

Research Paper :

Lattice smocking techniques: An innovative approach to smocking

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ABSTRACT

Lattice smocking technique is a fabric manipulation technique involving stitching from the back side of the fabric offering a unique and personal aesthetic charm of a hand work. The present study tends to highlight the development procedure of a product line with its co-ordination for a bed room range. The product line was developed using lattice smocking techniques by taking inspiration from Buddhist art and architecture. 50 designs of furnishing articles i.e. cushion covers, bolsters, lampshades, glass curtains, and draperies were created. Designs were evaluated and the most preferred design in each category was selected for construction. The market survey showed positive results regarding the acceptability and marketability of the articles.

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Key words : Moodboard, Lattice smocking technique, Product line development, Costing and Marketability

Needlecraft forms an integral part of the applied sacred arts and is used to create or embellish decorative or functional items for the home as well as clothing and personal accessories.

Hand smocking remains a favored form of decorative textured needlework evolving out of a practical sewing technique. Smocking is one of the oldest handicraft used as a tool by man to express his interest, sentiments and emotions consisting of making tiny, regularly spaced, decorative stitches to create round gathers and tucks on garments. (Hirst, 1967) Smocking was popular during the renaissance in Europe. Many paintings from the 14th and 15th centuries show men and women wearing smocked men's shirts and women's chemises particularly in Italy and Germany. Lattice smocking technique has almost no elasticity to the stitched fabric. (Simon and Schuster, 1967). Garg (2010) conducted a study on uniqueness of smocking with applique creating a range of young girls garment which was adapted to their stylized designs using smocking with applique. Kaur (2008) conducted a study on "Magic of fingers" a detail study of smocking with special reference to its techniques, stitches, fabrics, and threads and designing a formal wear collection of dresses according to preference of female of Jalandhar between the age group of 19-23 years.

Aim and objectives of the study are as : to create a mood board, to develop different techniques of lattice smocking and to design and construct furnishing articles

for a bed room range using lattice smocking techniques.

Limitations:

Only lattice smocking techniques was used.

Only six articles *i.e.* cushion covers(2)(one round and one square), bolsters(1), lampshades(1), glass curtains(1), and drapery(1) were constructed.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The present study was conducted to use lattice smocking technique and make designs suitable for furnishing articles. Various issues of textile magazines like Textile Trends, Indian Textile Journal, Clothesline has been read and material related to smocking techniques has been sorted out for reference. Google search engine has been used to visit various websites- www.fibre2fashion.com, www.emerald.com etc. Survey method was adopted to collect information regarding fabrics and interview schedules was framed to get their response regarding market acceptability from 10 shopskeepers dealing in household linens and 10 consumers from household shops and for further work, experimentation was done. Evaluation of fabrics suitability, colour and designs were done by 10 experts from the faculty of Home Science College, Chandigarh, 10 students of Masters in Clothing and Textiles and 10 of Bachelor in fashion designing because of their knowledge of textile designing as well as good aesthetic