

Design Resource

## Coir Crafts of Orissa

The Magnificence of Coir

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Mr. Antony William

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://dsource.in/resource/coir-crafts-orissa>

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

Orissa is famous for its centuries old coir craft. The speciality of a coir craft is its woven magnificence. Coir is a totally natural and an eco friendly material and an exceptionally tensile fibre extracted from the nuts of coconut palms. The manufacturing of the raw material requires huge efforts and involve several processes. This natural wonder finds many uses and applications in the field of craft and home decorations. Coir is eco friendly, biodegradable and echo proof. There are many castes in Orissa who practice the coir craft to earn their a livelihood, such as Vaishyas, Khandayak, Dhobi and Brahmins alike. It is used to make a wide range of eco friendly toys, wall hanging, key rings, Christmas hangings, pen stands and other decorative items.



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tools-and-raw-materials](http://dsource.in/resource/coir-crafts-orissa/tools-and-raw-materials)

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## Tools and Raw Materials

Simple hand operated Tools are used for making coir toys.

- **Scissors:**

Two different types of scissors are used for different purposes. The bigger scissors is used for cutting the coir fibres and the smaller scissors is used to cut threads and other such materials.

- **Pliers:**

It is used to pull out the needles while stitching.

- **Needle:**

It is used for stitching. The size of the needle depends on the kind of work which is required to do.

- **Cello tape (Adhesive tape):**

Workers tie the cello tape around their fingers so as to not cut their fingers while tying the coir or threading it.

The Raw Materials required to make a coir product are very basic and readily available.

- **Coir:**

Coir is traditionally processed from coconut husks cured in saline or freshwater for eight to ten months by process called "Retting" for increasing the flexibility, strength and durability of fiber.

- **Fevicol:**

Fevicol is diluted with water and then used for pasting the fiber on the main body. After the completion of the product it is to be dipped in diluted fevicol for durability and stiffness.

- **Wool:**

Coloured wool is used for surface ornamentation of coir products.

- **Card Board:**

This is used provide proper shape and stiffness. The card board is cut into required shapes then fiber is stuck on it.

- **Cotton Threads:**

Used to wrap the coir made products for them to achieve a definite and a stable form.

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## Making Process

### Coir Crafts Making Process:

- The coir fibre is first sorted out and separated on the basis of their colour and other similarities. For making a toy, firstly, the design is to be finalised and made on the paper.
- Then according to the design they work on the proportion of the toys.
- For simple and small products, the coir is simply tied with the thread to make desired products. Sometimes if the product is quite small for instance, a leaf then cardboard is cut into that shape and then coir is tied on it with thread and fevicol.
- A big toy or product is worked out in different parts. Different parts are made by different people and then all the parts are assembled together with the help of thread, needle and fevicol.
- For example, if a monkey had to be made in coir, its legs, hands, nose, face, and tail all are made separately by different people.
- Coloured wool is used for surface ornamentation like for eyes, clothes etc. depending on the design. Use of colour wool also enhances the look of the toy. For value addition, wooden beads and metal bells are also used.
- After the completion of the toy or product, it is dipped into diluted fevicol. This is done, so that the thread stiffens up and does not open up. Fevicol solution provides better durability and stability to the product or toy. The final product may take two days to six months to complete depending upon the size of the product.

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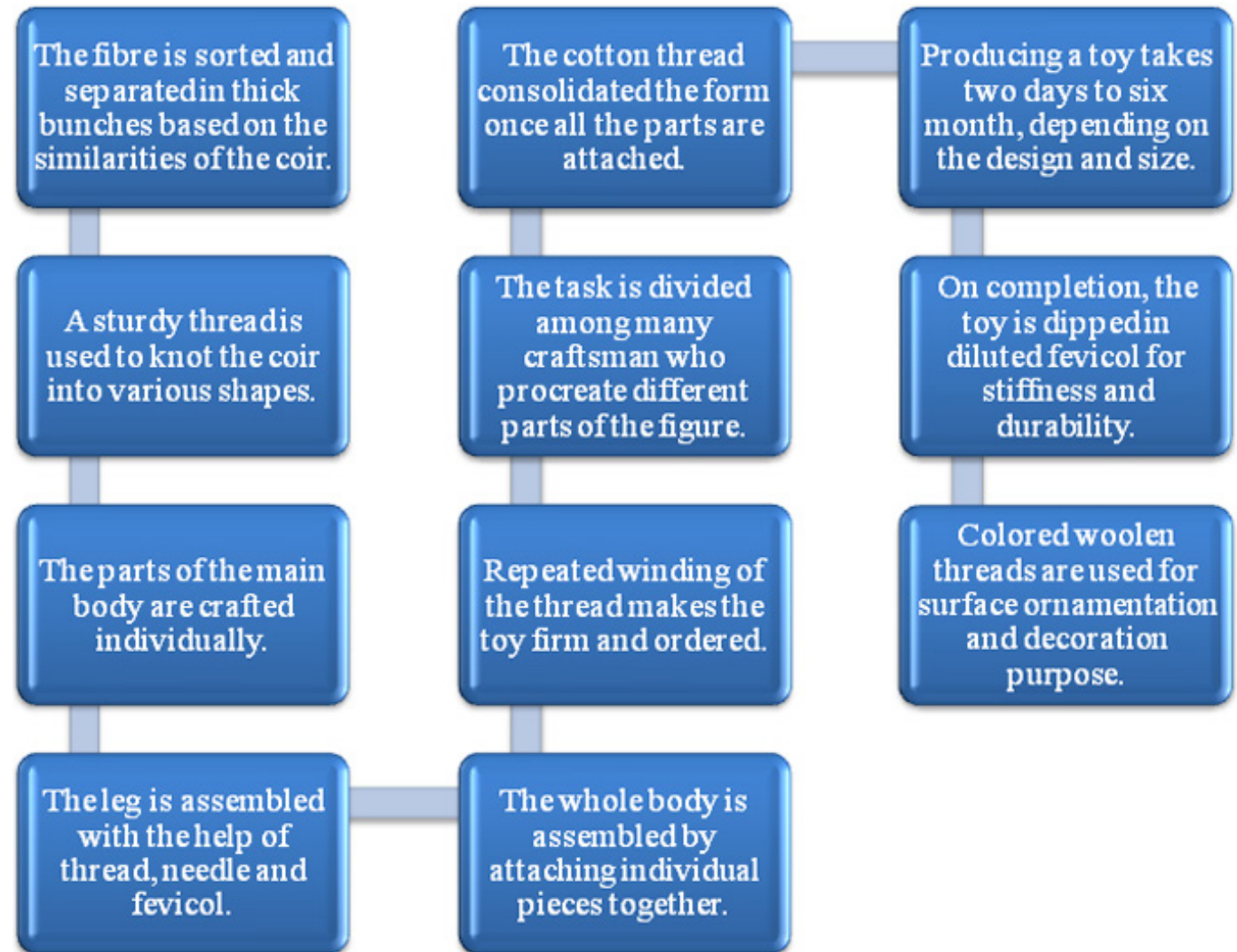
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Step by Step Process :



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## Products

Products made out of coir fibre are mainly decorative products. The toys made of coir are very popular as Educational products, used for teaching children in nursery and kindergarten schools. Some utility products have come into existence during recent times.

The product range consists of:

- Toys
- Wall hangings
- Pen stands
- Coasters
- Magazine racks
- Decroitive items

Technology:

- Earlier raw coir fibre was separated with the hands and the price of raw material was high but now they have machine made coir which is cheap and easily available.
- Keeping in mind the eco-friendly norms, chemical colours are not used or dyed coir is not used. Instead coloured thread or wool is used.

Design:

- Due to the growing competition from industries, a shift from coir mats to utility and decorative products is made.

Market:

- Now the business is expanding from local markets to international markets because of attractive designs and reasonable prices.
- Earlier this craft was only used for domestic purposes such as doormats for self use, ropes etc. But now this area has been explored and addition to the existing products is made rapidly.

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## References

- [Craft Design in India](#)
- [Online Infomation Centre for Crafts](#)
- [Handmade in India](#)
- [Crafts Council of India](#)
- [Craft Mark](#)

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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by **Professor Bibhudutta Baral** and Mr. Antony William at **NID, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with Professor 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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