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KHAJORNDECH APICHATTRAKUL : FOLK CRAFT : PALM-LEAFED CARP  
OF HUALAEM COMMUNITY , THA WASUKRI , PRA NAKORN SRI AYUTHAYA.

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Palm-leafed carp is a well-known local handicraft in Thai society. Its uses have been changed with changes in time, social conditions and culture. The first palm-leafed carp weavers were believed to be people living in areas with rivers and canals. Inspired by the color, shape and natural beauty of the carp, they wove a natural material, i.e. palm leaves, into carp and hung them over children's cradles.

Palm-leafed carp, especially those woven by Thai-Muslim groups in the Hualaem community, Tambon Tha Wasukri, Amphur Pranakorn Sri Ayuthaya, Pranakorn Sri Ayuthaya, later became more widespread and of greater interest. Almost all of the households in this area have woven palm-leafed carp since the time they lived in peddler boats or houseboats along the Chao Praya River. When they settled on land, palm-leafed carp weaving became the main or secondary job for many people. However, palm-leafed carp has changed in many ways, i.e. bigger size, more colorful due to the weaver's imagination and decoration arts. One important thing found in this research is that the variety of uses of palm-leafed carp has expanded. It is now used as a local souvenir, for home decoration, for small gifts and talismans.

It may be concluded that it is the beauty with simplicity and various uses of palm-leafed carp which enables the weaving practice to maintain its value as a local handicraft in Thai society.