

# The Stitching Project

Operated by **Kayef Stitching Project LLP**

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## **Khadi, traditional dyes, block-print and us**

Hiya, we work with a number of weavers to get the cloth we use for clothing and quilt production ....so can access many weights.

I think we might be khadi junkies as we are always on the lookout for new weights and weaves...it is subtle but there is great difference between regions.

Always we are after unbleached cloth, which we later colour by various means.

Our taste runs to the more rustic cloths that have a subtle texture- the handwork involved is obvious in the subtle variations of the hand spun thread and the small changes in tension that happen as the weaver goes through the day.

We have made direct contact with each weaver we buy from, we advance a deposit against our order to allow them to buy the cotton to spin and weave without borrowing from a loan shark and we pay promptly upon receiving and checking our order.

The cloth we sell on we total all costs involved in receiving it and/or dyeing it etc and add 20% for us before we on sell at wholesale quantities and rates.

If you are interested in this email us at [hello@the-stitching-project.com](mailto:hello@the-stitching-project.com)

If you would like a sample swatch pack email us, cost is US\$10. We can arrange payment via PayPal.

It contains a range of weights and textures of khadi we have regular access to.

Any of the khadi we have access to we can have dyed with natural indigo, myrobim red, kashish grey or printed with iron black techniques and a whole rainbow of colours in water based, solvent free pigment inks.

## **We like handwork because**

- The uniqueness of the hand of the maker shines through
- This is special in our world of anonymous stuff, and we label our work so you can know who each and everyone of these people are.
- Handwork creates jobs and here in India we need to do that to help even the playing field in our country. Fairly paid work for good work gives people opportunities to grow and prosper
- Using traditional methods, even if it is with a contemporary twist keeps world cultural heritage alive and in people's hands. Every small effort along these lines we think is important.

# Is khadi for you?

## We ask this in all seriousness,

What can be the charm of khadi could also drive you nuts

- it does have little slubs and bumps in it sometimes
- there can be subtle differences in tension of the weave from weaver to weaver
- we check carefully but occasionally a lump, bump or small gap will be missed and you will receive a garment with a 'fault', it happens. Let us know and return it or sell it as a feature of the handmade quality of the item.
- It does take time to produce and so we do have to plan ahead to use it.
- We weight each length of cloth that comes in so see the weight per metre is the same as the last batch which means cloth should be very similar in weight each time you order it.....small variations but very similar.

## On the plus side

Khadi is low impact environmentally

- Cotton plant, [wish we could get our hands on organic but we just can't reliably
- Picked and ginned to remove the seeds
- Cotton is then carded by hand, this straightens the fibres up like brushing your hair
- It is spun on a hand cranked compound spinning 'wheel' -more a gadget than a wheel
- This this then handwoven on wooden looms
- It is then packed and sent onto us.
- We soak it in turkey oil, to release the natural waxy coating found on cotton
- Throw it in the washing machine NOTE first time it sees electricity. We have a reed bed water treatment system and the water goes to our trees after washing
- And it is then ready to be printed or dyed.

Socially khadi production if done ethically produces much work for the in poor rural communities.

# Are traditional dyes for you?

1. **DO NOT Bleach, gentle wash, dry in shade. We label each item. Natural dye will fade gracefully over time. To be aware of with natural/traditional dyes. Indigo is washed by us when it comes from dye guy but it will still rub for a wash or two and will slowly fade.**
2. Plain lighter shades of indigo and other traditional colours has an irregular surface- it will look cloudy or streaky
  - traditionally all over bold block print/ mud resist designs were used to disguise this. We embrace it as part of the 'handmade' feel – you need to consider carefully if it works for you.**PLEASE- Ask for images or carefully check samples in the workshop so you understand what we are talking about.**
3. Dark indigo is a reliably clear all over colour.
4. Raining time and winter fogs all work slows down or stops.

Check out the link to our [Plant Colours List](#)

# Is blockprint for you?

## Plus side

- We use water based, solvent free printing inks
- Minimal water is needed to clean up after printing-
- Inks are permanent
- Any colour of the rainbow can be mixed NOTE we can't get white to print

## Minus side

- We can mix any colour of the rainbow, it is done by eye and so whilst usually a good match it is not a precise science
- Re-mixing can get tricky, a close match generally achieved

- Weather effects the print- some days it will be bolder than others depending on how dry the conditions
- Raining time- it is impossible to print because the dampness in the air causes the ink to bleed and become a shadow around the print
- We are careful but each registration is by hand and there will definitely be a hand printed variation to the work. It is not machine made.
- We check all our work and whilst there will be a little variation we reject obvious blobs and misprints. If there is something we miss let us know.