



COMMUNITY: MUTVA

EMBROIDERIES:

PAKKO: PAKKO, CHOPAD, DHORAN, KAARO BHARAT, PAKKE JO GOLADO, PHULADI, TAKKE JO JUNO, MUKKO, GOTANV

KACHCHO: KACHCHO, KATARI, KHAARAK, KAMBHIRI, NERAN, BIDO, KACHCHE JO GOLADO, SOOF, PADE JO BHARAT

Mutva embroidery is known for its very tiny stitches and equally tiny mirrors. The craftswomen's skill in working in the realm of the miniature makes the embroidery look as if it is studded with diamonds.

We have identified 18 styles of Mutva embroidery so far - each with its own distinctive features. Craftswomen refer to these individual styles as *bharat*. Each *bharat* uses only one primary stitch to create either the entire *bharat* or to create its main distinctive features.

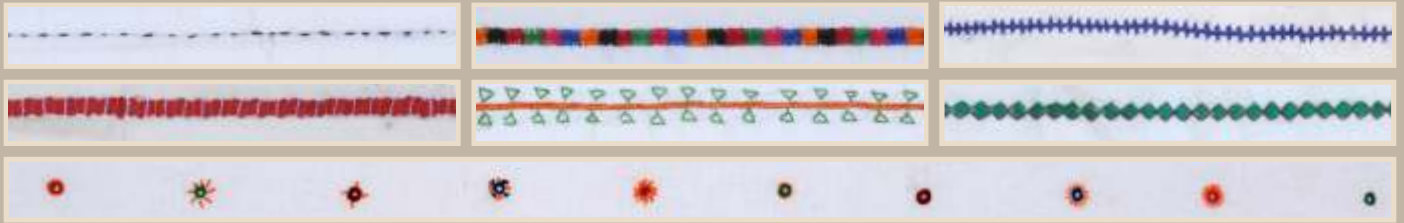
For Mutva craftswomen a stitch is either a *pakko* stitch or a *kachcho* stitch. They use the term *pakko*, meaning strong, durable, to denote stitches that lock. The opposite of *pakko* is *kachcho*, meaning fragile. *Kachcho* stitches do not follow the locking principle.

Nine styles use a *pakko* stitch as the primary stitch. These styles are referred to as *Pakko bharat*. The remaining nine styles use a *kachcho* stitch as the primary stitch and are known as *Kachcho bharat*.

Mutva embroidery is lush, ornamental and full of arresting details. Mutva craftswomen restrict their embroidery to only very few and very small products. The largest product that they embroider is the *kanjari*, that measures only 80 X 45 centimetres.

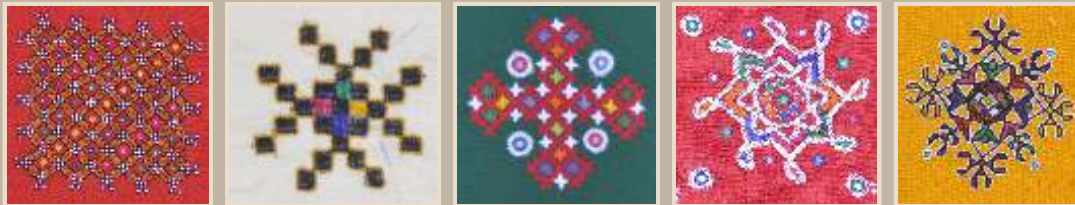
Mutva embroidery is also a celebration of abundance:

- There are 34 stitches, many of which have several variations.
- There are three sizes of mirrors and nine different ways of ornamenting them, making a total of 27 kinds of mirror ornamentation.



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Pakko Styles



Chopad
ચોપડ

Dhoran
ધોરણ

Gotanv
ગોતંવ

Mukko
મુક્કો

Pakko
પક્કો



Phuladi
ફૂલડી



Takke Jo Juno
ટકેજો જૂનો



Pakke Jo Golaado
પક્કેજો ગોલાડો



Kaaro Bharat
કારો ભરત

Kachcho Styles



Khaarak
ખારક

Kambhiri
કંભીરી

Katari
કટારી

Kachcho
કચ્ચો

Neran
નેરણ



Bido
બીડો



Kachche Jo Golaado
કચ્ચેજો ગોલાડો



Soof
સૂફ



Pade Jo Bharat
પડેજો ભરત

- The Mutva embroidery tradition allows certain Pakko and Kachcho bharat to have a stand-alone presence in a design or be combined in specific ways. The number of permissible combinations is countless.



34 stitches and their variations, 27 kinds of mirror ornamentation, 18 bharat and their innumerable combinations - all these make the Mutva embroidery universe infinitely vast and varied.

Mutva craftswomen are world renowned for their Pakko bharat. These styles demand high skill: the stitches are rendered very tiny, fine, uniform and tight; the very tiny mirrors are rendered with flair and finesse.

One Pakko bharat - Mukko - calls for the use of expensive materials such as gold and silver metallic threads.



None of these factors - hard work, high cost and huge challenge -- inhibits the craftswomen's passion for Pakko bharat. That is why many of their ceremonial garments are embroidered with two and sometimes even three Pakko bharat.

Pakko bharat is lush and opulent. Kachcho bharat is comparatively understated and restrained. All the nine Kachcho bharat use the same stitch - the *kachcha no takko* - as their main stitch. And yet, all nine bharat have a distinct identity. This is a remarkable feat - brought about by playing with the same stitch in nine different ways, to create nine distinct identities





Embroidery is an integral part of the lives of the craftswomen. And the pursuit of excellence is a strong motivator. Craftswomen acknowledge that the criteria for evaluating creative excellence vary from one embroidered piece to another. They have, however, identified a set of indicators by which the technical excellence can be assessed.

The indicators of technical excellence in Mutva embroidery are:

- use of very tiny, fine, uniform and tight stitches
- use of very tiny mirrors
- mirrors are fixed very tightly, so that they look as if they are embedded within the base fabric
- stitches used for embroidering the mirrors are rendered tightly so that maximum area of the mirrors is exposed
- elaborately highlighted motifs
- use of many and varied stitches and details to create a highly ornamented composition.