

Ankara Printing Training Manual for Beginners

1. Introduction

Ankara printing is a traditional fabric design technique that uses a wax-resist method to create bold, colorful patterns on cotton fabric. This manual is designed to guide beginners step by step through the Ankara printing process, from understanding the fabric to producing a finished print.

Training Objectives

By the end of this training, learners will be able to:

- Understand the basics of Ankara printing.
- Identify and use required tools and materials.
- Design and print simple Ankara patterns.
- Apply dye correctly and remove wax safely.
- Produce a finished Ankara fabric.

2. Understanding Ankara Fabric

Ankara fabric is made from cotton and printed using wax to block certain areas from absorbing dye. The uncovered areas absorb dye, creating patterns.

Key characteristics:

- i. 100% cotton fabric
- ii. Highly absorbent
- iii. Reacts to heat and wax

Understanding these properties helps achieve better print quality.

3. Tools and Materials

The following materials are required for Ankara printing:

- i. Plain white cotton fabric.
- ii. Paraffin or batik wax.
- iii. Fabric dyes or pigments.
- iv. Printing blocks, stamps, or stencils.
- v. Brushes or sponges.
- vi. Heat source (stove or hot plate).
- vii. Bowl or container for dye.
- viii. Gloves and apron

4. Fabric Preparation

Proper preparation ensures good dye absorption.

Steps:

- i. Wash the fabric to remove starch and chemicals.
- ii. Dry the fabric completely.
- iii. Iron the fabric flat.

5. Pattern Design

Beginners are advised to start with simple designs.

Steps:

- i. Sketch your design on paper.
- ii. Choose simple, repeating patterns.
- iii. Lightly transfer the design onto the fabric (optional).

6. Wax Application (Resist Method)

Wax is applied to areas where dye should not penetrate.

Steps:

- i. Melt wax carefully using low heat.
- ii. Apply wax using a brush, stamp, or stencil.
- iii. Allow wax to cool and harden.
- iv. Safety Note: Handle hot wax carefully to avoid burns.

7. Dye Application

This stage adds color to the fabric.

Steps:

- i. Mix dye according to manufacturer's instructions.
- ii. Apply dye using a brush, sponge, or dipping method.
- iii. Allow fabric to dry completely.
- iv. For multiple colors, repeat waxing and dyeing in layers.

8. Wax Removal

After dyeing, the wax must be removed to reveal the design.

Methods:

- i. Dip fabric in hot water.
- ii. Iron fabric between sheets of paper.
- iii. The melted wax will come off, revealing the pattern.

9. Colour Fixing and Washing

To ensure colour durability:

Steps:

- i. Rinse fabric in cold water.
- ii. Use salt or colour fixative (depending on dye).
- iii. Wash gently and dry in the shade.

10. Final Finishing

Final steps include:

- i. Ironing the fabric neatly.
- ii. Inspecting for uneven prints or colour bleeding.
- iii. Preparing fabric for sewing, use, or sale.