

Design Resource

Kaudi Making - Anegundi, Karnataka

The Procedure of Crafting a Quilt

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Manmi Dutta

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kaudi-making-anegundi-karnataka>

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Introduction

Repairing small portions of fabric together to create a larger piece, stitching layers of material together to create a single quilt has been found in olden times. Karnataka has a rich tradition of art and culture. In this region are different communities seen conquering the art of costume designing. The people of Karnataka are very creative in developing fabrics using minimal raw materials. Kaudi a quilt is another distinctive material made in Anegundi of Karnataka. For their families the women folk makes quilt with sarees and leftovers of cloth to stitch the Kaudi. It is one of the glorious tradition of recycling and reusing. The Kaudi quilts are being exported to European and many other countries. "Quilting" is the method of stitching different layers of cloth together to create a thicker fabric material. Quilting the procedure of crafting a quilt where the layers are joined along with patching, designing and knitting. Colorful scraps of cloth, creatively sewn into attractive geometric patterns creating quilts of different varieties which exports to different regions boasting its rare beauty and stories of cultural diversity. A skilled Artisan who involves in quilting is named as a quilter. Quilting can either be done by hand or in machine. The word "quilt" originates from a Latin culcita denotation a stuffed sack. The cloth pieces use for the Kaudi are generally cut from used clothes or unstitched materials. All these pieces are stitched together to make the Kaudi, that gives warmness with their aesthetic beauty which have lent a special touch to these quilts. The women of this region, connects well when they gather together to stitch the Kaudis. It offers them a great opportunity to share village talks and forget their problems while weaving magic on the hand stitched Kaudis. Quilting, which demands a great deal of expertise and involves straight lines in symmetric fashion, requires an understanding the ratios and proportions. The women of Anegundi, are able to achieve this only by constant practice which led them to create new patterns of stitching for both Western and Indian culture. They lay a great deal of emphasis on measurements and color schemes which they learnt by their own experiences. The quilts of Anegundi are in great demand as the end products are completely amazing. Quilting can be elaborately decorative, including stitched fashion into intricate designs and patterns, geometric grids, motifs traced from wooden templates or patterns which are repeated in forming the designs known as tessellations. The quilter may highlight these designs by using multicolored threads that are highly contrasting to the fabric used. The quilter uses invisible nylon or polyester thread that matches the quilt top to make the stitch invisible. Some quilters prefers to stitch free-hand, while others draws the intended design on the quilt top before sewing.

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A medium size Kaudi blanket / bed spread for kids.



Local women quilting, helps them for their daily wages.

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An image showing different generation of women's involved in this age old craft form.



Sari border & other cloth pieces being used to create variety of pattern.



Group of artisan involved locally for Kaudi craft, which supports their livelihood.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials required for the Kaudi making:

- **Glass Marker Pencil:** Glass Marker pencil is used as a marker to outline the templates on the unstitched cloth.
- **Wooden Frame Templates:** Wooden frames of different shapes and sizes are used as Templates for the designs.
- **Needles:** Needles helps in stitching the cut out cloth together to form a shape.
- **Threads:** Threads are used for sewing giving different patterns on the Kaudi.
- **Unstitched Cloth:** Unstitched cloth of various designs are used for Kaudi (quilt) making.
- **Polyester Cotton:** Polyester cotton is preferred in Kaudi making because after getting wet it comes back to its original shape once dried.
- **Pins:** Pins are used to hold the unstitched material together till they are sewed.



Pencil & glass marker, to mark on cloths.

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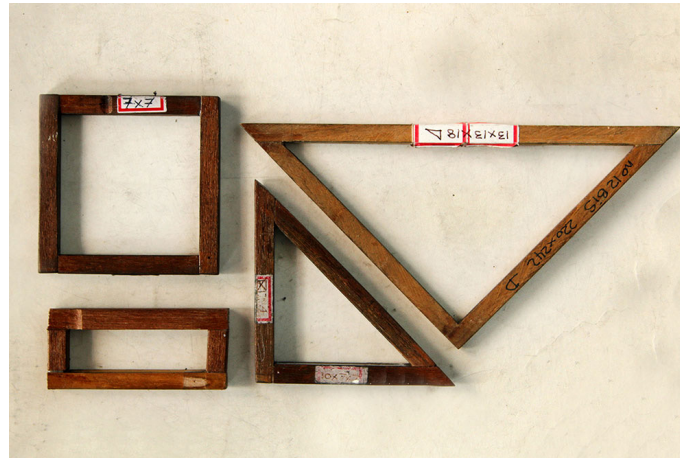
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Different types, and colors of cotton being used in this craft.



Large and small scissor for different modes of cutting.



Different shapes & sizes of templates used to make cutting marks.



Measuring tape to measure and mark the size of product.

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Cotton thread reels of different colors.

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Making Process

Kaudi (Quilts) making is considered as the most creative household item made by million little stitches. The making process is as follow:

1. Selection of the Fabric:

Numbers of different fabrics depending on the pattern are selected for quilting. The top layer of a quilt is usually made from cotton fabric. To select the colors of a quilt one starts by choosing a pattern or fabric with the appealing color scheme. This patterned fabric, is observed and certain colors from within the pattern is picked and other fabrics with complimentary colors are matched. The complimentary fabrics selected should appeal out one or more shade, tone or aspect of the original fabric. When making use of these fabrics, it is important to select fabrics that are not too worn in order to create a quilt, which will last. Newly purchased fabric is often washed before being cut or sewn. If not washed, there is a risk of the fabric dyes bleeding into each other when the final product is washed. It is best to wash and dry the fabrics before cutting into shapes and sizes because few fabrics has the tendency to shrink. To prevent creases and wrinkles on the fabric it is ironed beforehand.

2. Cutting of the Fabric:

Wooden frame templates come with different sized shapes: triangles, rectangles, square and set squares. Outline of the required shape is done with the glass pencil marker. A scissor is used to cut out the outlined parts protecting the cutting edge from damage. A quilting ruler, made of clear plastic with marked gridlines across the surface of the ruler is used for the measurements. It is important to make sure that the measurements for the seam equally assembles the quilt.

3. Sewing the Patches Together:

While sewing the large quilt a line method is preferred to maximize speed of the sewing. The fabric pieces are pin together and sewed together without breaking the threads. All the sections are sewn, and the threads are clipped before separating from the fabric. The seams are always pressed flat before joining further pieces to it. Precise seam patterns are important when it comes to quilting a Kaudi.

4. Layers of Quilts:

Quilts usually are segregated into three layers namely: the top layer, the middle layer of batting (polyester), and the fabric backing. The top layer is the design layer. The cotton contained the middle layer which decides the warmness of the quilt. Cotton comes in different length on the thicknesses of the final quilt. Layers of cotton can be joined to increase the warmth of the completed product. The bottom layer is a simple layer of cotton, in complimentary colour with a design scheme. Few quilters use the extra or spare fabric from the top layer to make a secondary design for the fabric backing.

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5. Basting the Layers:

The process of sewing loose and long stitches in a grid layout through the surface of the quilt to join the layers of the quilt together is known as Basting. Basting can also be done using large curved safety pins. Hand sewing is usually sewn with a running stitch and is easier to remove and it maintains a control of an area. A running stitch can be easily removed from the surface. The both areas are pinned together to sew with a hand sewing needle.

6. Quilting:

After the basting method, the layers are ready to be stitched together, by hand. The method of quilting involves the use of a glass marker by which an outline is created with the help of the wooden stencil placed on the surface of the quilt. The quilter will then sew along the cut out patterns, and the stencil is wiped off after the quilt is completed.

7. Binding:

Once the layers have been quilted, the stitching of the edges is started. There are many different ways to bind a quilt, where the quilter involves sewing one side of a strip of fabric to the front side of the quilt, through all the layers of the fabric, then by folding the strip over to the back side of the fabric and closing the binding by hand stitching. Another way is that long fabric strips are cut on the basis that are attached to the borders of the quilt and sewed.

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Flow Chart - Kaudi Weaving



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Artisan marking on cloth piece with the help of a template.



She then cuts the marked area out of the cloth piece.



Two similar size pieces are stitched together.



It is then added with few more similar size, with different design cloth piece.

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Worn out / extra threads or extra bit of cloth is cut out after the stitching is done.

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A piece of cloth roughly of square feet in size, after it is stitched.



Similar pieces are then joined to make a seamless fabric.

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Polyester cotton is filled in between two pieces of cloth.



A border is added on the edges, for it to stand out.



It is then closed by sewing it together.

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Products

Common Products:

- **Bed Spreads:** Using the bold and bright colored patchwork pattern the bed spreads are designed.
- **Blankets:** Kaudi (Quilts) are made in various designs and lengths.
- **Mats:** Mats of different designs and sizes were made in huge amount for sale.
- **Baby Quilts:** Traditional baby quilts with block and mosaic motifs were created.
- **Table Runners:** Traditional table runners with complimentary colour combinations expressed the aesthetic beauty.



Kaudi blanket with crisscross stitching.

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Kaudi blanket with triangular pattern stitches.

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Kaudi mat for seating.



Kaudi bed spread, with pastel shade patches and different kind of stitching.

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Kaudi blanket with floral pattern.

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