

Design Resource

## Rice Jewelry - Vellore

Art of Rice Jewelry Making

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Rakshitha

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/rice-jewelry-vellore>

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## Introduction

Rice is the chief vegetation of Asia that has a very long history. It is a healthy food source that is categorized into vegetable group. It has the greatest signification in many different cultures. Throughout Asia it is considered as the symbol of prosperity and wealth. Rice has always held the highest position and respect as being the daily staple food source. It is used in many rituals and it has also become a medium of art in India and Turkey. It is mentioned that Topkapi Palace in Istanbul takes away the name of having the oldest decorated rice grain. In some culture, traditionally tossed rice is used for blessing the newly married couple with good fertility and fortune. Coming to the tradition of floor art, rice is powdered and drawn rangoli in it on the floor in front of the house and in Pooja room as the symbol of fertility and good fortune. Using rice grain the creation of art has become a fashion now a days. Writing the name on a single rice grain is one among the beautiful arts. In some traditions rice, lady writes the name of the wedding couple and a hand drawn red heart shape between the names and the wedding date is also written on the same single rice grain. Sometimes the designs are drawn on the rice grain and are set in a lovely necklace, key chain and bracelet as well.

Using rice grain there are various innovative arts that are rising all over the world. It has become one of the major decorative and interesting arts now a days. Some people have taken up their profession in the making of rice grain decorations for their livelihood. There are modern ways of decorating the grain these days. Some of the examples are: portraits made on single rice grain which demands lots of concentration and dedication needed for making it. And the other creation is the rice grain paintings that are done using unique techniques by doing research and developed in Vietnam. Rice paintings are also done in India by using husked rice that are dyed and dried which is later glued on canvas or paper. Where as in countries like Vietnam, grains are roasted to generate natural colors and then they are carefully placed jointly on a canvas to prepare collage. Later these rice paintings are treated / sprayed with varnish or chemical substances to prevent the mold and termite infestation and also to preserve the color. The other new innovation of rice grain in India is rice jewelry. The art of rice jewelry making like earrings and decorating the hairclips are developed by an artisan, named Vidya from Vellore district of Tamil Nadu. She is basically an art teacher at a school in Vellore. As a hobby she initiated to do stuff dolls and doll making became her part-time business at Kollimalai. Later glass painting was also added to her hobby. During the year 2005 her desire to come up with a new innovative art, paved way for her to develop the creation of rice jewelries. Initially she tried making this jewelry using paper bits/strips but due to some inconvenience caused while maintaining the paper jewelry, the artisan took the initiative to try out rice grains instead of paper bits. As it turned out to be the prettiest jewelry made out of raw rice, she tried the same technique to follow and designed much more unique designs by using many other pulses like paddy, wheat, elachi, dal and etc. These jewelries were first made and worn by the artisan herself and in later days as her family and friends liked her art creations and demanded for the similar jewelries, the artist came up with more and more rice jewelries. Being an art teacher at school, her students and colleagues were also fascinated by this art and demanded for it. By this, the sales of rice jewelry begun and earlier these jewelries were sold at government shops. As those government shops were closed in later days, the artisan found a new way to improve the sales of these jewelries through the local shops.

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Except the grains of rice, rest all the stationary materials like fabric glue, fabric paints, paint brush and etc are bought from Chennai. Making of this rice grain jewelry takes 5-10 minutes per earring. These earrings are colored in fabric paints and sometimes in oil paints as well to bring in the glossy effect and to match the wearer's attire. The artisan sells these jewelries in and around the Vellore district at reasonable/affordable rates. This art creation is carried out since ten years and as the years pass by, the demand for this unique jewelry is getting high.



On the glue rice stuck one by one as per the design of the earring.

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Artisan Mrs. Vidya is involved in making jewelry design using rice.



By sticking the rice through applying the glue-using toothpick, second layer is made.

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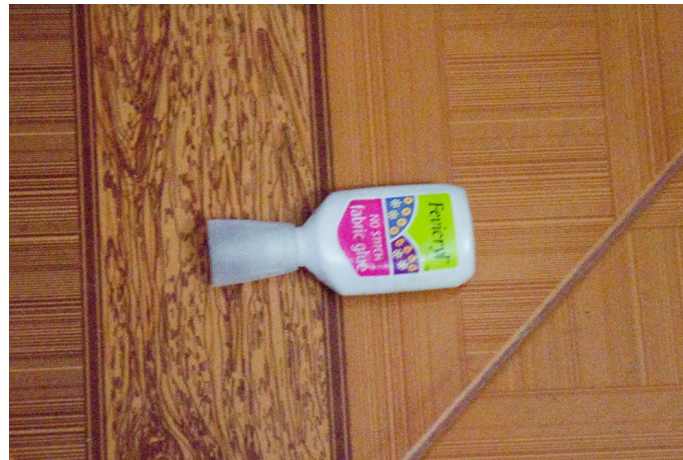
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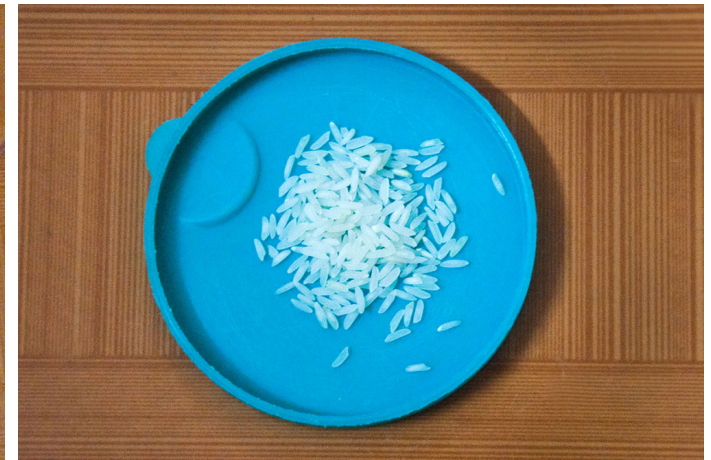
## Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required for rice jewelry:

- **Raw Rice:** Raw rice is the main element used of making rice jewelry.
- **Fabric Glue:** Fabric glue is used for sticking the rice.
- **Plastic Eyes:** These plastic eyes are usually used for stuffed toys like teddy bear and etc., but here it is used for extracting the hard studs to make earring.
- **Hairclips:** Hairclips are used for decorating it with rice.
- **Beads:** Beads are included in-between the rice for making the earring attractive.
- **Fabric Paints:** Fabric paints are used for coloring the earrings to match the wearer's attire.
- **Paint Brush:** Paint brush is used for painting the rice jewelry.



Fabric glue – use to stick rice, pearls and beads on studs.



Rice – use to design the earring.

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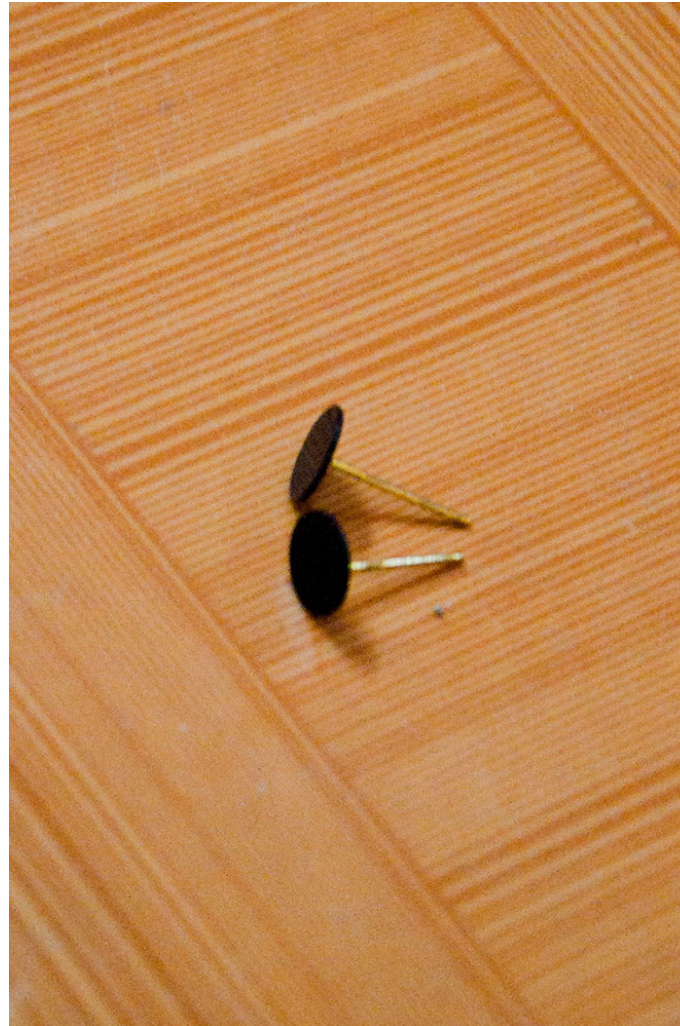
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

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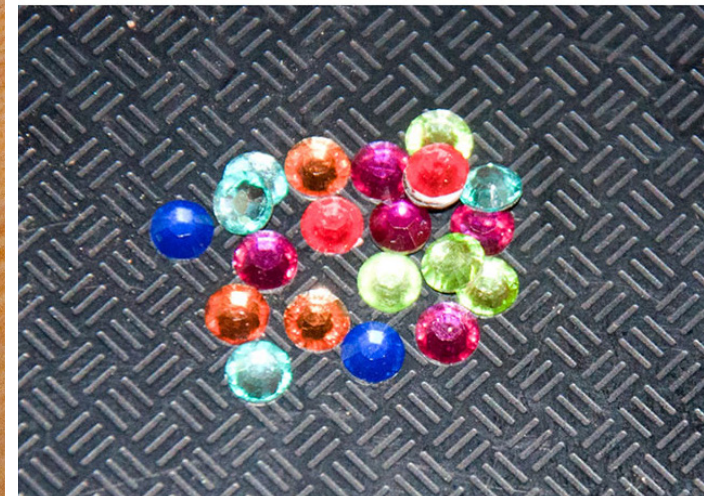
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Earring studs.



Plastic pearls and colored beads – use to make earring more attractive.

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Teddy bear eyes – use to make studs.

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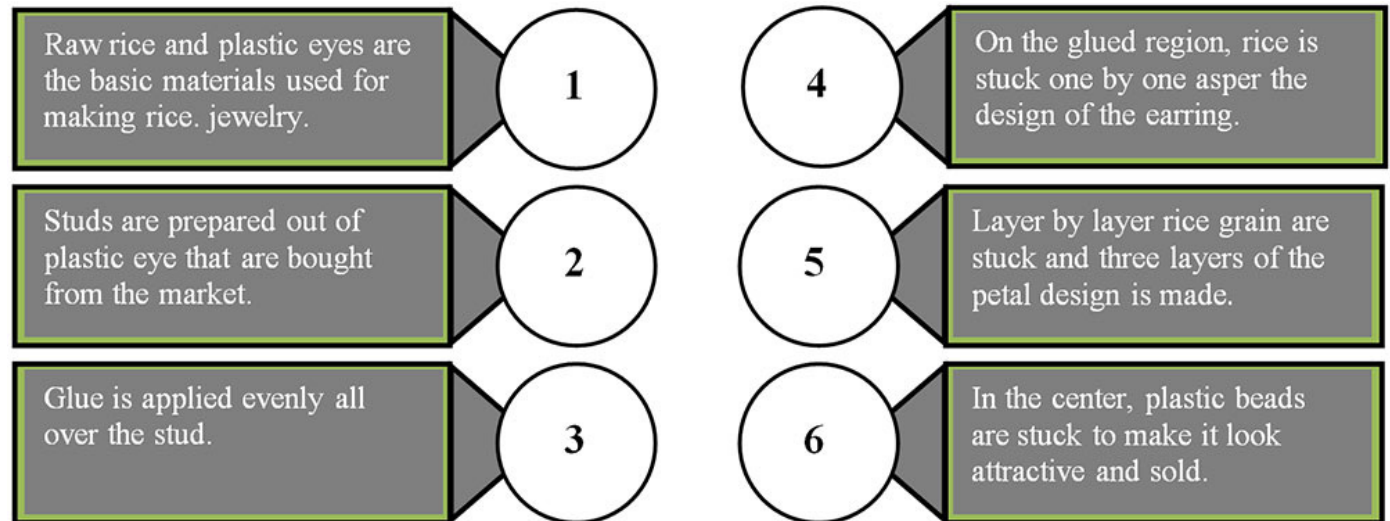
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## Making Process

Selecting the cleaned and collecting the evenly lengthier rice grain individually initiates the process of rice jewelry making. The plastic eyes that are used for making stuff toys are bought from the local market and used here. The upper bulge glossy eyelid area is separated from its black hard stud attached to its back in those plastic eyes. These black studs are used as the back support for the rice stud earrings. On the black hard stud of the plastic eye, the fabric glue is applied and the glue is spread evenly all over the stud. Rice grain is then stuck to the black stud one by one, by leaving empty space in the middle of the glued region. As the first layer of rice grain sticking gets completed again the middle region of the earring is applied glue and the second layer of rice grain is stuck to it. Likewise even the third layer of rice grain is stuck and the center area of the earring is glued. On that the pearl or the colored beads are stuck to make the earring look more attractive. The same procedure of sticking the rice grain is followed on the hairclips to decorate it as per the design. Using the similar methodology of decorating the hairclips and making the earrings are done by using other grains and pulses like wheat, paddy, elachi and etc. These earrings made of natural grains are also colored according to the customer's demand!

**Flow Chart of Making Process:**

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Fabric Glue is applied on the stud and hairclip by using glue tube.



Artisan selecting good rice for the earring design.



Artisan started sticking rice on glue.

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Same methodology of rice design is made on the hairclips.



On the glue rice stuck one by one as per the design of the earring.



After the outer layer is made, the second row of petal is done by sticking the rice one by one.

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By sticking the rice through applying the glue-using toothpick, second layer is made.



Third row of petal is done by sticking the rice one by one.



Plastic pearls are stuck in the center to complete the design and to make the earring attractive.

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Center of the design is made attractive by sticking the colored beads.

The fascinating jewelries are made out of rice on studs and hairclips.

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## Products

Jewelries made out of rice is a very innovative fashioned art, invented by the artisan of Vellore. By using the properly shaped rice and by maintaining the similar length of raw rice most fascinating earrings and innovative designer art is made on the hairclips. The bigger size earring set is sold for Rs.30 whereas the smaller size earring set is sold for Rs.10-15. This art of rice jewelry making invented by woman artisan, contributes this new art to the fashioned world that is meant for women.



Earring – Made out of rice and plastic pearls.

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Hairclips – Made out of rice and colored beads.

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Earring – Made out of wheat and beads.

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## Video



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You can get in touch with

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