

**Name** Sulaman Keringkam  
(Keringkam  
Embroidery)

**Country** Malaysia

**Date of registration:**  
14/05/2019



Source: *Kraf Malaysia*

#### Main characteristics/features

'Keringkam' is embroidery using thread that is actually metallic tape coated with gold or silver (clinqant thread) on the surface of a soft material ('Kain Kasa Rubia') that measures 1 or 2 metres to be made into a 'selayah' (veil) or 'selendang' (shawl) respectively. What is special about 'keringkam' is that the embroiderer does not use gold-coloured thread to embroider the material, but instead uses a soft iron thread that is electroplated with gold or silver.

#### Geographical area

Kampung Sungai Bedil, Kampung Sinjan, Kampung Tanjung, Kampung Lintang and Kampung Nombor that are very close to the port are among the main areas producing 'keringkam' embroidered products up to the present time.

#### Production/processing

'Keringkam' embroidery is unique because it stresses the importance of counting the threads while using the technique of piercing the cloth surface in the process of embroidering the motif on the fabric that will be made into a 'selayah' or 'selendang'. Usually, the four corners of the 'selayah' are embroidered but sometimes the entire piece is filled with various motifs. There are two techniques that are commonly used, that is, 'kira urat benang' (counting the threads) and 'tikam tembus' (piercing) on the cloth surface when embroidering the motif. The former technique is usually adopted by 'keringkam' embroiderers in Sarawak, that is, by counting 5 weft threads (horizontal threads) and 5 warp threads (vertical threads), they are able to produce the intended motif.

#### Link between product and territory

The craft of embroidery has been based in Sarawak since the rule of the 3rd White Rajah, that is, Charles Vyner Brooke (1917–1946) with the introduction of goods from India and China. Embroidered veils or shawls were worn by the wives of Malay dignitaries when attending official functions. 'Keringkam' embroidery is not only significant to the Malays of Sarawak as a fashion accessory but is also as one of the materials used in the wedding customs and traditions of the Sarawak Malays. When it became a 'must-have' accessory, 'keringkam' embroidered pieces also became an heirloom to be handed down from generation to generation among the Sarawak Malays up to the present time.

**Publication in the Official Gazette** 21/10/2019

**Competent authority** Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO)

**GI rights holder/GI association** Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation, Sarawak Branch

**Contact information** Tel: +60 82444205  
Fax: +60 82440203

**Type of product** Handicraft

**Control body**

**File number** GI2019-00004

**Websites** [www.kraftangan.gov.my](http://www.kraftangan.gov.my)