

PROCESS DETAILS OF
NATURAL / VEGETABLE DYE KALAMKARI

Fabric : Handloom / Powerloom / Mill Made Width : 120 cms Counts : 30s x 30s

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STAGE 1 | Fabric (Grey coloured) is chosen to process and printing. |
| STAGE 2 | Natural bleaching (plain cold water) is done for removing the starch in the fabric. |
| STAGE 3 | Bleached fabric is dyed in <i>Myrobalam</i> mix which helps in preparing the fabric for block printing. |
| STAGE 4 | As per chosen designs, design inlaid wooden Blocks are used for printing the outlines / borders as the first step. |
| STAGE 5 | Fabric printed with the outline block is washed in the running water and subsequently the second Block with a particular Natural dye is used for printing the design, based on the color / design. |
| STAGE 6 | With the second printing, the fabric is soaked in the boiling water with <i>Jorgy</i> leaves and <i>Anar</i> and then washed in the running water. |
| STAGE 7 | Depending upon the design and number of colours to be applied, the same process is done again, as described in Stage 6. |
| STAGE 8 | Fabric is soaked again in the boiling water with <i>Jorgy</i> leaves for getting additional colours. |
| STAGE 9 | Till the final stage, after every wash, the fabric is dried in the sun before it goes to the Printing table. |
| STAGE 10 | Fabric / made-ups (like Bedspread) is finally washed in the running water with <i>Alum</i> (for color-fixing) and then dried again in the hot Sun. |

Note : *Kalamkari fabrics / Made-ups always comes with a basic grey colour background and when combination of two or more colours are added, several colours comes out. The brightness in the Kalamkari fabric / made-up is a combination of the Natural dyes / raw material used in the process and the quality of the running water in that area that is being used for washing.*

In order to retain the natural colour, separate washing in warm water and avoidance of drying in direct sun light is recommended.

Numerous blocks that are in different sizes (from xx cm to yy cm in width and breadth) are used and are carefully aligned one over the other block depending upon the number of colour combinations that is designed to go in a particular fabric or made-up. As the process is repeated all over the fabric, while meticulous effort is taken, at times, little deviations creeps in. This is HAND MADE and is usually accepted in the market and valued by the Customers.

WOODEN BLOCK FOR DESIGN PRINTING IN FABRIC

Wooden Block making plays a unique role in Kalamkari Production. The skill of the Craftsman is very much wanted not only in intricately carving of an integrated design and motives but also in perfect over lapping for multi-colour blocks.

PROCESS OF WOODEN BLOCK MAKING :

a) Blocks & Patterns :

Block making is a general term used in relation to graphic blocks made for letter press printing. Wooden Blocks for Kalamkari printing has to be hand carved to bring out the designs. It requires much skill, patience and concentration for intricate circling, carving and finishing. Generally a set of 3 blocks are made for a single pattern.

1. Border outlines block.
2. Body outline block.
3. Filling of other colour blocks.

b) Selection of Wood : The following woods are used in South India

1. Teak Wood
2. Neem Wood
3. Jack Wood
4. Poovarasu Wood

The importance of selection of the wood is the fact that these wooden blocks need to have the straight grains and oil content. The presence of oil in the wood prevents the breakage of finer edges while cutting as well as using the block.

While selecting the wood, the age of the tree plays an important role. Generally, a two decade old tree is suitable for this purpose. Quality of the block is reflected in the depth and the sharpness of the carving.

c) Types of Wooden Block required for Printing :

1. Border Block : It is used for the printing of border lines on the cloth.
2. Body Block : This is used for all over the body of the bedspread or any running material.
3. Butta Block : This is also used for all over the body.
4. Kangady Block : It is used to give the extra effect to the border generally in a single block in single colour.

PROCESSING OF KALAMKARI HAND BLOCK – PRINTED/FABRIC SOUTH INDIA

Creating a Paper Design: - Designing is done by Hand drawing and it is pasted on the strong Wood for Block Making.



Wooden Block Making: – 100% Hand Carved designs based on the design sketch given by the Designers are intricately carved & etched out and perfected.



Particular design of Wooden Blocks in three printing stages, meant to be used one after the other for a 3 colour combination of block printed fabric.



Samples of Wooden Blocks are available and ready for use at the Production Centre. (It is part of the treasure of the Unit).

Washing of Raw-fabric in the running water, with Natural Bleaching to remove the starch from the fabric for preparation.



Drying the Washed fabric in the open / flat Field.



Dried fabric is fully dipped in Myrobalam (Natural Seed) mixed water for base (Grey) colour that facilitates absorption of Dyes when applied.



After treatment with Myrobalam the Fabric is ready for drying.



Myrobalam dyed cloth is dried in the field with open Air.



Dried Fabric is taken for first printing with Wooden Border Block with Natural Colour dyes.



Dried cloth is taken for first printing with Wooden Blocks with Natural Colours.



From the out line design printing, next set of Wooden Block is used with another Natural colour Dye for 2nd colour.



Dried cloth is taken for first printing with Wooden Blocks with Natural Colours.



See the location of Block Printing work place.

Artisans are in their Dyeing table involved in Block printing.





Third set of Block is used here for final (chosen) colour base by the artisans.

After finishing each colour / printing the dyed fabric is washed in the running water.



Washed fabric is dried in the open space.



Washed fabric is dried neatly in the open space.



After printing the final colour (Block printing) the fabric is dipped in the Boiling water with Jagi Leaves & Algrin for fixation of colour and for removing the dust etc.,



One could see that the Fabric is soaked in the Boiling water with Jagi leaves and Algrin for a while that facilitate colour fixation.



After boiling the Fabric it is taken for the drying in the open space.



Once the cloth is dried it is again taken for the second colour printing with wooden Blocks.



Once the cloth is dried it is again taken for the second colour printing with wooden Blocks.



With the block printing / Dyeing process and dipping in Boiling water is over, finally the Fabric is washed in the River running water after Alumn treatment.





After washing the fabric, it is given treatment for colour fixing with Alum mixed water.



After washing the, Fabric it is dried in the open space. And the Fabric / Made-up is dried.

Now, the Lovely Natural dyed & coloured Kalamkari Fabric / Made-up has gone through the Quality Checking and hand folded & kept ready for use.



Kalamkari Fabric is ready for conversion and variety of usages.

- Dress Materials.
- Scarves in various sizes.
- Curtains in various sizes.
- Table Cloths.
- Bed Spreads.
- Table Runners & Place Mats.
- Cushion & Pillow Covers.
- Sarongs.
- Raw-material for Jewellery, Lampshades and Lovely bags etc.