

## PAISLEY PATTERN (2)

From roughly 1805 to 1870, using **Jacquard Looms** (which could weave complex patterns), the weavers of the town of **Paisley, Scotland**, adapted the design and began to weave **woollen shawls**. During this time millions of shawls were woven. The design is popularly known as Paisley Pattern. **Imitation Indian shawls** were so popular, that Paisley was swamped with orders.

Paisley introduced an **attachment to the weaving loom in 1812**, which allowed **five different colours of wool** to be used, instead of just two colours, indigo (dark blue) and madder (dark red), thus better imitating the Kashmir shawls. **Agents were sent from Paisley to London to copy the latest Kashmir shawls as they arrived by sea and, in eight days imitations were being sold in London for £12, the original Kashmir shawl costing £70-100.**

The shawl shapes changed over the years, from measuring one yard (1 metre) square, to being a long narrow rectangle woven in one piece. Shawls were worn for church or fancy occasions, due to their high cost.

**Paisley patterned shawls** were fashionable for **70 years**, and the term 'Paisley' became well known throughout the world. Changes in fashions led to the end of the shawl, bringing hardship to the weavers in Paisley and the Indian workers in Kashmir. The **Franco- Prussian war in 1870** ended exports of shawls from Kashmir, and the production industry of the Paisley shawl finished because there were no new designs to copy, and fashions had changed.

### Modern Popularity of the PAISLEY PATTERN

One of the Beatles - **John Lennon** had a Rolls Royce car painted with the design in 1967. Paisley again became popular in the late 1980's early 1990's particularly with African -American gangs the **Bloods and the Crips**. Red or blue paisley bandanas were worn as a signifier of gang membership. In modern times, **Paisley bandanas** are often (but not always) used as a signifier of gangland membership, particularly in the rap videos of bands like **Snoop Dogg**. **Paisley Pattern** has been used on everything from fashion items/ clothing to a whole range of everyday household goods and gift items.



**Jacquard Weaving Loom**



**Paisley Pattern Shawl**

