

BLOCK PRINTING – PART II

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Hand Block Printing

In hand block printing, the design is drawn on paper and carved by hand into the wooden block.

The block is the design for a single repeat which is stamped in rows across the fabric. Each colour in the design is carved into a separate block. The outline block is generally stamped first and then the filling blocks.

Once the blocks are carved, the colours are prepared for printing.

The colours are then poured into wooden trays and the blocks stamped in the colour each time.

Each colour pattern is stamped individually onto the fabric, the process is skill oriented and time-consuming, as the pattern must be stamped repeatedly across the fabric, colour by colour.

The human irregularities are inevitable and these defects create artistic effects. Finally, every garment made from this fabric is unique.



Fig 1.1 Designs carved on wooden block



Fig 1.2 Block printed garment



Fig 1.3 Stamping of colors on the fabric

Techniques of Hand Block Printing

- **Discharge Printing:** In this technique first, the fabric is dyed to desired colour, and then the dye is to be removed at selected places by colour destroying chemicals from the part of the fabric where the design is to be printed.
- **Direct block printing** - The fabric is first bleached and then dyed with the desired colour. After that, the hand block printing is done with carved wooden blocks in borders and in the inside of the fabric.
- **Resist printing** - In resist printing the design is printed on the fabric with a material (Wax or resin) which will resist dyeing. The fabric is then dyed with the desired colour. Washing after dyeing removes the resist material in which design is printed leaving a white pattern.

To be continued...

Wishing you a great week ahead!

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