

MADISAR

The Madisar is the style in which the sari is worn by the Brahmin community in Tamil Nadu, India. In ancient days, this was the mandatory style in which the sari was supposed to be worn by a woman after her marriage, but today, to suit modern trends, yet accommodate traditions, the madisaar is worn by women on selected festive occasions and while witnessing ceremonies. Normally saris are six yards in length, but since the madisar is worn in a different style, one requires a nine-yard sari to wear it. It is a very important part of the Iyer and Iyengar culture. Both Iyer and Iyengar Brahmin wear madisars for all important occasions in their lives, starting with marriage, followed by Seemandham (form of a baby shower), all important poojas, and death ceremonies.

Iyers and Iyengars wear Madisars differently. Iyers wear the Pallu (the layer of the saree which comes over one's shoulder) over the right shoulder, but Iyengars wear it over the left shoulder.

Madisars are available in a variety of materials such as silk, cotton, cotton-silk blends, polyester-cotton blends, etc.

***Stand with your legs about 2 ft apart *Make 5-6 pleats in one end of the saree (lengthwise). *Keep the pleats on your left (at the back) and bring the saree around your body and make a knot at the left back in your waist line.(In the direction Left-> Front-> Right-> Left) * Bring it to the front and tuck one edge (and almost 1/2 way from that edge) in the front. Make the pleat (width of the saree) and bring the whole saree to the back under your legs. * Tuck the saree at the back (waist line). * Bring around the saree thro' your left after tucking the shorter edge slightly at your right. * Bring the saree around your body again * Hold it on your left and pass it on to your right shoulder arranging the border. * Bring the border around and tuck it in the front.**

Vaishnava Madisar.....

Step1: Wrap the saree around the waist with one end of the saree on the right and the rest of the saree on to the left.



Step 2: Tie a knot firmly around the waist towards your left side with the two portions of the saree.



Step 3: Gather the saree near the waist.



Step 4:Tuck a bit of the saree in (near the right side of the waist)



Step 5:Pleat the saree from the end tucked to the waist



Step 6: Tuck the pleats to the waist firmly.



Step 7: Fold the rest of the saree to 4 or 5 folds, each fold measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the hand.



Step 8: Bring the pleated portion behind, gathering the folded saree between the legs.



Step 9: Arrange the folds properly.



Step 10: Tuck them firmly at the back.



Step 11: The rest of the saree is brought to the front from the right side.



Step 12: Make a small tuck in the front to make sure the saree is firmly around the waist.



Step 13: Gather the rest of the saree.



Step 14: Wrap it on to the left shoulder.



Step 15: The rest of the saree falls on to the back.



Step 16: Bring the end of the saree around the waist and tuck it on to the left side.



Step 17: Madisar Mami is ready.

(These instructions are for Iyengar style Madisar. For Iyer style madisar the rest of the saree should be wrapped around the right shoulder).



Credits:

Demonstrated by Renuka

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