

Design Resource

Doll Making - Vellore

Soft Stuffed Toy

by

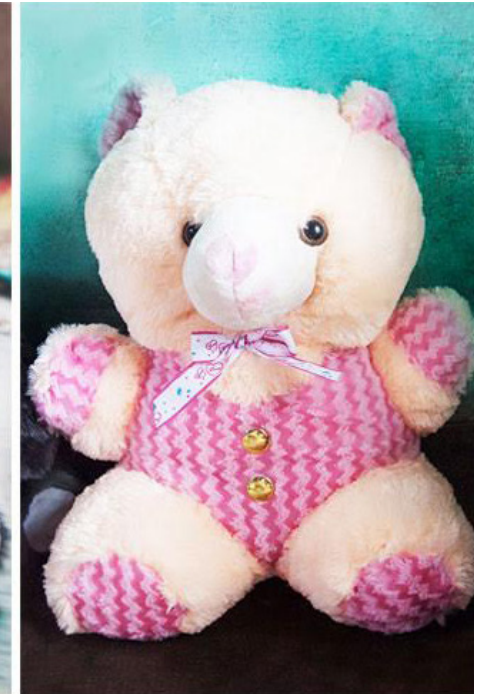
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Ranjitha M. C.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/doll-making-vellore>



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

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Introduction

Doll is like a best friend for a child. Sometimes doll replaces the presence of a human. Dolls can be a good educator to a person. Dolls came into an existence in various ways from stones, sticks to soft toys. Dolls play a major role in history of human kind. Dolls provide fun and entertainment. Toys develop cognitive behavior, emotional development, social development, which also stimulates creativity in child. It is believed that toys helps in making social bondage, in teaching, to memorize and emphasize lessons from their childhood, discover their self, training their minds and bodies, explore relationships, practice skills, and enhance their living spaces.

A girl starts growing with the doll. Doll is most of the time adorned by girls. Girls not only play with dolls but also assume it as their baby. They nurture them, adorn them, feed them, dress them and what not. Thus unknowingly the girl learns oneself, change perspectives of life and develop their way of being. In pre-schools presently dolls are used while telling stories, teaching moral science and many more things which is effectively influences the child's mind to apply qualities into oneself.

Teddy bear is a soft stuffed toy made out of fluffy soft material, which is very lovable, soft and a cute doll. Teddy was first made in the year 1902 by a candy storeowner Morris Michtom from Brooklyn N. Y. Teddy is said to be a cuddly toy. Textiles mainly used are plain fur cloth and pile textiles like plush or terrycloth. Generally stuffing materials are synthetic fibre batting, cotton, plastic pellets or beans, and stuffed toys are made in many various characters, mainly animals, legendary creatures, cartoon characters. Teddy bears are generally are meant for show casing at home or in gifting it to the loved ones.

In India toys have a humongous history from being ritual to being a playful one. There are toys for display, toys to play and toys for fun. Being a diverse country the toys are used by all kinds of people. Christians make decorative Jesus Christ crib with beautiful toys in the occasion of Christmas. Hindu's decorate dollhouse and display ritual and other toys creatively at the occasion of Dasara. We find dolls every corner of India. Cute teddy is been sold on national highways to an exclusive gift shops. Anyone or everyone knows Teddy. There are several artisans stitching teddy dolls in India. Likewise an artisan called Mrs. Rani in Ocheri village, Vellore hand stitches teddy bear dolls in various sizes. Raw materials are brought from Chennai; Fur cloth is imported from Paris. Artisan has ten years practice in hand stitching dolls. She also takes active part in exhibitions by keeping stalls in Vellore city, Coimbatore, Vaniyambadi and many other places and gets appraisable certification. She has also thought and trained many women at home how to stitch dolls, which helps the ladies to make their livelihood. Artisan not only stitches teddy bears but also stitches dolls of various characters like dogs, ducks and even fancy pillows in heart shapes.

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

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Grey shade fur that is used in making a doll.



Marking edges along the cutout with a chalk.



The thread is being put to the needle eye to begin with the stitching.



The nose of the teddy bear is being fixed.

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2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details

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



A beautiful composition of the teddy bear and the bird.



The fur doll stitched with alternate pink and white patterns.

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tools-and-raw-materials](http://www.dsource.in/resource/doll-making-vellore/tools-and-raw-materials)

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 for Doll Making:

- **Needle:** Stainless steel needle with a sharp end one side and a loophole for the thread to insert.
- **Cotton Sewing Thread:** Sewing thread used in stitching purpose.
- **Cardboard Cutout:** Measurement markings made by cardboard.
- **Chalk:** A marking material used in drawing the outline of the cutout.
- **Fur Cloth:** A cloth material having a fur texture used in making soft toys.
- **A Pair of Scissors:** A stainless steel scissors used for cutting the cloth and threads.
- **Plastic Doll Eyes:** Doll eyes button used as an eyes for the dolls.
- **Doll Nose Button:** Doll nose button used as a nose for the doll, which comes like nut and screw.
- **Plastic (synthetic) Fibre Cotton:** A cotton like fibre used in stuffing the doll.



Grey shaded fur like material.



A piece of brown chalk.

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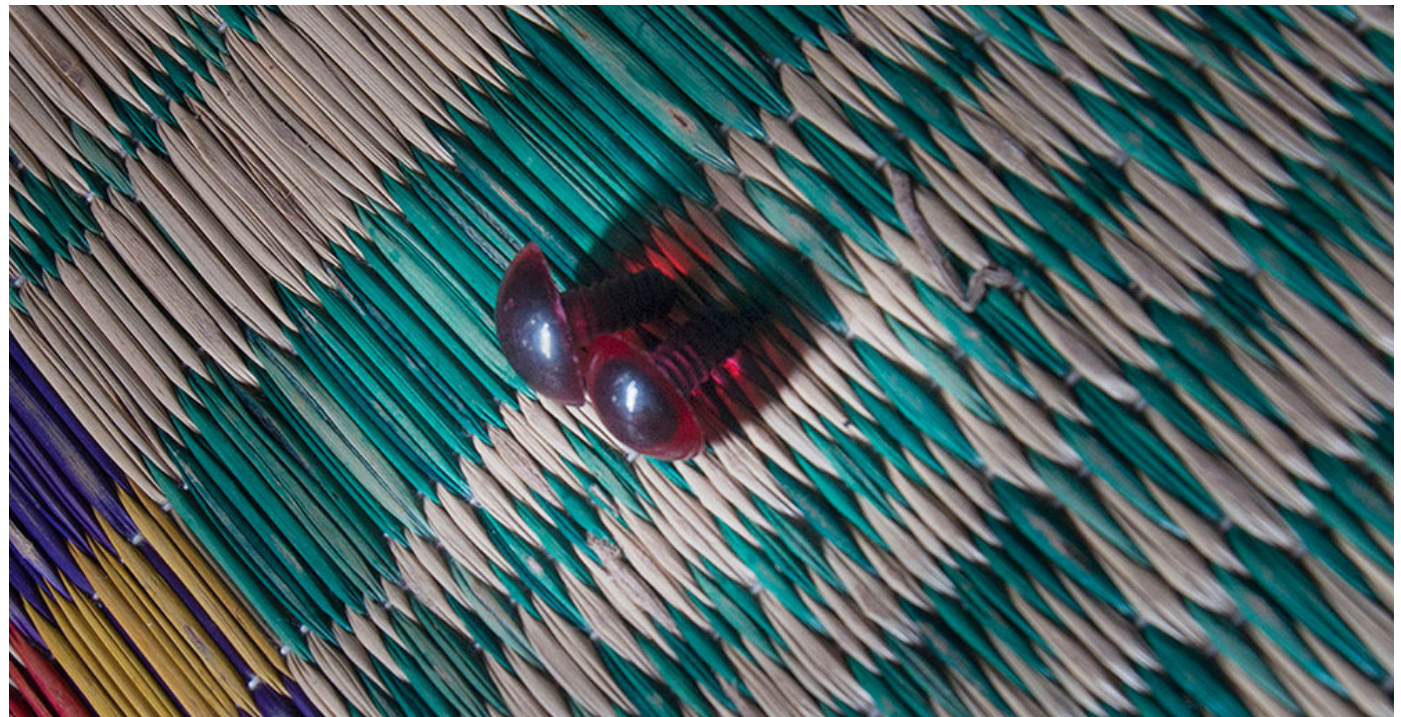
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A stencil made to use as the reference to mark on the fur like material.



Plastic fiber used to fill the doll after the stitch.



The doll's eyes.

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

Design Resource

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Source:

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



A pair of scissors used to cut the threads.



A long needle is used to sew.



Any color thread that matches with fur material is used.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details

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Making Process

The artisan buys the raw materials from Chennai like the fur cloth, felt cloth, eye buttons, nose button, plastic cotton fibre and other materials. Firstly the fur fabric is brought and attested with the direction of the fur flow, so that the flow of the fur is utilized in positioning the material onto the doll. Keeping in mind the fur fabric is turned upside down so that the plain side of the fabric is on the top to make the marking of the pattern for the product to be made. The markings are made with the help of black mark when it comes to light color fabric and chalk is used on dark color fabric so that the markings are visible enough to work upon. Once the patterns are created the fur portions are cut with the help of scissors. The cloth is supposed to be cut for the plain side to get accurate design pattern drawn. Once the cutting is done the fur is attested and the side edges of the fur in all the pieces of cloth is slightly pulled out so it don't disturb the stitching process further. Sewing the doll begins and ends on the plain side of the cloth that is back of the fur texture so the stitch isn't evident. The cut pieces are placed together according to their positions, for example the front and the backside of ear is taken together and fur sides are put inside and plain sides are outside. The stitching is made around the plain side of the cloth and the adjoining places are left open like pockets to attach to the body of the doll. Sometimes the details of the doll like inner ears are given a two dimensional effect by stitching the white felt cloth while stitching the ears itself. All the parts of the doll are stitched same way and only the head is left out at the end. Since the doll is a teddy bear, face details like cone shaped mouth is stitched with white felt cloth and nose button, eyes buttons are inserted by making a small slit cut in particular places and attached them to the doll. The head part of the doll is stitched to the body and little space is left at the behind to fill the soft plastic fibre cotton inside the doll. After filling the cotton completely the closing stitch is made very carefully in a place (space between the body and neck) where the stitch is not noticeable.

Flow Chart of Making Process:



1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details

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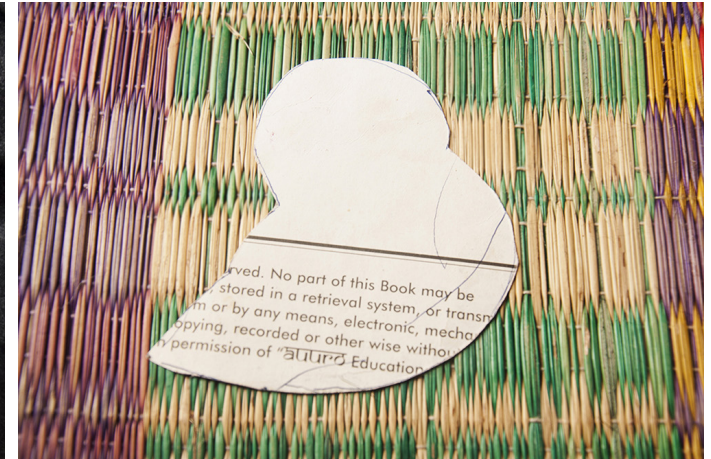
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Source:

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



Fur material that is used to make dolls.



Stencil, cutout of a paper to mark on the fur.

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



Marking on the fur using a paper cutout.



Fur marked with chalk.

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Source:

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



Cutting the fur along with the marked white outline.



Stitching two pieces of cut fur.



Cutting a white cloth along the paper cut stencil.



Stitching two pieces of white cloth.

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

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Source:

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

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



Attaching the white cloth and the fur for the claw of the doll.



The body part of the doll is all stitched and void to fill cotton is held.

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Source:

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



Stitching the hand palm part to the fur.



Reversing the doll.

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. **Making Process**

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Stitched and reversed head part of the doll.



Fixing the nose and eye to the doll.

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Source:

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



Stuffing the doll with plastic fiber.



After the stuffing the doll is stitched to enclose the filling.



The hand stitched fur teddy.

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

Design Resource

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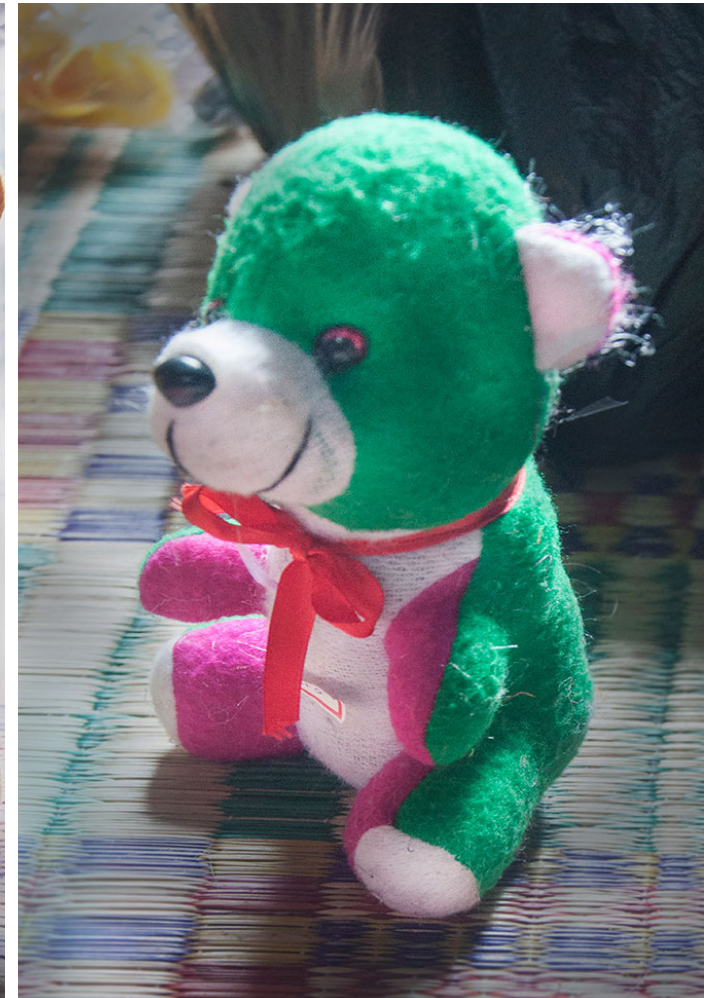
1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Products

Dolls are loveable, fun and cheerful thing to be around. Here it is stitched with hand with love and care. A small size simple doll costs around minimum of forty rupees, the size of the doll is calculated for the pricing. The artisan gets around sixty rupees profit if a large doll is sold. When it comes to production, per day three to four dolls are hand stitched.



Beautiful doll.



Marking edges along the cutout with a chalk.

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Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/doll-making-vellore/products>

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



Collection of variety of dolls.

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Video



Doll Making - Vellore

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

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