Design Resource

Coconut Shell Craft - Marcel, Goa

Coconut Shell Craft

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Lija M. G.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/coconut-shell-craft-marcel-goa

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

Introduction

Goa is the state of India that is bound by three sides with land and one side with water in the north by the Maharashtra state, in the east and south by the Karnataka state and in the west by the Arabian Sea. It is one of the place in India that has the domestic, international tourists who visit yearly for its beaches, heritage architecture and places of worship. It is one of the Portuguese territory in India that existed for some years till 1961.

It is said that Goa has about three hundred tanks and about hundred medicinal springs with the soil rich in humus and minerals. It has hot and humid climate for most of the year and hottest in the month of May. Coconut generally known as the coconut palm is one of the fruit that can grow in plenty in this climate. They are generally different from other fruits as they contain quite a large amount of water and when they are immature referred to as tender coconuts. It is highly tolerant of salinity, selects to grow in areas with bountiful sunlight and regular rainfall.

The edible part of the coconut is called flesh and when dried it is referred to as copra. Coconut milk and oil is generally derived from it for cooking, frying, soaps, cosmetics, hair oil and massage oil. It has a religious and cultural significance in most of the societies that uses it.

Coconut fruits have the exocarp, mesocarp and the endocarp where the exocarp is the outermost husk layer that are removed. The mesocarp that has the fibers called the coir and the shell which generally has the three germination pores called the eyes. Husks and shells are used as a source of charcoal that are effective for the removal of impurities. It is said that the cups made with shells is used to neutralize the poisoned drinks.

Marcel and the surrounding places in Goa supports the making of various types of products from the coconut shell as the women from different houses gather in some of the institutes nearby in learning and developing various types of products from the coconut husk and shells.

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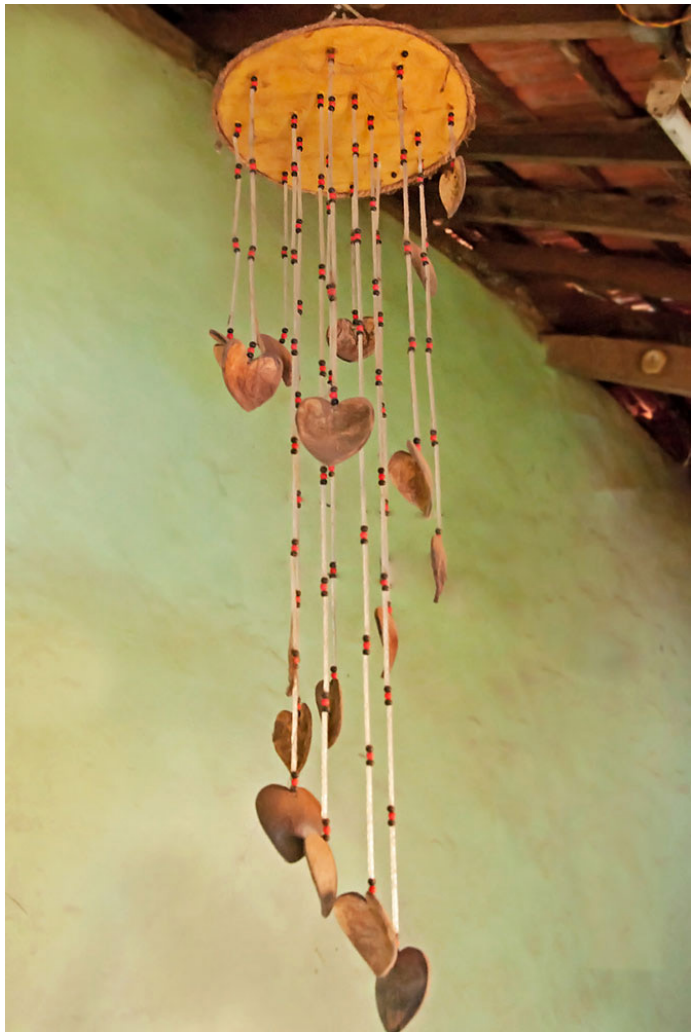
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Beautiful wind chimes made out of coconut shell.

Decorative wine bottle.

Attractive home décor products made out of coconut shell.

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4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Lord Ganesha Idol.

Mask made out of coconut shell.

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

Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required to make the Coconut Shell products:

- **Sharp Tool:** It is used to remove the husk on the surface of the shell.
- **Knife:** It is used to remove the copra from the shell.
- **Hacksaw:** It is used to cut the shell to the required forms.
- **File:** It is used to even the ends of the shell pieces.
- **Adhesive:** It is used to fix the papers to the coconut shell firmly.
- **Sand Paper:** It is used to smoothen the surface of the coconut shell.
- **Newspaper:** It is used to fill the gaps in between.
- **Glass Bottle:** It is used for the making of Liquor coconut shell bottles.
- **Coir Rope:** Usually thin and medium ropes are generally preferred for winding and holding.
- **Scissors:** It is used to cut the required length of coir rope.
- **Coconut Hand Scraper:** It is used to scrape the inner portion of the shell.
- **Glue Gun:** It is used to fix the circular shape objects.
- **Varnish:** It is used to be applied on the outer surface of the shell.
- **Paint Brush:** It is used to apply the varnish on the shell.
- **Drilling Machine:** It is used to make small holes in the shell surface.

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

Raw coconut shell for making products.

Coir is used to wrap the bottle and make the product look attractive.

Synthetic varnish is applied on the shell to give a luster surface.

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

Fevicol used to stick the articles.

Hack saw used for cutting the coconut shell.

File used for smoothing the edges.

Hand held coconut scrapping tool.

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

Knife and screwdriver used in removing the dry coconut meat inside the shell.

Scissors used to cut the coir rope.

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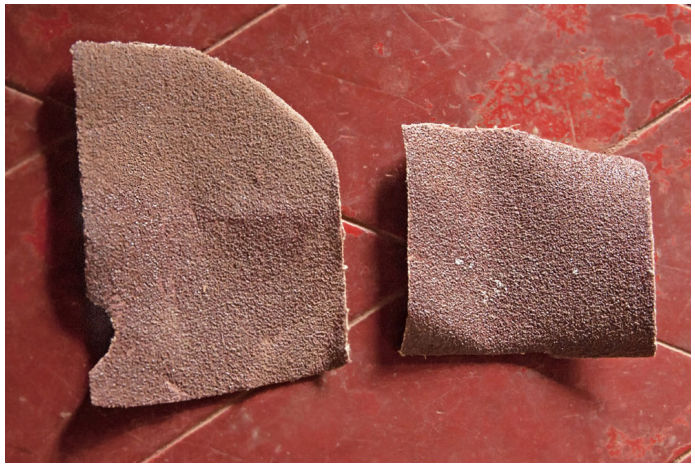
1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Drilling machine used to drill holes on the coconut shell.



Sandpaper used to smoothen the hard surface.

Paint Brush is used to apply varnish.

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

Making Process

Coconut grows in more number in the coastal regions of India as its temperature and climatic condition suits its growth. After the harvesting of coconut, it is selected as per the requirement, quality and placed under sunlight for about seven to fifteen days continuously. The outer portion, husk is removed with a sharp tool and cut with hacksaw to the required lengths. The inner meat or the copra is taken out with a knife, if it is good can be used for cooking otherwise it is used as manure. The outer portion of the shell is sand with the sand paper to obtain a smooth finish.

In case of the Liquor coconut shell glass bottles, glass bottles are placed in the coconut shell and pasted with newspapers around till it is fixed firmly. The portions are fixed by repeated pasting of the newspapers from the shell to bottle and then the coir rope of smaller width wrapped around the bottle leaving only the shell part without the coir rope. Thicker plaited coir ropes are wrapped in between the smaller coir ropes that can be used as a handle for holding.

A shell cut of the circular shape is glued with the glue gun and the shell with bottle is placed over it such as it becomes the stand. Newspapers applied with adhesives are pasted to the gaps that are found in between. After the gaps are filled it is then wrapped with the thicker coir ropes for ornamentation. It is then applied with varnish to obtain the glossy look of the products.

In the case of the soap boxes after the husk, copra is removed holes are made on the shell pieces at the required portions then it is sand till the smooth surface is obtained and varnish is applied. It is kept away from dust to maintain the glossy look of the products.

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

Coconut shell is cut using hand saw.

Dry coconut is removed from the shell.

Sandpaper is rubbed on the surface to make it smooth.

Inside part of coconut is cleaned with handmade tool.

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

Top of coconut shell is scrubbed and flat levels are made.

Fevicol Is applied to stick the bottle to shell.

Waste bottle is placed inside the shell.

Waste paper are twisted and edges are pasted.

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

Bottle is wrapped using waste paper.

Gaps between the shell and bottle is filled using waste paper.

Paper wrapped until the cap and pasted.

Coir is wrapped tightly on the layer.

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

Artisan wraps the coir closely.

Attractive Designs are made with coir and it is tied at the opening of the shell.

Fevicol is applied using glue gun on the article.

Small piece is pasted to the shell as a base and wrapped with paper roll.

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

Coir is wrapped upon the layer and pasted.

Varnish is applied on the product to give a luster to surface.

Regular paint brush is used to apply the varnish.

Two coats of varnish is applied to give a glossy effect.

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1. Introduction
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3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
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The product is used as vine bottle and also for home decors.

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2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Products

A wide range of products are made with the coconut shells at Goa, that are mostly taught by a group of institution were few of the ladies gather in making various products. Some of the products that are made at Marcel and surrounding places are such as Soap stand, Mobile stand, Pen stand, Coconut shell mugs, Tooth pick stand, Decorative items, Lamp stand, Ganesh statute placing stand and Liquor coconut shell bottles. Large varieties of products can be made of the coconut shell in the small and big sizes with the cost varying from about INR. 50 to INR. 300.

Attractive Ganesha idol made with coconut shell.

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

Beautiful coconut shell made chandeliers.

Coconut shell Mask.

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

Attractive wine bottle or liquor bottles made with coconut shell and coir.

Attractive wine bottle or liquor bottles made with coconut shell and coir.

Attractive wine bottle or liquor bottles made with coconut shell and coir.

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3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Coconut shell made monkey.

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

Video

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

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