

Design Resource

Traditional Fabric Toy

Handcrafted Items

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C S,
Manmi Dutta and Sandhya B.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/traditional-fabric-toy>



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

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Introduction

Traditional Fabric toys of India enfold the cultural heritage of Indian creativity and imagination. In olden days, children played with dice, marbles and stuffed toys, but the mechanical toys mostly influence children of these days and plastic Barbie dolls. A variety of toys are to be found in India from the simplest design to the utmost intricately created toy. Each toy has its own distinctive style, which differs from region to region. Each toy has its own story describing its existence. The earliest toys found in India dates back to five thousand years. Toys are produced in innumerable shapes including, birds, animals, human figures and many more. The traditional toys in India still survive and according to time it keep developing itself. Rural India still has kept alive the traditional dolls of India in which the true spirit of India can be found. Many rural family of India belonging to different regions involved in the making of Traditional toys mostly as display items.

The beauty of a Toy lays in the hands of the craftsmen the charm he created with the form, color and detail adds extra appeal to the Toys. Toys adds beauty to people's life and are also used as items for decorative purpose. Some toys represents mythological characters and are mostly coloured with dyes made from vegetables. People of each region create toys with the locally available materials found in that region. Toys helps children to learn about the different perceptions of life and culture they belong to. Infants learn to identify object with the help of toys and while adults use toys to play to exercise their mind and body.

Traditional Fabric toy making creates opportunity for employment of the rural people of India. Laxman R Bhat, a locally renowned toy artist of Chandlodia involves in the making of traditional fabric toys. Laxman R Bhat learnt this craft from the people of Jaipur as he was also a resident of Nagaur zilla (Jaipur). Fabric toy making was a crafts which he could easily learn and so he took it as his occupation. At present he stays in Chandlodia, Gujarat with his wife and two children and prepare toys for the people, children and even for marriage functions and puppet shows. He along with his wife creates beautiful fabric toys and earn their living. His address is 12, Satya Narayan Society, Opposite Silverstar Building in Gota Road Chandlodia of Ahmedabad.

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Fabric toy camel ready to be decorated.



Artist tying jute thread around cotton waste.



Colorful woolen threads tied to the fabric toy horse.



Very rich looking fabric toy camel.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required for Traditional Fabric Toy:

- **Jute Twine:** Jute twine is used to tie the cotton in place and form a shape of the toy.
- **Wood Sticks:** Wood sticks are used to make the base and legs of the Toy.
- **Cotton:** Cotton waste from textile industries are used in fabric toys.
- **Plain Fabric:** Plain Fabric is used to wrap up the base of the toy and give the toy a texture.
- **Embroidered Cloth:** Embroidered piece of cloth is used to decorate the body of the toy.
- **Needle:** Needle helps in sewing the cloth to the body.
- **Thread:** Threads are used in needles and also used to sew the eye (beads) of the toy.
- **Ribbons:** Satin decorative ribbons are used to decorate the toy.
- **Beads:** Beads helps in embellishing the toy.
- **Scissors:** Scissors are used in cutting purpose.
- **Wool:** Wools are used to make decorative item which are sewed to the toy.
- **Plier:** Plier help in twisting the steel wire to form a shape.
- **Steel Wire:** Steel wire is mostly used to create a support or base for the head of the toy.

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Cotton waste, material to start of fabric toy.



Roll of jute thread.



Small pieces of wood sticks attached to cotton waste.



Scissor used to cut waste cloth and jute threads.

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Cloth to cover the base of fabric toy.



A sharp long needle.



Color threads used to stitch.



Cutting pliers - to cut wires.

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Piece of cloth with embroidery work.



Shells are used for decorative purpose.



Beads.



Strip of colorful satin tape.

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Decorative made of woolen threads.

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Making Process

Traditional toy making involves patience and knowledge in stitching patterns. The making process of each traditional toy slightly differs from one another. The first process starts by selecting an animal and its size. After selecting a camel, a single wooden stick is taken and covered with cotton and tied in all direction with Jute twine to fix it in position. Then two wooden sticks of equal length are placed in one end of the single wooden stick and are tied to each other with Jute twine rope. Cotton is again placed in the remaining wooden stick and further tied with the twine rope to completely cover the wooden stick. The same process is followed to tie the two wooden sticks in the other end of the single wooden stick to form a base of the toy. Then again the jute twine rope is tightly tied to ensure the shape of the base.

To create the hump of the camel a lump of cotton is placed on the top and is fixed to the base with twine rope and forming the shape of the hump. A steel wire is cut in required length to form the base of the head and is positioned in one end and with the help of plier the two ends of the wire are twisted to form a long neck. The wire is then covered with cotton lump and the tip of the wire is tightly secured with cotton and the neck part is concealed with the cotton and twine. Then the neck is bended to some extent. Cotton is again attached to the head and tied to form the exact shape of the camel's head. The completed base is again tied with jute twine rope to enhance the shape.

Piece of old cloth is cut and is placed on top of the base and with a needle the cloth is sewed to the neck part. Then with scissors all the unwanted parts of the cloth is removed and the cloth is further stitched to the base of the toy covering the jute twine rope and cotton. Small ears are sewed to the camel's head. A decorated embroidered cloth is taken and placed on the body of the camel and is stitched to the body giving it a lovely appearance. The cloth is stitched all around the body and a decorated satin ribbon is sewed to the toy to give it the traditional look, which enhances the beauty of the camel. Beads are counted and sewed into a thread, which is attached to the back of the camel's head. Beads are also used to create the eyes of the camel. Woolen decors are added to the toy to form a tail and ornament the head of the camel. The traditional Fabric toy is completed.

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Cotton waste is rolled and tied with jute threads. Similar sizes of small wood sticks are attached to it, which forms the legs for the toy.



More cotton waste is attached and tied with jute thread



Jute threads are tied all over to make cotton waste stiff.



Extra cotton waste is tied to create trunk part of the camel

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Wire is cut with help of pliers, it's for the neck part.



Wire is taken from below first two wooden sticks and twisted.



Wire is taken from below first two wooden sticks and twisted.



Wire forms the neck part for fabric toy camel.

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Cotton waste is wrapped around wire and tied with jute thread to form the neck part.



Artist cutting cloth to cover the camel toy.



Stitching clothe to the camel toy base.



Toy neatly covered with cloth.

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The camel toy is decorated with cloth of embroidery work.



Camel toys are decorated with beads, woolen ping-pongs, small mirrors, shells and color satin tapes to bring richness to toy.



Artisan holding fabric toy base of an elephant.

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Products

A wide range of toy are produced of different shapes and sizes with the help of local materials. Price of each Toy differs from another with the design and size of the toy.

The main products are listed below:

1. Elephant Fabric Toy

2. Horse Fabric Toy

3. Camel Fabric Toy

4. Bird Fabric Toy

Beautifully hand crafted toys stuffed with cotton to perfectly shape them and ornate them with beads and wools.

These toys are mostly crafted for decorative purpose.

Price of each toy starts from Rs 30/-, Rs 50/-, Rs-100 and many more.



Well-crafted horse.



Set of horses.

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A pair of camels.



Well –crafted elephant.

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Contact Details

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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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