

Atelier Chikudo



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Prices 2021

Information about pricing

When searching about shakuhachi flutes, the matter of prices is quite surprising.

From cheap plastic shakuhachi priced about 40 € up to several thousands euro flutes... !

It is then difficult to understand what makes the value of a shakuhachi and how can a bamboo flute be so expensive.

Despite it's simple or even rough appearance, the traditional method of making shakuhachi flutes require high skills, a lot of time and years of experience and studies.

First of all, the base material isn't easy to obtain and represents already a cost in work or money. Most of the makers living in urban areas need to buy well selected and cured bamboo from suppliers (a good piece pricing between 100 and 200 €). Even with access to a big madake bamboo forest, it's still not easy to find the good pieces fulfilling all the requirements in terms of shape, size, age, node repartition...

The making process then is very complex because the bore (inner tube) is unregular and needs a lot of precise adjustments to achieve a good well balanced and tuned instrument; it is very rare to find a piece of bamboo with the perfect bore design. This work is purely empirical and needs to be done with prudence and at a slow pace.

Price criteria

The acoustical qualities of a shakuhachi are of course essential. The tuning, power, tone colour and general balance of the instrument are it's main qualities. But there are also a number of rather aesthetical criterias that are counting (especially in Japan) and even sometimes prevailing on the acoustical ones. For instance, the type of bamboo used, its number of nodes (ideally 7) and their repartition, the shape or curve of the bamboo, the weigth and aspect of the root end...

Some finishings can also raise the value of a shakuhachi such as rattan bindings, the use of expensive material like ivory, silver or gold. The Japanes lacquer *Urushi* is also an expensive and delicate material to work with.

The reputation of the maker is also very important. There are some high ranking shakuhachi like the stradivarius in the violin world.

My personnal pricing policy

Over the years, my prices have raised as the quality of my work improved.

As for traditional shakuhachi, their quality is allways improving as their prices will do. I rely on the feedbacks I get from professional players or makers and my teacher to value my work.

I decided this year to stop making the student models in order to focus my work on traditional shakuhachi and restoration work.

The prices haven't changed in 2021.

Fuke Shakuhachi

Edo-style ji-nashi

Characteristics :

- *Ji-nashi* shakuhachi in the ancient style of *Edo* period
- Root end or 'ground-cut' bamboo
- *Myoan* style *utaguchi* inlay in deer horn
- *Neri Bengara* dark red *urushi*

Price :
from **300** to **600 €**

Hochiku - 法竹

'Dharma bamboo'

Characteristics :

- Long and wide bore *Ji-nashi* in the style of *Watasumi-do*
- Natural bamboo bore
- No inlay at *utaguchi*
- *No lacquer*

Prix :
from **300** to **600 €**

Option : Neri Bengara dark red urushi lacquer (+80€)

Ji-nashi Shakuhachi

Characteristics :

- Roots-end bamboo
- *Kinko* inlay at *utaguchi*
- bore designed without 'ji' plaster
- Black *urushi* lacquer

Price :

Three grades :

* : 200 to 400 €

** : 400 to 600 €

*** : > 600 €

Options :

Japanese *madake* bamboo : + 100 to 150 € (Depending on bamboo qualities)

Ji-mori (some 'ji' is added at critical points for better balance) : + 100 €

Ji-Ari Shakuhachi

Characteristics :

- Two pieces shakuhachi (*nakatsugi-kan*)
- Bore designed with 'ji' plaster for optimal resonance
- *Kinko* inlay with silver
- reinforced rattan rings at joint parts
- *Shu-no-moto* bright red *urushi* lacquer

Price :

French bamboo :

800 to 1200 €

Japanese *madake* bamboo :

1000 to 1500 €

Options :

Stainless steel rings + rattan or cherry tree bark : + 60 €

Brazed silver rings + rattan, cherry tree bark or *urushi* artwork : + 120 €

Repairs

Any price quote for restoring a shakuhachi can be done only after expertise and complete testing of the instrument. The prices above should then be considered as indicative. I am able to give the final price only with the shakuhachi in my hands.

Cracks repairing

- External bindings : **20 €** / binding
- Inlaid bindings : **35 €** / binding
- Inlaid bindings with rattan finishing : **50 €** / binding

- Inlaid silver pledges : **35 €** / pledge
(for cracks between roots only)

Utaguchi repairing

- Utaguchi inlay repair : **10 to 40 €**
- Utaguchi inlay replacement : **70 €**
(+ urushi lacquer)

Nakatsugi joint repairing

- Loose joint refurbishing : 50 to 80 €
- Rings repair/replacement :
 - Rattan : **30 to 60 €**
 - Stainless steel rings : **40 to 70 €**
 - Silver rings : **50 to 120 €**

Work on the bore

- Filling gaps or chips in the : **70 to 150 €**
- Bore enhancement : **100 to 200 €**

Work on tuning

- Modification on tone-holes : **20 to 50 €**
- Modification of overall tuning : **50 à 150 €**

Every repairing and restoring work includes a one year guarantee