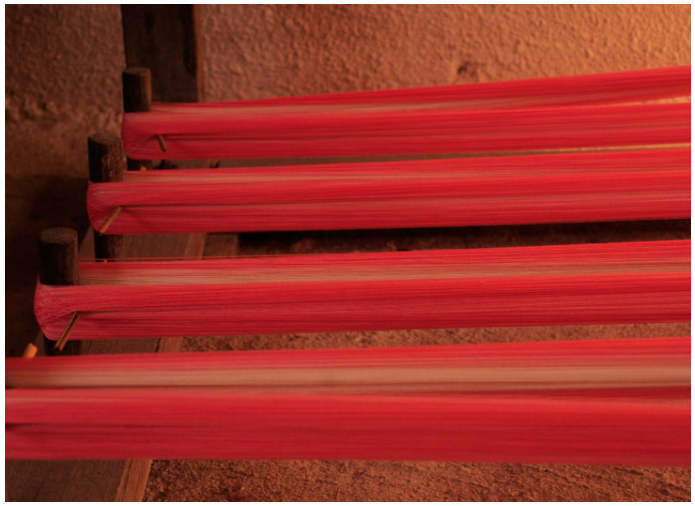

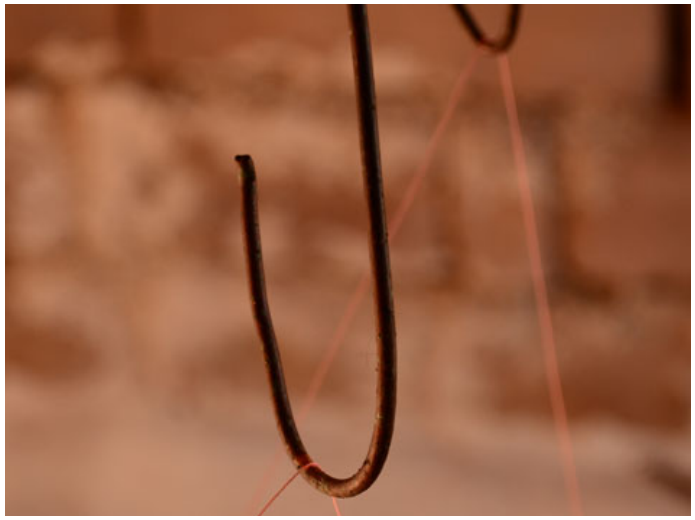

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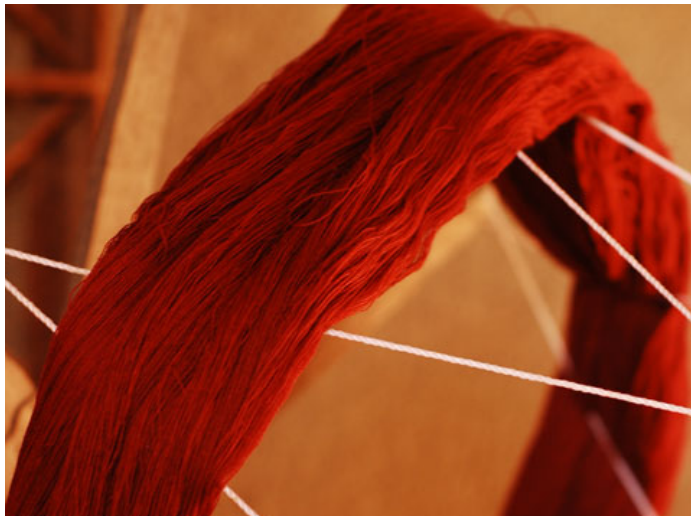

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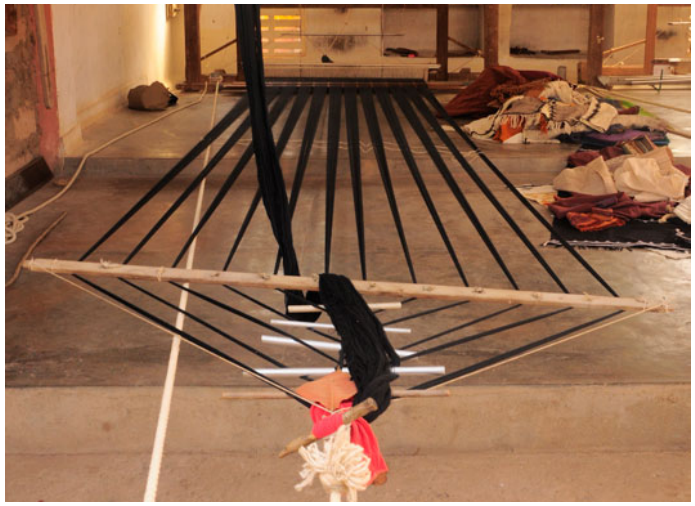

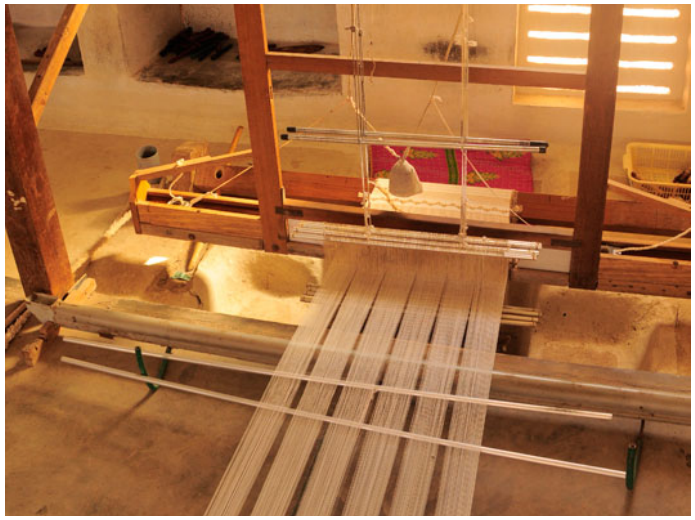

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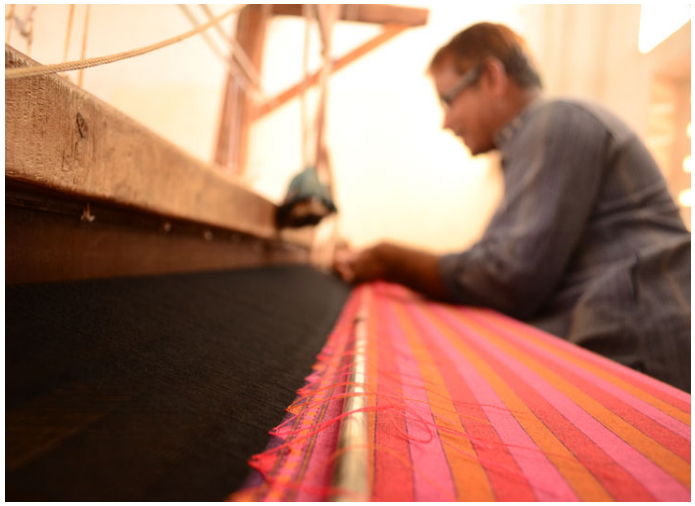

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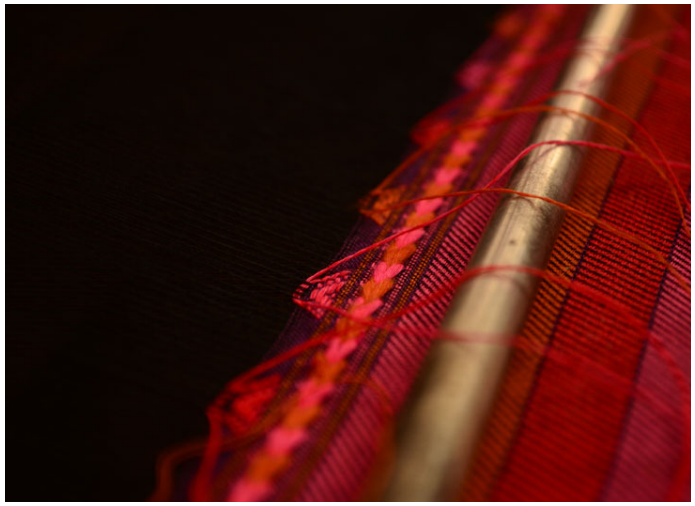

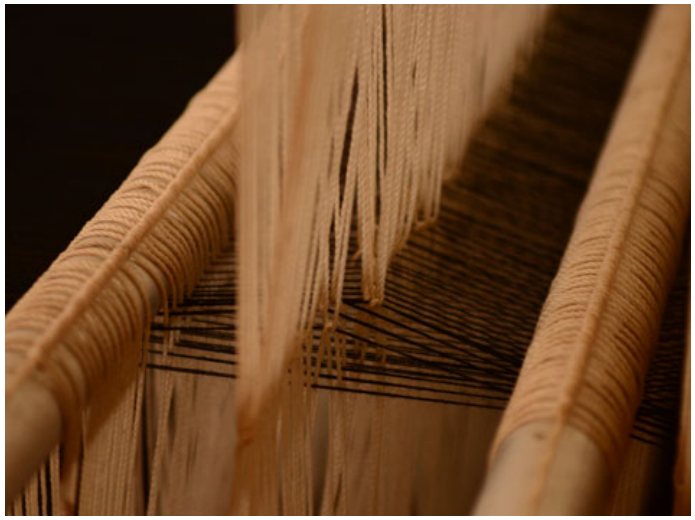

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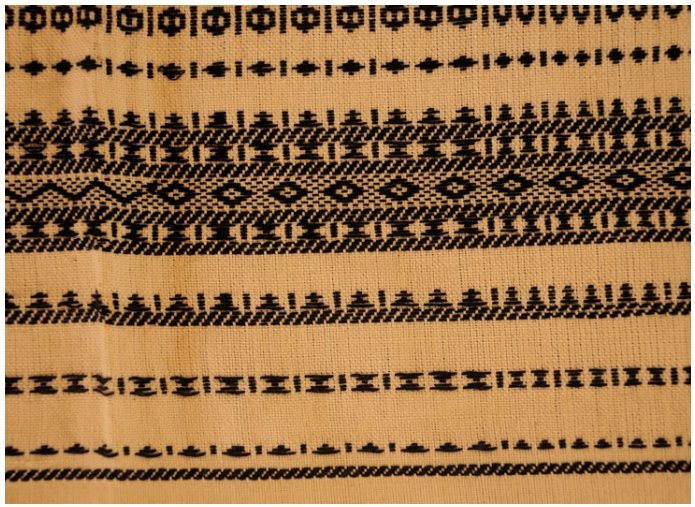
Motifs and Designs

Traditional designs are a distinctive style with simple geometric shapes such as stripes, diamonds, triangles, star shapes and chevrons.



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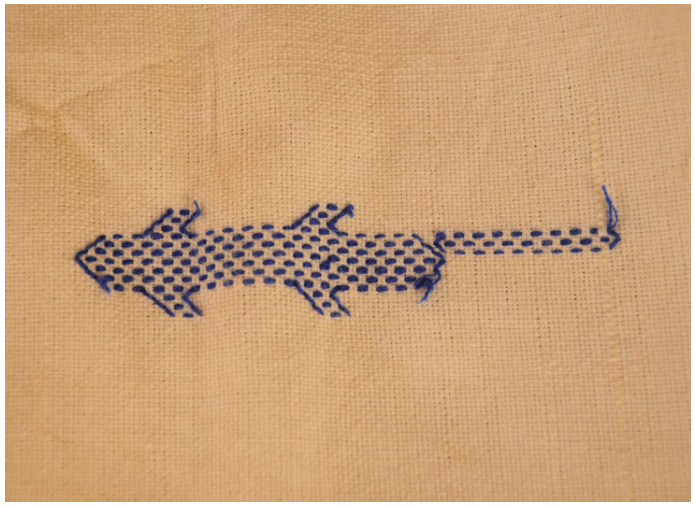

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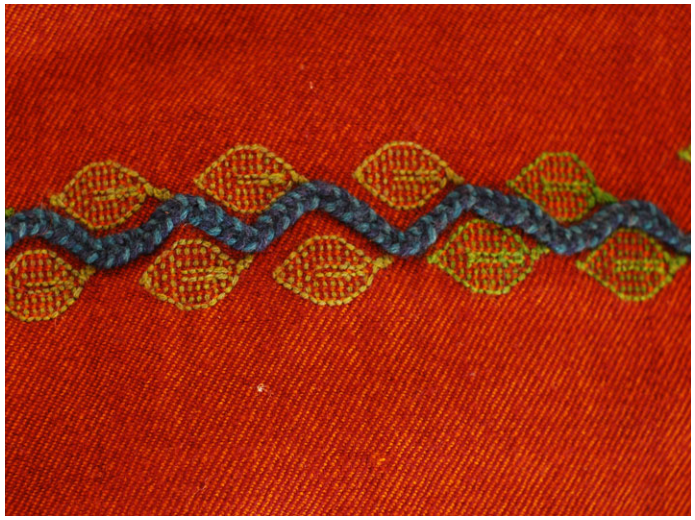

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Contact Details

This documentation was done by Ketki Saxena, M. Des. at IDC, IIT Bombay.

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