

Design Resource

## Bamboo Craft - Vellore

Beautifully Weaved Bamboo Products

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Amulya S.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/bamboo-craft-vellore>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
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## Introduction

Bamboo is said to be a biggest grass grown on the earth surface. Bamboo is also a fast growing plant in the world, which is primitive. Bamboo can grow in any climate, from cold climate to hot regions. Bamboo is also an environmental benefit. The humans from ages are have adorned Bamboo. Bamboo is used in various requirements of any kind of life on earth, from providing food for pandas, elephants and chimpanzees to being cultivated for Timber, Leaching, Culinary purpose, Medication, Construction, Textiles, Weapons, Musical Instruments, numerous traditional usage and other many uses. We find bamboo most on the Asian grounds, basically in China and India. They are around 50 genera and 700 species in Bamboo that is used, when it comes to above-mentioned uses. In developing countries bamboo is been used in many traditional uses, in rural industries like handicrafts, furniture, and utensils in houses. It is also used widely in multiple industries in modern times. It also serves like an alternative to wood and other construction materials. Bamboo is also used immensely in producing pulp and paper.

Bamboo is been exquisitely used all over in Indian Craft and Culture. From variety of baskets to furniture the Bamboo craft is grown immensely. Places like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura in Northeast India is very famous for Bamboo crafts. The tribal people, for the basic needs like knife, shelter, furniture, food, containers and many more purposes used bamboo most of the time. Likewise in southern India Bamboo craft is trendily emerging for its durable quality, lightweight and for its leisurely handling. Bamboo's main production is basketry; various kinds of baskets are made irrespective of size, shape and design. Other than baskets trays, mats, folding fans, screens, toys, glue, ladder, furniture, wind musical instruments and many more are made out of bamboo. Coiled basketry; Plaiting basketry; Twining basketry and Wicker and Splint basketry are different forms of basket weaving. ` of human civilization. Baskets are used for numerous purposes like in storage; in transportation of harvests; in processing the seeds and grains; in laundry; in catering; fish traps; in commercial business of vegetables, fruits, flowers and many more. In ritual occasions also the bamboo basket is used to carry the offerings for the god.

Tamil Nadu is predominantly known for its bamboo crafts, which are made for home décor, furniture, Natural reed bamboo for fencing and many other purposes. Likewise in Vellore artisan called Mr. Chinnaraj, practices his ancestral bamboo craft on the streets of Sitting Bazar Road, Saida pet. Most of his products are open baskets of various sizes according to the purpose it is needed for and there are small boxes made especially for the devotees of murugan (Kartikeya son of Lord Shiva) to carry the offerings while going for pilgrimage. Bamboo is largely harvested in nearby forests and segregated among 250 Bamboo craft artisans. All the artisans are situated in local market around the city.

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Bamboo baskets hung for display.

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Making of a small bamboo basket.

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Bamboo plates to cook traditional food (idi appum).



Slicing the bamboo sticks to make thin strips out of it.

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Bamboo shop at Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/bamboo-craft-vellore/tools-and-raw-materials>

## Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required for Bamboo Craft:

- **Bamboo:** The essential raw material for the craft.
- **Knives:** It is used in splitting, cutting, and slicing the bamboo.
- **Wood Block:** It is used like the Hammer and Anvil or Bench block for work process.
- **Water:** It is used in soften the bamboo surface for weaving.-



Knife is used to cut the bamboo twigs.

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Knife used to slit bamboo sticks.



Knife.

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Bamboo sticks are cut to thin strips.

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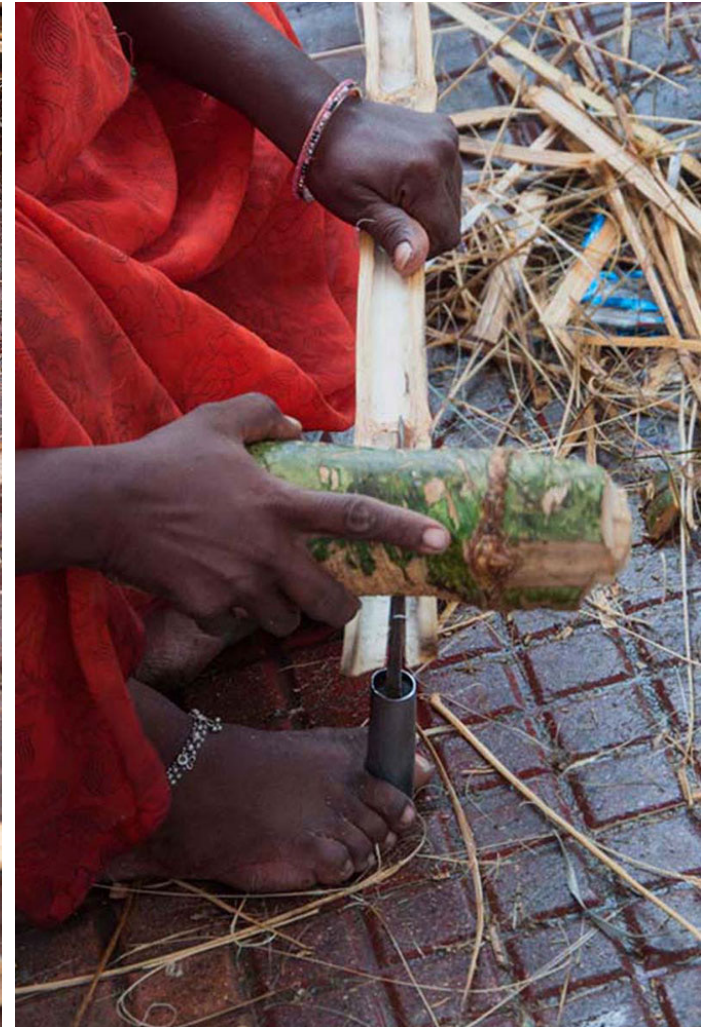
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Small bamboo sticks.



Bamboo getting slit with the knife.

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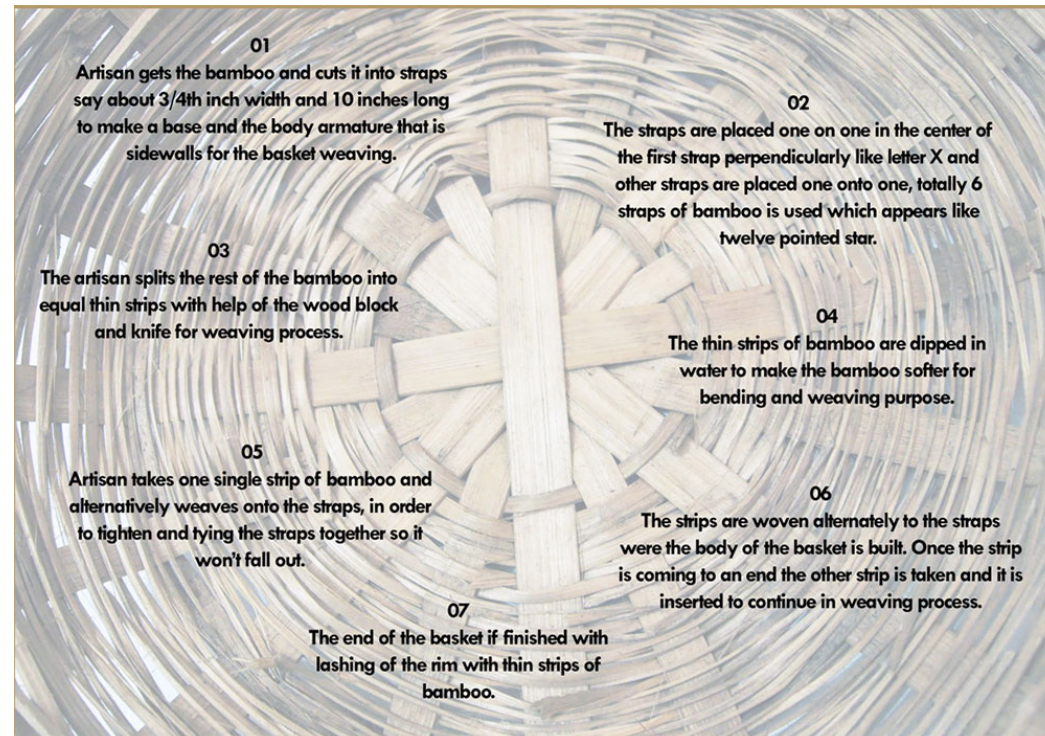
<http://www.dsource.in/resource/bamboo-craft-vellore/making-process>

## Making Process

Artisan gets the bamboo from the godown nearby and cuts the bamboo to make straps say about 3/4th inch width and 10 inches long to make a base and the body armature that is sidewalls for the basket weaving. How lengthier the straps get bigger the baskets becomes. The straps are placed one on one in the center of the first strap perpendicularly like letter X and other straps are placed one onto one, totally 6 straps of bamboo is used which appears like twelve pointed star.

The artisan splits the rest of the bamboo into equal thin strips with help of the wood block and knife for weaving process. The thin strips of bamboo are dipped in water to make the bamboo softer for bending and weaving purpose. Artisan takes one single strip of bamboo and alternatively weaves onto the straps, in order to tighten and tying the straps together so it won't fall out. The strips are woven alternately to the straps were the body of the basket is built. Once the strip is coming to an end the other strip is taken and it is inserted to continue in weaving process.

### Flow Chart:



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Bamboo is being slit into half.



Bamboo is split into two halves.

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Thin strip of bamboo slit.



The slit strips of bamboo.



Arranging the bamboo sticks.



Fine strip of bamboo stick passing alternately one above and below.

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The base of basket.



Passing Fine strips alternately.



Holding the bamboo base tight and passing thin strip.



Passing the fine strip above.

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Passing the fine strip below.



Completing the weaving of thin strips.



Cutting the edges of bamboo wide strips with help of knife.



Beautifully weaved bamboo basket.

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## Products

The artisan produces variety of baskets based on the requirements of the clients. Artisan also weaves bamboo boxes, winnowing fans and many more products of bamboo. Small basket costs around sixty rupees and big basket costs around two fifty rupees.



A collection of bamboo baskets.

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Big and Small Bamboo baskets with lids and rope handles.



Open bamboo baskets.



Small plain bamboo basket.



The bamboo-winnowing fan along with baskets.

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Piled bamboo baskets.



Bamboo baskets.

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## Video



Bamboo Basketry - Vellore

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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Amulya S. at **NID Campus, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with

- Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

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

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