



*"Hi , I am Cubby  
I come from Channapatna, India.  
I am crafted out of wood  
and I am coloured with natural dyes."  
"Can I tell you my story today....."*





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*“My home is Channapatna, in southern India.  
I am part of a large family of MO toys.”*



Here in Channapatna there are many skilled artisans who make wooden lacware toys.

Lacware is a traditional handicraft of this town.

“MO Toys “ are made by MAYA ORGANIC with particular attention to quality and detail and with special attention to safety.

- MAYA ORGANIC is a livelihood initiative and is a Fair Trade Organisation.
- MAYA ORGANIC engages with workers, artisans and small entrepreneurs through
  - Skill development
  - Enterprise building for self reliance
  - Design and Marketing support
- MAYA ORGANIC enterprises do not employ child labour.



*“I am a handcrafted lacware wooden toy.  
Do you know what lacware toys are?”*

- Lacware is a traditional handicraft from Channapatna, in Karnataka , India.
- The craft is believed to be more than 200 years old and is still one of the main source of income for many people of this town.
- Lacware refers to wooden articles that are turned on the lathe and finished with lac.
- The entire process from shaping the wood to lac application is completed on the lathe itself.
- Hence the products are mostly a combination of circularly symmetric shapes.



*“I am made of Hale wood (Wrightia Tinctoria)”*

- The lacware toys are mostly crafted out of Hale/Aale wood.
- This fast growing tree grows widely in southern India.
- The wood for making the toys comes from non forest and agricultural land.
- Normally the entire tree is not felled and the tree grows back.
- Hale wood is soft and close grained and is best suited for turning and lac application.
- It is seasoned and used directly and does not require any chemical treatment.

MO toys are made using Hale wood. Pine wood is also used for wooden parts that are not turned on the lathe.

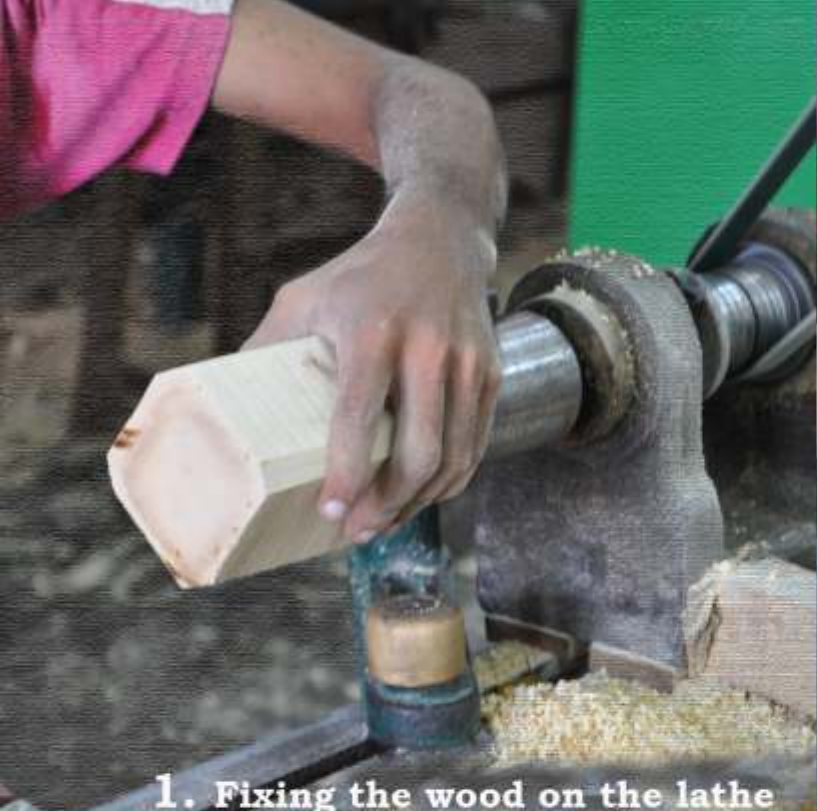
## *“ Let me show you how I am made”*

- The wood piece, cut to the appropriate length, is fitted on the lathe (pic 1).
- Using a chisel it is turned into a cylinder of the required diameter (pic 2).
- Various hand tools are used to turn the wood to get the required shape and size (pic 3).



- Once the desired shape is achieved, the wood is sanded to a smooth finish on the lathe itself (pic 4).
- Motor driven lathes are used by most of the artisans today. Only a small section of artisans use hand lathes to make small sized beads.





**1. Fixing the wood on the lathe**



**2. Initial turning to make a cylinder**



**3. Giving it shape**



**4. The final shape**

*“ I am coloured with bright and beautiful colours extracted from nature ”*

- The beautiful shiny finish of these toys is obtained because of the lac finish. (Lac is a natural resin secreted by tiny insects which is found on certain trees)
- Once the wood is finely sanded, lac is applied on the wood.
- A lac stick of the desired colour is pressed against the wood while it is turning on the lathe (Pic 1).
- Lac melts due to the frictional heat and gets applied on the wood.
- The lac coating is then evenly spread and polished to a shiny gloss finish



Screw pine

using a dry screw pine leaf ( tale-gari) (Pic 2).

- The entire process of applying lac is completed on the lathe itself.
- Lac is premixed with the desired colour and the coloured lac/ lac stick is applied on the wood.
- Both synthetic and natural dyes can be mixed with lac.
- MO toys are coloured with Natural dyes.

The entire process is also referred to as Lac-turnery.





**1. Applying lac** - by pressing the lac stick against the wood while it is turning on the lathe



**2. Polishing** - Using screw pine leaf

*“ All my parts are ready ”*



*“ Let us see the finishing stages.... ”*



**Printing my face**



**Fixing my ears**



**Assembling and Packing**



*“So, here I am packed and ready for shipping”*



*“ Hope you enjoyed my story. See you soon.....”*  
*For more information on Natural dyes, lacware and safety standards read further.*

## Natural Dyes

- Natural dyes are extracted from naturally available sources.
- The source can be plants, trees, animals or minerals.

The following dyes are used for colouring MO toys.



Yellow: Turmeric Powder

The root of the plant is dried to make the powder.

Bluish black/ Bluish green: Indigo Powder

The whole of indigo plant is used to extract the dye.



Green: Indigo + Turmeric

Orange: Kanchi Kum Kum Powder

Natural Kum Kum powder, is traditionally made by mixing turmeric and lime.



Red: Manjishta (Natural Alizarin) + Kanchi Kum Kum

Light Brown: Catechu (Katha)

Catechu is purified extract of Accacia catechu.



Dark Brown: Green+ Red or Ratanjyoth (Jatropha)

Ratanjyoth dye is made from the bark of the tree.

## What is lac?

- Lac is a nontoxic natural resin.
- It is the secretion of a tiny insect "Laccifer lacca", which is found on certain trees.
- The substance is scraped off from the twigs and branches of the trees, cleaned and harvested. The harvested lac is further purified into seed lac, button lac, lac flakes and shellac.
- Seed lac is used by the lacware artisans.
- Lac is a 100% natural, non toxic substance and has been used in india since ancient times.
- Lac is approved as a food grade finish and is widely used in the pharmaceutical industry and confectionery industry today.



## Lac or Lacquer ?

- Often lacware products are referred to as lacquerware products. But Lac and Lacquer are entirely different substances.



- Lac is an insect secretion which is harvested from certain trees principally in the provinces of India and Thailand.
- Natural Lacquer is the sap of the urushi ( lacquer ) tree and is tapped from the tree like rubber is tapped from the rubber tree. Lacquer trees are native to China and Japan. There are no lacquer trees in India.
- Channapatna toys are finished with lac and not natural lacquer. Hence the right name for these products should be **LACWARE or LAC-Turnery.**

## Making the Lac Stick



Seed Lac is heated on charcoal fire



As it starts melting it is mixed using two sticks



Once it melts, dye is added



It is then thoroughly mixed



It is then kneaded and made into long rods and cut into small lac sticks before it hardens. The lac sticks are then used to colour and coat the wood.

## **Eco-friendly craft**

Lacware craft is an ecologically friendly manufacturing process.

1. Hale wood is the main raw material used by the lacware industry. It is not treated chemically. It is seasoned and directly used for making the products.  
The wood used by the artisans comes from non-forest land and private-lands in and around Channapatna. Usually the entire tree is not felled and the tree grows back.
2. Optimum utilization of wood- all sections of the wood are used by the artisans as the product range involves many small parts for completion.
3. This is a perfectly safe wood that has been used by artisans traditionally and there is no evidence of any occupational health hazards (respiratory ailments, dust allergy etc.).
4. Lac which is used as a finishing material is a natural/ non toxic resin.
5. Lac application (colouring & finishing) is a friction based process. This process is completely free of volatile contents and associated respiratory hazards.
6. Any wood waste generated (wood chips, wood dust etc.) is used as raw material for the incense stick /joss sticks industry.

## MO Toys and Safety Standards



Hand-Crafted

Safety of a child is of paramount importance to us. Wooden toys from Maya Organic are hand crafted and made with particular attention to quality and safety.



Natural Dyes

Natural, Non Toxic materials: - The main wood used in the manufacture of Lacware toys is free of any chemical treatment.

- The toys are finished with Lac which is a natural resin and natural dyes are used for colouring.
- All finishes are non toxic.

Safe for usage: - The toys are physically and mechanically tested for safety and durability.

- All the loose parts of toys meant for children less than three years of age are inspected using the small parts cylinder to avoid choking hazard.
- All pull-toys contain safety velcro breakaway features to prevent strangulation.
- Tensile tests are done on all the glued and assembled parts to ensure that no parts are left loose.
- Products are manually checked for smooth edges and surface finish to ensure that there are no sharp and jagged edges that can cause injury.



small parts-cylinder



ASTM F963

Safety Compliance: Maya Organic toys are tested in certified laboratories and are in compliance with international toy safety requirements such as the EN 71 standards for Europe and ASTM standards for USA.



Sustainable  
Wood Source



Hand-Crafted



Natural Dyes



made in INDIA

All the packaging boxes carry the necessary product information and labelling requirements such as recommended age, warnings if any etc. The products are packed under right humidity conditions to protect them from moisture and possible fungal attack.

# Fair Labour and Quality Products



Maya Organic Lacware Product was awarded the UNESCO Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts Products in South Asia

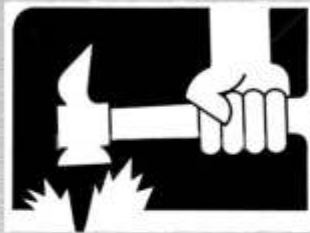
Maya Organic is a member of World Fair Trade Organisation



## Taking care of MO Toys

MO toys are handcrafted wooden toys that are made to ensure a high level of quality and safety. With proper care and handling, lacware toys can have a long life.

The following is some information on caring and handling of lacware products:

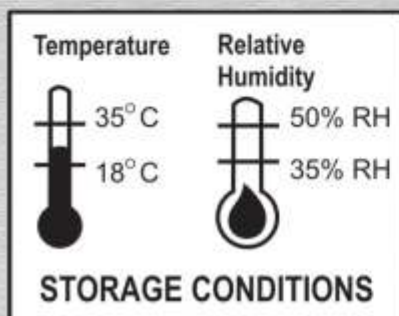


Protect from impact/sharp blows: Lac is a brittle material that is applied as a thin surface coating on toys. Sharp blows and impact against hard surfaces can result in the lac chipping off from the surface.

Protect from Alcohol/Spirits: Lac dissolves in spirit. Contact with spirit/alcohol can damage the lac coating and the bright shine may be lost.

Protect from Water/ moisture: Contact with water or prolonged exposure to moisture can lead to the peeling off of the lac coating.

Cleaning MO Toys: Lacware toys should be cleaned with a dry cloth. When required, the toys can be wiped with a moist cloth and should immediately be dried with a dry towel.



### IMPORTANT

Lacware toys are indoor toys and should not be exposed to outdoor climatic conditions.

Storage: Lacware toys should be stored under the following temperature and humidity conditions

**Temperature : 18 degree to 35 degree Celsius**  
**Relative Humidity: 35%RH to 50%RH**



**MAYA ORGANIC**  
transcend the ordinary

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