

Design Resource

Bamboo Stool - Bengaluru

Making of Bamboo Furniture

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/bamboo-stool-bengaluru>



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

The word Bamboo is derived from Kannada term “bambu”. Craftsmen use bamboo to create useful products for their regular necessities. Bamboo can be used for various purposes like foodstuff, livestock, hay, construction materials, and medicines. Bamboo can be crafted into various products like stools, chairs, baskets, tables and many more. Bamboo and cane are nature’s raw materials, which crafts person have successfully harnessed over the past. Bamboo varies according to the place it grows. Bamboo is mainly harvested from the forests. Bamboos are fast-growing grasses with woody stems. Bamboo species are found in diverse climates, from cold mountains to hot tropical regions. The making of bamboo products is perhaps the most universal of all crafts practiced by a large number of artisans scattered throughout the country. The tradition of bamboo craft started from nearly 40 to 50 years back and carried out from generations.

Craftsmen from Rajasthan (migrants) found their way to Bengaluru after being to Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra. Initially the craftsmen used to bring the finished products to trade, but that cost them a lot of expenses so they learnt how to make these bamboo crafts, which saved expenses. The variety of bamboo used for making the bamboo crafts doesn’t grows on the slope, So they have to bring all the raw materials from Rajasthan itself. Almost about 300 households in the village near by district involves in making the bamboo crafts. It is observed that there is no particular caste or community in Rajasthan who are exclusively connected with the traditional craft. It is generally carried on by all, particularly the peasants irrespective of caste, community or creed.

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Small size stool made of bamboo and cane.



Craftsmen preparing the rope/wicker.

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Beam of the stool made out of bamboo and cane.



Craftsmen weaving the base of the stool.



Bamboo sticks are arranged opposite to each other and a knot is tied to form a design.



Medium size stool made of bamboo and cane.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The Mudah is a low stool made of bamboo and split cane which is a load bearer which lasts from 3 to 4 years.

- **Bamboo (Setha):**

The bamboo named setha and cane is preferred for weaving Stool (Mudah) and chairs.

- **Small Wooden Hook (Singri):**

It is used for tightening and pulling the rope.

- **Hook Shaped Knife (Darat):**

Hook shaped knife is used for cutting the rope and the bamboo in the required size.

- **Knife (Chaku):**

Knife is used for removing the outer skin of the bamboo to give it a shine.

- **Flat Wooden Piece (Thokni):**

Flat wooden piece used for flattening the bamboo tied together.

- **Bamboo Wastes (Thush):**

It is used in the making of the rim to give thickness to the sitting area of the object.

- **Rope (Twine):**

It is used for tying the bamboo pieces together to form the stool.



Bamboo is the raw material that is used to make stools and chairs.

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Small wooden hook called a singri is used to tighten the twine ropes.



Flat Wooden piece known as Thokni is used to beat the bamboo.



Twines made out of bamboo waste.



Knife used to cut bamboo stick.

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Making Process

Bamboo Handcrafted products are distinctive in styles and well decorated. The production of furniture involves different stages for each product. Cane and bamboo products are very strong, durable and long-lasting. The Mudah is a low stool made of bamboo and split cane. Bamboo is used in the body while cane is used in binding as well as weaving the seating part. The mudah gets its strength to support huge loads from the elaborated binding details embedded on it. The patterns are created with their own inventive ideas and skills without using any traced designs. Weaving of stool (Mudah) is manually done by experienced artisans. The durability, low weight, easy maintenance and portability of the furniture further increase its appeal.

The Rope/twine is mostly made by female weavers; the waste bamboo strips is prepared by males. The twine is pulled and straightened to ensure their strength before starting the process. The finest cane is chopped and reduced to thin strips by the artisans. And again is cut down into perfect sizes with measurements for the stool. One by one each piece of bamboo is place opposite to each other and a knot is tied to bind them together. The parts are folded and attached to one another with the rope forming the basic shape of the stool.

The basic shape is then flattened by using the flat wooden piece (thokni) on the either sides to set the tied bamboo in place. Then the rope is tied to the upper side of the shape and various knots are formed, in which Waste bamboo strips are placed through the knots and each rope is pulled by the small wooden hook (Singri) and tightened so that it holds the waste bamboo strips in it forming the rim of the stool. The rope is inventively tied from one end of the rim to the opposite part of the rim. And with the help of the small wooden hook a pattern is been created to form the upper side of the stool. Likewise the whole bamboo stool is completed and ready for customers.



Thin strips of bamboo are cut using a knife.



Waste parts of Bamboo.

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Strips should be thin enough to twist and turn.



The wasted strips are taken and twisted into bamboo twines.

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Bamboo sticks are measured and cut in uniform length.



Cut bamboo sticks with equal size.

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Pairs of bamboo sticks are arranged opposite each other in criss cross manner.



Bamboo sticks are tied together with bamboo twines.

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Bamboo sticks are added one by one to create a strap of bamboo.



Bamboo straps are weaved till the required length.



Prepared strap is then rolled into a circular form.



The ends are tied and knotted with bamboo twine.

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With a flat wooden piece the sticks are beaten to level them.



Bamboo twine is inserted in between the strap.



Loops of twine are made around the bamboo strap.



Thus the bamboo waste is inserted in twine loops.

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Thush is used to prepare the base of the bamboo strap.



With a small wooden hook (Singri) the twines are pulled to tighten the loops.



Ends of thush are inserted and tied firmly with twine.



Prepared base is beaten with a flat wooden piece (thokni) to settle the loops.

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Another base is created in the same manner in the other end of the stool.



On one end of the stool twines of bamboo are weaved to create a base for seating.



Firstly weaving is done in a parallel method.

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Then it is weaved diagonally to create a criss cross pattern.



Medium sized Bamboo stool is completed.

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Products

- **Stools (Mudah):**

The handmade bamboo stool is used for domestic purpose and is prepared out of bamboo and cane.

- **Chairs (Kursi):**

The cane is cut and reduced to thin strips and woven together with bamboo to form chairs.

- **Centre Table:**

A centre table knitted with bamboo and cane to enhance the pair of chairs adding charm to the entire set.



Chair made out of bamboo and twines.



Medium size stool with a twisted design pattern.

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Twisted pattern of the stool makes it more appealing.

Small sized bamboo stool.



Pair of chair and two different size of stools made of bamboo.

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