

## Unit 4

### FINISHING THE OBJECT

The objective of this unit is to enable students to finish the object made from pulp and paint on it to ready the final product

This Unit focuses on:

1. Activities involved in smoothening and readying the object for surface ornamentation
2. Usage of techniques, tools and materials in painting the object
3. Polishing and use of lacquer to make the final product

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Location	Learning Outcome	Knowledge Evaluation	Performance Evaluation	Teaching and Training Method
Activity Room	Understanding of pre-painting steps for surface smoothening and surface preparation of the craft object	Identify the combination of tools and materials required for the surface preparation of the craft object	Examination of the craft object to check the smoothness and readiness of it to be painted upon	Interactive Audio Visual Lecture: Step by step guidance for smoothening and readying the craft object for painting  Activity: Study and recreate on paper by drawing and colouring one commonly used motif/design found in Paper Mache craft from Bihar, one from Odisha and one from Kashmir
Activity Room	Expertise in the use of brushes and colours to create and	Knowledge of the brush sizes, paints and mixing of paints	Examination of the design, colour combination and finishing	Interactive Audio Visual Lecture: Guidance on the step by step build-up of the



Location	Learning Outcome	Knowledge Evaluation	Performance Evaluation	Teaching and Training Method
	paint designs on the craft object	needed for surface ornamentation of the craft object	of the surface ornamentation done	decoration on the craft object  Activity: Create and paint on paper two original designs for decorating Paper Mache items
Activity Room	Coating and finishing processes of the craft object	Use and understanding of lacquer	Examination of the coating solution made and the thoroughness of the lacquering	Interactive Audio Visual Lecture: Focus on the steps involved in coating the craft object at different stages to seal the colours  Activity: List other uses of lacquer

### Naqqashi or ornamentation process

All Paper Mache products are beautifully ornamented on the surface with bright colours and designs. This part of the craft is called Naqqashi in Kashmir. There are two styles practiced in Kashmir – relief and flat. Designs are done freehand and directly on the objects by experienced painters. Every Paper Mache item is exclusive by virtue of it being individually hand-painted. The painting of the Paper Mache object needs a lot of skill and aesthetic sense. Training and practice is essential to develop the creative and aesthetic sense and finesse of hand needed for the painting



process. The practice of drawing should be done on paper first and later on the product by beginners. Selecting brushes of different sizes is important for the painting process.

Traditional artists prefer to use colours obtained from vegetable, mineral and organic elements. Since readymade colours are available in the market now, artists today use enamel paints, acrylic paints, poster colours, glitter paints and water colours. With respect to brushes, they choose synthetic hair brushes nowadays as animal hair brushes are difficult to find. However, for the delicate and intricate painting, artists in Kashmir still use very thin brushes made of cat hair.

Gold paint is very popular with Kashmiri painters for giving a shiny look to the product. Like all traditional art, Paper Mache designs are mostly repetitive with some set motifs. These motifs vary from state to state in India. In Kashmir, some popular motifs are:

1. Gul-andar-gul (flower within flower)
2. Irani Gulab (dense rose)
3. Gul-i-hazaara (a thousand flowers)
4. Bagal Daar (platter of flowers)
5. Chinar (five pointed leaf of Kashmir)
6. Badam Tarah (almond motif)
7. Jungle Tarah (jungle scene with its animals)





## Unit 4.1

### FINISHING THE HANGING BALL

In this section, we will learn to smoothen, paint and finish the ball which was left to dry after being created with Sakhta

1. Make a solution of chalk powder and water



2. Coat the whole surface of the ball with the chalk powder solution to smoothen the uneven texture

3. Allow the ball to dry fully. The ball looks white when dry



4. Lightly moisten the surface of the ball with water



5. Smoothen the surface of the ball by rubbing with a smooth pebble stone or pumice stone



6. Use a combination of fine and coarse sandpaper for further smoothening of the surface

7. As per the colours of the surface design planned, add a single base colour to the ball and leave on an egg tray to dry fully. The base colour should be such that the finer motifs stand out against it





8. Keep the design for the ball ready on a tracing paper to begin with. With practice, students will be able to draw directly on the object but to begin with tracing can be done on the ball.

If required, students can use the pattern below for painting on the ball. In subsequent projects, students can start creating their own designs.





9. Smoothen the surface again  
with fine sandpaper

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10. Apply a coat of lacquer to the  
ball, so that the base colour is  
sealed

11. Start painting the ball in stages - one colour at one  
time. Use an ice tray to keep and mix the colours





12. Finish painting the ball with all the colours one by one as per the design planned



13. Add the finer details and outlines with a gel pen or a No.0 brush. Use a contrasting colour, so that the details are visible on top of the solid colours

14. Apply a coat of lacquer once again to seal the colours and to give a glossy look



15. The last stage in the painting process is the application of gold paint which adds further beauty and shine to the object



16. Mix the gold powder with  
lacquer



17. Fill the blank spaces with  
designs in gold and allow to dry  
fully



18. Add a string to the hook and  
the ball is ready to be used as a  
beautiful hanging decorative piece





## Unit 4.2

### FINISHING THE PEN HOLDER

In this section, we will learn to smoothen, paint and finish the pen holder which was left to dry after being made from pulp/Sakhta

1. Take the fully dry Sakhta pen holder and apply a coating of chalk powder diluted with water and allow to dry



2. Moisten the surface of the holder with a little water

3. Smoothen the surface by rubbing with a smooth pebble stone or pumice stone



4. Use a combination of fine and coarse sandpaper for further smoothening of the surface



As mentioned before in this handbook, Paper Mache objects can be painted by two techniques - flat and relief. In this unit, we will learn the relief technique. In this look, chosen portions of the design are made to look a little raised or embossed

5. Use a pencil to draw the design on the surface of the holder



6. Make a thick solution of brick powder and water. Use it to fill areas where the design needs to look raised/embossed. Allow to dry

7. Use the fine sandpaper to remove unevenness in the areas not covered by brick powder



8. Now paint the base colour all over the surface of the holder including the raised portions



9. First of all, paint the desired colours over the raised portions of the design and allow to dry fully



10. Next, add outlines outside the raised designs and then fill other finer details and allow to dry

11. Add a coating of lacquer to seal and protect the colours and give a glossy look



The pen holder is now ready to be used both as a decorative and utility object



## Unit 4.3

### FINISHING THE TURTLE

In this section, we will learn to smoothen, paint and finish the turtle which was left to dry after being created with pulp/Sakhta.

1. Take the fully dry Sakhta turtle and even out the surface by coating it with chalk powder mixed with water



2. Allow to dry till white in colour

3. Lightly moisten the surface with water



4. Smoothen the surface by rubbing with a smooth pebble stone or pumice stone

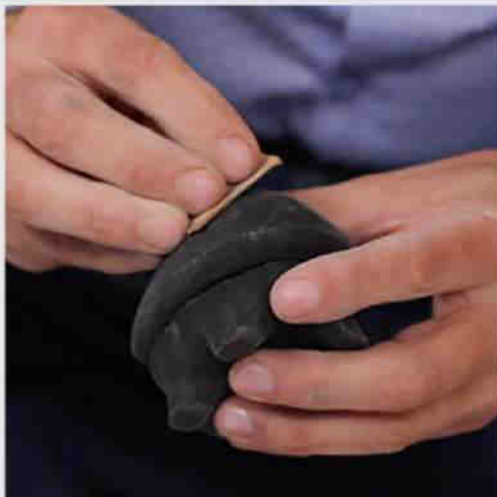


5. Use a combination of fine and coarse sandpaper to further smoothen the surface



6. As per the surface decoration planned, apply a base colour to the whole turtle. Allow to dry

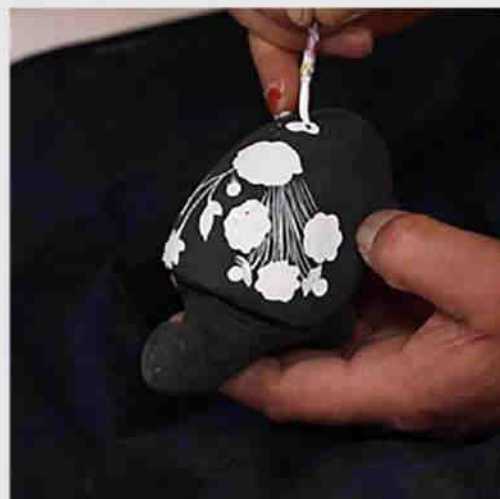
7. Use fine sandpaper to smoothen the surface again



8. Add a coating of lacquer to seal and protect the base colour. Allow to dry



9. Use a pencil to mark the eyes  
of the turtle



10. Start painting the surface decoration in  
stages - one colour at a time







11. Lastly, apply a coating of lacquer to give a glossy look and to protect the surface



This unique creature of nature has been adapted to an equally unique Paper Mache craft object

#### INTEXT QUESTIONS

1. What are the materials that are needed for rubbing and smoothening the craft item made with pulp?
2. Name five motifs commonly used in Kashmiri Paper Mache items
3. What are the steps to be followed in the painting of a Paper Mache item?
4. What is the use of applying lacquer?

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