



rohapur

**CRAFT & CULTURE
DOCUMENTATION**

INTRODUCTION

As per mythology, Kolhapur was named after the demon Kolhasur. Various stories explain why goddess killed him, but it was his dying wish that place where he was killed would be named after him. Kolhapur derives from Kolhasur and Pur, which means a city. This ancient kingdom, scared to the Hindu, the Jain, and the Buddhist, has a history characterised by 6 periods.

Kolhapur, in western Maharashtra, is steeped in history, ruled by Marathas. It's known for the New Palace, Mahalaxmi Temple, and diverse economy including Kolhapuri chappals and textiles. Its spicy cuisine and cultural scene, with Lavani dance, are noteworthy.

Kolhapur has good transportation links, educational institutions, and serves as a gateway to nearby attractions. While Marathi is primary, Hindi and English are spoken. Kolhapur's blend of history, culture, and cuisine makes it a captivating destination and significant city in Maharashtra.





ABOUT THE CRAFT

Kolhapuri chappals are Indian decorative hand-crafted and braided leather slippers that are locally tanned using vegetable dyes. Kolhapuri Chappals or Kolhapuris as they are commonly referred to are a style of open-toed, T-strap sandal, but also braided leather Mules or braided leather shoe type designs are also common.

A huge part of the city is based on making kolhapuri chappals and the industry involves a lot of artisans . Apart from the authentic Kolhapuri designs , some patterns are also taken from neighbouring states like Gujarat and Rajasthan . These designs are gaining popularity not only in maharashtra but across the globe.

HISTORY

12th century

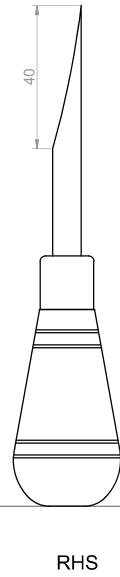
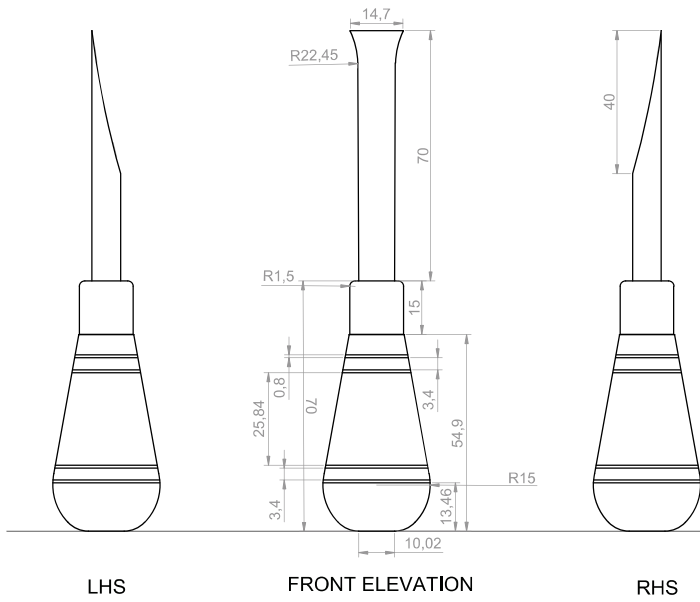
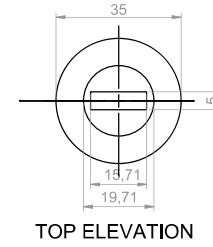
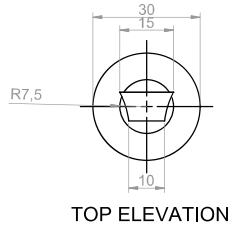
The origin of Kolhapuri Chappals dates back to 12th century when the King Bijjala and his prime minister Basavanna encouraged Kolhapuri Chappal production to support local cobblers. According to historic records, Kolhapuris were first worn as early as the 13th century. Previously known as Kapashi, Paytaan, Kachkadi, Bakkalnali, and Pukri, the name indicated the village where they were made.[1] Shahu I of Kolhapur (and his successor Rajaram III) encouraged Kolhapuri Chappal industry and 29 tanning centres were opened during his rule.

Early 19th century

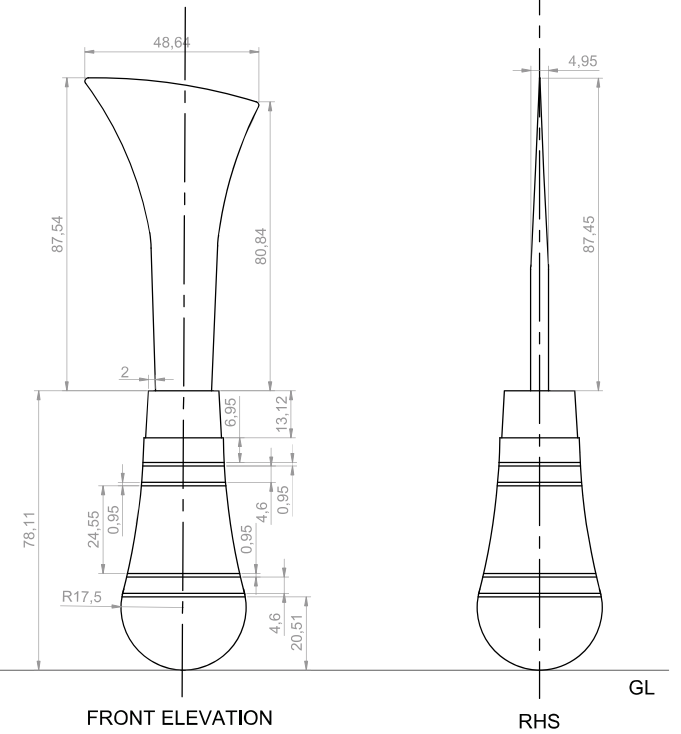
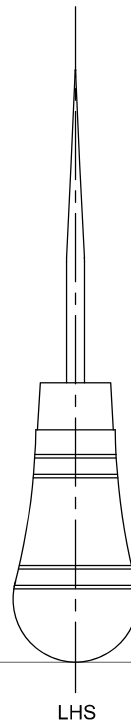
Later in the 19th century , Kolhapuris were introduced in Mumbai by the saudagar family of Kolhapur, who created a thinner version of the chappal, they named it 'Kanwali'. The chappal had a little decorative fur-like ball in the centre giving it a very royal and elaborate appeal.

The craft beautifully showcases the speciality of indian craftsmanship.

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