

Design Resource

## Woollen Embroidery Cover - Goa

Pillow Cover Making

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/woollen-embroidery-cover-goa>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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## Introduction

A pillow is used to sleep on and support the head/neck or other parts of the body while sleeping, lying down or sitting. Sometimes pillows are used for decorative purposes as well on bed couches and chairs. Today's world pillows consist of plain or patterned fabric envelopes, which contain soft stuffing, ranging from feathers to synthetic foam. In ancient times and other cultures, pillows have been made of wood or stone. Pillows are typically covered with a cloth pillowcase. The word pillow comes from Middle English pilwe, from Old English Pyle (Old High German), and Latin pulpiness. The first known use of the word pillow was before the 12th century. The earliest record of pillow use is in Mesopotamia, around 7000 BCE. These ancient pillows were usually made of stone and used by Egyptians who propped their necks upon these stone pillows as a way to keep bugs from crawling into their ears, mouths, and nose. In Asia, pillows were initially being used by wealthy people. Like the early Egyptian pillows, traditional Chinese pillows were hard and made from stone, wood, metal, or porcelain. This is because early Asian cultures believed that soft pillows stole energy and vitality from your body while you sleep. However, pillows made out of certain materials were believed to translate energy from the stone to the brain. For example, Shantou (rock pillow) made from jade was thought to increase one's intelligence. Pillows were also trusted to cure headaches, depression, and other maladies.

There are three main types of pillows; bed pillows, orthopedic pillows, and decorative pillows. The appropriate size of a bed pillow depends on the size of the bed. A bed pillow's choice depends to some extent upon sleeping positions: one manufacturer recommends a thinner and softer pillow for sleeping face down, medium support for sleeping on one's back, and a thicker and firmer pillow for sleeping on the side. Along with the functional use of a pillow, it is also used for decorative purposes. These kinds of pillows have a lot of designs and prints on their cover. Designs on the cover are made by using many techniques like embroidery, tie and dye, block printing, and graphic prints, to name a few. Now let's see about the history of embroidery. Embroidery is the handicraft of decorating fabric or other materials with needle and thread or yarn. It also incorporates other materials such as pearls, beads, quills, and sequins. The origin of embroidery can be dated approximately 30,000 BC. An archaeological find shows the fossilized remains of heavily hand-stitched and decorated clothing, boots, and a hat. Chinese thread embroidery dates back to 3500 B.C. Embroidery and most other fiber and needlework arts are believed to originate in the Orient and the Middle East.

Primitive humankind quickly found that the stitches used to join animal skins could also be used for embellishment. Recorded history, sculptures, paintings, and vases depicting inhabitants of various ancient civilizations show people wearing thread-embroidered clothing. During the 1100s, smaller seed pearls were sewn on vellum to decorate religious items, and from the 1200s through 1300's beads were embroidered onto clothing. Traditional folk techniques were passed from generation to generation. Elaborately embroidered clothing, religious objects, and household items have been a mark of wealth and status in many cultures, including ancient Persia, India, China, Japan, Byzantium, and medieval and Baroque Europe. The process used to tailor, mend and reinforce

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cloth fostered the development of sewing techniques, and the decorative possibilities of sewing led to the art of embroidery. The fabrics and yarns used in traditional embroidery vary from place to place. Wool, linen, and silk have been in use for thousands of years for both fabric and yarn. An artist by the name of Ms. Deepa from Goa is making pillow covers, which have embroidered designs on them. Now let's see how a pillow cover is embroidered and stitched together.



Pillow cover embroidered with flower design.



Flower woolen embroidered frame.



Artisan Ms. Deepa working on woolen thread embroidery.

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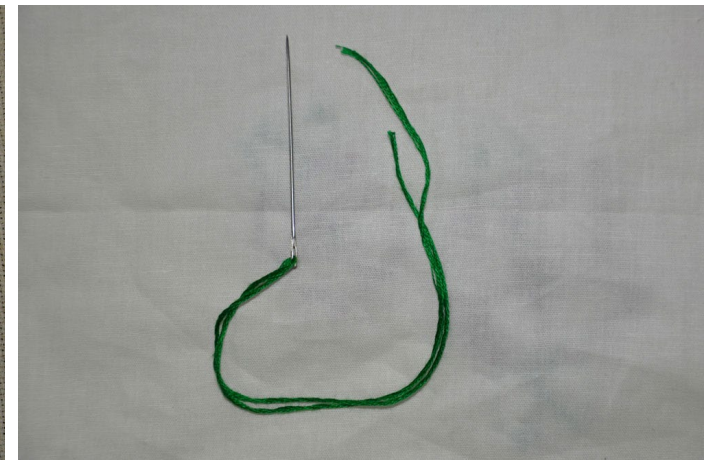
## Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for embroidery making:

- **Embroidery Hoop:** It is used to stretch and hold the fabric so that it's easy to work on it.
- **Coloured Threads:** These are used in filling the designs on the cloth.
- **Measuring Tape:** It is used for measuring things.
- **Sewing Machine:** It is used to stitch the cloth or fabric together using thread.
- **Beads:** These are used along with embroidery for decorative purposes.
- **Cloth:** It is the main medium on which the embroidery happens.
- **Scissor:** It is used to cut the cloth of the required size.
- **Pen:** It is used to draw on the fabric.



The cloth is used as the base material for embroidery.



A needle is used for sewing.



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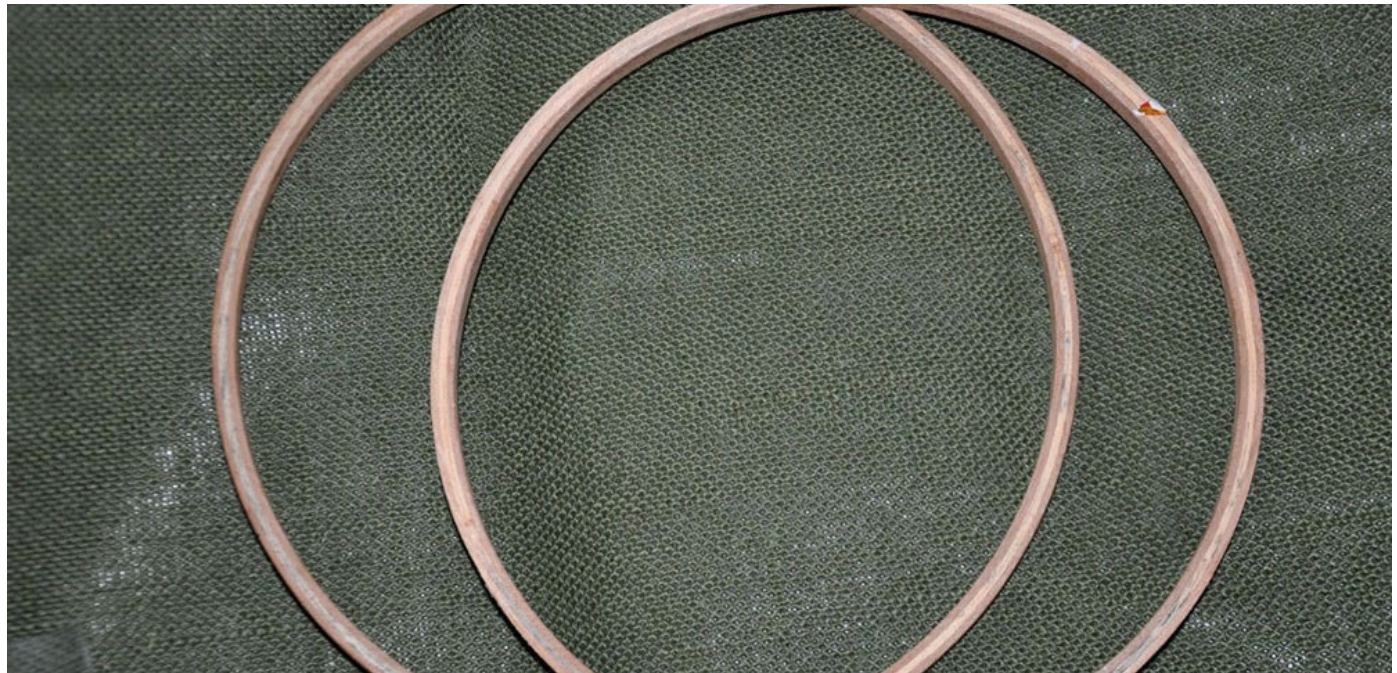
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Colourful woolen threads are used to create the motif designs on the cloth.



Beads used to embellish on the cloth.



Embroidery hoop helps in holding the fabric stiff and firm.

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## Making Process

The embroidery is done on a piece of cloth, and size depends on the design being chosen. The cloth is usually poplin, which is readily available in the market. Poplin, also called tabinet is a strong fabric in a plain weave of any fiber or blend, with crosswise ribs that typically give a corded surface. The artisan takes the required size of cloth and places carbon paper on it. Above the carbon paper, a sheet containing various floral designs is kept and traced on the pattern. After completing the above process, the sheets are removed, and the fabric is secured on the embroidery hoop to start embroidery. The type of stitch used here is Trellis stitch. This kind of stitch comes under the Cross Stitch category. Cross-stitches in embroidery include a number of related stitches in which the thread is sewn in an x or + shape. Cross-stitch has been called “probably the most widely used stitch of all. Initially, by using a backstitch, the shape to be embroidered is outlined. Starting from one end of the shape, the needle is passed underneath the backstitch present and pulled over, allowing the thread to pass inside the loop of the working thread and is pulled over.

Similarly, the needle is again passed underneath the next backstitch letting inside the loop and pulled through to form a knot. On repeating the same, one can see the bridge of thread forming during the process, which is used to build the next row of bridges, as one completes that row. The needle is passed down through the cloth and coming up again to start over to end the row. To start the next row, a needle is passed between the gap represent in-between two loops, and by passing through the working thread and it is pulled out. By doing so, another bridge of thread is formed. The entire shape is filled in a similar manner of stitching. One can notice a small pouch-like gap formed during the process. Inside this gap, a dab of cotton is placed in order to give an embossed effect. This gives a raised appearance to the entire embroidery. After filling the dab of the cotton inside, the shape is closed and stitched. Now the shape is complete, and other shapes are made similarly, and the entire design is made. Once the design is complete, the cloth is measured according to the pillow's size and is cut accordingly. The cloth is cut into three pieces; front, back, and flap pieces. The cut pieces are joined together by stitching. The back of the pillow cover is provided with a slit, which serves as an opening to put the pillow inside. Once the stitching is done, the cover is flipped, as the stitching is done inside out. The pillow cover is now ready for use.

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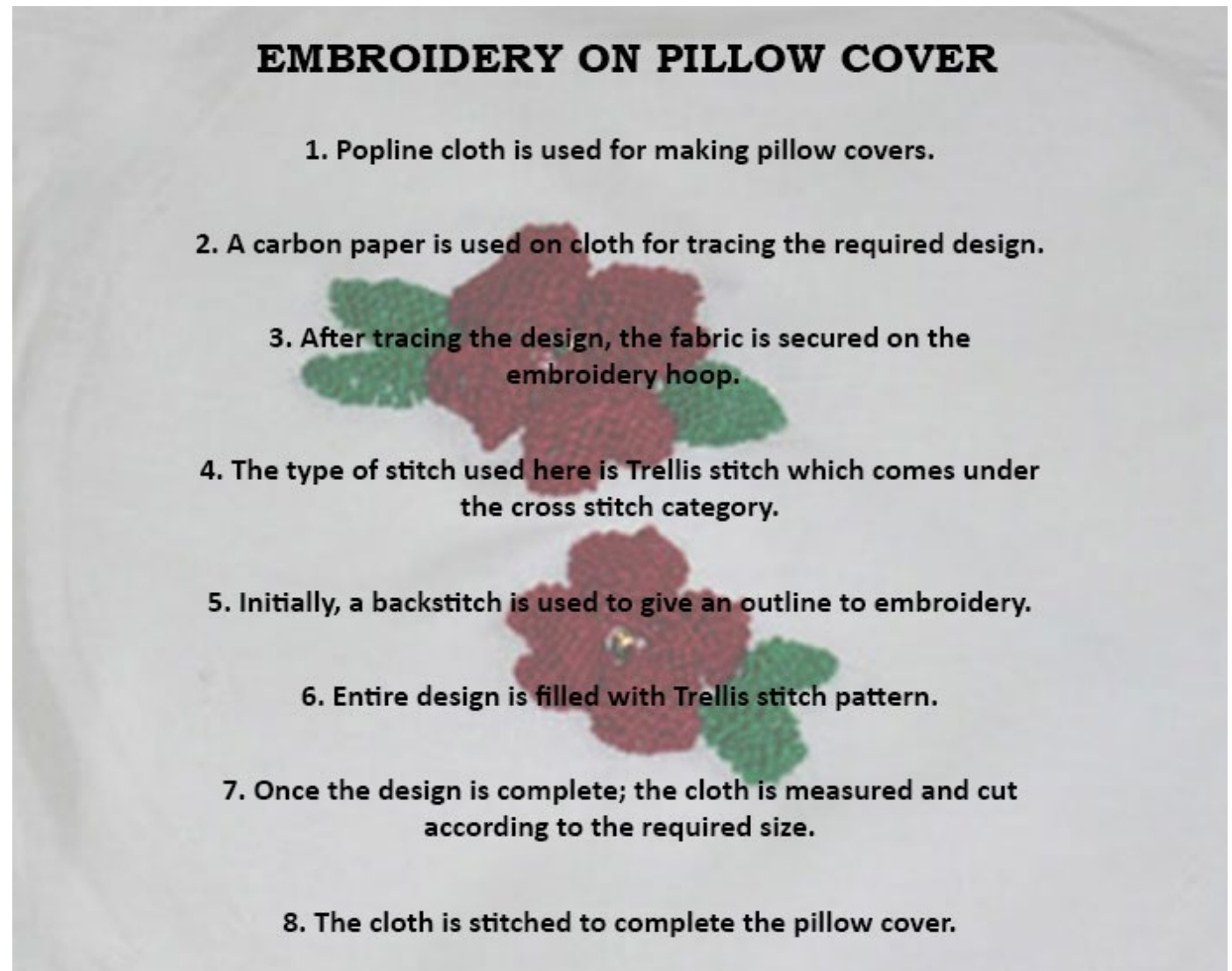
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Flowchart:



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Required coloured wool is inserted into the needle.



Artisan started the embroidery on the design.



Artisan starts sewing on the cloth with an embroidery hoop.



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Soft cotton is being added to give an embossed touch feel.



Beads are added in the middle of designing to give an attractive look.



Different colours of threads are used as per the requirement.

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Beautiful floral design embroidered using woollen thread and hoop.



Artisan trim the extra threads using scissors.



Cloth is measured and marked.



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The measured cloth is cut into the required size.



Borders are stitched using a sewing machine.



Pillow cover with attractive woollen embroidery.

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## Products

Beautifully embroidered pillow covers are made. The price of the cover ranges between INR 150- INR 350. The pillow cover size is approximately 12" x16", which is used for decorative pillows.



Woolen embroidery on the pillow cover.

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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B. at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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

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