

WOODWORK

CATALOGUE - 2013



AGENCY FOR PROMOTION OF INDIGENOUS CRAFTS (APIC)
THIMPHU : BHUTAN

WOODWORK

Product catalogue -2013



AGENCY FOR PROMOTION OF INDIGENOUS CRAFTS
(APIC)

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Contents

Introduction	1
CHAPTER I	
1. Shagzo: wood turning	3
2. Raw Materials	4
3. Tools	8
4. Stages of Wood Turning	11
5. Lacquering	12
6. Products	14
CHAPTER II	
1. Babzo: Mask Making	38
2. Raw Materials	42
3. Tools	45
4. Stages of Wood Carving	46
5. Products	48
CHAPTER III	
1. Partra: Wood Carving	83
2. Raw Materials	85
3. Tools	87
4. Stages of Wood Carving	88
5. Products	89
Acknowledgement	122

Introduction

Amongst the 13 aspects of Arts & Crafts in Bhutan, skills on woodworks called Patra (carving), Shagzo (wood turning) and Babzo (mask making) have been passed down from generation to generations and from master to students and from parents to children through practical exertions.

The Bhutanese artisans have continued their indigenous methods of making wooden products without incorporating any changes in the processes or products presentation. They were mostly done manually unlike in other countries where such works are fully mechanized. This is probably one of the many reasons why traditional wood products have remained same as it was for many years and is relatively expensive due to its intensive labor requirement compared to similar cheap and large amount of outside imitations readily available in the local market.

The Royal Government of Bhutan has accorded the highest emphasis in reviving, preserving and promoting the craft sector through various initiatives. With the establishment of Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Crafts (APIC) under the ministry of Economic Affairs with a separate board of governance, arts and crafts products have seen a revival in terms of trade, quality and quantity.

The main purpose of compiling this catalogue which is the first of its kind is to document and showcase patra, babzo and shagzo crafts available in the country and to look forward to preserve, promote, innovate and diversify the products wherever necessary and possible. Attempts have been made to capture a range of products without repetitions of the same processes involved; raw materials used and intended utilities in order to capture track records of age old crafts.

It is envisaged that in the future this first attempt at cataloguing woodworks will provide a basis for revisions incorporating innovations, diversified products using appropriate machineries, better tools and equipment for improvement of the woodwork sector as a whole.

APIC

Shagzo : Wood Turning



The art of wood turning in Bhutan is known as ***Shagzo***. It is one of the vibrant crafts among woodwork practiced by the people of Trashiyangtse in eastern Bhutan. Craftsmen who practice wood turning are known as ***Shagzop***.

In Trashiyangtse, for some families, ***shagzo*** skills were passed on for generations from father to son and maintained their livelihood by selling or exchanging these wooden wares for cash and kinds. However, this trend is apparently diminishing with the younger generation taking up different career opportunities.

Raw Materials

Shagzo or the wood turning cottage industry extracts its raw materials from the country's vast forest resources. Following are some of the raw materials used.

Local Name: *Cha-chopa Shing*
(Yangtsepkha)
Scientific Name: *Acer laevigatum* (Wall).
English Name: Nepal Maple,
Smooth Maple.



Local: *Eto meto Shing*
(mountain)
Scientific Name: *Rhododendron rboreum* (Smith).
English Name: Rhododendron.

Raw Materials



Local Name: *Ngin Gu lee* shing (Yangtsepkha)
Scientific Name: *Persea kurzii* (Hook.F.)
English Name: Wild Avocado

Local Name: *Gu lee Serpo* Shing (Yangtsepkha)
Scientific Name: *Persea glaucescens* (Nees) long
English Name: Yellow Avocado



Raw Materials



Local Name: *Aa gur shing*
(Yangtsepka /Sharchopkha)
Scientific Name: *Aquilaria malaccensis* (Lamarck)
English Name: Agarwood, Aloewood, Eaglewood

Local Name: *Sisi Shing*
(Dzongkha)
Scientific Name: *Quercus griffithii* (Hook.F & Thomson ex Miq.)
English Name: Oak.



Local Name: *Ga ma Shing*
(Sharchopkha/Dzongkha)
Scientific Name: *Alnus nepalensis* (D. Don).
English Name: Alder

Mostly soft and semi-hardwood are used for wood turning as it offers better durability and convenience while turning.

Local name: *Sog sog ma*
(Sharchopkha)

Scientific Name: *Trema politoria* (Planchon).

Use for: leaves are used as sand paper for wood turning.



Local Name: *Sey Shing*
(Dzongkha)

Scientific Name: *Rhus succedanea* L.

Use for: substance tapped from fruit, leaves and stem are used as lacquer.

Shagzo Tools

Name: ***Kobtsa***

Function: To dig out inner part of chopped wood to roughly shape it for turning.



Name: ***Teu***

Function: To shape or smoothen the uneven surface of the roughly shaped dapa and phob. ***Teu*** is an optional tool.



A set of tool used by ***shagzop*** to turn wood on the lathe consist of four different size of chisels. These tools are made by ***Shagzop*** themselves since its not sold in the market. ***Shagzop*** must also know basic skills of a blacksmith.

Name: ***Phi-chag/Pou-Leg***

Function: Used after wood is roughly shaped for turning. Its main purpose is to obtain a smooth, well-shaped product. The tool is slightly larger than the others.



Name: ***Chi-Jam/Jam-Leg***

Function: Slightly smaller than ***Phi-chag***, it is used for both inner and outer turning.



Name: ***Nang-Jam/Jab-jam***

Function: Smaller from other two tools, it is used for inner turning.



Name: ***Jab-chag/jab-chen***

Function: The smallest tool of the four, it is used to give finishing touch to the turned wood.



Lathe:

Shagzo in the past required two persons, *shagzop* and an apprentice to operate treadle lathe known as ***Kang-thrab***. The foot pedal is connected to a lathe by a strong leather belt. As the apprentice steps onto the treadle pedal, lathe turns.

Kang-thrab



Lathe with such mechanism can turn fifty percent either sides that makes hundred percent round of an article. It takes longer to finish making a single *dapa* or *phob* as the process is basically a manual.

Treadle lathe turner has now been replaced by motor operated lathe machine. *Shagzops* in Trashiyangtse, now use motor turner, say their productivity has increased by double margin compared to the time when they were using traditional set of lathe turner.

Motor power lathe turner



Stages of wood turning:



1. Chopped wood for wood turning.



2. *Lhamrup/ Zhoubur* roughly shaped by using Kobtsa.



3. Roughly shaped wood blocks are then turned on the lathe. The process is called Tsangrup.



4. Materials are soaked in the pond in designed for the purpose.



5. The Materials are taken out from the pond and air dried for three months.



6. Turning



7. *Chonsup* means filling up defects mostly on *Burrs*. Defects are rectified using saw dust mixed with adhesives such as Fevicol. This process takes about a week.



Lacquering

Wooden wares are lacquered with substance tapped from fruits, stem and leaves of *Rhus succedanea* known as *Sey Shing* in Bhutan. Lacquering is a seasonal activity since substance used as lac on turned wooden wares will not dry from the onset of Autumn due to change in air humidity. Also, certain room temperature must be maintained throughout lacquering process. The substance is collected from April to May and Lacquering begins from June to September. The process of collecting Lacquer substance is illustrated below:

1. Fruits of Sey Shing are gathered.



2. Fruits are tightly stuffed into a bamboo basket.

3. Basket stuffed with fruits are then squashed to extract liquid like substance.



4. The substance from the fruit is collected.



5. Substance is then stored in bamboo tubes and sealed airtight.

The lacquer substances cannot be stored for long duration.

6. Substance (crude lac) is then filtered to extract refined lac and applied directly on wooden wares.



7. Lacquer is applied manually with fingers on the surface of products. The process is repeated ten times.

PRODUCT RANGE

THOGKAY: Tazza

Utility: Ceremonial container which holds fruits and other offerings during special occasions. It can be also used as decorative container in living rooms.

Materials: Burr or wood from Maple, Alder and Red cedar tree.

Type: Traditional.

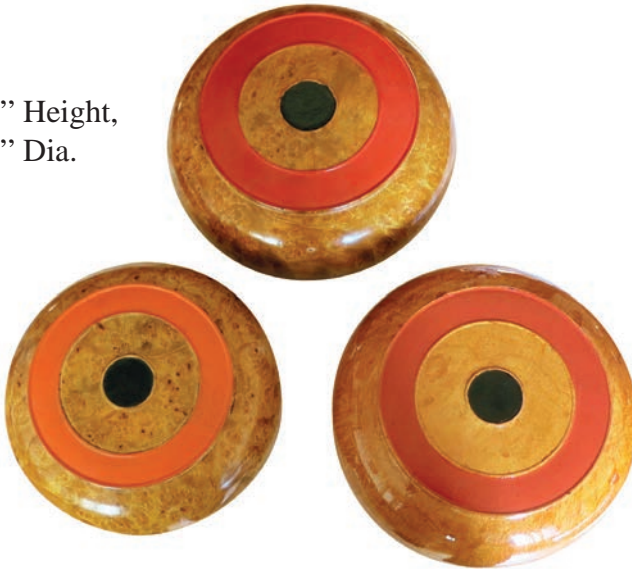


6.6” Height,
7.5” Top dia,
5.5” Bottom dia.

Traditional *shagzo* products are mostly wooden wares in different sizes and shapes for similar utilities. Traditional serving bowls “*dapa*” and cups “*phobs*” are popular among Bhutanese people. Such products were widely used prior to outside imitations flourished in the local market.

DAPA: Lidded serving plate

4.6'' Height,
8.7'' Dia.



Utility: Traditionally used in the monasteries. It is one of the popular wooden wares being domestically produced.

Materials: Burrs on trees known as “*zap* and *baw*”.

Type: Traditional.

Even today, *Shagzo* products continue to be dominated by traditional designed bowls (*dapa*) and containers used in Bhutanese households. *Shagzop* have not ventured into innovations of products as market accessibility for such products is not ascertained.

***PA-DAPA*: Serving container**

Utility: Used as a serving bowl, to store food items.

Materials: Burr or wood from Maple and Alder.

Type: Traditional.



6.5” Height, 14” Dia.

Bigger size *Dapa* known as *Pa-dapa* were used in big households in the past for storage of food items.

DEM: Serving bowl

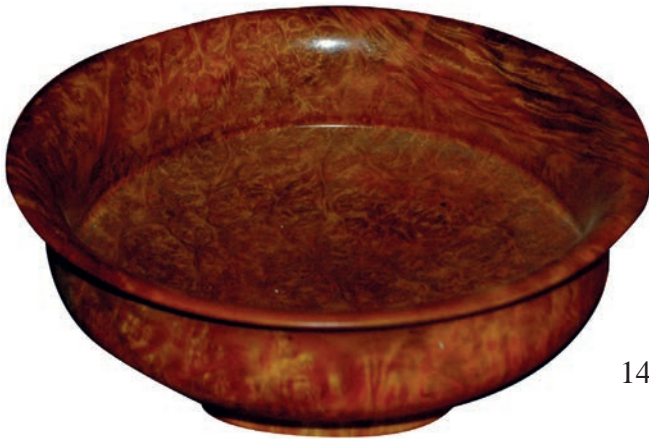
Utility: Made in different sizes to be used as plate.

Materials: Burr or wood from Maple and wild Avocado.

Type: *New, Derivative.



5.5" Dia.



14" Dia.

GOFOR: Lidded cup

Utility: Bowl to serve tea or soup.

Materials: This product is made of burrs. Price of any products made of *zap*¹ is much higher than those made from plain wood and *baw*² (also a type of burr).

Type: Traditional.



4.3'' Height,
4.6'' Dia.

-
1. *Zap* are with more intricate pattern mainly found on Red and White Cedar.
 2. *Baw* is also a type of burr but with less intricate patterns.

LAFOR/KEMARACHEN: Lidded cup

Utility: Cup mainly used by monks.

Materials: Burr or wood from Maple and Alder.

Type: Traditional.

TURNED PRODUCTS



4.3'' Height,
4.2'' Dia.

Lafor are made from above mentioned raw materials and are lacquered black outside and red inside. The cup is also called ***Kemarchen***.

GELONG ZECHA: Cup

Utility: Used by monks and lamas.

Materials: Burrs (*Zap & Baw*) from Maple and Alder.

Type: Traditional.



2.15'' Height,
4.2'' Dia.

Gelong Zecha is made mostly from burrs and do not have lid. In the past, the cup was used to serve special dish to lama.

NGEY SHAN PHOB: Silver plated cup

3.3" Height,
4.4" Dia.



Utility: To serve tea, curry and ara.

Materials: Burr or wood from Maple, Alder, and wild Avacodo. Plated with Silver.

Type: Traditional.

***LHUNGZED*: Begging bowl**

Utility: Used as cup by monks.

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder and Maple.

Type: Traditional.



3.3” Height, 4” Dia.



Lhungzed is an imitation of the begging bowl used by monks during the time of Lord Buddha.

ZAFOR: Cups made from special Burrs

Utility: To serve tea, ara.

Materials: Burrs from red and white Maple are considered the best.

Type: Traditional.



Considered rare and precious, *Zafor* cups made from the best burrs and are highly priced. Only experienced *shagzops* can make quality products out of these materials.

PHOP: Cup

Utility: Used by Bhutanese for serving tea and curry.

Materials: Burr or wood from Maple and Alder.

Type: Traditional.



TSAMDER: Serving bowl

5.7'' Height, 7.7'' Dia.

Utility: Originally used for serving roasted barley or wheat flour. Presently, these are used as snacks and serving bowl.

Materials: Burrs from Maple, Alder, wild Avocado, Red Cedar and Rhododendron.

Type: Traditional.

JANDOM: Ara container



7.6" Height, 4" Dia.

Utility: Used in households to store and serve *Ara*.

Materials: Red Cedar, Maple, *Dhongtsho Shing* (local name).

Type: Traditional.

MUG: Lidded mug

Utility: Tea set, household item.

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple and Red Cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.



4" Height, 3" Dia.

Imitation of mug and wine glass are some of the new derivative items to the wood turned product range. However, these products are kept as decorative in most households.

JA DAM: Serving kettle

Utility: To serve tea.

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple and Red Cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.



Type: Traditional.

2'6'' Height, 9'' Dia.

BEER CUP: Goblet

Utility: Beer cup, an imitation of wine glass is a new derivative item to wood turned product range. These products are mostly kept as decorations.

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.

TURNED PRODUCTS



6.5" Height, 3" Dia.

DRUFOR: Religious item

Utility: To hold rice for religious purpose.

Materials: Semi hard and soft wood are used for making *Drufor*.

Type: *New, Derivative.



6.5'' Height, 4'' Dia.

***SERKEM FUECHOK*: Libation Cup**

Utility: Religious item for alcohol offering in a ritual known as *Serkem*. Found in altar rooms in most Bhutanese homes.

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple and Blue pine.

Type: *New, Derivative.



7" Height, 2" Dia.

TOH FUE: Religious item



6.6'' Height, 3'' Dia.

Utility: Used for offering food. Found in altar rooms in most Bhutanese homes.

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.

TSIKU: Kitchen item

Utility: To grind spices.

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple, Red cedar and Oak.

Type: *New, Derivative.



6" Height, 5.5" Dia.

DRANGZHAG: Dinning set

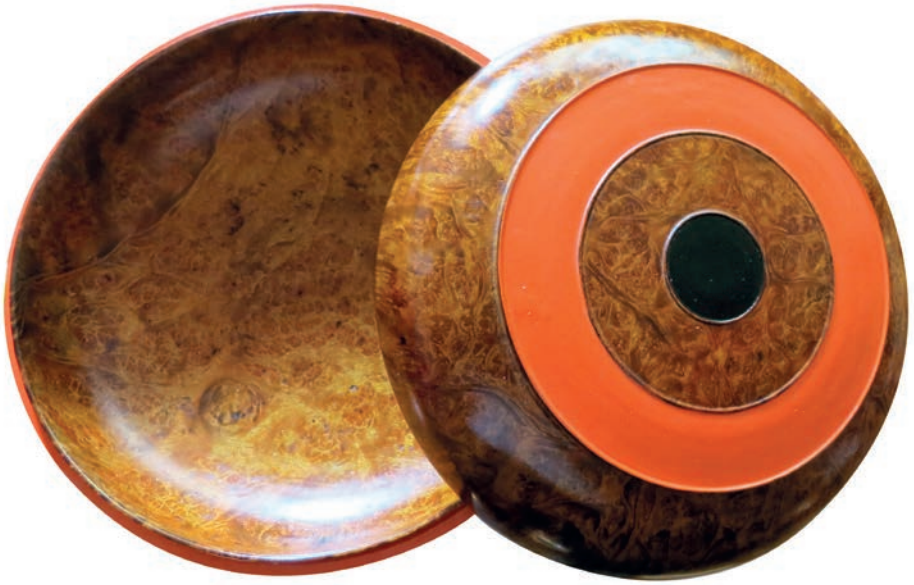
Utility: Dinning set.

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.



These bowls are used as dinning set, *Drangzhag* comes in seven pairs of woodware with size in descending order by diameter. Wares are shaped like *Tsamder* and used as serving bowls to hold food items. This set of wooden wares is made as per demand.

PADAPA: Large bowl**TURNED PRODUCTS**

4" Height,
10" Dia.

Utility: To serve side dish, but in a traditional setting the wooden ware is used for *Tsog* (food offering).

Materials: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.

PHOB: Soup Bowl



4" Height, 4.4" Dia.



Utility: To serve soup, tea and curry.

Material: Burr or wood from Alder, Maple and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.

Babzo : Mask making



Babzo is the art of mask carving. It is another elaborate form of craft that draws extensively from Buddhist tradition and also from the country's vast forest resources.

Bhutanese masks represent different mythological characters and are mainly used for performances during annual festivals known as “*Tshechu*”, which is marked across the calendar for different regions in the country.



Mask making culture:

Traditionally masks are made from wood, papier-mâché and canvas with clay known as **Ray-Jar**. However, wooden masks are considered the best. Number of artisans with **Babzo** skills have increased over the years but age old tradition of making masks by hand is still intact without much change in its techniques.



Of the former three, carving masks out of wood is still very popular among artisans as masks carved from wood have better presentation.



Red cedar and Blue pines are some of the popular wood types used for mask carving. Wooden mask carvers generally avoid hard wood to produce better masks.



Mask made of papier-mâché.



Mask carved from wood.



For example, a mask of a deity in wrath form will have many facial details which are important and to get such details on hard wood would be difficult.

Raw Materials

Some of the common raw materials used for mask making are as follows:

Local: *Chhuenshing* (Dzo.)
 Scientific Name: *Toona ciliata*
 Roemer
 English Name: Australian Red
 Cedar/ Indian Mahogany.



Local: *Karshing* / *Khashing*
 (Dzo.)
 Scientific Name: *Michelia*
champaca L
 English Name: Golden or
 Yellow Champa.

Raw Materials

Local Name: *Chesey shing*
(Dzo.)

Scientific Name: *Erythrina*
suberosa Roxb

English Name: Coral tree/
Flame tree



Local: *Tongfu Shing* (Dzo.)

Scientific Name: *Pinus*
wallichiana A. B. Jackson

English Name: Blue pine.

Raw Materials

Local Name: *Tshenden Shing*
(Dzo.)
Scientific Name: *Cupressus*
corneyana Carriere
English Name: Cypress



Local Name: *Sisi Shing*
(Dzo.)
Scientific Name: *Quercus*
griffithii Hook.f. and Thomas
ex.Miq
English Name: Oak.

Babzo: Mask Carving Tools

Tools to collect raw materials:



Babzo and *Partra* use similar set of tools. A set of tools should have 30 to 50 different chisels. Tools used in *Babzo* are of slightly bigger size.



Stages of mask carving from wood:



1. Cut wood into square and triangular shape.



2. Scale for basic shape.



3. Remove excess wood with knife.



4. Make measurement for facial features.



➔ 5. Carving from inside gradually moving on to the outer facial features.



PRODUCT RANGE

Product Name: ***DURDA*** Mask

Utility: The mask for the dance of the Lord of Cremation.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

MASK PRODUCTS



Durda dance is performed by four dancers wearing same design of mask.

Product Name: **ATSARA** mask

Utility: The mask is worn by clowns/ jesters during *Tshechu*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



MASK PRODUCTS

Tsechu in different regions have masks of *Atsara* portraying different characters.



MASK PRODUCTS

Common *Atsara* Mask

Atsara are seen at every *Tshechu* festivals, entertaining crowds and helping mask dancers but spiritually they are believed to be representing learned saintly beings and their roles and significance transcends entertainment roles.

Different types of Atsara masks.



MASK PRODUCTS

Product Name: ***TUNGAM*** Mask

Utility: To perform *Tungam cham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

MASK PRODUCTS



Tungam cham is performed by monks to portray the dance of Terrifying Deities. Dancers wear same design of mask.

Product Name: ***ABI*** Mask



MASK PRODUCTS

Utility: *Abi* Mask. *Abi* is usually seen in the company of clowns/ jesters.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

Product Name: **GINGCHEN** Mask

Utility: To perform *Gingtsholing Cham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

Old *Gingchen* Mask



New *Gingchen* Mask



The older *Gingchen* masks are thinner and is more expressive with detailed facial lines.

Product Name: **Masks of *Dremetse Ngacham***
Drum dance of Dremetse.

Utility: Mask for *Singye* (Lion) from *Dremetse Ngacham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Singye Mask(Snow lion):
 Lead dancer

Dremetse Ngacham is one of the famous mask dances performed in Bhutan. The 16 dancers represent various celestial beings and wears different masks.

Utility: Mask for *Lang* (Ox) from *Dremetse Ngacham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Lang Mask(Ox)

Utility: Mask for *Chung* (Garuda) from *Dremetse Ngacham*

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



MASK PRODUCTS

Chung Mask(Garuda)

Utility: Mask for *Druk* (Dragon) from *Dremetse Ngacham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Druk mask(Dragon)

Utility: Mask for *Wugpa* (Owl) from *Dremetse Ngacham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



MASK PRODUCTS

Wugpa mask(Owl)

Product Name: **Masks of *Raksha Mangcham***
Dance of the Judgement of the dead

Utility: Mask for *Drue* (Snake) in *Raksha Mangcham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Druedong (Snake) mask

Raksha Mangcham also known as the *Bardo Cham* depicts the intermediate state (living and dying). The masks are arranged in alphabetical order.

Utility: Mask for *Chung ka* (Bird) in *Raksha Mangcham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Chung-ka Mask (Local bird belonging to the crow family, found in Bumthang and Paro).

Utility: Mask for *Lango* (Ox) in *Raksha Mangcham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

MASK PRODUCTS



Raksha Lang-go (Ox) Mask Lead Dancer of the Raksha Lango Cham

Utility: Mask for *Phago* (Hog) in *Raksha Mangcham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Phago (Hog) mask

Utility: Mask for *Trego* (Monkey) in *Raksha Mangcham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Trego (Monkey) mask

Utility: Mask for *Nyenbu* (Sinner) in *Raksha Mangcham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



MASK PRODUCTS

Nyenbu (Sinner) Mask

Utility: Mask for *Khimdag* (Virtuous man) in *Raksha Mangcham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Khimdag (Virtuous man) Mask

Utility: Mask for *Lha- Karp* (White Deity) in *Raksha Mangcham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Lha-Karp (White Deity) Mask

Utility: Mask for *Dre-Nakchung* (Black Deity) in Raksha Mangcham.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Dre-Nakchung (Black Deity) Mask

Product Name: **SHAWA SHACHI CHAM**

Dance of the Stag and the Hounds

Utility: Mask for *Shachi* (Hound) from *Shawa Shachi Cham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Shachi Mask (Hound)

The folklore in a form of dance tells a story about a Yogi, Stag and a hunter. The dance is performed in major *Tshechus* across Bhutan.

Utility: Mask for *Shaw* (Stag) & *Shawmo* (Doe) from *Shawa Shachi Cham*

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

Shaw Mask (Stag)



Shawmo Mask (Doe)

Utility: Mask for *Sharop* (Hunter) & *Phento* (Hunter's friend) from *Shawa Shachi Cham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Sharob Gyem Dorji/Acho
Mask (Hunter)



Phento Mask (Hunter's friend)

Product Name: **TER CHAM**

Dance of treasure revealers.

Utility: Masks for *Ter Cham*.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

MASK PRODUCTS

Male Mask



Female Mask

Product Name: Masks of *PHOLEK MOLEK CHAM*
Dance of The Noble Men And Ladies

Utility: Mask for *Pholek* (Noble man) & *Molek* (Noble Woman) from *Pholek Molek Cham*

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Pholek Mask(Noble man)



Molek Mask(Queen)

MASK PRODUCTS

The dance based on the folktale about the life of King *Norzang* of Northern India.

Utility: Mask for *Gyeb* (Old man) & *Gyem* (Old woman)
from *Pholek Molek Cham*

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



***Gyem* Mask(Old Woman)**



***Gyep* Mask(Old Man)**

Product Name: **Mask of the *MAY CHAM***
Dance of Fire

Utility: Mask for *Yab* (Male) & *Yum* (Female) from *May Cham*

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



***Yab* -Male Mask**



***Yum* -Female Mask**

MASK PRODUCTS

This particular dance is performed during consecration ceremonies.

Product Name: Masks of the *PELING GING SUM*
Dance of the three kinds of Ging

Utility: Mask for *Nga Ging* (Holds a drum) & *Dri Ging* (Holds a Sword) from *Peling Ging Sum Cham*

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

MASK PRODUCTS



Nga Ging Mask(holds a Drum)



Dri Ging Mask(Holds a Sword)

The dance explains about warding off obstacles. It comprises of three different kinds of dancers carrying:

Juk Ging -holding a stick, *Dri Ging* -holding a sword and *Nga Ging* -holding a drum.

Product Name: **Masks of *TSHERING CHENGA CHAM***
Dance of the Tsheringma Sisters.

Utility: Mask for *Tsheringma* & *Atru* (Cyse) from *Tshering Chenga Cham*

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Atru Mask (Cyse to the Tsheringmas)



Tsheringma Mask(Main Deity)

MASK PRODUCTS

The dance of five *Tsheringma* sisters. They are considered to be the deities who protect and uphold *Dharma*.

Product Name: **Masks of the GING TSHOLING CHAM**
*Dance of the **Ging** and the **Tsholing***

Utility: Mask of **Tsholing** & **Ging** from **Ging Tsholing Cham**

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.

MASK PRODUCTS



Tsholing Mask



Ging Mask

The dance depicts the victory of **Dharma** over evil influences. The **Tsholing Cham** is performed by monks and **Ging** is performed by lay dancers.

Product Name: Masks of **LAMCHEY** (Elephant)
Dance of the Four Friends.

Utility: Mask for **Lamchey** (Elephant) from dance of the Four Harmonious Friends.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Lamchey (Elephant) Mask

The dance is based on the story of the four harmonious friends (***Thuenpa Puen Zhi***).

Product Name: Miniatures Baps

Utility: Decoration.

Materials: Wood from Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.

Miniature Masks of the *Tak Seng Chung Druk*.

MASK PRODUCTS



***Tak* (Tiger)**



***Seng* (Snow Lion)**

Masks have also found their place on the walls of homes and restaurants as decorations. Such masks are made from sawdust.



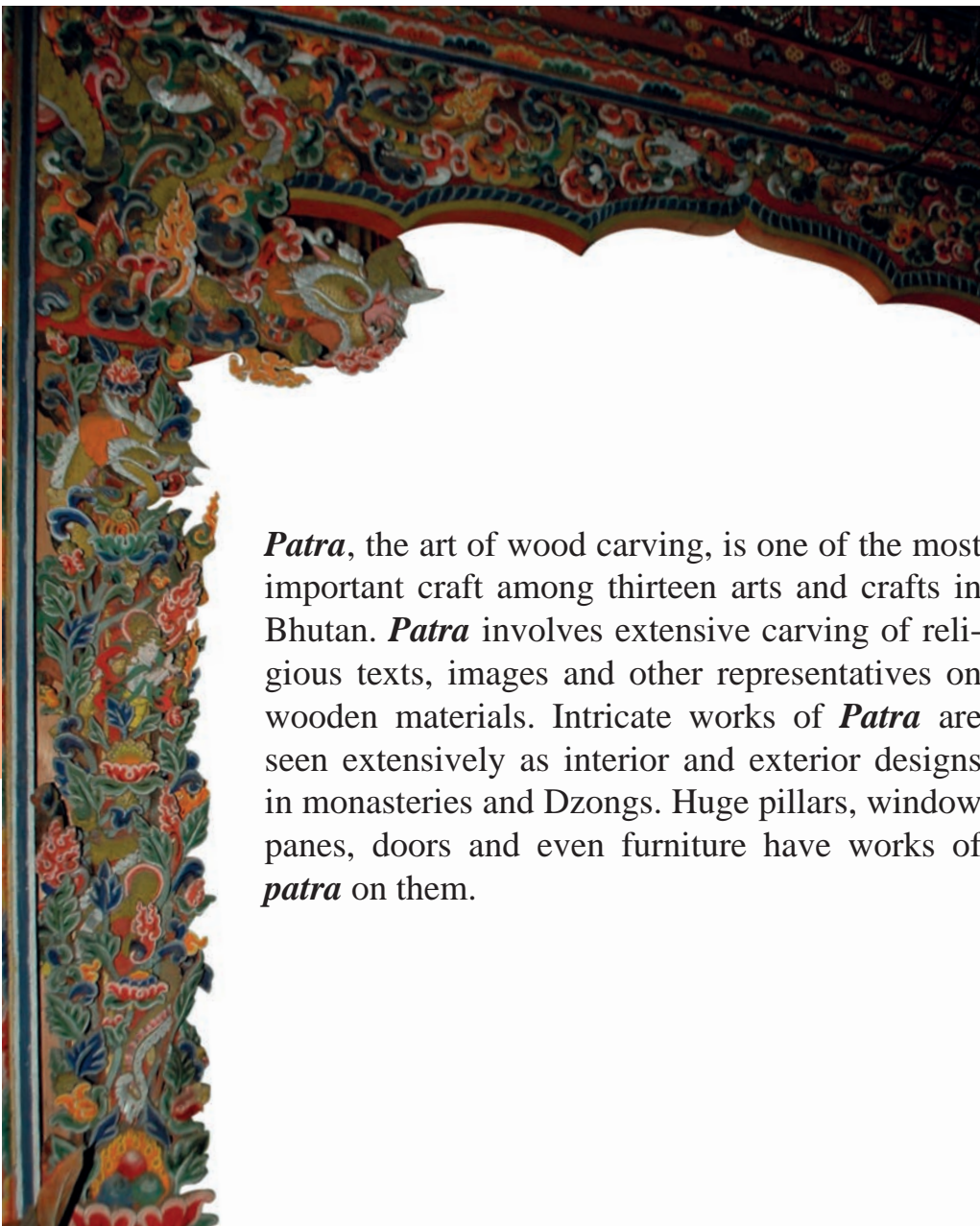
Chung (Garuda)



Druk (Dragon)

The masks of the ***Tak Seng Chung Druk*** (miniatures) comes in set of four and are kept as decoration by most people and also for it's significance for improving ***Lungta*** (positive energy).

Patra : Wood Carving



Patra, the art of wood carving, is one of the most important craft among thirteen arts and crafts in Bhutan. *Patra* involves extensive carving of religious texts, images and other representatives on wooden materials. Intricate works of *Patra* are seen extensively as interior and exterior designs in monasteries and Dzongs. Huge pillars, window panes, doors and even furniture have works of *patra* on them.

Wood carving has also entered the forays of everyday Bhutanese life. Simple traditional houses would also have some aspect of *Patra* on windowpanes and doors. These days, works of *Patra* are also used extensively in hotels and resorts for interior decorations.



Raw Materials

Like other raw materials for woodwork in Bhutan, artisans for *Patra* also use soft and semi-hardwood only. Some of the most common wood used for carving are as follows:



Local: *Tongfu Shing*
(Dzo.)

Scientific Name: *Pinus wallichiana* A. B. Jackson

English Name: Blue pine.

Local: *Tago Shing* (Dzo.)

Scientific Name: *Juglans regia* L

English Name: Walnut.



Raw Materials

Local Name: *Tshenden Shing*
(Dzo.)

Scientific Name: *Cupressus*
corneyana Carriere

English Name: Cypress



Local Name: *Chalam Shing*
(Dzo.)

Scientific Name: *Acer Camp-*
bellii Hook F & Thomson ex
Hiren

English Name: Maple

Local: *Karshing / Khashing*
(Dzo.)

Scientific Name: *Michelia*
champaca L

English Name: Golden or yellow
Champa.



Tools

A set of tools for wood carving should have 40 to 50 numbers of different sizes of chisels.

Name: *Shek- Chung*

Function: Carve on straight lines.

* 7 sizes in a set.



Name: *Kha- Gom*

Function: To carve circles and curves.

* 6-7 sizes in a set.



Name: *Shang-Sha*

*7 sizes in a set.



Name: *Zhoti*

Function: To carve in the inner layer and also to create details.

*7 sizes in a set.



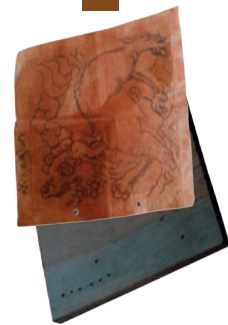
Name: *Mindu*

Function: To create details.

*5 Different sizes in a set.



Stages of wood carving:



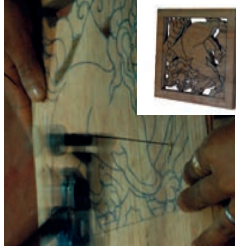
Imprint the drawing on the selected plank.



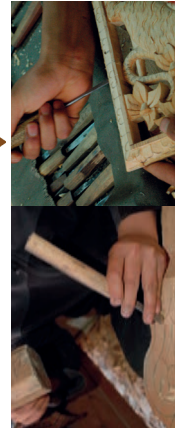
Drawing and inking.



Create depth by hand.



Creating depth by rotor machine. For a pillar the size of 58 sq.ft it take about 2 to 3 days to create the depth.



Carving.



Finished products.



PRODUCT RANGE

Product name: **KAW & TSHEGYEN**

Utility: Elaborative decoration woodwork for railings, entrances and verandas in dzongs and monasteries.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Champa and Cypress.

Type: Traditional.



Product name: ***Druk Khathab, the wheel of Dharma and Gem***

Utility: Elaborative decoration woodwork for railings, entrances and verandas in dzongs and monasteries.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Champa and Cypress.

Type: Traditional.



Woodwork of ***Druk Khathab, the wheel of Dharma and Gem*** used in the railings of ***Trongsa Dzong***.



Woodwork of Lanza on the railings of ***Semtokha Dzong***.

Product name: **GOGYEN PATRA**

Utility: A traditional decorative gate used in dzongs and monasteries.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Champa and Cypress.

Type: Traditional.



Product name: **KACHHEN PATRA**

Kachhen decorative properties from the top *Chhoetsek*, *Pem*, *Pedhe*, *Bagaam*, *Norboo*, *Drachhen*, *Doong*, *Zhooring*, *Zhoothung*, *Dre* and *Kachhen* in form of traditional architecture.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Champa and Cypress.

Type: Traditional.



Patra used in the interior designs of **Dzong**.

Product name: ***KA CHEN*** (Big Pillar)

Utility: Traditionally ***Ka Chen***, decorated huge pillars were used only in dzongs and monasteries. These days, ***Ka Chen*** are also seen in resorts and hotels.

Materials: The pillar is made from Blue pine and Walnut.

Type: Traditional.



Ka Chens cannot be shorter than 58 sq.ft. It takes one month for two expert ***Patarp*** to finish one ***Ka Chen***.

Product name: **ZHU**

Utility: *Zhu* is an arch structure placed on top of *Ka Chen*. Its purpose is to share the weight of *Dung* (beam). Patterns carved on the pictured *Zhu* is called “*Gyep dhen Zhu*” meaning “King on the throne”. It takes 10 days approximately for two expert *Patarps* to complete one.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Champa.

Type: Traditional.



Product name: **CHHOETSE** (Door frame)

Utility: This is a property of woodwork known as **Pem Chhoetse**. Found mostly on doors of dzongs and monasteries.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut, Champa and Cypress.

Type: Traditional.



Product name: **GAYKAR** (Window)

Utility: Ventilation.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Champa.

Type: Traditional.



Gaykars are normally placed in the ground floors of the dzongs and monasteries for letting in sunlight. They are designed in traditional woodwork that gives fitting outlook.

Product name: **GAYKAR** (Window)

Utility: Window.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Champa.

Type: Traditional.



Gaykar on traditional buildings are different from ones found in dzongs and monasteries. Illustrated here are different aspects of woodwork on *Gaykar*.

Product name: Traditional designs

Utility: Designs on doors, windows and railings.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Champa.

Type: Traditional.



Some of the common designs carved on traditional buildings. These designs give unique and aesthetic look to the traditional buildings.

Product name: ***NYASHING*** (Door bolt)

Utility: Bolt.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Red cedar and Champa.

Type: Traditional.



Nyashing, traditional bolt are found only in some old dzongs as they are now replaced by better foreign made bolting systems.

Product name: **CHOK DROM** (table)

Utility: Table and/or desk. It's compartment on one side is used to keep books and other materials.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Cypress.

Type: Traditional.



Product name: **CHOKTSEY** (desk)

Utility: Table and/or desk.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Walnut.

Type: Traditional.



Choktsey is smaller than *Chokdrom* and are found in most households in the villages. Serves the same purpose as mini table.

Product name: **CHHAGAM** (cupboard)

Utility: Storage, wardrobe and bookshelf.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Walnut.

Type: Traditional.



Chhagam is a Bhutanese version of a cupboard with multiple utilities. It can be used as a shelf in the kitchen or as a wardrobe in the bedroom.

Product name: **THRI** (Throne)

Utility: Works of *Patra* seen on throne, the main design on the picture is the Cross- Vajra.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Walnut.

Type: Traditional.



Product name: Window design

Utility: Woodwork of *Patra* seen on traditional window designs.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Walnut.

Type: Traditional.



Product name: **NGAZIN** (Drumstand)

Utility: Woodwork on drum and stand used by monks for rituals and ceremonies.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Product name: *NGETO UPA* (Drumstick)

Utility: Drumstick.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Woodwork on handle of drumstick known as *Ngeto Upa*.

Product name: **DRAM NYEN** (Traditional guitar)

Utility: Musical instrument.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Red cedar.

Type: Traditional.



Woodwork on traditional guitar known as **Dram Nyen**. One end of guitar is the carved head of water dragon **Chhusin**.

Product name: **CHOESHAM** (Altar)

Utility: Altar.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Cypress.

Type: Traditional.



Woodwork seen in the altar. The picture above is a **Choe-sham** of a typical Bhutanese household.

Product name: ***TOMI DEM*** (Torma Support)

Utility: Support for ***Torma*** in Buddhist rituals.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Champa.

Type: Traditional.



Torma is a form of cake offering in Vajrayana Buddhist rituals. The above articles are used during ***Torma*** offering.

Product name: **PHURPA** (Kila)

Utility: Three sided peg/knife used in Buddhist rituals.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Champa.

Type: Traditional.



Woodwork on **Phurpa**. **Phurpa** is a spritual dagger used during certain ritual performances.

Product name: **TRANG TRI** (Hand drum)

Utility: Hand drum used by monks and religious practioners.

Materials: Wood of Red cedar, Cypress and Walnut.

Type: Traditional.



Trang-tri (hand drum) is used for ritual performance in monasteries, during retreat in solitude by Buddhist practioners and in the households while performing rituals.

Product name: **LEPSHING TOG** (Book cover)

Utility: Book cover.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Champa.

Type: Traditional.



Scriptures, religious texts (*pechha*) are tightened with *Lepshing* to keep it safe.

Product name: **DRUKHIM** (Dragon)

Utility: Winner and runners up trophy.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.



Trophies are a combined work of wood turning and wood carving skills. The ball, vase and the stand are works of turned wood whereas the flowers and dragon are carved.

Product name: **DRUKHIM** (Dragon)

Utility: Decoration.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.



Black and gold painted woodwork of Dragon marketed as decorative.

Product name: Wall Clock.

Utility: Decoration.

Materials: Wood of Blue pine, Walnut and Red cedar.

Type: *New, Derivative.



16.6" High, 11.1" Wide.

Woodwork for wall clock to be used as decorative.

Product name: **CHHOTEN**

Utility: Construction skills being displayed in woodworks.

Materials: Wood of Cypress.

Type: *New, Derivative.



The craftsman cleverly replicated the Memorial Stupa of Thimphu.

Product name: TASHI TA GYE*Eight Auspicious Signs*

Carvings of Eight Auspicious signs, Four Friends, Six long lives, mythical birds and other religious images are some of the articles which are now used and marketed as decorations in hotels, resorts and homes. It is made from Blue pine, Red cedar and Walnut.

*Dhug(Parasol/Canopy)**Sernya(Golden Fish)*

Size of each decorations is 15" x 15".

*Pema (Lotus)**Bumpa (Vase)*



Gyeltshen(Victory Banner)



Dungkar(Conch Shell)

Size of each decorations is 15" x 15".



Khorlo(Wheel of Dharma)



Pelbar(Eternal Knot)

Products based on Folklore.

***Ja-Tshering* (Long living bird)**

The mythical bird is used as an artistic representation of longevity.



Size of each decorations is 15" x 15".

***Chung* (Guruda)**



Size of each decorations is 11.1” Dia, 0.5” Thickness.



Tak Seng Chung Druk.



Tashi Ta Gye
(Wheel of the Eight Auspicious Signs)



Thuenpa Puen Zhi
(The Four Harmonious friends).

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