

Design Resource

## Toran Making

Decorative Toran

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/toran-making>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
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## Introduction

In Chandlodia of Ahmedabad the artisan works with the available materials such as saree borders, beads etc. in the area under the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation at the Ahmedabad district of the state of Gujarat.

Generally in olden days the Traditional door hangings were prepared of mango leaves that were mostly hung during the auspicious occasions that are adorned on the door ways at the homes. The traditional door hangings are generally referred to as torans hung on the top of the doors that usually symbolizes the welcome indication at the entrance of the doors.

Torans are used to decorate the door ways at the homes, the main entrance of the homes. It is said the main idea behind is to attract the goddess of wealth Lakshmi that is usually decorated with the decorative accessories. As these are first substance that welcomes all the guests to enhance with charm of the main entrance with a friendly welcome and a pleasant look.

Torans are usually referred in Hinduism as torana which generally means to pass of a scared or esteem respect at the gateways that are usually decorated with marigolds and mango leaves tied on the door mostly on the occasions of festivals and weddings.

The same is done on the fabric where it is made to the leaf forms with mostly of green, yellow and red. In some with mirror work and embroideries of various communities impact on it. With size measuring of the main entrance door and the width of it. Toran's are decorated with some meaning such as flowers (fertility), medallions (creation), peacocks (happiness) and Lakshmi (goddess of wealth). Some of the embroidery techniques found in the Kutch and Saurashtra are as follows Jat, Matuwas, Ahir, Kanbis, Mochi, Lohanas, Khavada and Mahajan.

It is said in about 20th century nearly all homes of Gujarat had decorative embroidered hangings that brought cheer and grace on the doorways and walls with some with purely hand embroidery works. Crafts are the integral part of imagination of forms of utility, decoration, ornamentation and aesthetics along with it the human quality of handwork with varieties of creativity adorn to create, decorate and to be in use of the daily life.

The Craftsmen make very vibrant, stunning work of folk craftsmanship with ethnic pieces around. In this part of India guests are considered close to God, therefore the entrance is ornamented with colorful decoration. Some of the torans are seen with complex stitching such as herringbone, satin, cross, stem, chain, fishbone and applique works. They can be made with cotton, silk, netted beadwork, mirror pieces with varieties available on the day to day life. Gujarat located at the northwest region of India is very famous for its intricate and varied styles of embroidery on the toran's.

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Beautifully crafted torans by the artisan.



Toran patterns are based on the artist's creativity.



Torans are of different types, most unique types consist embroidery, mirror and beads.



Torans are the decorative cloth hung at the doorway which gives a charming look for the entrance.



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In some toran designs, the fabricated stuffed toys are also included.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

Some of the tools and raw materials used for the Toran Making at Ahmedabad are as follows.

- **Woolen Yarn:**

It is used to hang the decorative items in the toran.

- **Scissor:**

It is generally used to cut out the required length and width of the fabrics.

- **Needle:**

It is thin cylindrical object used for various purposes as per the need.

- **Beads (with shinning surface):**

It is usually of various sizes and shapes used as per the ornamentation.

- **Woolen Thread Balls:**

It is used to enhance the toran with the pom-pom effect.

- **Shells:**

Thin light weight shells are generally preferred in the toran making.

- **Saree Borders:**

It is preferred by the artisan for the toran making at Ahmedabad.

- **Kundan:**

In few cases these stones are preferred for the toran making.

- **Golden Ribbons:**

It is used to give the border effect for the torans.

- **Plastic Decorative with Bells:**

In some cases bells with plastic decorations are preferred.

- **Stuffing Material:**

It is used as a filling material.

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Scissor is used for cutting the cloth, extra threads and lace.



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Needle is used in stitching by inserting the thread into it.



Cotton and threads are stuffed inside the stitched cloth to make the toys.



Cloth is used for making the toy and the lace is used for decorating.



This particular colored thread is used for stitching the toran to match its color.



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Woolen pom pom baubles are used in toran design as a decorative substance.



Beads are used for decorative purpose.



These cowry shells are also used for decorative purpose in the process of toran making.



Woolen threads are used in beautifying stuffed dolls which are used to make toran attractive.



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Ready-made attractive cloth piece is used for toran making.

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## Making Process

The artisan follows the very basic steps to make the beautiful and the variety of torans. Gujarat is itself very famous for the hand embroidery, torans of different varieties generally made with different hand embroideries especially of the various communities of Gujarat. Today they are also doing the simple hand torans specially made of saree borders, kundans, beads, satin ribbons etc.

Here the Saree borders are taken and cut as per the door width to which the backing fabric of either cotton or silk are stitched to the back side. It is evenly folded twice, thrice or four times as per the choice to attach the string, beads and decorative items respectively.

Some of the decorative items are such as parrots, birds, flowers etc. The birds are made with any fabric material taken to be made as bird, is folded to half in a triangle shape and then cut evenly. It is turned inside out, where on the edges the stitches are given throughout and the beak part cut and stitched separately are attached and the whole thing is reversed leaving behind one part open. Through the open part the woolen or stuff material is filled and stitched to give the final finishing. It is further stitched with the woolen yarn to hang it in the required portions. After every items such as shells, beads etc. that are required is stitched, it is stitched with colorful ribbons to give the border effect.



Artisan is stitching the lace to the embroidered cloth to captivate the intricate design.



Lace is being stitched in hand itself without using machine for stitching.



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The needle is being pierced inside the embroidered cloth and lace to stitch.



The lace is been stitched tightly at the corners of the embroidered cloth as a border decoration.



Horizontal elongated decorative design cloth is been stitched at all corners from the lace and knotted firmly at the end.



The excess of lace is being cut.



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Different cloth is selected and cut according to the measurement needed to bring out the interesting color combinations.



The cloth is been folded in equal length.



Then the cloth is been stitched.



The stitching is been tightly completed.



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The bright color cloth is been inserted inside the stitched cloth at the place where it is needed.



When the cloth is reversed the beautiful bird shaped cloth is been seen.



The complete shape of the bird is achieved.



Later the artisan selects the beads and other decorative stuffs according to the design pattern.



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Artisan inserts the cowry shells one by one through the help of needle and thread.



Later the beads are inserted one by one.



Then the vertically designed hanging is stitched to the horizontally decorative cloth in its corners.



Excess of thread which was used during the time of stitching is been cut by scissor.



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Creatively designed toran of intricate pattern is ready to be hunged at the archway of the houses.



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## Products

Some types of works found in Toran are such as flower work, beads work, zardosi work, stone work, crystal work, satin ribbon and toran. Beautiful torans have generally been made. Kundans- the traditional gemstone used for jewellery purpose usually of stones and its mount gold used for jewellery purpose.

Usually the size to be made are referred to the door's length and width for which it has to be made for. Some of the special types of torans are classic woolen toran, cotton toran, crystal and beads toran, satin ribbon toran, tissue toran etc.



The handmade bloated birds is stitched to use it as a decorative substance in the process of toran making.



The beautiful door hanging also known as toran, have a special implication as the decorative accessory to attract the goddess of wealth – Lakshmi which is of 3.5 to 4 feet in length



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This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and Lija M. G. at  
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You can get in touch with him at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

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

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