

Gulduzi

Gulduzi – a form of embroidery is widespread handicraft among the Tajik women. It is one of the oldest forms of handcraft stitched by using needles and special hooks. For *gulduzi* embroidery variety types of threads made of silk, cotton, wool, synthetic and metal based material. Although traditionally *gulduzi* embroidery was made by hand these days there are also embroidery-sawing machines used in production of traditional patterns.

Gulduzi embroidery is widely applied for decoration of nearly any objects made from fabric and leather. Most common items where *gulduzi* embroidery is applied are home textile, clothing including slippers and shoes. The coverings for horses and camels are also decorated with

gulduzi embroidery. *Gulduzi* embroidered home textiles are of different functionality such as tablecloth, tea towels, curtains, bed cover, head gears etc. These objects can have different size such as bed cover can be quite big and such items are embroidered by a group of women where as smaller items are made by one person.

Gulduzi embroidery has different forms of stitching such as *chapduzi*, *kandakhayol*, *khomduzi* and *iroki*.

Suzani is one of the types of embroidered and decorative textile made in Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries. *Suzani* is from the Persian *suzan*, which means needle. *Suzanis* usually have a cotton (sometimes silk) fabric base, which is embroidered in silk or cotton





thread. Chain, satin, and buttonhole stitches are the primary stitches used. There is also extensive use of couching, in which decorative thread laid on the fabric as a raised line is stitched in place with a second thread. *Suzanis* are often made in two or more pieces that are then stitched together

Popular design motifs include sun and moon disks, flowers (especially tulips, carnations, and irises), leaves and vines, fruits (especially pomegranates), and occasional fish and birds. For large *suzanis*, several of the fabric strips are first sewn loosely together and the pattern is drawn on



them; then they are taken apart so that two or more family members or friends can work on the embroidery simultaneously. Later when the panels are rejoined, the pattern parts may not match perfectly, and extra stitches may be added in the areas along the seams. It's the old, traditional approach in this handcrafted art form.

The *suzani* embroidery threads are silk. Two traditional stitches are used in a majority of the pieces: primarily *basma* stitch, sometimes called Bukhara couching, and less often, chain stitch. An unbelievable amount of time and care goes into the making of each piece.



