Main characteristics/features

Kain Melaka songket (Malacca songket) is worn as a samping (short sarong worn over trousers) by men and as an embroidered set and sash by women. The songket is designed using the motifs of the Malacca state flower.

Geographical area

The geographical area is located in Melaka, in the southern region of the Malay Peninsula.

Production and processing

1. Dye the hanks of threads on to the bobbins.
2. Unwind the hanks and wind the threads onto the bobbins.
3. Count the threads, measure them and make sure they are the same length using a warping frame.
4. Roll the warp threads onto the rolling beam to spread the warp and give it proper tension before putting it onto the loom.
5. Sley the reed of the beater using a reed hook – for front to back set up.
6. Make the string heddle frames while simultaneously threading them to form the weaving shed.
7. Pick up the pattern line by line by inserting a long rod and using draft paper as a guide.
8. Insert the weft thread between the shed across the warp using a shuttle, then hit the cloth by sliding the beater/reed at a perfect right angle of 90 degrees.

Link between product and territory

Kain Melaka songket enjoys a wide reputation. It is a symbol of pride and the official state dress of Melaka. It is worn during ceremonial occasions, such as the birthday of the Head of Melaka, the swearing-in ceremony for members of the state executive council and other official gatherings.

The songket is specially designed using the motifs of the Malacca state flower, which is known as ‘bunga kesidang’ or by its botanical name ‘Valla glabara’. This element is used on the songket to identify Malacca’s heritage. Its uniqueness is regarded as a form of marketing for the state of Melaka.