Design Resource

**Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore**
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details
Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/introduction

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

Introduction

Vellore is a city of Tamil Nadu, southern state of India. The state is known for its culture and heritage, temples and architecture, dance, music and art, everything seems so saintly and stands tall for its unique characteristics. The city Vellore is an administrative headquarters and is located on the banks of Palar River in the north-eastern part of the state. For its high temperatures one can find palm tree plantation highly at the region. The palm trees have been great support to the people. The incomes that the people get from palm trees help them uplift their living.

The Palm trees are basically found growing at tropical regions. They are abundant and grow well in tropical areas. They are most commonly seen throughout Africa, South America, Arabian Peninsula, Southeast Asia, northern Australia, the islands of tropical parts of Pacific Ocean, Mexico, Hawai and some areas of United States. They have bright green leaves that grow as clusters or singularly arranged at the top of the stem. The palm trees have flowers small and white. The Palm trees grow better at sandy area where the roots can penetrate through the soil well and can survive without rain for a good time. The leaves of palm trees when dried are used to make attractive products. The leaves of palm trees are sleek and long and provide good shade. These palm trees belong to Arecaceae family, which is also called as Palmae.

Everything of palm trees appears to be utilized and benefited. The palm trees significance is said to be as old as civilization itself. There are numerous ways a palm tree can be used and is seen across various countries.

Everything of palm tree is put to use - the coir, palm sticks, the leaves fruit and the drink that is made. Hence palm trees are an important asset to the people. At Vellore the use of palm leaves is eminent and supports the living of the respected families who live on palm tree plantation. The people managing the household work simultaneously indulge in working with these palm leaves. According to the client’s order the product is weaved and finished. Five to six people (women basically) work in a group and accomplish the task. It is more like a small scale working section which runs to uplift the living and also carry the practice of palm leaf craft.
Design Resource

Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/introduction

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

The glimpse of the artisans weaving basket at Craft Development Centre.

Artisan is involving in making of palm leaf basket.

Set of palm leaf baskets are kept for sale.
Design Resource

**Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore**  
Making of Palm Leaf Products  
by  
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.  
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:  
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/introduction

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

Using palm leaves, artisans are made different types of products and decorative items.
Tools and Raw Materials

Tools

- **Knife**: knife is used to cut the palm leaves while weaving.
- **Basin**: A basin is used to boil the palm leaves along with dye.
- **Measuring Tape**: Measuring tape is used to measure the width and lengths of basket.

Raw Materials

- **Palm Leaves**: Natural dried palm leaves are used in making baskets.
- **Dye**: Pink dye is used to color the palm leaves to get the respected pink dye.
- **Water**: Water is needed to boil the palm leaves when dyeing and soaking.

Natural palm leaf, before segregation. Small and big size of palm leaf segregation had done.
Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

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

The palm leaves are utilized in making variety of products such as presentation boxes, plain boxes, hats, trays, baskets and more. The weaving of these products is simple, and the twists and turns of the palm leaves strip to build each product changes slightly. The making process of palm leaf basket is going to be described further in simple three steps accordingly: Preparation of Palm leaves, Dyeing of Palm leaves & Weaving of Palm leaves to baskets.

1. The Preparation of Palm Leaves:
The palm leaves are collected from the palm trees. The semi dry palm leaves are completely dried. The midrib of the dried leaves is removed splitting the palm leaves into two halves separating the stick. Later the palm leaves are either cut to more thin strips or kept to carry on with the further dyeing process.

2. Dyeing of Palm Leaves:
The dried palm leaves are cut to more thin strips and dyed to give respective color. A vat half filled with water is kept for boiling. With slight start of boiling the dye is added once the color of the water turns to respective color the palm strips are added to the vat and left for the dye to settle on the strips. After few minutes the strips are removed and kept for cooling. The dyed strips are taken and further weaving process is begun.

3. Weaving of Palm Leaves to Baskets:
The palm leaves are weaved to variety of things - boxes, presentation boxes, simple square boxes, baskets, hats and many more. The making process of palm leaf basket follows by firstly picking up a pair of palm leaves of length 12 inches. The palm leaves is weaved to create a tray like shape for the base of the basket. To start with the weaving two pairs of palm leaves of an inch's width is taken and placed adjacent to each other with half-centimeter’s gap. A thin cut strip is taken and placed behind. Keeping the two pair of adjacent palm leaves in the same position the thin strip is brought over front till the half-centimeter’s gap and inserted, it is run across horizontally and brought front, kind of knotting the strip. The step follows to finish with the base for the basket maintaining the distance of strips equally repeating the steps while adding pair of palm leaves adjacent to one another. The edges are locked following the same weaving steps but with the thin strips of half centimeters width. Then the sides are worked by continuing the weaving in the same way. The handles for the basket are attached by measuring from the sides, marking equal spots from both sides. The extra palm leaves are cut with the help of small handy knife and the basket is completed.
Design Resource

**Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore**
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/making-process

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

---

Flow Chart of Making Process:

1. The palm leaves are collected from the palm trees and dried.

2. The midrib of palm leaves is removed splitting the palm leaves into two halves.

3. The palm leaves are dyed to give particular color.

4. Weaving is begun after dyeing.

5. Pair of palm leaves is placed adjacent to each other with a small gap to pass thin strip of palm leaf.

6. Passing the strip through the small space it is brought on top locking the two pair of palm leaves together.

7. The same weaving process is repeated and the basket is completed.
**Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore**

Making of Palm Leaf Products

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

---

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

---

Segregation of palm leaf is being made.

Using custom made cutting tool palm leaves are cut and made small strips.

Water is being boiled.
Once the water is heated, color is added and stirred well.

Palm leaf strips are then dipped in boiling water.

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/making-process
Palm leaf strips are allowed in boiling water for 10-15 minutes to absorb the color.

Source: http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/making-process
Using smaller palm leaves strips; artisan started weaving the base of the basket.

Once the strips absorb the color they are taken out from the water and kept for drying.

The full-size strips are cut equally as per the measurements.

Using smaller palm leaves strips; artisan started weaving the base of the basket.
Using knife excess of strips is cut.
The new strips of the palm leaves are interwoven to the weaved base and the process is continued. The bigger palm leaf is attached to the corner of the base of the basket.
A thick and small size palm leaves strip is attached to the side of the base of the basket to weave sidewalls.
Artisan measuring the proper size of the base of the basket by using measuring tape.
The weaving is continued from the base of the basket to its supporting walls.

The weaving is continued till as per the basket size.

Design Resource

Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/making-process

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details
Once basket is done, artisan is measuring proper distance to make a handle for the basket.

Artisan is joining the handle to the basket.

After complete the one round of weaving, slightly pressing the all the corners to get proper shape.
The handles are measured and attached to the basket.

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/making-process
The strips are wound/curled/twisted to each other to prepare the handles of the basket.

Source: http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/making-process
Design Resource

**Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore**
Making of Palm Leaf Products  
by  
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.  
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:  
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/making-process

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

---

In the finishing phase, the large strip is attached to the topside of the basket.

After finishing the basket-weaving, artisan testing the stiffness of the basket.

Final product of palm leaf basket.
Products

Palm leaf products - Handmade baskets, presentation boxes, trays and hats are all ecofriendly products. These ecofriendly products are specialized handwork and environmental protecting. The starting price of the products is Rs120. And it goes on. Most people prefer these products for they are ecofriendly yet unique and attractive.

Varieties of palm leaf products and home decorative items.
Design Resource

**Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore**

Making of Palm Leaf Products

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/products

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

Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/products

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

Beautiful home decorative product done by using palm leaf.

Home decorative product.
Design Resource

**Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore**
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/products

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

Decorative light stand product done by using palm leaf.
Design Resource

**Palm Leaf Craft - Vellore**
Making of Palm Leaf Products
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Sandhya B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/palm-leaf-craft-vellore/video

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

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

You can get in touch with
• Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at bibhudutta[at]nid.edu

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

Crafts Business Man:
Dr. K. Murugesan
Vellore, TN
India
Mobile: 09443227442

Helpdesk Details:
Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
R & D Campus
National Institute of Design
#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road
Bengaluru 560 022
India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054
Fax: +91 80 23373086
Email: dsource.in[at]gmail.com