

CANE AND BAMBOO PRODUCTS CATALOGUE - 2012



Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Crafts (APIC)
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Introduction



Bhutan has always pursued self-reliance as one of the most important state policies. The Bhutanese people, like the people from any part of the world before industrialization, have lived in complete harmony with the natural environment. The people learned to derive all the necessities of life like food and water, medicines, shelter, clothes and other important essentials from their immediate environment in a sustainable way- as is evident, “necessity is the mother of invention.”

As people learnt to make tools and equipment using the materials available in the forests, they found that bamboo and cane could be used to make a variety of things; and they were abundant in the forest. Life for the early Bhutanese would have been much more difficult had it not been for the cane and the bamboo. Stating the obvious, early products would have been in the state of rudimentary; rough and coarse. However, as time rolled on, people learned the aesthetic aspect of a product. Now the cane and bamboo products come with beautifully woven patterns or woven with pre-coloured strips. The products are also polished and glazed in order to make them serve more than one function or occasion. For some communities in Bhutan, it is an important source of livelihood.

Today, these products, though in decline, the craft can still be found alive in places like Kangpar in Trashigang, Thangrong, Silambi and Gongdu in Mongar, Bjoka in Zhamgang, Rukha and Saephoo in Wangdue, Tsawang in Lhuentse, Thruphel in Trashiyangtshi, and in many dzongkhags in Southern Bhutan.

The stages of making cane and bamboo products.



1

Harvesting and cross cutting of bamboo.



2

Splitting and seasoning



3

Slicing.



4

Smoothing.



5

Dyeing.



6

Layout and designing.



7

Weaving in progress.



8

Finishing touch on the product.



Bangchung

Product Name: Bangchung (ཕང་ཅུང་།)

Material: Yula and cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:

0.5kg - 1kg

Purpose: Used as a container or decorative item in the house.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Bangchung is made of Yula, a type of bamboo, and with beautiful patterns. They are mainly made for decorative purpose. They are also used for storing sweets and snacks. The rim of the bangchung is made from using bamboo or cane strips and woven with cane thread.

Bangchung (Nycema)

Product Name: Bangchung (Nycema) (ཕང་ཅུང་། (ཉི་ཟེར་མ་))

Material: Yula and cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:

0.5kg - 1kg

Purpose: Used as a container.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Bangchung Nycema is also made of Yula with coloured patterns. It is used as serving plates, and a traditional practice of serving snacks or food to guests and lamas. It has swastika pattern that symbolizes permanent friendship and faith.



Bangchung (Tangkama)



Product Name: Bangchung (Tangkama)
(ཕྱང་ཅུང་། (ཐང་ཀ་མ་མ་))

Material: Cane/Yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1 kg - 1.5kgs

Purpose: Used as a container.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Bangchung Tangkama is a larger version among different types of Bangchungs. It is used for carrying pack lunch and as packing container to send parcels. People also carry religious offerings to the monasteries and other places of religious and cultural significances.



Dapa

Product Name: Dapa (ཐཱ་པ་)

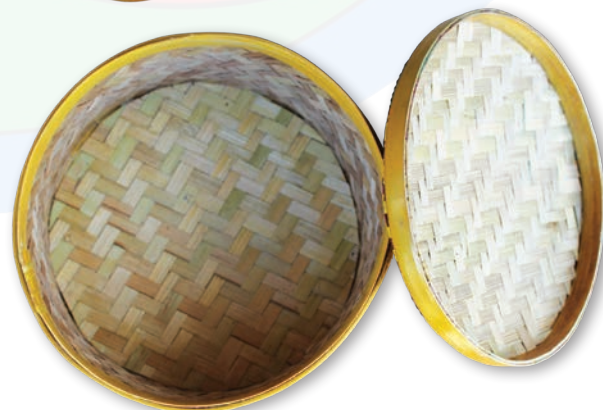
Material: Yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1 kg - 2.5kgs

Purpose: Used as a container.

Indigenously produced in: Kangpar, Trashigang Dzongkhag.

Dapa comes in different colours and sizes. With modernity, Dapas now have started to be made using a variety of patterns and colours. It is meant for keeping snacks and sweets, and as a decorative item in the house.





Lagchu Dapa

Product Name: Lagchu Dapa (ལག་ཅུང་ལྗེ་པ།)

Material: Bamboo/cand and yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1.5kgs - 3.5kgs

Purpose: Used as a container.

Indigenously produced in: Kangpar, Trashigang Dzongkhag.

This product is an imitation of the original dapa. However, it is made up of fine strips of Yula. *Lagchu Dapa* is decorated with symmetrical patterns of strips. It is used for storing and serving snacks and sweets.

Baykhu set

Product Name: Baykhu set (བལ་ཁུ་མེ་ཆེན་)

Material: Bamboo/cane and yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
3kgs - 5kgs (a set)

Purpose: Used as containers.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Baykhu set is beautifully woven with fine Yula slices. It is used for displaying Tshog (religious offerings) while performing religious rituals and celebrations. It is also used as a decorative item in the house.



Tshogthrung

Product Name: Tshogthrung (ཚོགས་ཁྱུང་།)

Material: Yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1.5kgs - 4kgs

Purpose: Used as a container.

Indigenously produced in: Kangpar, Trashigang Dzongkhag.

Tshogthrung is a new product made up of either cane or bamboo strips. This is mainly used for making offerings to the Lhakhangs or as a container for distributing food and snacks during religious ceremonies. Commercial hotels now a day's also use this to store fruits and snacks for their guests.



Baekhu

Product Name: Baekhu (བའ་ཁུ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
2kgs -4.5kgs

Purpose: Storage of grains, as a medium of reference for measurement in trading grains.

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Baekhu is also made with thinly sliced bamboo or cane pieces, and usually made in cubical shapes. It is also a household item used for storing grains and as a container to store wools and yarns in olden days. To make *Baekhu* would take more than a day.



Shokom



Product Name: Shokom (ཤོག་མོལ་)

Material: Cane/bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
3kgs - 5kgs

Purpose: Used as container to store grains.

Indigenously produced in: Lawa,
Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.



Shokom is a cubical-shaped container for grains and vegetables. It is woven, out of cane and bamboo strips, compact enough to prevent spillage of smaller grains. It is an important household item.

Lagchu

Product Name: Lagchu (ལག་ཅུང་།)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1kg - 2kgs

Purpose: Serving container.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka,
Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Lagchu is a colourful basket made of a shorter, thinner and finer variety of bamboo locally known as Yula. It is used during religious ceremonies and other important occasions such as for Zhudrel, and by farmers for storing seeds.



Thrungchu

Product Name: Thrungchu (ཐུང་ཅུ)

Material: Bamboo/cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:

3.5kgs - 5kgs

Purpose: Used as a carry basket.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Thrungchu is a better version of Bazey. It is fortified with thick cane slices at the top, bottom and sides as well. The thrungchu serves many purpose, from being used as a container to carry things and to store things as well.



Thrungchu-khapto chem

Product Name: Thrungchu Khapto Chem (ཐུང་ཅུ་ཁཔོ་ཅེམ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

3.5kgs - 6kgs

Purpose: Used as a storing container.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

This is an ancient container used by the Bhutanese farmers. It is made up of strong cane strips in order to withstand the forces of weather as it is used for storing seeds and grains.



Bazey

Product Name: Bazey (མེ་མེ)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.5kg - 1.5kgs

Purpose: Used as a sieve in extracting locally brewed beer from the corn.

Indiginously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.



Bazey is a cylindrical container made by using either bamboo or cane. A bazey is used for separating locally brewed beer from the corn. The fermented corn is placed in a container with water, over this is placed the bazey. Then the beer can be conveniently ladled out into glasses or mugs. It is also used in staining out the rice water while cooking rice in a large sized vessel.

Tseo

Product Name: Tseo (ཅུ་ཤུ)

Material: Cane/bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1.5kg - 3kgs

Purpose: Carrying things, firewood, grass, etc.,

Indiginously produced in: Lawa, Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Tseo is a loosely woven back- pack made of either cane or bamboo. It is generally used for carrying things during the daily chores and travels.



Chang-tsey



Product Name: Chang-tsey (ཆང་ཅེ།)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

3kg - 5kgs

Purpose: Carrying firewood, grass, etc.,

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Chang-tsey is woven using either bamboo or cane strips. The weaving is compact enough to make it strong as it is used as a container for fermenting local wine. However, for the people living in the higher altitudes, it is used for many other purposes.

Phrog-pa

Product Name: Phrog-pa (ཕྱོག་པ།)

Material: Bamboo/cane and Yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:

1.5kgs - 3.5kgs

Purpose: Carrying things, as also commonly used as horse packs.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Phrog-pa is synonym for Tseo for carrying things by people and also for horse packs. It is woven with bamboo and also with cane. They come in pairs.



Zepchu

Product Name: Zepchu (མཐའ་མཐུང་།)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
2kgs - 5kgs

Purpose: Carrying household item while traveling long distance, storage of household items.

Indigenously produced in: Lawa, Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.



Zepchu comes in different sizes and colours. It is mostly made up of thinly sliced and long strips of cane. As Zepchu is mostly used as horse packs for long journeys, it is made sturdy enough to withstand falls and jolts. Now a days it has gained popularity amongst tour operators in transporting camping equipment and edible items for tourists.

Zep

Product Name: Zep (མཐའ་མཐུང་།)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
2.5kgs - 4kgs

Purpose: Carrying things.

Indigenously produced in: Lawa, Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Zep is a larger version of Zepchu. The bamboo or cane strips used in making the Zep is broader than those used in making the Zepchu. As is evident, the Zep can store more things.





Tserzim

Product Name: Tserzim (ཅེ་རུ་མིམ་)

Material: Cane/bamboo and yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
2.5kgs - 5kgs

Purpose: Used as a container.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Tsezem is woven using fine strips of bamboo. It's outside carries symmetrical coloured patterns. It is usually used for carrying lunch packs, juice bottles and other edibles during journeys. They are mainly woven with Yula.

Bangkhab

Product Name: Bangkhab (བང་ཁམ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate Weight in kilograms:
1kg - 1.5kgs

Purpose: Husking and segregating grains, and drying vegetables etc.

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Bangkhab is a household item used for drying vegetables, storing fermented corns for brewing local ara, winnowing grains and for many other household chores. It is made of thinly sliced bamboo or cane pieces woven using skills called the five "(5) press and two (2) lift" system. It is circular in shape, with different sizes firmly tightened and stitched with bamboo clips at the top.





Byichap

Product Name: Byichap (ཐུམ་ཆུ།)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

1 kg - 2kgs

Purpose: Husking, grain segregation, and for drying.

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Byichap is a household item made up of either fresh cane or bamboo pieces, thinly sliced into long strips. It is used for sorting grains and removing husk. *Byichap* is mostly used by the farmers from western and central Bhutan. It will take a full day for an experience craftsman to make a *byichap*.

Singm

Product Name: Singm (གསེག་མ།)

Material: Bamboo

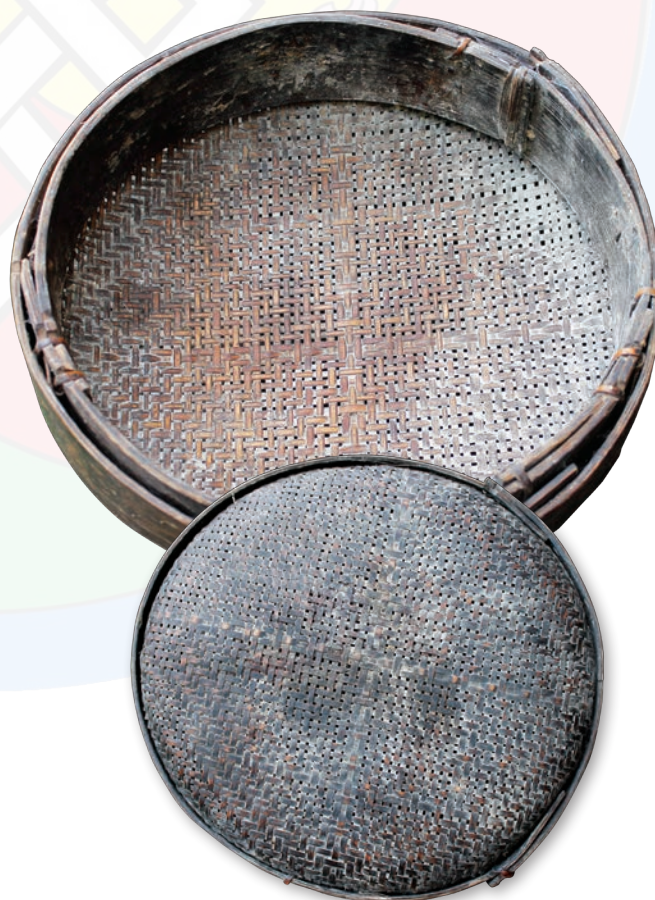
Approximate weight in kilograms:

1 kg - 2kgs

Purpose: Flour segregation.

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Sigm is used for sieving purposes. It is made of thin bamboo slices with flattened bamboo strap around the edge to hold it firmly. It is a must household item in rural villages. It will take a day to make a *Sigm*.



Tsirma



Product Name: Tsirma (བཙིར་མ།)

Material: Yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:

1 kg - 2kgs

Purpose: Strainer to extract oil.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Tsirma is made up of matured cane as it undergoes a lot of pressure in serving its purpose. It is used in extracting oil from various nuts, corns, and other edible seeds (boiled or roasted) by putting them in the *tsirma* and pressing it hard by placing weight on it.

Chhang-sho

Product Name: Chhang-sho (ཆང་པོ།)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

500grams

Purpose: Use as a strainer.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

The Bhutanese strainer is made up of thin strips of cane or bamboo. As obvious, the holes in the strainer depends on what they would be used to strain; tea, bangchang, rice etc.



Dha



Product Name: Dha (ཐད་ཐ།)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate Weight in kilograms:

0.250grams - 1kg

Purpose: Carrying loads.

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Dha is a type of rope used for carrying loads. Finely sliced strips of cane are inter-woven into a broad strap so that it does not dig into the body parts particularly while placing it on the head to carry the load.

Tho-tha

Product Name: Tho-tha (ཐོ་ཐ།)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

1kg - 2kgs (depending on the size and length)

Purpose: Traditionally used as tethering cattle

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Tho-tha is a kind of rope that is either made up of cane or bamboo, and is specifically used for tethering cattle. Farmers prefer using a home-made *Tho-tha* to the ready-made synthetic or plastic ropes available in markets as it lasts longer and is less harmful to cattle.



Pari

Product Name: Pari (པ་རི་ རེ་ལྗེ།)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
7.5kgs - 20kgs

Purpose: Used as a mat while harvesting and drying crops/grains in the field.

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.



Pari is a flat mat made of either bamboo or cane. It is used for harvesting paddy and spreading grains to dry outside in the sun. In the villages, *Pari* is also used during religious ceremonies as a carpet for people to sit on it. Farmers also use it to temporarily store food grains by folding it into a cylinder.

Ba-dhen

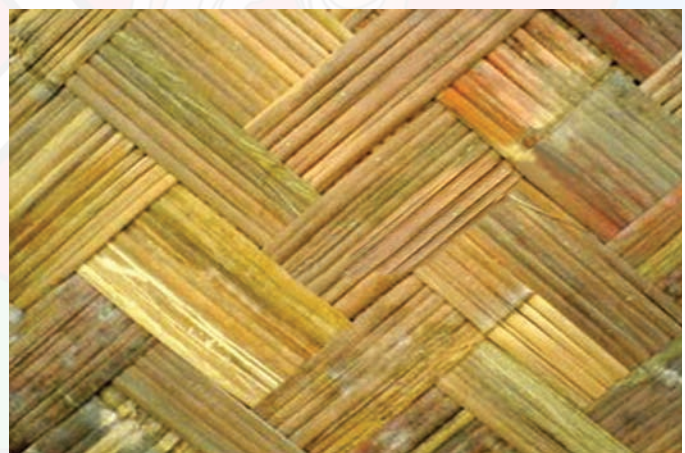
Product Name: Ba-dhen (པ་དྭ་ནེ།)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
(Depending on the size)

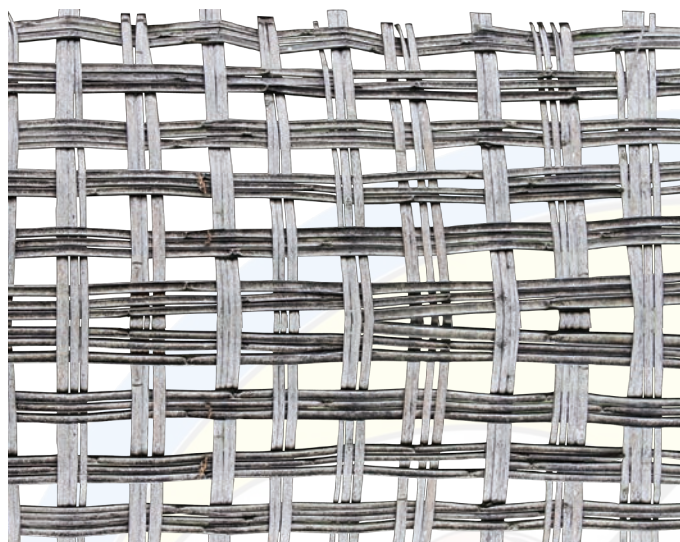
Purpose: used to cover roof and as a temporary sheet for makeshift houses.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.



Bamboos are flattened by hammer, (or now- a-days, in some parts of the country, they are left on the road for vehicles to run over them). These flattened straps of bamboo are woven into different patterns; usually alternating the inside-out and outside in. These mats are used for making sheds and huts. These types of mats serve as pre-fabricated materials for constructing outdoor VIP camps and large public meeting halls.

Chura



Product Name: Chura (ཕུ་རུ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

(Depending on the size and length)

Purpose: Used as a fencing for gardens.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

In rural villages, where bamboo is easily available, farmers make broad mats out of vertically split bamboo and use these for fencing their farms and backyard kitchen gardens. This type of fence is particularly effective in protecting the crops and vegetables from stray animals, and prevents even small farm pests like rabbits and wild boars from getting inside the farm. Life span of a bamboo fencing varies from two to five years depending upon the maturity of the bamboo, and partly also on how compact has the weaving been done.

Balep

Product Name: Balep (བཤེ་པེཔ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate Weight in kilograms:

(Depending on the size and length)

Purpose: used as a roofing material.

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Another type of bamboo mat is the *Balep*. The Balep is usually coarser in its finish as it is used for rougher purposes such as roofing and for general purposes. It is woven with split bamboo pieces. The farm sheds, cow sheds and makeshift camps are made with this mat.



Bazo

Product Name: Bazo (མཐོ་མོ)

Material: Hard bamboo/cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
2.5kg - 5kgs

Purpose: Milk/water container.

Indigenously produced in: Saephoog, Wangduephodrang

Bazo is also made of flattened and seasoned bamboo straps. It is used as a bucket. Farmers mostly use this to collect milk while milking cows. People also carry water in it at other times.



Sipa

Product Name: Sipa (སྤུ་པ)

Material: Hard bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.5kgs - 1.5kgs

Purpose: Used to store butter and cheese.

Indigenously produced in: Saephoog, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Sipa is made of tender bamboo straps which are flattened and seasoned. It is mostly used to store butter and cheese. It is in round and rhombus shapes.





Zhom

Product Name: Zhom (མོམ་)

Material: Bamboo/cane and yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:

3kgs - 6kgs

Purpose: Used as a curd churner.

Indiginously produced in: Saephoog, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Apart from bamboo, *Zhom* can also be made from the seasoned bark (inside) of certain trees. *Zhom* consists of two parts: a barrel or the container and the pestle. These are used for churning out butter from the curd.

Sofob

Product Name: Sofob (སོཔོབ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

1kg - 2kgs

Purpose: Used as a drinking cup.

Indiginously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag

This product is a result of Bhutanese improvisation and innovation. *Sofob*, used as a cup or tumbler is made up of the main stem of polished bamboo. The intricate designs are carved using fine tools.



Jasum

Indigenously produced in: Lawa, Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Jasum is a Bhutanese tea churning equipment. It has two parts, the container or the barrel, which is made of a large size bamboo, and the churning baton or pestle with a wheel fixed at the end that goes inside the barrel. It has a lid properly fixed at the top to stop the over flow while churning Suja.

Ara palang

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Ara palang is an original wine container being used by the Bhutanese since times immemorial. A bamboo barrel is decorated with woven Yula and stitched well with cane thread on top and bottom.



Poe-dung



Product Name: Poe-dung (ཕོ་དུང་།)

Material: Hard bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.5kg - 2.5kgs

Purpose: Used as a container for storing incense sticks

Indigenously produced in: Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Poe-dung is a cylinder bamboo container used for keeping incense sticks so that they do not become damp and break. It also keeps the incense stick dry.

Dung-shub

Product Name: Dung-shub (དུང་ཤུབ་།)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
3kgs - 5kgs

Purpose: Used as a cover for the indigenous horn and clarinet.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Dung-shub is intricately woven in cylindrical shape, using fine cane strips. *Dung-shub* usually come in pair as they are used as protective covers for horns, religious wind instruments that come in pairs.





Chey-drum shub

Product Name: Chey-drum shub
(ཁཱེ་དྲུམ་ཤུབ་)

Material: Yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
(Depending on the size of Chey-drum)

Purpose: Used as a case for chey-drum

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka,
Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Chey-drum shub is a new design hand drum case. It keeps drum safe and un-spoilt. The lams and nuns carry them for their rituals. It is designed as per the size of the drum with beautiful patterns.

Drilbu shub

Product Name: Drilbu shub (འུམ་ཐུ་ཤུབ་)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.5kg - 1kg

Purpose: Used as drilbu cover

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka,
Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Drilbu shub is a fine cane case for keeping religious bell and vajra safely. Lams and nuns own them the most. It is also found in the houses of those who take care of religious items. They are woven to last a life time.



Rol-shub

Product Name: Rol-shub (རོལ་ཤུབ་)

Material: Yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
(Depending on the size of cymbals)

Purpose: Used as a case for cymbals.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Rol-shub is a protective case for religious cymbals. It is made up of fine strips of cane. It is so finely and compactly woven that it can last the life of the cymbals.



Soray

Product Name: Soray (སོ་རལ་)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1kg - 3kgs

Purpose: Used as a container to store and carry arrows.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

The Soray (Bhutanese quiver) is essentially made out of bamboo that is inserted into a fitting decorative case made out of thin strips of yula. It is used by archers to store and carry arrows in it.



Dha

Product Name: Dha (ཐ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
(Depending on the length and size)

Purpose: Playing archery, performing religious rituals, and rarely for hunting purposes.

Indigenously produced in: Kangpar, Trashigang Dzongkhag and in many other dzongkhags.

Traditional arrows (*Dha*) used in playing the national game of Bhutan are made up of a special variety of bamboo found in the alpine and sub-alpine region of the country. This variety of bamboo is known for its lightness and tensile strength, in proportion to its size and length. Feathers and iron tips are attached at the either ends of the arrow using glue made either out of animal hide or plant extracts. The arrows are used for playing archery, and while performing religious rituals.

Zekor

Product Name: Zekor (ཇེ་ཀོ་)

Material: Cane/bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.5kg - 1kg

Purpose: Used as a pot stand.

Indigenously produced in: Lawa, Rukha, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag.

Zeko is made from long stripes of either cane or bamboo. It is used as a cushion to improve the stability for earthen pots and other round-bottomed containers while lying idle.





Kutalee

Product Name: Kutalee (ཀུཏལེ (ཀུཏོ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.250grams - 0.5kg

Purpose: Used as mouth mask for cattle.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka,
Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Kutalee is a strong woven basket to be fitted on the mouth of horses while travelling so that they do not forage while on a journey. People also use it on oxen while ploughing field. It is made of a thick bamboo strips.

Muk-zin

Product Name: Muk-zin (མུག་ཟིན།)

Material: Bamboo/yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.5kg - 1kg

Purpose: Pen holder.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka,
Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Muk-zin is a newly designed office/home stationery made of bamboo encased within a decorative weaving. It is used by the office bearers and students.



Khap-zin



Product Name: Khap-zin (ཁམ་ཙེན།)

Material: Bamboo/yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:

0.5kg - 1.5kgs

Purpose: Used as a pin-holder.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.



Khap-zin is also a new design office/home item made in similar way like the pen case, but shorter in height.

Dhey-zin

Product Name: Dhey-zin(ཐེ་ཙེན་བུ་བཞག་ས།
(ཐེ་ཙེན་))

Material: Yula and bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

0.250grams - 0.5kg

Purpose: Used as a keyholder.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.



Dhey-zin is a tiny Bangchung used for keeping keys and jewelries.

Shangur



Product Name: Shangur (ཤངུར།)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:

1 kg - 3kgs

Purpose: Used as a container for coins.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.



Shagur is now becoming a rare object. This product, made up of bamboo, originally was used as a plate, for eating dry foods. Now, it is used for various purposes like storing fruits, snacks etc.

Shing-tro

Product Name: Shing-tro (ཤིང་ཏྲོ།)

Material: Bamboo/cane and yula

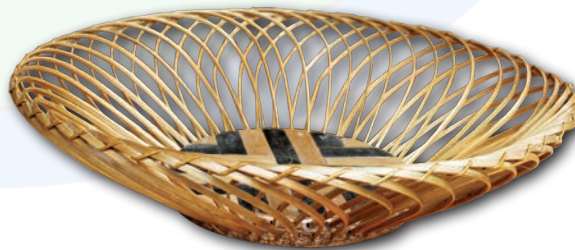
Approximate weight in kilograms:

1.5kg - 2.5kgs

Purpose: Used as a fruit tray.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Ingenious rural craftsmen have now started diversifying their products to make house-hold items which are fairly new to them. One of these products is the *Shing-tro*. Bamboo or cane strips are seasoned and treated, often, over the fire of the kitchen hearth to produce certain patterns in them. These strips are then inter-woven into a fine fruit-tray, complete with an over-arching handle.



Za-thek



Product Name: Za-thek (ཇ་ཐེག་)

Material: Bamboo/cane and yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:
3kgs - 6kgs

Purpose: Used as a flower pot stand.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

This is a stand for a flower vase made up of either bamboo or cane. *Za-thek* are usually seen in hotels, restaurants and homes. It is intricately woven and decorated *Za-thek* adds to the beauty and ambience of a place.

Tshardhen

Product Name: Tshardhen (ཚ་ར་དྭན་)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1kg - 2kgs

Purpose: Used as a sitting mat/cushion

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Tsharden were originally made up of strong grass reeds and were used as mats on which to sit on the floor. However, *tsharden*, now are mostly made up of fine cane and bamboo strips. It is also used as a background for intricate art designs to be used as decorative pieces.





Melong

Product Name: Melong (མེ་ལོང་།)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.5kg

Purpose: Used as a hand mirror.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

This is another example of Bhutanese ingenuity and innovation. An ordinary *melong* (portable hand mirror) is encased within an intricately woven case of fine cane. The case not only protects the melong but also adds an aesthetic touch to it. Normally carried by ladies/women in their purse.

Patsha Domchu

Product Name: Drilbu shub (དཀའ་ཚུལ་སྒྲུབ་ཅུང་།)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
5kgs - 8kgs

Purpose: Used as safe keeping container for a rare and important personal effects.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

This is an especially made item out of fine strips of cane. The fine strips are coloured using indigenous pigments and woven into the shape of a box. *Patsha Domchu* is especially made because they serve a special purpose: to store sacred relics or items used by the highly revered lamas who use these in bestowing wangs or blessings.





Mae-drom

Product Name: Mae-drom (མེ་དྲོམ་)

Material: Bamboo and cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
3kgs - 5kgs

Purpose: Used as a cradle for babies.

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka,
Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Rural folks in Bhutan have been known to devise cradle (*Mae-drom*) for babies out of numerous materials, but the one which is still common, even amongst some of the city folks is the one made out of cane. It is not only durable but is also artistically made by employing intricate designs and patterns. Smaller cradles are fixed with fine carry straps for giving babies piggy rides. It can also be hung across poles or horizontal bars so that the *mae-drom* could be gently swung to lull the babies to sleep.

Luep

Product Name: Luep (ལེུཔ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
(Depending on the size)

Purpose: Used as a temporary storage for grains.

Indigenously produced in: Punakha.

Luep is one of the biggest bamboo products. In the olden days, lueps were highly essential household items in each family. It is specifically used in storing grains for a long period of time. Lueps, owing to their size are now becoming a rare product, and are also used rarely by the Bhutanese families.



Boelo



Product Name: Boelo (བོེ་ལོ་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:

0.5kg - 1.5kgs

Purpose: Hat

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Boelo is a hat made of fine bamboo slices using beautiful patterns, while some are plain. Farmers wear Boelo while working in the farm to keep away from the hot sun or rain.

Tshar Zham

Product Name: Tshar Zham (ཚ་ར་མ་)

Material: Bamboo/cane and yula

Approximate weight in kilograms:

0.5kg - 1kg

Purpose: Hat

Indigenously produced in: Bjoka, Panbang, Zhemgang Dzongkhag.

Tshar Zham, made from fine strips of bamboo resembles to the Mexican hat, although smaller in size. Men usually wear this as a fashion statement, and also for reasons that are best known to the users only.



Hand bag



Product Name: Hand bag (ལག་ཐོག་)

Material: Bamboo

Approximate weight in kilograms:
0.250grams - 1.5kgs

Purpose: Carry bag

Indigenously produced in: Knagpar, Trashigang Dzongkhag.

This type of Bhutanese hand bag is made up of fine Yula. The Yula strips are woven intricately to resemble raw silk. This product is gaining popularity amongst the ladies, and also increasingly used as a stationery for seminars and workshops.

Shopping Bag

Product Name: Shopping bag (ཉོ་རྒྱུ་ཐོག་)

Material: Cane

Approximate weight in kilograms:
1kg - 2kgs

Purpose: Used as a carry bag.

Indigenously produced in: Knagpar, Trashigang Dzongkhag.

The Bhutanese shopping bag is made up of finely polished bamboo strips. The strips are coloured in advance and the weaving is done according to the desired pattern. The bag can be used, as the name suggests, for vegetable shopping, carrying tiffin etc.



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