

No. 5621

# Rangoli Mega Stencils



**RANGOLI** is an art form originating from India to decorate floors. Throughout India rangolis are created to beautify surroundings during Indian festivals and special occasions. Basically it is a creative outlet for domestic Indian women and has been passed on from mothers to daughters since ages unknown. This ancient art form also has been enjoyed by Indian kings to decorate floors of their palaces.

**THE NAMES:** This art form dedicated to floors, has various names in different parts of India.

**CHOWK** (Pronounced as "Chalk") in North India.

**KOLAM** (Pronounced as "Co-laum") in South India.

**RANGOLI** (Pronounced as "Run-go-lee") in West India,

**ALPANA** (Pronounced as "Al-pa-naa") in East India.

**THE MOTIFS:** Rangoli designs are symbolic and common to the entire country. They range from geometrical patterns to natural design such as animals and plants. Common plant motifs include lotus flowers and vines. Animals that are often used include peacocks and elephants. These motifs may be modified by the artist to fit their designs.

**THE COLORS:** Traditional colors use natural dyes, powdered grains, rice paste, even spices like turmeric. Today synthetic dyes are often used to produce brighter colors. A variety of grains such as cereals and lentils may be used for their natural color and texture to add 3-D effects. Modern rangolis are sometimes made with fresh flower petals and metallic powders and even sprinkled with confetti.

**THE SIZE:** Originally rangolis were done in small 2 square feet patterns but now the entire floors of rooms and hotel foyers are covered in intricately detailed designs. These elaborate designs can be painted with wet paint or filled with loose colored powder sprinkled by hand.

**THE RANGOLI CULTURE:** In Indian cultures, all guests and visitors occupy a very special place, and a rangoli is an expression of this warm hospitality. Therefore Indian festivals are widely celebrated with rangolis, as people visit each other's homes to exchange greetings and sweets. Now that you know the history, let's get started with your rangoli.

## Rangoli Design from North India is called Chowk

Rangoli /Chowk is created in dry color powders, even using household and kitchen items like flour, rice, lentils, flower petals and edible spices. Chowk in north India is mainly done during the festival of lights called Diwali. The main motif for this rangoli is the LAMP. The artists draw patterns by pinching the colored powder in between the index finger and thumb. They then funnel it out to draw the design.

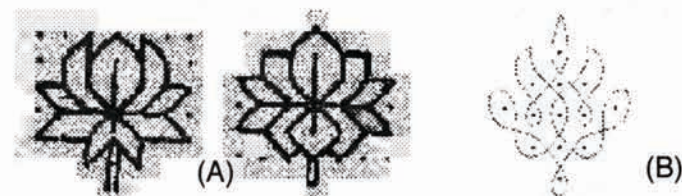
### CHOWK



## Rangoli Design from South India is Called Kolam

In southern India, Kolam (rangoli) is considered an auspicious art of decorating the house. Every morning almost all women draw Kolams at the entrances of their home or prayer room to mark each and every day as special. Through the day, the drawings get walked on, rained out, or blown around in the wind; new ones are made the next day. First the floor is washed. Then the Kolam is drawn with rice flour while the floor is still wet. Traditionally, a dotted grid is laid on the floor. These dots give the foundation to the design to keep it symmetrical. The dots are either connected together to make a pattern or loops are drawn encircling the dots.

### KOLAM



Lotus is one of most common motifs for Kolams.



### Rangoli Design from West India

RANGOLI, the more popular name for this unique floor art form comes from the western state of India called Gujarat. Here people start the celebrations of the festival Diwali (festival of lights) by creating designs on their patios or entrances. These designs are created in order to welcome the God of wealth to their houses. These rangolis usually depict nature and are created from natural colored powders. The Peacock is a very popular pattern.

### RANGOLI



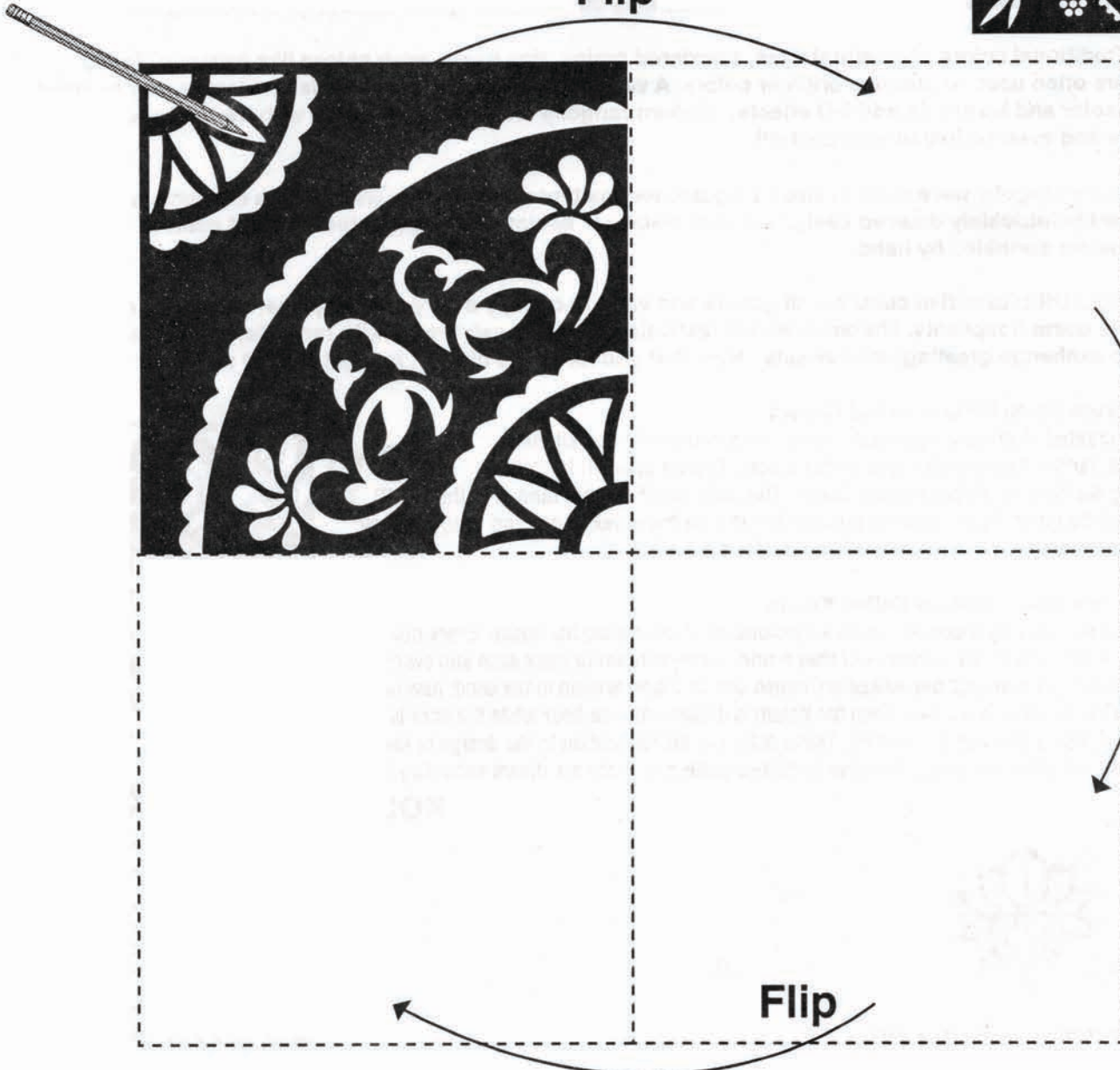
### Rangoli Design from East India is called Alpana

ALPANA is a kind of folk art. The word alpna means 'to plaster', or 'to coat with'. The women and girls dip their fingers in a thick rice flour solution and then draw alpna on the floor with their fingers. This particular design is called "Holi Ka boota", which is a motif for Holi, a festival of colors which comes in the month of March. March is the joyous month of spring, when the fields and orchards are laden with new crops. The leaves in this design represent new crops.

### ALPANA



Flip



Flip

Flip