



deco catalog

SOLID





Home goods, handcrafted with a soul and a story.
Because how it is made, matters.

All of Solid's lovely pieces have been completely handmade in a fair way by local Peruvian, Indian and Kenyan women from poor regions in the highlands, remote areas or wildlife regions. They are united by Solid Crafts in fair workshops and community groups that provide meaningful and decent work for those vulnerable, underprivileged yet powerful and strong women. They make beautiful handmade products that inspire both themselves and us to dream of a better world.



Fair employment



Local and artisanal production



Ethical



Let's rise by lifting others

baskets

carpets

alpaca plaids

kanthas

cushions

Baskets

Hadithi crafts offers a collection of traditional and contemporary baskets, handmade by women in Tsavo (Kenya), from the fibre of the sisal plant.

The weaver dyes, dries and twines her sisal fibres by hand, following traditional techniques passed on by generations of basket weavers. The basket is entirely a weaver's own design, telling her story through the intricate patterns and colors she has chosen to weave. Hadithi means 'story' in Swahili, a name that is reflected in the products.

Basket weaving means a vital income for her (and for all the 1300 weavers in the various women groups that Hadithi now supports). The money goes a long way, especially in the dry season, when as a farmer, she often fails to produce enough harvest to even meet her family's basic needs. Basket weaving provides her with some financial stability, money to pay school fees and buy food.

Any profit generated by Hadithi sales goes back to the women groups to support them further. Solid Crafts also takes on a supportive role for the Hadithi women's groups by helping them to build their commercial and business skills and improve their product quality. All these skills are helping them to improve their lives overall.

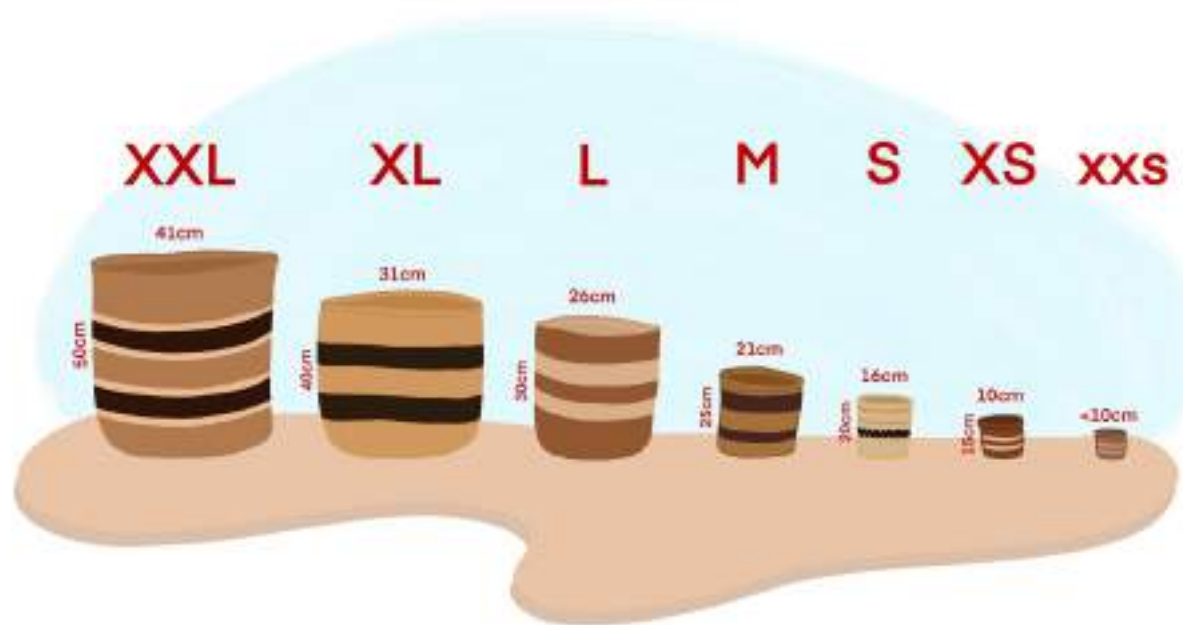




In love with nature

These beautiful baskets are made from sisal fibers. Our weaver ladies either grow sisal plants on their farms or else buy local fibres from the sisal estates in Mwatate, Kenya. Sisal is an exceptionally durable and strong material, and grows well in harsh Kenyan climates. No pesticides nor chemical fertilizers are needed in sisal agriculture.





Sizes

Whether you are looking for tiny, cute sisal baskets or big large ones, our weaving ladies in Kenya make sure that there's a basket in every size you can wish for. Sizes vary from XXS to XXL.



FINE WEAVE



Available from size XXS to XXL



PRACTICAL WEAVE |



Available from size XXS to XXL



BREAD BASKETS

Composition:

Sisal fibers, dried, rolled by hand,
colored by hand.

Available in practical weave

Dimensions:

H: 9 cm - diam 29 cm

Shapes



PLANT HANGERS |

Composition:

Sisal fibers, dried, rolled by hand,
undyed macrame cord in polyester.
Available in practical weave.

Dimensions:

H: 14 cm - diam 14 cm

Shapes



Shapes



Composition:

Palm leaves, dried, cut by hand
Handles: goat's leather (animal friendly treated), undyed.
Also available without handle.

Dimensions:

H: 35 cm – diam: 40 cm

SHOPPING BAGS |

Shapes



Composition:

Palm leaves, dried, cut by hand

100% cotton fabric, embroidery thread

Dimensions:

H: 35 cm – diam: 40 cm

LAUNDRY BASKETS |



*"If you empower women,
you empower a whole community."*

Meet the makers



"I was born in Ukambani, Machakos County. I was taught basket weaving by my grandmother. Being a mother is everything to me, and the income I get from basket weaving allows me to raise the standard of living for my family, pay for my children's education and meet their daily needs! My other source of income is farming. I aspire to see my children study & lead a life without struggles." - Regina, Ikonge.



"I learned how to weave baskets from my mother. I joined Rukanga Basket Weavers because the leaders work for the betterment of their members. The group is hardworking and united and many of my baskets have been sold through my association with them. The profits I get I use to educate my children and buy food for my family." Eunice - Rukanga



"My greatest achievement is putting my three girls through high school with the income I've made from basket weaving. They all have high ambitions now: one wants to be a journalist, one wants to be an accountant and the other a teacher. It makes me very proud." - Hannah Paul - Rukanga



Alpaca plaids

Alpacas are native to the Peruvian highlands, where temperatures often fall well below zero degrees. The animals' coat is their only protection against this bitter cold, and so their wool possesses extremely effective insulating properties. How? Alpaca wool is naturally heat-regulating thanks to its hollow fibres. Similar to mohair blankets, these special hollow yarns trap your body heat more effectively than wool, and so help to keep you warm and cosy, even on the coldest of days. These lightweight, luxurious blankets are handknitted by our knitting ladies in Ayacucho, Peru in various colors and patterns, to match your interior just perfectly.





MARSIPAN



Colors:



Dimensions:
130 x 156 cm

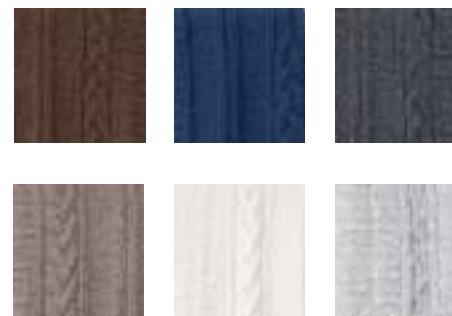
Composition:
'Laja' 43% Baby alpaca / 43% wool / 14% polyamide; 1/3nm

Available color:
- brown / navy / dark grey / camel / white / light grey





Colors:



Dimensions:
150 x 163 cm

Composition:
'Laja' 43% Baby alpaca / 43% wool / 14% polyamide; 1/3nm

Available color:
- brown / navy / dark grey / camel / white / light grey



CONCHITA |



white / light grey / dark grey



white / light brown / dark brown

Dimensions:
150 x 163 cm

Composition:
'Laja' 43% Baby alpaca / 43% wool / 14% polyamide; 1/3nm

CARMELLA |



off white / light grey



off white / taupe

Dimensions:
150 x 163 cm

Composition:
'Laja' 43% Baby alpaca / 43% wool / 14% polyamide; 1/3nm



Why Alpaca wool?

- Natural and biodegradable
- Lighter and warmer than other wool types
- Soft and silky and natural sheen
- Thermal properties, allows the perfect body temperature
- Naturally windproof
- Durable and stain-resistant
- Breathability
- Resists odors
- Won't mat or pill
- Hypoallergenic
- Flame resistant



Make it last longer

- Machine washing?

Wash at low temperatures (20-30 degrees) and without heavy rotation (max 600 rpm). Make sure you don't stuff the drum too full, your knitwear needs space to soak.

- Handwashing?

Handwashing will add years to the life of your knits. Fill the sink with lukewarm water and add a little baby shampoo or fine detergent. Soak undisturbed for 10 – 15 minutes (do not rub it) and rinse thoroughly with lukewarm water afterwards. Wring very carefully. Don not use fabric softener.

- Drying cabinet is a no-go.

Dry your knitwear garment flat on a towel. Don't hang it on a coat rack, because the fibres will stretch. Drying flat or on a hanger in shade will ensure that garments are left fresh and ready to wear, with no fading or peg marks.

- Is washing really necessary?

Washing less means enjoying your knitwear longer. Whenever possible, light spot cleaning of garments will extend its life between wash cycles.

- Are there no stains, but it doesn't smell so fresh anymore? Just hang it outside on a coat rack.



Meet the makers



"We are one big family with all the knitters in the workshop. I get a lot of strength from that. The money I earn at Solid goes to my children. I want to give them a good upbringing, send them to school and give them a different life than mine. What remains I put into a savings account to make my own dream come true: to live in a better and bigger house. Looking back on it, I am incredibly proud."

– Lucia

Our partners in the South:

- fair and artisanal local workshops.
- western design and clients
- support -technical & general
- quality and order compliance
- logistics
- new sustainable business model
- honest work
- fair job
- learning and development
- working with natural and recycled materials

Our partners in the North:

- you name it, we make it
- sampling and co-design
- sales/after sales /logistics
- proximity of high quality handmade products
- smooth communication
- storytelling



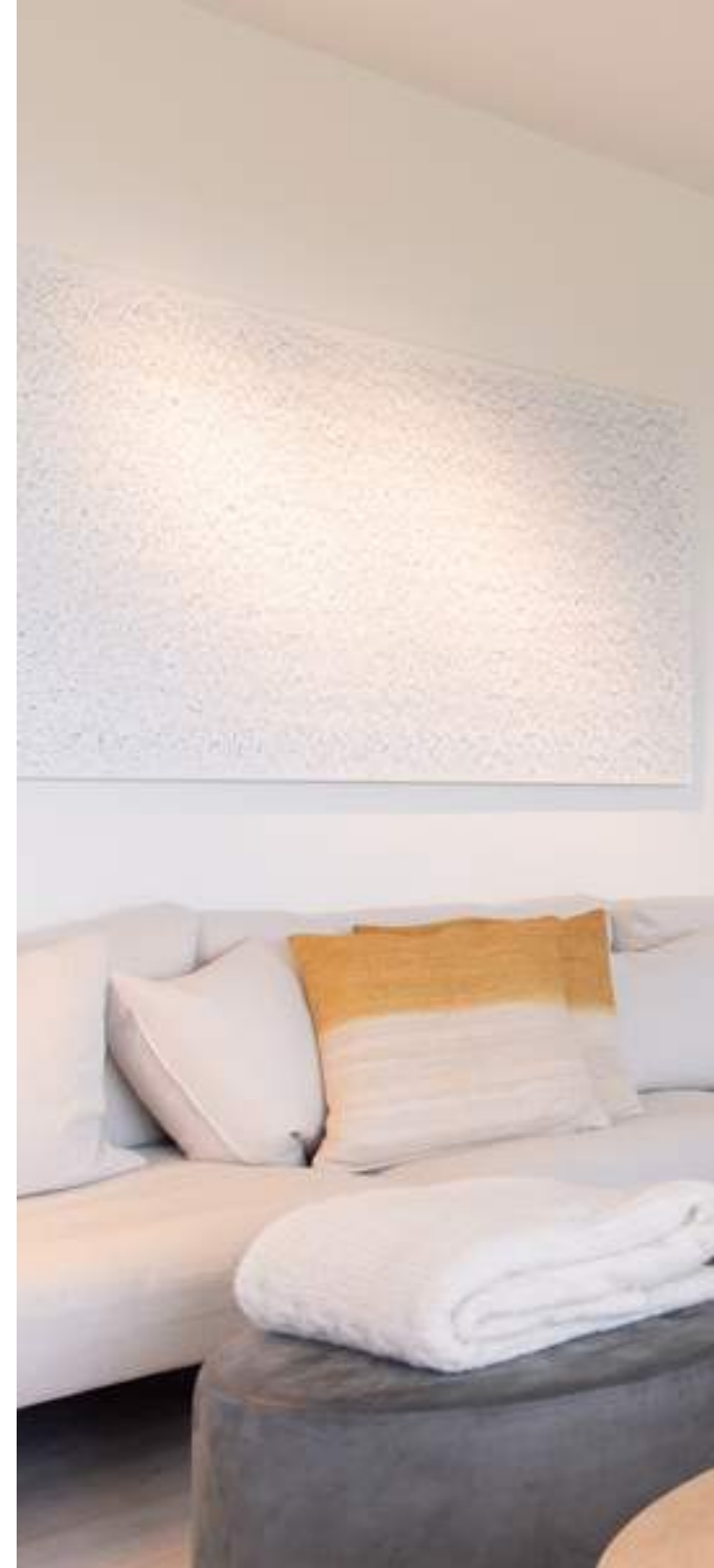
empowerd happy people

happy customers buying fair and authentic products & sharing beautiful stories.

Carpets

It all starts with sari, clothing that can be found in every woman's wardrobe in India, it is worn to occasions such as weddings and festivals as well as being an everyday staple. It is also the clothing item of choice for most of the artisans in Rampur in our fair trade workshop.

The vast array of colours and designs of the draped fabric are part of what makes walking the streets in India such a treat for the eyes. Crochet rugs give a second life to this ubiquitous garment, meaning that their colors and patterns can continue to be enjoyed. Once a sari has become worn or faded, if a woman can't find a use for it herself, she can give it to a passing fabric-walhala to be recycled. The saris are gathered and sorted according to the material and the amount of wear and tear, where they can then be purchased for re-purposing. Cotton and silk saris are delivered to the workshop to begin their upcycle transformation to the most beautiful carpets.







Your carpet is unique

Colors & patterns

Each carpet has its own unique combination and pattern and is made from similar color groups of upcycled sari.

Composition

Upcycled sari (traditional womens clothing) in silk or cotton crochet.

Thickness of rug is 1,5 cm approx, little difference may occur.



HOLLYHED



HOLLYHED



HOLLYHED



Rectangle carpets

More in love with rectangular shapes? No problem! We have different sizes available in rectangular shapes too. The rectangle carpets are made from upcycled saris in similar color ranges.

Dimensions:

Yoga mat: 0,7 m x 1,8 m

Small: 0,8 x 1,5 m

Medium: 1,4 x 2 m

Large: 2 x 3 m









Round carpets

Dimensions:

Small: Ø 1,5 m

Large: Ø 2,0 m

Customized color scheme or dimensions on request

The making of



After the saris are washed and dried, they are now out-stretched to display their full potential, the most complete pieces and beautiful designs are selected to create kanthas, traditional blankets created from hand-stitching saris together.

The remaining saris are then carefully selected and sorted into colour combinations.

Around 20 saris will need to be selected to create a medium sized rug.

Saris are almost never one block of color and the variety of tones and shades within and amongst the saris can make selecting harmonizing color combinations challenging, but it is also what makes each rug unique.

Next, the saris need to be turned into ribbons so that they can be crocheted. At one end of the sari, the artisan makes small cuts at 7 cm intervals and then rips the fabric by hand, creating multi-coloured ribbons of fabric.

Meet the makers

Starting with a single ribbon that will form the centre, the artisan takes the wooden crochet needle to start knotting the fabric into a chain that then curves round itself to form a snail shell like centre.

The crocheting continues round in a spiral, hooking through the sides as it grows outwards.

When the end of a ribbon is reached, the artisan simply takes the next ribbon and knots it into the end of the previous one; securing it in and continuing the coiling curve.





Make it last longer

- Wash separately at maximum 30°C.
- Use a gentle cycle and mild detergent, without bleach.
- Dry flat.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight.
- Spot cleaning when small, local spots.
- Vacuum regularly.
- If you find a loose thread, cut it with scissors, do not pull.



Kanthas

Kantha (meaning: “patched cloth”) refers to both the tradition of producing these unique, quilted blankets (making something useful and beautiful out of discarded items), as well as the craft and stitch itself (a small, straight running stitch)

These blankets are made from upcycled sari (local traditional womens clothing in India) after being washed and selected by color. The remaining sari pieces become beautiful carpets.

Kanthas come in 2 sizes. Bedcover and plaids. Each of them has a unique pattern and color and are gorgeous examples of circular deco products.





Unique pieces

These handstitched blankets in 'Indian patchwork' are made from 4 layers of carefully selected recycled sari with a running stitch in organic cotton. The color combinations are based on the available sari, so each piece is unique. Bright vibrant colors, or soft neutral pastels tones.

PLAID |

Dimensions:
140 x 200 cm



100% handmade, 100% recycled sari





Upcycling pays tribute to preloved materials.

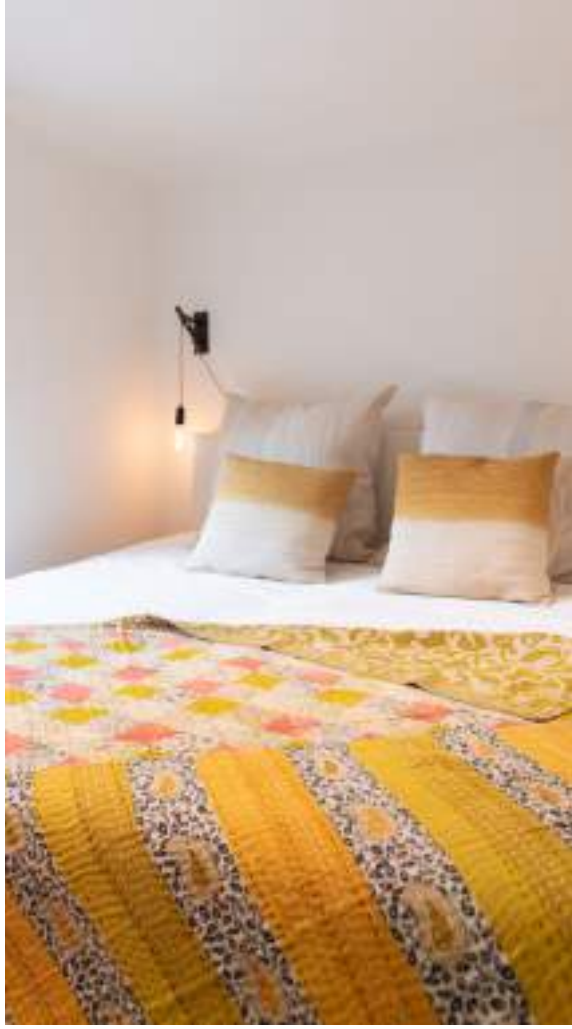
RECOVER |

Dimensions:
250 x 250 cm

100% handmade, 100% recycled sari



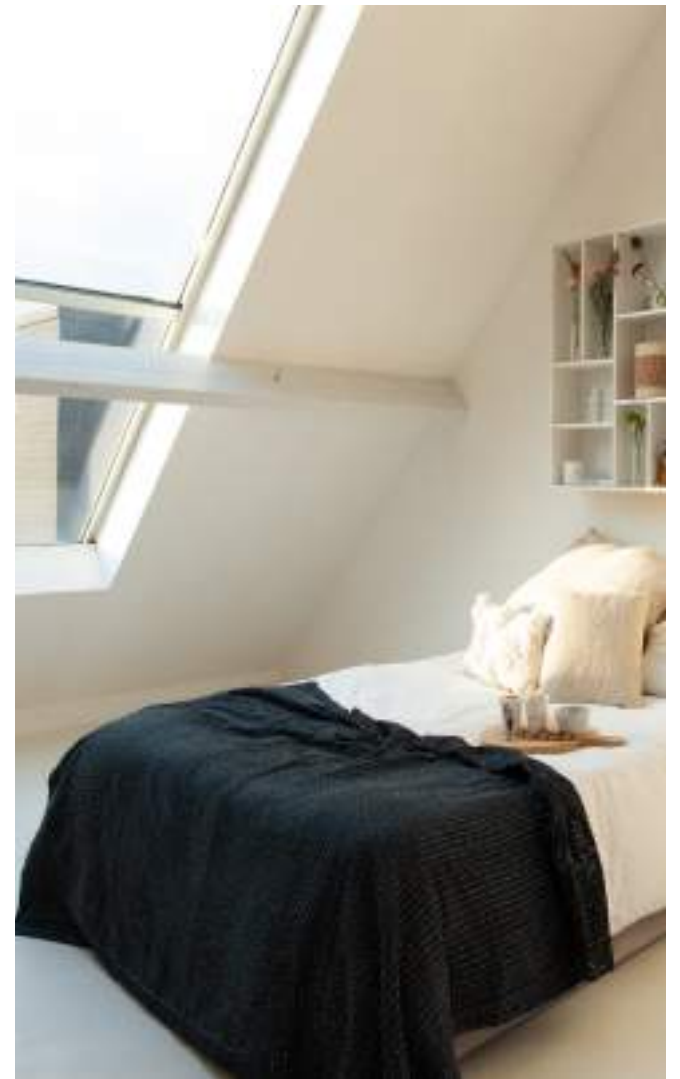
UNIQUE PIECES





Make it last longer

- Wash separately at maximum 30°C.
- Use a gentle cycle and mild detergent, without bleach.
- Dry flat.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight.
- Spot cleaning when small, local spots.
- If you find a loose thread, cut it with scissors. Do not pull.



Meet the makers



Sisilya "Before joining Solids workshop Paces Crafts my main occupation was working on the rice fields of my family and helping my mother in the household. I am not educated well since I only went to school till the 8th grade. For this reason I knew I would not get a job anywhere and the agriculture job was very hard. I was wondering if I would ever be able to earn a proper income for myself. Then I heard about the workshop Paces Crafts and got curious about the skills that were taught in this place. When I started I didn't even know how to hold a needle, but with time and effort I learned how to knit. This job made me independent. The first salary I got was used to pay the construction workers at my home. I feel very proud about the new skills I learned and that thanks to them I can support my family with the wage I receive. Once my mother told me "you are like a son to me" because I take care of the family with my earnings like normally sons do. This moment made me very happy and proud.

Cushions

The story of the upcycling of saris continues. When used saris are discarded, our Indian weaving ladies, turn these saris into the most beautiful cushions.

Woven by hand, a small or large cushion arises. Shades of light silk dance through your living room and if you want, add a touch of color too, with our dip dye version of the upcycled cushion. A pleasure to look at, good for nature and good for people.





NATURALS

Handwoven cushion
'Tequila' silk recycled silk (beige) saris

S: 45 x 45 cm
L: 90 x 90 cm



Emerald Green



Handwoven cushion
Dip dye, dyed by hand:

S: 45 x 45 cm
L: 90 x 90 cm



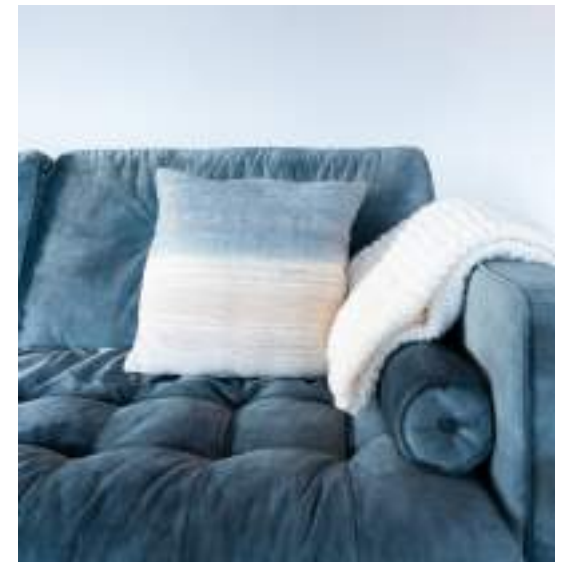
DIP DYE

Handwoven cushion
Dip dye, dyed by hand:

S: 45 x 45 cm

L: 90 x 90 cm

Ice Blue



DIP DYE |



Caramel

Handwoven cushion
Dip dye, dyed by hand:

S: 45 x 45 cm
L: 90 x 90 cm



Make it last longer

- Clean with mild soap or special shampoo for silk.
- Soak silk 3 to 5 minutes in lukewarm water.
- While soaking, gently move back and forth. (no wringing)
- As soon as silk is wet, be careful, for silk is more fragile when wet.
- After handwashing for 5 min, rinse the fabric with cold water, whereafter adding a teaspoon of wine vinegar, to remove possible soap residue.
- Roll the silk in a dry cloth to remove remaining water.
- Roll silk out flat and pull the edges to make it straight.
- If you find a loose thread, cut it with scissors. Do not pull.



Meet the makers



Although I had good sewing skills, I couldn't find a decent job. When my father got sick I had to raise the money for his treatment, but when I still couldn't find a job as a seamstress, I had to take on a job as a cleaning lady. I didn't really like the job and I felt rather sad and depressed after a while. But I didn't give up the search for a better job and eventually I found Paces Crafts, the workshop of Solid Crafts in Ranchi... a real sewing workshop..

I instantly felt at home and appreciated for my contribution. On a certain day I even got selected to educate other seamstresses on an incoming order. I've never been this proud of myself. I'm so happy to have found a job where I can both use my talent as a seamstress and support my family financially. I recently encountered an old friend and she told me I look really happy and peaceful and it's true, that's exactly how I feel right now. - Nimarla Lakra

‘Let’s rise by lifting others!’





Intrested in our fair trade, handmade products?

Let's get in touch!

www.solidinternational.be

insta: [solid.crafts](#)

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