

Design Resource

Yarn Bird - Palampur, Himachal Pradesh

Woolen craft

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/yarn-bird-palampur-himachal-pradesh>



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

The state of Himachal Pradesh located to the north of the country is often referred to as Dev Bhumi, meaning Land of Gods, while the name of the place translates to 'Region of snowy mountains'. This hilly heaven, previously a Union territory, was declared the Eighteenth State of India in 1971 after the Himachal Pradesh Act. Himachal Pradesh is among those states in India, which marks high per capita income with revenue majorly from tourism, hydroelectric power, agriculture, textile, and mining.

Palampur is a hilltop town of Himachal Pradesh located in the Kangra Valley. This place is known for its Tea plantations hence also known as the 'Tea Capital of North India'. Therefore, numerous streams are flowing from its mountains, deriving its name from the local word palum, meaning 'much water'.

Himachal Pradesh has been consistent in impressing the world with its vibrant yet simplistic style of Folk-art like Chamba embroidery, Pahari painting, Mohra metalwork, Buddhist woodwork, Tibetan folk dance, and varieties of handloom products. Hence we can find numerous training camps and workshops set up in certain cultural centers of the state offering lessons on specifically thread art, weaving, carving, quilling work, hand paintings, and many more. Sobha Singh Art Gallery and Museum is one such gem from Andretta village near Palampur. This place is regarded for its craft culture passed through generations. Sobha Singh Artist is the founder of the center, who set up space since the partition of the country. He believes in sustainable living through art, with a personal slogan "Grow More Good". At present, the art gallery is run by his wife Mrs. Kamaljit Kaur, a learned veteran who conducts classes in handicrafts like yarn bird making and quilling work. This has mostly encouraged the natives to learn a skill and earn a good living out of it.



Artisan working for Shoba Singh Art Gallery.

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Various birds are made using woolen yarn.



Bright colours are used for making dolls.



Artisan during the making of the dolls.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for Yarn bird making:

- **Woolen Yarn Bundle:** Different coloured woolen yarn is used to make birds.
- **Scissor:** It is used for cutting purposes.
- **Glue:** The eye stickers and mouth are fixed with the help of glue.
- **Card Stock Paper:** This paper is used for making the mouth of the bird.



Woolen roll, paper strip, pencil, scale are used during the making of yarn birds.



Glue is used to stick the features of the bird.

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Making Process

First of all, two differently coloured woolen yarns are taken. Then one of them is wrapped around the second finger of the hand to make a small roll shape. Holding it on the finger, the yarn group is cut from one side. The same is repeated for the other colour. Enough yarn should go in for both the rolls to create a structure that corresponds to the head size of a small bird. Now placing one yarn group horizontally to a flat surface, the other is let to rest over it vertically, right in the middle, creating a cross. Going ahead, a small piece of any one group of yarn is tied around the same half folded group tightly. Similarly, another coloured yarn group is also folded in half and tied with a piece of strand belonging to their group. Here the edges of both half-folded yarn groups are leveled. This makes the head part. Now for the body, a small bundle of any yarn is placed in between the two yarn strands. Here the size of the bird's body is based on the size of the yarn bundle. After placing it below the head, the open ends of the yarn groups are wrapped and tied with any strand to achieve a round shape. Later the ends are trimmed with a scissor to level them. With this, we achieve a tail part of the bird as well. Eventually, a small cone made of coloured cardstock paper and eye stickers are glued to the yarn body to complete the look of a bird.



Artisan measures the required length of wool to make the bird.

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Artisan is arranging the woolen bundle to cut into halves.

Similarly, different colour wool is bundled and cut into halves.



The wool of equal length is tied together exactly in the middle.

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The wool is tied along the length with equal spacing.



Different coloured wool is added to the earlier bundle made.



The excess wool is trimmed to equal length.

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Facial features like beak and feathers are pasted on the bird's body.

The picture of the completed yarn bird.

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Products

Yarn products in the following forms are created at the art gallery:

- Animals
- Birds
- Doll
- Wall hangings



A finished yarn bird is being displayed.



Different types of dolls are made using woolen yarn.



Multi-coloured woolen dolls.

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Video



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This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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

You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

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