

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi>

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



Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/introduction>

Introduction

The invention of metal changed the human's life. Prehistoric men used metals to build tools and weapons; later on developments in agriculture, welfare, transport and even cookery are difficult without metal. Metal plays a very important role in human's life. Metals can be shaped into required shape without breaking or cracking. Metal is a mineral body, by nature either liquid or solid state; melted by the heat of the fire but when it is cooled down again it becomes hard. The origin of the metal art started at the time of Indus Valley Civilization, a beautiful figurine of a 'Dancing girl', made of bronze dating around 2500 B.C., and it is of 10.5 centimeters (4.1 inches) in height, which shows that Indus Valley people liked to dance. Traditionally there are six different kinds of metals, namely gold, silver, copper, iron, tin and lead.

Silver is a soft, white, lustrous transition metal, it possess the highest electrical conductivity of all metals even higher than copper. The atomic symbol of silver is Ag. Silver often plays a second contrivance to another precious metal, gold. The first evidence of silver mining dates back to 3000 B.C., in Turkey and Greece. Silver has numerous applications beyond coinage, jewelry and ornaments, god and goddess idols, high-value tableware and utensils and also as an investment in the form of coins and bullions (silver bars). Silver played a great role in making early photography possible. Even though the rise of digital cameras, silver remains part of the traditional photographic process.

Mr. Bharatlal Kathera is residing at a small place called Neechi Bagh, which is located at Varanasi; he is been trained from his ancestors who had started this business many years ago. His elder brother was the most senior and the most experienced craftsman in this field who not only gained a good knowledge but also extended the business to a level of competition. After his brother's death Mr. Baratlal took over the position and at the same time he trained his younger son (Gangaram) and relative (Sanjeev kumar) for the same. These group of artisans are very passionate about their work who owe themselves to this beautiful unique art. Not only silver, artisans also work with very treasurable metal gold. Their main concentration is only on silver embossing. Silver shoe is also known as Paduka, the traditional footwear made of silver especially for marriages. Artisan took three to four days to finish a set of silver shoe.

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

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/introduction>

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



Artisan involved in the process of shoe making.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/introduction>

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



Silver shoes made for bride.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/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

Tools used for Silver shoe making are as follows:

- **Mallet:** To emboss the silver sheet.
- **Customized Tool:** (A cube shaped tool made of iron with a hole in the middle) To bend the sheet for basic shape.
- **Customized Chisels:** Reformed chisels to suit a specific task.
- **Lah:** To make embossing easier without cracking.
- **Silver Blocks:** The basic raw material for the silver shoe making.
- **Hydraulic Pressing Machine:** To convert the silver blocks into sheets.
- **Hand Gas Burner:** To heat the silver sheet which makes embossing simpler.
- **Water-soluble Fluxes:** Which helps to join the two parts of the silver.
- **Measuring Tape:** To measure the length and width of the shoe.
- **Silver Solder:** (Which consist silver, copper and zinc) To solder the silver.
- **Filer and Buffing Machine:** To smoothen the edges.
- **Metal Sheet Cutter:** To cut the silver sheet according to the size.
- **Plastic Brush:** To clean the dust particles.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/tools-and-raw-materials>



Customized chisels: used in embossing work.



Customized chisels: used in embossing work.



Hammers: used for hitting silver sheet to get a required shape.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/tools-and-raw-materials>

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



Metal cutter: Used to cut metal sheets.



Cutting pliers: different types of pliers used in shoe making.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/tools-and-raw-materials>

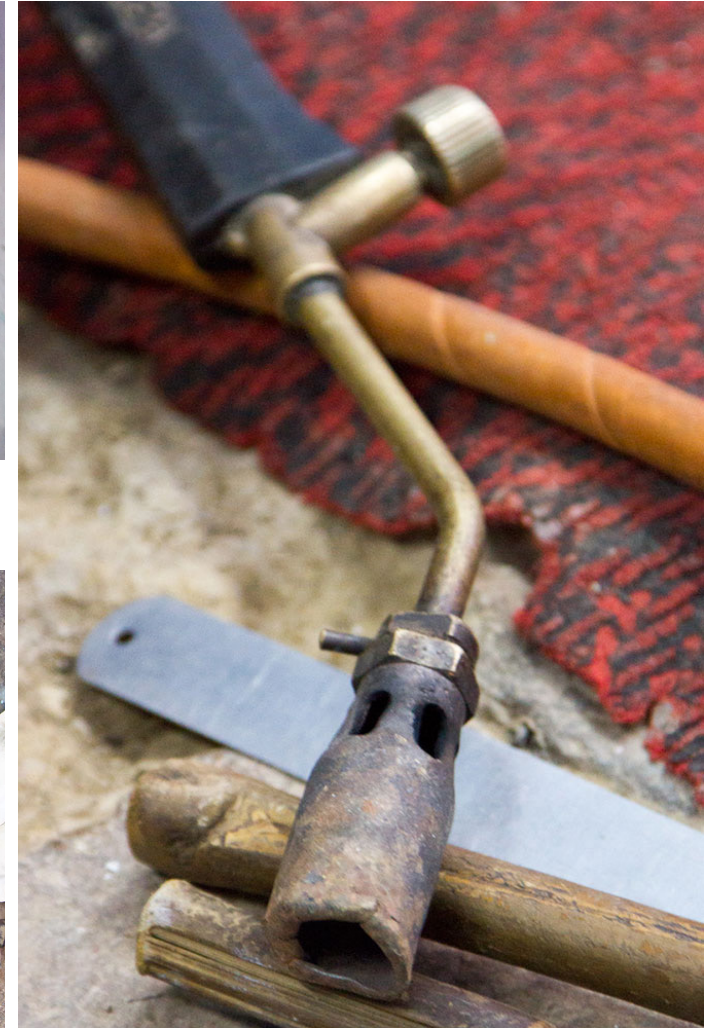
1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Customized tools: Used in embossing work.



Customized tools: Used in embossing work.



Gas burner: used to heat silver shoe.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/tools-and-raw-materials>

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



Filers : Used to smoothen the edges.



Lacquer: used in embossing work which makes embossing easier without cracking.



Silver block: The basic raw material used in silver shoe making.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/tools-and-raw-materials>

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



Clay paste: in process of heating a thin layer of clay is applied.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver
by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>

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

Making Process

Silver blocks are the basic raw material for the traditional silver shoe. Silver blocks are converted into silver sheets with the help of Hydraulic pressing machine. Heating of the silver sheet using Hand gas burner makes it soft, which helps in shaping it. After heating the silver sheet, the artisan starts bending by hammering the sheet to get a basic shape using customized tool (cube shaped iron tool with a hole in the middle), which helps to get a basic shape. Once done with the basic shape, the unwanted area is removed by chiseling. The upper part of the shoe is measured by comparing the sample shoe size with the help of measuring tape and marked by pencil. Using metal sheet cutter the unwanted area is removed according to the mark done by pencil. The base part of the insole is slightly bent by hammering.

The silver wire is heated to make it soft and easy to bend according to shape. Then the pre heated silver wire is soldered to the 'top line', applying water-soluble fluxes and silver solder by firing through the hand gas burner. Once done with the soldering the preheated shoe is dipped in water. The sharp edges are filed by using filer. The thin paste of clay is applied on the top of the shoe and the mustard oil is spread inside the shoe before pouring the molten lah. The lah takes about 4 hours to settle down to perform further work on the shoe. After the application of clay and mustard oil, the molten lah is poured inside the shoe, which makes the embossing easier without cracking. Then the lah is cooled and the extra lah on the top of the shoe is removed carefully by chiseling and again the shoe top is washed with water to get a clear vision.

Artisan draws the designs on the surface of the metal with the help of pencil and then the artist starts embossing with the help of customized chisels like C-shaped chisel, pointed chisel, flat chisels etc., along with the respective designs. Once done with the embossing the lah is again heated to separate the shoe top and the lah. Then using plastic brush cleans the shoe. On the other side, taking exact measurement for the sole cuts the silver sheet. Later on the sole and the upper is soldered, using silver solder and the water-soluble fluxes by firing through hand gas burner. After soldering the two pieces, the edges are smoothed by using filer and buffing machine to get a neat finish. Once again the metal sheet is cut according to the size and shape of the 'heel' and then the 'heel' is joined by soldering it to the 'sole' of the shoe.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

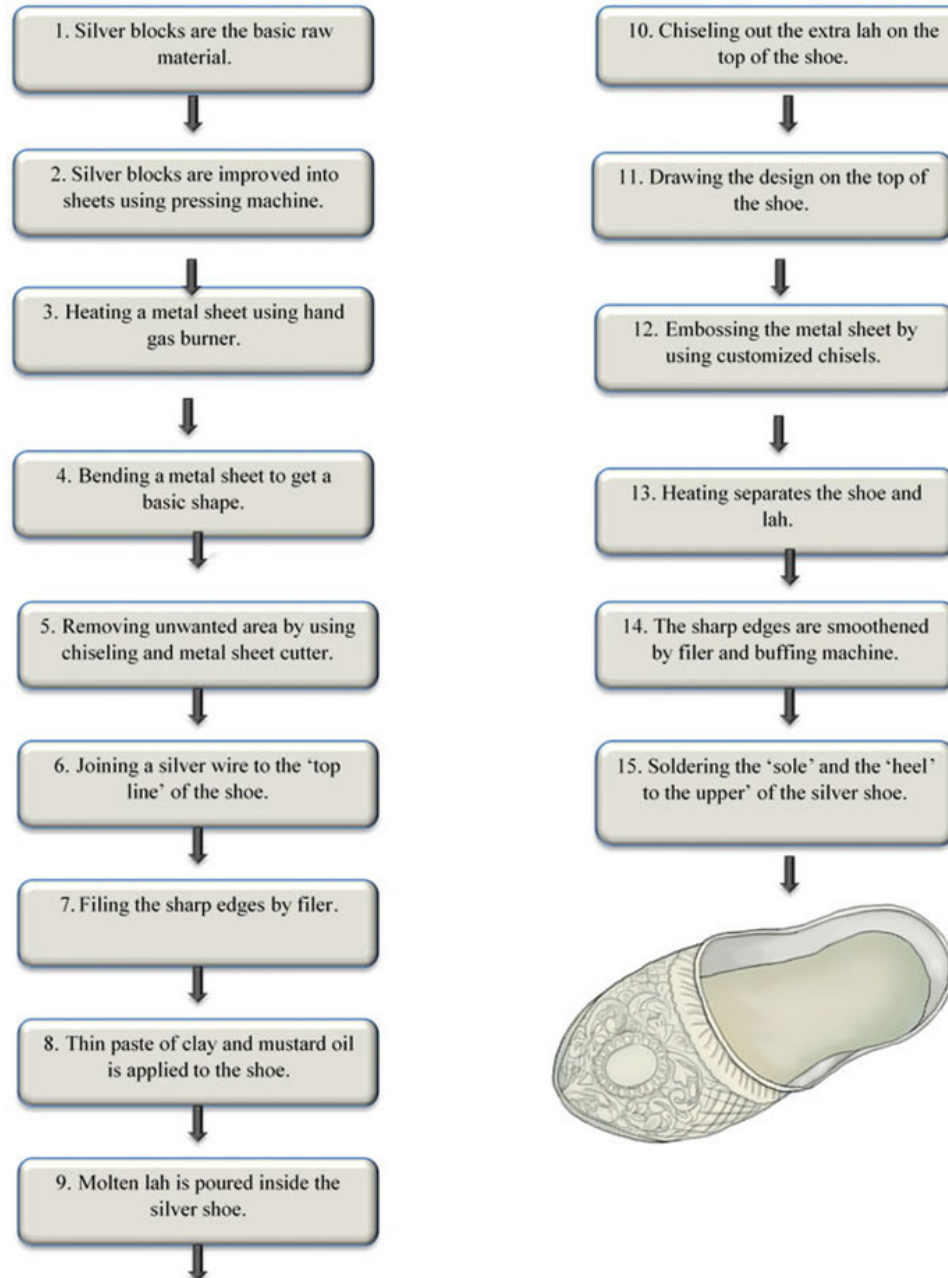
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>

Flow Chart:



1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. **Making Process**

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>



Leveling the silver sheet by hitting with wooden hammer.



Basic shape is being given by hammering over the silver sheet.



Shoe is measured to the sample shoe size and the unwanted area is removed using metal sheet cutter.

Unwanted area is being removed.

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

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>



Silver basic structure is being heated with the help of burner.

Area to be cut is being marked and reattached.

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



The base size is being measured using the measuring tape.



Measurement for the shoe base is being measured by placing basic shoe structure over the silver sheet.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>

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



Silver shoe base is obtained by cutting the silver sheet.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>

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



Silver shoe base is obtained by cutting the silver sheet.



Silver wire is heated and being fixed over the shoe topline.



Water soluble fluxes and silver solder is being applied and heated with the help of burner.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>

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



After the soldering, shoe is dipped in water for a while.



Thin clay paste is being applied on the top of the shoe and mustard oil inside the shoe.



Lacquer is melted with the help of gas burner.



Molten lacquer is being pored inside the shoe.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>



Embossing work is being made on the silver shoes using customized chisels.

Lacquer is being heated to separate it from the shoes.

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



Artisan involved in making the sole of shoe.

Shoe is being heated after applying silver solder and water solubles.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/making-process>

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



Shoe is dipped in water.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver
byProf. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/products>

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

Products

Silver is valued as one of the precious metals from ages and the metal craft is very traditional art for almost 5000 years from now. Silver is very admirable metal because of its brilliant white metallic luster surface. Mr. Bharatlal Kathera is one of the senior and renowned craftsmen for silver shoe making. The group of artisans including his son and cousin also makes traditional idols of goddess, traditional prabavali for god and goddess idols, kalash for rituals and jewelries by using different metals like brass, gold, aluminum, copper etc.

This shoe is an order placed for a bride would get married wearing the same shoe how as a pride of royalty as well as the dignity towards the groom. The shoe weighs about 700gm of silver with no mixture of any other metal (purity-999), its shape and design matches to the sample that was provided to the artisan, this remains the treasure for the upcoming family as a part of ancestor's gift in future.

The price for the set of silver shoes is starts from INR 27,000rupees including making charges and depends on the silver used. The making charges for the set of silver shoes starts from INR3,000.



A close view of Tabla placed on padded ring.



A close view of Bayan.

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/video>

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

Video



Silver Shoe Making

Design Resource

Silver Shoe Making - Varanasi

Traditional Footwear Made of Silver

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/silver-shoe-making-varanasi/contact-details>

Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Manasa K. H. at [NID Campus, Bengaluru](#).

You can get in touch with

- Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

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

Key Contacts:

Shri. Bharath Lal Kathera, Proprietor and Silversmith
Varanasi
UP, India
Cellphone: 09307992341

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](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

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