

Design Resource

Wood Carving - Name Plates

Craft of Wood Carving - Warangal

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Aakash Sharma

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wood-carving-name-plates>

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



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Introduction

Wood is one of the basic element with which human beings make various different items for their day today life activities along the journey of their life. Various products are made out of wood that substantiates the activities of man. Name plates are generally found in rectangular shape mostly used for identification and display of the product or the person's name.

Name plates are made with various products such as metals like brass, aluminum, copper and zinc, also made of wood, plastic etc. Craftsman at Hyderabad does this specially on the low weight wood from about 6 mm thickness to the thickness whatever required by the customer. It is also found that the name plates are found to be made out of silver, gold and other metals worn as a jewellery. It is collected as tokens and kept as a reference in some cases.

The craftsman working with the name plates selects the beading/ wood pieces from the nearby timber locations makes the differently carved name plates at Warangal and Hyderabad. Though basically the craftsman is from Hyderabad, this craft was learnt by him about three years ago in Pune when he had been to exhibit the art of rice painting. Previously this craftsman worked with the rice painting since 1981 and it is only three years before that he began to introduce this craft in his place.

As per the craftsman there are about 10 people in India who are practicing this craft throughout India. The people visiting him during the exhibitions contact him and later ask for the name plates, birthday greetings, marriage greetings, key chains etc. as it is also light weight and generally done on the 6 mm thick beadings/ wood pieces. This is an easy craft since it requires the usage of the very basic tools and it is not that difficult to be done.

As this is one of the easiest craft even the children, old persons if interested can learn this craft and practice them whenever it is required for themselves or for the others in need of. Knowledge of curving the wood during the required portions are noticed and turned by the skillful hands of the craftsman.

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Artisan scribbling the name on the small wooden plank.



Artist cutting out along the name.



Wooden key chain.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required for the making of the wooden name plates:

- **Coping Saw:** It is used to cut as per the curves of the names.
- **Scale:** It is used to measure the length required for the name plate.
- **Pencil:** It is used to draw the outlines of name plates with measurements.
- **Pen:** It is used to write the names on the piece of wood or beading.
- **Beading/ Small Pieces of Wood:** It is used as a base material for the name plates.
- **Sand Paper:** It is used to smooth the surface of the nameplates after cutting.
- **Nose Plier:** It is used to immerse the name plates in the wood polish and also used to tighten the rings.
- **Rings:** It is used for making the name plates as key chains.
- **Wooden Board:** It is used as a writing placemat in which the wooden pieces are written.
- **Glue (Adhesive):** It is used to stick the two pieces of wood firmly.
- **Stand:** It is made by the craftsman for easy curve cutting of the name plates.
- **Hand Drill:** It is used to drill hole in the name plates for key chain purpose.
- **Sandpaper:** It is used to make the surface of the wood smooth after carving.
- **Wood Polish:** It is used to give shining and plane finish on the wood surface.

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Pair of coping saws to carve and get cut out of names for the nameplate key chains, scale and pens.



Needle nose pliers used to attach the chain while making wooden nameplate key chains.



Drilling tool used to make a hole on wooden nameplate.

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Wood polish used to get shiny finish.



A wooden stand with a hole to help handle coping saw well.



Sandpaper.

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Making Process

Craftsman writes down the design to be carved on a sheet of paper and by this he understands the space required. The outlines are marked on the beading/plywood about 8 letters are mentioned in a single line and next set of letters in the next line with letters in a flowing manner like the cursive writing. Generally the second quality wood are preferred for carving of the letters that has more of the white surfaces. With the help of coping saws the line of letters are carved out evenly and rubbed on the sandpapers for the smooth (outlines) surfaces.

The craved letters are placed on the first quality beading / wood pieces that has the fine grains on it. The letters are stuck to the surface of the first quality wood with the glue (adhesive) that fixes both the wood pieces together. Little part of the wood is kept and the remaining parts are cut out with the coping saw keeping on the stand fixed which was specially made by the craftsmen. The outlines are either cut in an oval, rectangular, square or shapes of choose of the craftsmen and then sanded for a smooth finish. The completed name plates are then immersed in the wood polish to obtain a good finish and dried for some time. Later on these are made to different products like keychains, visiting cards, name plates, hangings etc.

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1. Letters or numbers to be name plated are first written down by the craftsmen on a sheet of paper.
2. Outlines are marked on the beading for the capital and small letters.

3. About eight letters are mentioned in a single line and the rest in the next line.
4. Second quality wood is preferred for the carving of the letters in cursive form.
5. Coping saws are used to carve out the line of letters evenly and sanded.
6. Carved letters are pasted to the first quality wood piece with the adhesive.
7. Leaving little portions of wood, remaining are cut out with the coping saw to oval, rectangular or square portions.

8. It is then sand for smooth finish and immersed in the wood polish and dried.
9. It is made into various products like keychains, visiting cards, name plates, hangings etc.

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Artist writing the name that is to be carved.

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Carving out the name with the help of coping saw.



Gluing the cut wooden nameplate on another small piece of flat wooden plank.



Making a hole with help of drill tool.



Cutting along the name with help of coping saw.

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Rubbing the wooden nameplate on sand paper to smoothen the surface.



Putting the nameplate into the jar to get a coat of wooden polish.



The Glossy wooden nameplate reading E- Kalpa.



Artist attaching the chain and wooden nameplate.

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The wooden key chain reading E- Kalpa.

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Products

Generally the primary use of the name plates are, it should be informative and placed on the area's where ever it is highlighted or to be highlighted. Name plates of Warangal are generally made from wood and carved as per the requirement of the customers.

The various sizes of name plates are made by wood pieces with the sizes measuring of about 13 cms of length, 6mm of thickness with about 8 letters of writing. Cost of the key chains generally are about Rs.100 each per name plate. This is one of the unique craft observed at the Warangal/ Hyderabad region of Telangana.



Key chains made of small wooden planks.

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Wooden key chain with the name Mukesh.



Wooden name plate.

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Contact Details

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