

# Atelier Chikudo



## **Thomas Goulpeau**

Le Ruisseau des Fades

46100 FIGEAC

+33 (0)5 65 38 16 35

chikudo@protonmail.com

[www.chikudo-bamboo-flutes.com](http://www.chikudo-bamboo-flutes.com)

Siret : 50992216700010

## **Prices 2022**

# 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 fullfilling 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 always improving as their prices will do. I rely on the feedbacks I get from professional players or makers especially my teacher to value my work.

\_ "How long does it takes you to make a flute ?"

\_ "Several hours and almost 20 years !"

# 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 500 to 800 €

# 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 500 to 1000 €

*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 :

\* : 400 to 600 €

\*\* : 600 to 800 €

\*\*\* : > 800 €

## *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
- Stainless steel rings + rattan or cherry tree bark
- Brazed silver rings + rattan, cherry tree bark or *urushi* artwork

## Price :

Starts from 1000 €

# 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 : **100 to 150 €**
- Bore enhancement : starts from **200 €**

## Work on tuning

- Modification on tone-holes : **20 to 50 €**
- Modification of overall tuning : **100 to 200 €**

*Every repairing and restoring work includes a one year guarantee*