



CRAFTS: **Bangle Making**



Bangle is a circular ring of the size of wrist worn as an ornament by women and men mainly in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and South Asia. The word Bangle is originated from hindi word Bangri meaning glass even though in the beginning bangles were not made from glass and the word bangri or bangali in Sanskrit means the ornament which adorns the arm. The term was first used during Roman Empire in 500 B.C. when glass melting and processing industry started advancing and glass bangles were made since 1500 B.C. Today, Hyderabad, Moradabad and Firozabad in India remain the largest producer of traditional bangles. These days there is a wide variety of bangles available in the market such as glass bangles, kundan bangles, wedding bangles, ethnic bangles, etc.

Bangles in different languages...

It is called Bangadi in Maharashtra, Chudi or Choodi in North India, Kangan in Hindi, Kada or Kara in Punjabi, Gajina Bale in Karnataka, Valayal in Tamilnadu, Chura in Nepal, Vala in Malyalam etc.



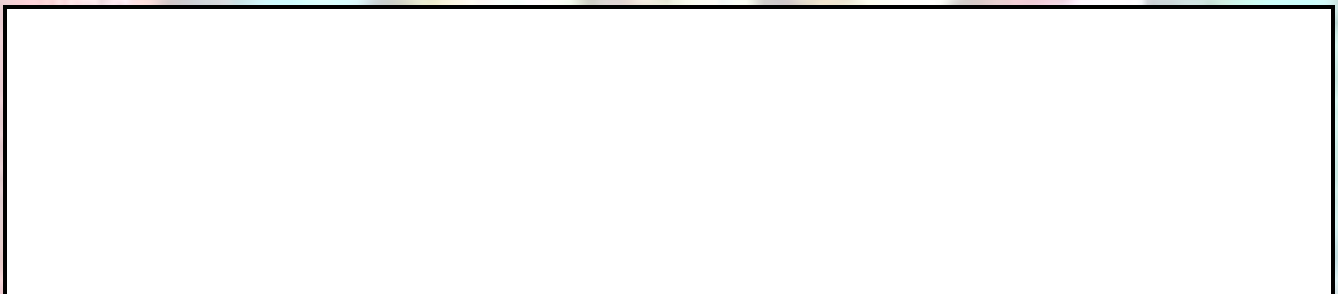


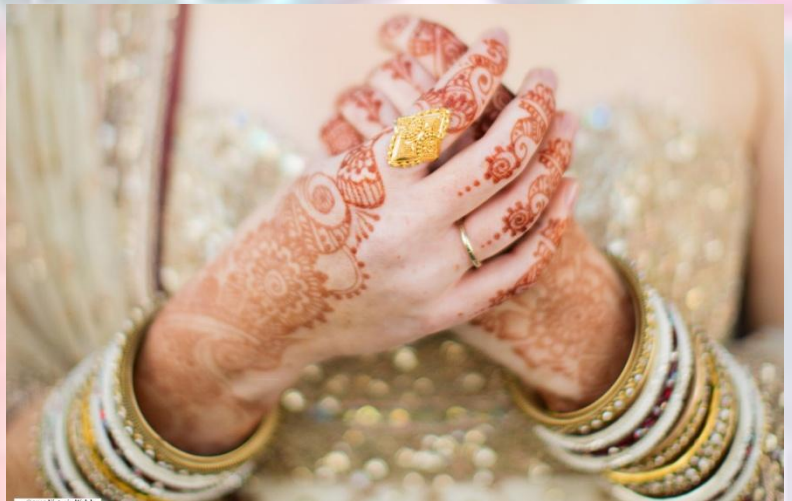
History of Bangles in India...

The first discovery of bangle was from an Indus Valley civilization site, Mohenjo-Daro 2600 B.C, a bronze figurine of a dancing girl was shown wearing bangles. Even the Yakshinis are depicted wearing bangles. Banabhatt's Kadambari referred to Goddess Saraswati - Goddess of Learning, who was wearing kangans. Early excavation shows figurines of dolls and God-Goddess wearing bangles around wrist. Murals and sculptures spread across Indian continent from 200 B.C. to 1500 A.D. are wearing showing ornaments. Trade between Mongolians, Romans, Persians and Indian subcontinent was responsible for the exchange of ornaments, raw materials and techniques. Early bangles were made up of like shells and clay, as the understanding of tools and materials grew, they were made from various metals and glass with precious stones. From the sites such as Mohenjo-Daro, Mauryan, Brahmapuri and Taxila, bangles of terracotta, shells, wood, leather, bones, ivory, jade, agate, stones, glass, clays, soil, lac, chalcedony and metals like copper, bronze, gold and silver were excavated. It varied from simple circular to precious stone embellished ones with varying designs from simple to round spiral to an intricate carving of motifs, designs of bird and animal. Earlier, bangles were made by rubbing sea shells or stones on hard surface to give its shape and clay bangles were made by simply giving shape and then drying. For glass bangles, they used wide applications to give appropriate shape, designs with inlay and stones embellishments. Each design and material on the ornament represents social status and wealth.



Draw a traditional design which you will like to see a bangle maker draw on a bangle to be gifted to your mother or favourite teacher.





Bangles in Indian Culture

In Indian culture Bangles became the symbol of 'the complete woman' or Saubhagya. Saubhagya is a term referred to the status of woman's completeness. Typical white and red bangles are worn Bengali and Oriya married Hindu women as a symbol of matrimony. In Bengal, married women wear a pair of white color shakha (shell) and paula (red coral) bangles as a symbol of marriage. In Northern and Southern India, red colour has ritualistic importance. Brides in Punjab, Gujarat and Rajasthan wear ivory bangles. Rajasthani brides wear ivory bangles on their arms and forearms, right up to their shoulders. In Gujarat, the Hindu bride receives an ivory bangle from her family just before marriage and the saptapadi or the seven rounds around the sacred fire cannot be carried out without the bride wearing this bangle. In Punjab, the bride wears red and white bangles in ivory, in multiples of four called choodas. Bangles are also vital on the occasion of baby shower, which in the Indian context can be referred to as the bangle ceremony. It is believed to ward off evil spirits around the mother-to-be or the baby. . In some communities, there is a custom in which women can't wear gold bangles alone but should be teamed with glass bangles, popularly known as 'kaanch ki choodiya', as it symbolizes well-being of husband and sons. In some communities, women even when changing bangles, they never allows their arm to be completely bare as they wrap a simple string or even the end of her sari around the arm till the new set is worn. In certain communities, widows are not allowed to wear glass bangles.

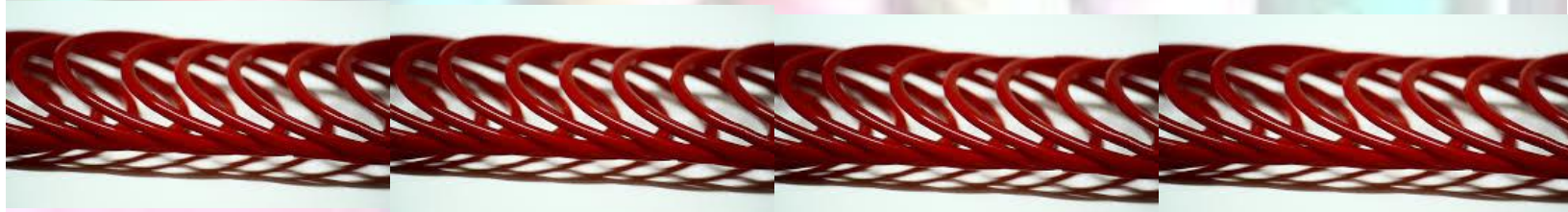


Color of the bangle	Meaning in Indian culture
Red	Energy/Passion
Blue	Tranquility/Wisdom
Purple	Independence
Green	Luck/Married Status
Yellow	Happiness
Orange	Success
White	New Beginnings
Black	Power
Silver	Strength
Gold	Fortune/Prosperity

Which is the colour you prefer and why?

Bangles of different states ...

- **Hyderabad-** has a historic world famous market for bangles particularly for lac and glass bangles studded with stones named as Laad Bazaar or Choodi Bazaar. Pakistani glass bangles are also produced in Hyderabad. According to an article by Dr. P Jogi Naidu of the Archaeology and Museums Andhra Pradesh, the origin of this great craft goes back to the Qutub Shahi era as the experts came to the city as hakims to cure people and bangle making became their secondary job who came to Golconda at the invitation of the King and settled down here. Another story says that there were regular trade link between the Golconda and Vijayanagara Kingdoms during 15th and 16th centuries and at that time Vijayanagara was the main centre for manufacturing glass bangles which were brought to Golconda. Moradabad- in Uttar Pradesh is said to be the world's largest producer of bangles.
- **Firozabad-** Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of glass bangles in the world. This old city in North India is known for its glass bangles particularly its famed bangles. Bangle-making is a household business with traditional technique passed from generation to generation. It has been producing glass bangles for more than 200 years now. The bangle market in a town named Gali Bohran has many colourful shops selling beautifully hand-crafted glass bangles.





Moradabad In Uttar Pradesh Is India's largest producer of bangles.

- **Rajasthan** —bangle-making is one of the traditional crafts practiced everywhere here which is an essential ornament and accessory worn by every Rajasthani woman. Some historians state that this craft originated in Rajasthan during the 17th Century and Mumtaz Mahal, the Mughal empress, was a great patron of beaded bangles and set the trend among the nobility at that time. The bangles of Rajasthan are made up of lac, glass, wood, metal, silk threads, gold and earlier ones were of ivory etc, coloured, painted, and embellished with rhinestones, mirrors, glass, beads, gold, silver and copper plated wires etc. Lac is considered most traditional and auspicious in Rajasthan.

Curse of the Craft ...

Child labour and manpower exploitation are two evils which is associated with bangle making in India. Most of the children in the Ferozabad work and help their parents in this industry, out of which only 40 percent of them manage to go to schools. Dijendra Mohan Sharma, a senior resident and journalist, told that "about 90 percent of the population is directly or indirectly related to bangle industry and there are more than 191 glass-bangle factories registered by government, and in a single factory around 200 people work,". Various chemicals, heat and glass used in this industry is a major health hazard for the workers who suffer from various medical disorders such as chest and lungs disorders, tuberculosis and skin burns, allergies and decline in vision.

According to local artisans Laad Bazaar got its name about 150 years ago during the time of the 6th Nizam, Mir Mehabub Ali Khan and it was in Laad Bazaar that the Chowmahalla Royal Palace was constructed to house the ruling Nizam. And hence it was called the street Laad Bazaar or Street of Love or Bazaar of Fondness. Can you think you anything interesting from the history about bangles?

