

Lacquer Decoration Technology in Bag Design

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Abstract—Nowadays, bags have been an important part of dress collocation, and have both functionality and artistry. People have more need for production methods and decoration materials, etc. In the process of pursuing design and technique innovation, designers combine the traditional lacquer decoration technology and bag design. The proprietary nature, the unique materials and techniques of the combination fully show the material quality and craft beauty of the natural lacquer in a richer artistic form, which creates an exceptional visual aesthetic and brings new inspiration and expression means to bag design.

Keywords—Bag design, lacquer, decoration

I. INTRODUCTION

For women, bags like “spell” are the unforgettable consumer goods. The “magic power” isn't the practicability of bags, but more about its satisfying women's dream and secrets, the thoughts with intelligence[1]. As an important part of dress collocation, bags need to meet people requirements in practicability, and at the same time, their decorative effect, material texture and manual customization are becoming trendsetters' expression forms for their own fashion taste. Modern bags include two sides: bag designs meeting the practicality in daily life and bag designs meeting the requirements for decoration. No matter for what kind of requirements, people have higher requirements on the delicate workmanship, the particularity of decoration materials and the color collocation of bags.

II. COMBINATION OF LACQUER DECORATION TECHNOLOGY AND BAG DESIGN

As a part of China's traditional art, lacquer decoration has been a mature technology and shown mature decorative effect in China from Han Dynasty. No matter in living goods or in ornamental artworks, we can all see the exquisite charm of lacquer decoration technology.

Designers generally use fabrics like leather, cotton and linen, nylon in bag design. However, the leather in bags of leather fabric is easy to be aging and have scratches in using. And lacquer, proved by a long time practice, is able to protect the wrapped materials very well, which can bring more “permanent” vitality to bag design of leather fabrics. It will greatly improve the bags' decoration function and artistry to combine the special materials and technology utilizations, such as mother-of-pearl mosaic, gold -silver mosaic, bone-stone mosaic, eggshell mosaic, gold and silver foil, etc, with decorative methods, like splicing, lace, metal fittings, embroidery, etc, in bag design.

Designers of the world brand, GUCCI, wonderfully applied

the materials like bamboo, flax, etc, in bag design because of the lack of leather during the time of fascist dictatorship, which made GUCCI survive through the hard times and create a unique characteristic for the brand. Nowadays, designers apply the lacquer decoration technology into bag design and it is believed to set off a new fad for bag design.

III. APPLICATION OF LACQUER DECORATION TECHNOLOGY ON BAGS

Lacquer, as a liquid, can not be directly modeled and generally need to be combined with other materials like fiber, leather, wood, metal. These fabrics like leather, fiber, metal happen to be the same with the materials of the carrier needed in lacquer modeling. Therefore, the agraffe, the opening position, the ornamental part, the brand LOGO, the bag body and the bag belting, etc, become the important part of the lacquer application in bag design.

A. Application of Lacquer Decoration Technology on Different Bag Fabrics

1) *Application on leather, cotton and linen fabric:* Different fabrics would be often split in bag designs, for example, designers would inlay and split fabrics like leather, cotton and linen and so on, with each other through the crafting techniques, like sticking, painting, varnishing and pouring, etc, which can not only keep the texture of the fabrics, but also integrate all kinds of decoration materials, like gold, silver, lead, tin, shells, eggshells, stone flakes and wooden flakes, etc, into the inlaying and splitting position, to make the decoration mix reality and fantasies together, contrast strongly and make the decorative effect distinctive.

Guizhou Anshun Official Records says: “leather wares including Pan, Yu, Zun, Si, etc, are made by painting, therefore, they can be durable.”[2] Using “Dafang Lacquer Art” for reference, people first make out the round model, paint, stick on gold foil and the mother-of-pearl mosaic to decorate the background and enhance the layering, then throw some gold flour to give the background a loom sense of luster. With leather as the “fetal bone” of the lacquer, the bags made in this way are generally round or square, because of the limitation of leather modeling method and the leather material modeling. The shapes of the bags made in shape and solidity are regular round or square, and the seams are tightly sealed. Then people paint lacquer and decorate the bags. These bags are broken-resistant, moisture-resistant, cannot be eaten by worms and are indehiscent and can be one of the best choices of high-end bags.

2) *Application on woven fabric:* After it dried, the lacquer liquid has beautiful appearance and some other potentials of

beauty. [3] These potentials not only have the natural beauty of materials, but also integrate the manmade craft beauty of generations of artisans. In the process of creation and production, people integrate the producers' thinking, emotion, and put the spirit meaning into the bags, to make the works have more artistic beauty. Because of the translucence, the lacquer liquid can be over-printed in wooden and weave with good texture or gold and silver and painted lacquer with refraction ability. [4] The lacquer with rigidity is resistant to burnish and can be repeatedly over-printed and polished. Because of the different grinding force, it will produce different changes of intensity, shade, color and so on, and changeable and mysterious hazy beauty.

The steps of using lacquer decoration technology in bags of woven fabrics are: first, use turpentine to dilute lacquer, dip the silk floss into lacquer and use it to wipe thinly, and put it into the shade. Do it like this for two or three times, successively decrease the dosage of the turpentine in lacquer and put it into the shade. Second, add tung oil in lacquer and use hairbrush to paint a layer. Bend camphor oil into the fine raw lacquer, add some lithol red into the lacquer, then use silk floss to wipe thinly, and put it into the shade, which can prevent the next layer of lacquer from being absorbed by the base and from influencing the gloss when people finish the product. Finally, use lacquer of good transparency, add 40% of tung oil into it, and use hairbrush to paint another layer. Bags painted by this decorative method can not only keep the original weave texture patterns, have the gloss, but also retain the original thin texture. It can fill up the knitting interstices of bags at the same time and will not produce the risk of "leakage" to have the effect of shielding rain and being durable in use as the bag in Fig. 1. People can also paint different colors on the same woven bags, which, to a large extent, can show the effect of color change, through the collocation and fades of colors.



Fig. 1. The application method in the design of the bag of gold

B. Application of Lacquer Decoration Technique on Bag Fittings

1) *Application of decorating golden method on bag design:* The holders are an important constituent part of bags. According to the style of bags, people can design the matching patterns on the holders not only to enhance the decorative beauty of bags, but also enhance the value of art collection of the bags. The Xiushi Lu, a book about ancient painting art, describes gold drawing like this: gold drawing, also called as

decoration with liquid gold, is the pure gold pattern, which is good if it is red in color and black in texture. [5]



Fig. 2. "Generous lacquer" bag

As the bag in Fig. 2, the material of the holder is wooden. People would treat the wooden part as "fetus". People would paint black lacquer on it, which is called the lacquer base; then people would copy the designed patterns on the base and use cotton to coat the aluminum powder on the surface. Third, people would draw the outline of the patterns, paint lacquer evenly and thinly, and then use paper (like Xuan paper or Maobian paper) of high hydroscopicity to lightly press and lift up the paper. People can do this repeatedly for several times until the color meets the requirements and then put it in the shade. Fourth, when the undercoat is about to dry, people use a bamboo tong to put the whole gold leaf on the golden paint, use a soft brush to dab, then use silk cotton ball to rub successively and gently to make the gold leaf fit the part which needs decoration completely, and finally clean the needless gold leaf by a soft brush. The gorgeous look presented in this way makes the bags look more luxurious.

2) *Application of Inlay method on Bag design:* Bags whose color collocations, decorative methods, decorative techniques and decorative materials, etc, are the important reasons for people to choose their loved bags present the decoration by ornaments, techniques and decorative materials. The unique technique and the decorative materials in lacquer decoration technology fully show the natural beauty of the texture and the craft beauty of the manufacturing technology, evoking the visual and tactile sense beauty.

The inlay of lacquer is to over-print the materials like bone and stone, egg shell, mother-of-pearl inlay, gold and silver, etc, to present the unique luster. There are a lot of inlay materials, such as patterns of gold and silver foil, the combination of gold foil inlay and thin mother-of-pearl inlay, and all kinds of precious materials like gold and silver, pearl, jade, coral jadeite and crystal, etc. Because of different materials, the artistic effect would be different, too. Their gorgeous, elegant and simple characteristics and lacquer foil each other and complement each other,[6] which can produce extraordinary decorative effect.

The Xiushi Lu describes mother-of-pearl inlay like this: "It (mother-of-pearl inlay) has cut-shell color, can be decorated according to different colors, and has admiring splendor" [7]. The mother-of-pearl inlay can show a low key and gorgeous

color with the change of angles and light. People would apply the decorative method of mother-of-pearl inlay into the decoration of bags to show the gloss of this unique material according to the change of patterns.

Mother-of-pearl inlay method can be divided into three types: soft mother-of-pearl inlay, hard mother-of-pearl inlay and engraved mother-of-pearl inlay.[8] Limited by the fabrics of the bags, people usually use soft mother-of-pearl inlay and hard mother-of-pearl inlay to decorate bags. Soft mother-of-pearl inlay is suitable for the bags with soft fabrics and hard mother-of-pearl inlay is for bags with hard modeling. The material of soft mother-of-pearl is generally the inner pearl layer, which has beautiful gloss, hard structure and has been eliminated the layers of limestone and cuticle, of the superior quality spiral shell. The soft slice of mother-of-pearl can be used to express the part of many colors in bag patterns because of its rich colors. The hard materials of hard mother-of-pearl are generally from the river clam shells for three or five years. People choose the ones with pure color, good luminance and smooth bottom surface for better.

As the bag in Fig. 3, the researcher uses the soft mother-of-pearl inlay method as an example, the steps of using mother-of-pearl inlay on bags are as follows: first, paint the lacquer on the parts which need decoration; choose the right patterns according to the shapes of the parts which need decoration, choose the corresponding colorful small thin slices of mother-of-pearl(the thickness is generally 0.3-0.4mm) according to the needs of patterns, and engrave the slices of mother-of-pearl of different shapes based on the sketch. And then paint lacquer on the decoration parts of bags on which the sketch is printed, use the black polished lacquer to stick and inlay the engraved slices on corresponding positions based on the patterns, and overprint the whole bag with black lacquer after the lacquer is dry. At last, dip the waterproof abrasive paper into water and use it to grind and polish. In the process of dipping, people need especially pay attention to protecting the leather of the undecorated parts if the fabric is leather. In the process of applying mother-of-pearl inlay method into bag design, the mother-of-pearl can refract beautiful gloss with the different light on bags.



Fig. 3. Mother of pearl inlay method is applied to the packing bag

C. Application on Bags Modeling

The carriers of the traditional lacquer art are always utensils with both practicability and decoration, and modern bags happen to conform to the practicability value of utensils in lacquer art, which perfectly shows the “inside equaling outside” characteristics using “lacquer” as the inside and “utensil” as the outside.

People generally emphasize practicality, simplification and convenience in traditional bags design, therefore, the common shapes of traditional bags are regular geometries, like the cuboid, the cube and the circular-arc. With the change of aesthetic taste and the abundance of fashion style, bags of various styles emerge in an endless stream. Bags, whose different kinds of innovative models are meeting people’s need of seeking for new and difference, are the important part of dress collocation .

As the bag in Fig. 4, the appearance bags is one of the basic factors which can decide the bags design style. All the structure designs applied in the traditional bag design have many formularies and ductility manipulations. The relevant modeling features compromise to the factors, like equipments, materials and manufacturing technology and so on, to shape the manufacturing rules and process. It is hard to make the innovative bag models really into the productions in the traditional designs of bag modeling and structures. While the manufacturing methods of bodiless lacquer ware in lacquer art can be well used in the bag design and make the demanded bag modeling: first, use the plaster to make the needed look of bags, which is the fetus. Second, erase the dust on the surface of the fetus, paste up the needed cloth, wait until it’s dry, get rid of the fetus and the left husk is the designed bag shape. the leather used as the body calls“ leather clothing” or “Weiyi”. We will macerate it and model, and then produce various irregular artistry bag models based on different needs, and shape it after it dries, all of which will make the body uneasy to crack and light. The manufacturing effects of different leather can also be very different, for example, because it’s thin, we use the sheepskin as the body, can wrap it on the wooden body and sculpture. We would first paint lacquer on the shape and do the mother-of-pearl mosaic, gold -silver mosaic, bone-stone mosaic and eggshell mosaic according the decoration demands, or stick on gold or silver foil according to the patterns when it’s about to dry. Then we would do mask dyeing ,polish and push light, and finally make an unique, gorgeous and elegant bag of lacquer art. In this way, the surface of the bag’s body will be glossy and the trace of interlacing will not be clear. Or we can use leathers with clear texture, like cow skin and crocodile skin, etc, and paint some layers of different colors making use of the clear texture, and then polish to make the rich color changeable. Bags made by bodiless techniques not only have unique visual effect on decoration, but also break through the design of traditional bags.



Fig. 4. Birth control bag

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Bags need “stress” to be lively and different. It greatly improves the artistry of bags and extends the using life of bags, by applying the lacquer decoration technology, a traditional craftsmanship with unique beauty, in bag design, to make bags have both practicability and more value of art collection.

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