

# Fabric Selection

The most crucial element in constructing a barong is choosing the perfect fabric. The fabric dramatically affects the look of a barong, influencing the appearance of the person wearing it. Furthermore, each fabric has its character and charm. Therefore, a wise choice of material can result in an exquisite fashion that can be carried over into the way you carry yourself. And this, in turn, makes wearing your barong more fun. Get to know each fabric below:



Fabric	PIÑA	PIÑA-SILK	ABACA-COTTON	COCOON / COCOON-PIÑA	JUSI / JUSI-PIÑA
Other Terms	Piña Liniwan Piña Linawan Pineapple	Piña-Seda Pineapple-Silk	Banana-Cotton	Silk Cocoon	-
Width	28-30 inches	28-36 inches	28-30 inches	36 inches	36 inches
Natural Color	Has a yellowish tinge	Has a lighter yellowish tinge than piña	Has a lighter yellowish tinge than piña	<b>Cocoon:</b> Off-white <b>Cocoon-Piña</b> is cocoon hand-painted with piña streaks that give it a distinct color somewhat similar to that of piña.	<b>Jusi:</b> Off-white <b>Jusi-Piña</b> is cocoon hand-painted with piña streaks that give it a distinct color somewhat similar to that of piña.
Fiber Density	Low	Low	Low to Medium	High	High
Fiber Texture	Fine, normal, or coarse usually with snags (varies from source to source)	Fine, normal, or coarse usually with snags (varies from source to source)	Fine, normal, or coarse usually with snags (varies from source to source)	Polished	Polished
Maximum Body Circumference Chest, Waist, Hips (WITHOUT room for ease)	47-51 inches depending on the width of the available fabric	47-59 inches depending on the width of the available fabric	47-51 inches depending on the width of the available fabric	59 inches	59 inches
Maximum Body Circumference Chest, Waist, Hips (WITH room for ease)	52-56 inches depending on the width of the available fabric	52-64 inches depending on the width of the available fabric	52-56 inches depending on the width of the available fabric	64 inches	64 inches
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rare</li> <li>● The most elegant and the finest of all Philippine handwoven fabrics</li> <li>● The fiber density makes the thread work striking.</li> <li>● Lined with organza fabric to reduce the wearing strain and to have an even and smooth surface on the inside.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elegant</li> <li>● The fiber density makes the thread work striking.</li> <li>● Lined with organza fabric to reduce the wearing strain and to have an even and smooth surface on the inside.</li> <li>● Less expensive than piña</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elegant</li> <li>● Lined with organza fabric to reduce the wearing strain and to have an even and smooth surface on the inside.</li> <li>● Less expensive than piña</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Has a transparency somewhat similar to that of piña and piña-silk</li> <li>● Lined with organza fabric to reduce the wearing strain and to have an even and smooth surface on the inside.</li> <li>● Affordable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The most affordable among the options.</li> </ul>
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expensive</li> <li>● The fibers may turn yellow over time and yellow age spots may develop if not stored properly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The fibers may turn yellow over time and yellow age spots may develop if not stored properly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The fiber thickness makes some thread work styles less striking.</li> <li>● The abaca fibers have the tendency to crack when folded especially if the folded area is hardly pressed. This may create a permanent visible sharp bend surface (crease).</li> <li>● The fibers may turn yellow over time and yellow age spots may develop if not stored properly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The fiber density makes the thread work less striking.</li> <li>● The fibers have the tendency to become brittle over time.</li> <li>● The fibers may turn yellow over time and yellow age spots may develop if not stored properly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ordinary</li> <li>● The fiber density makes the thread work less striking.</li> <li>● The fibers have the tendency to become brittle over time.</li> <li>● The fibers may turn yellow over time and yellow age spots may develop if not stored properly.</li> </ul>
Supply	Very Limited	Normal	Limited	Normal	Normal