



Bartok design Japan Co.

Japanese hinoki products • wooden bathtubs

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**Everything you always wanted to know about  
a Japanese ofuro (and never dared to ask...)**



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## JAPANESE OFURO – BASIC FACTS

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Thank-you for your interest in our Japanese ofuro bathtubs! As a general reference, please note the following:

1) Production and shipping time:

All our tubs are made in Japan by a skilled 4<sup>th</sup> generation craftsman. The standard production time is about 60days . For shipping and delivery consider 30~60 days (ocean freight) or 10~15 days (airfreight) for most world locations.

2) Payment conditions:

Invoices and payments will be Japanese Yen. This is to avoid overcharges to our clients due to currency exchange fluctuation risk. A prepayment of 50% of the custom items will be needed before starting production. Once the products are ready, we will send pictures for verification/approval and will require the payment of the reminder before proceeding with shipment. A bank wire transfer is the most common option. “Wise” is a service that allows to make international bank transfers with low fees. Credit cards are accepted (thru Paypal). Checks are not available.

2) Shipping cost:

we will need the exact shipping address to be able to obtain the quote from our forwarder (Naigai Forwarding Co.) We use DDU (Delivered, Duties Unpaid) conditions unless the client requires a different arrangement. Cost varies greatly according to size, country, delivery location. You are welcome to use your local forwarder for the shipment.

3) Installation recommendation:

In case of humid climates, we recommend to leave enough room under the tub to allow air circulation (about 10cm). For dry climates, avoid direct sunlight exposure and abrupt temperature changes - especially when the tub is empty.

4) Maintenance recommendation:

Please refer also to the FAQ on our homepage and the “Japanese ofuro maintenance tips” notes.

Provide a satisfactory ventilation in the bathroom (open a window or place a fan/air circulator on the floor after the bath), Do avoid using air conditioning in the bathroom, especially when it is empty and not in use: A/C systems can dry up the natural humidity of the wood in a matter of few days, especially if the air flow is pointing towards the ofuro...!

Soap, detergents and dirt are responsible for the insurgence of mold and fungi, we recommend not to use soap inside the tub. If splashes of soapy water reach the tub rinse abundantly and after use with a soft sponge or towel.

Unless otherwise specified, we apply one layer of "Kihada Ichiban" which is an water repellent treatment, based on the nanotechnology. It does not create a coating, it actually penetrates inside the wood fibers offering lasting protection without occluding the pores of wood (similar functionality as Goretex© for clothing).

5) Installation: we recommend to lay the tub on packing material placed under the 4 corners of the tub.

This is meant to avoid the direct, prolonged contact between the wet floor and the wood; adjust the tub to make it flat even if the floor has a gradient; and adjust the height under the tub for piping etc.

As packing material you can use slices of tiles, stones, bricks, concrete blocks, rubber pads, plastic wedges etc.

Refer also to this page: <https://bartokdesign.com/tips/waterproofing-2.php>

6) Recommended sanitary fixtures:

Water fixtures can be installed on the wall (directing the water into the tub), on the floor (long hook type), on the tub ledge or thru a spout. In the first two cases, you do not need any interaction with the tubs and can choose the taps freely (Philip Stark design taps for instance are a common choice). In the 3rd case (on tub ledge) the issue

is similar to the first two as you can open a hole where needed in top ledge as it is all solid wood. In case you consider using of a wooden spout, please let us know and we will explain you the options.

Refer also to this page: <https://bartokdesign.com/tips/water-heaters-and-recirculation.php>

7) Product quality/guarantees:

We can provide declarations stating the origin and quality of the wood. When you receive the tub, we recommend to open the box and check that the tub is not damaged or cracked. If we receive a claim within 5 days of reception, we can use the shipping insurance and supply you a replacement. As for a warranty for the product itself, we are afraid we cannot provide it. Natural materials are alive and have a delicate balance. If the tub is maintained properly, it can last for decades, but if the user makes some mistake or the tub is left in extreme condition for just few days, the tub can be severely damaged. This is why we cannot offer a guarantee, we appreciate your understanding.

**JAPANESE OFURO - PRICE LIST (updated feb. 10, 2022)**

Here is a quick reference of common (standard) sizes for soaking tubs. As we work without stock, your tub will be order made. Always ask for a final quotation as we may be able to make better conditions according to the season of the year and the material we have in stock. **※Hinoki K grade is not available until further notice.**

	Hinoki (quarter sawn)	Asnaro (quarter sawn)	Sawara (quarter sawn)	Packaging	Option: int.seat (per unit)
S-1) 310L / 81 US gallon 900L x 700W x 680 (D600) (35.4" x 27.6" x 26.8") (33mm planks – no frame )	¥534,000	¥463,000	¥378,000	¥30,000 1100x900x880	(W=350mm) hinoki ¥67,000 asnaro ¥62,000 sawara ¥60,000
S-2) 340L / 91 US gallon 1000L x 700W x 680H (D600) (39.4" x 27.6" x 26.8") (33mm planks – no frame )	¥573,000	¥496,000	¥403,000	¥33,000 1200x900x880	(W=350mm) hinoki ¥67,000 asnaro ¥62,000 sawara ¥60,000
S-3) 380L / 101 US gallon 1100L x 700W x 680H (D600) (43.3" x 27.6" x 26.8") (33mm planks – no frame )	¥610,000	¥529,000	¥429,000	¥36,000 1300x900x880	(W=350mm) hinoki ¥67,000 asnaro ¥62,000 sawara ¥60,000
S-4) 430L / 114 US gallon 1200L x 750W x 650H (D570) (47.2" x 29.5" x 25.2") (33mm planks – no frame )	¥650,000	¥563,000	¥456,000	¥39,000 1400x950x850	(W=400mm) hinoki ¥72,000 asnaro ¥66,000 sawara ¥64,000
S-5) 450L / 120 US gallon 1300L x 750W x 630H (D550) (51.2" x 29.5" x 24.8") (33mm planks – no frame )	¥674,000	¥583,000	¥473,000	¥41,000 1500x950x830	(W=400mm) hinoki ¥72,000 asnaro ¥66,000 sawara ¥64,000
M-6) 460L / 123 US gallon 1400L x 750W x 630H (D550) (55.1" x 29.5" x 24.8") (33mm planks- top frame)	¥786,000	¥682,000	/	¥44,000 1600x950x830	(W=400mm) hinoki ¥72,000 asnaro ¥66,000
M-7) 500L / 132 US gallon 1500L x 750W x 630H (D550) (59.1" x 29.5" x 24.8") (33mm planks- top frame)	¥828,000	¥719,000	/	¥47,000 1700x950x830	(W=400mm) hinoki ¥72,000 asnaro ¥66,000
L-8) 840L / 222 US gallon 1800L x 1000W x 630H (D550) (70.9" x 39.4" x 24.8") (42mm planks- top frame)	¥1,360,000	¥1,090,000	/	¥69,000 2000x1200x830	(W=400mm) hinoki ¥78,000 asnaro ¥72,000
R-9) 840L / 222 US gallon R1400φ x 750H (D620) (diam. 55.1" x 29.5") (33mm planks, metal straps)	¥1,290,000	¥1,132,000	¥912,000	¥76,000 1600x1600x950	/

Note 1) sizes are external. Please deduct the thickness of plank for internal sizes.

Note 2) the top border frame can be skipped on some models by increasing the plank thickness (additional cost)

Note 3) standard corner detail is a T joint. L corner joints detail (additional cost) is available for hinoki only



**CUSTOM TUBS**

Our policy is to produce custom ofuros freshly after your order.

This way we do not have to use a lot of space to store the stock and do not have to immobilize capital for ready-to-ship products.

Your customer's advantage is to obtain a reasonable maker-to-client price, and the possibility to adapt the tub to your needs and bathroom sizes, up to the millimetre! A custom ofuro is not more expensive than a standard size one, (of course price increases proportionally to the size) so feel free to inquire for a custom size quotation.

1) Choose the shape and size



rectangular



round



oval

For the size, you may use as a reference our standard sizes price list or other tubs on the market. We recommend as much as possible to set your mind free from numbers and standards. Did you know that the famous Finnish architect Alvar Aalto was not using drafting triangles or goniometers to avoid being influenced by predetermined angles?

In the same way, we recommend to sit in a corner and measure your most comfortable sitting space. Or even better, make a quick mock-up with cardboard boxes and sit inside. Is it comfortable and cozy? Can you enter in one, two people? Is it well balanced in the planned bathroom space? And...will it pass through the door, window, stair etc. at the time of delivery? We may be able to use removable feet that can be installed on site so do consult with us.

Then let us know your size specifying if it is metrical/imperial and internal/external and we will provide our opinion

2) Choose the material:

**STRAIGHT HINOKI**  
(Chamaecyparis obtusa)  
durability and sublime  
fragrance



**STRAIGHT ASNARO**  
(Thujopsis dolabrata)  
superior resistance to water  
and insects



**KNOTTY HINOKI**  
(Chamaecyparis obtusa)  
natural look and  
reasonable price



Color:  
Fragrance:  
Maintenance:  
Cost:

White/pink  
Cedar/lemon  
★ ★ ★  
¥ ¥ ¥ ¥ ¥

Honey color  
Cedar/forest scent  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
¥ ¥ ¥ ¥ ¥

White w/ round knots  
Cedar/lemon  
★ ★ ★ ★  
¥ ¥ ¥

3) Choose the top frame:



①Plank T joint



②Plank L joint



③Kamachi top border



④Oversized border

- ① The traditional ofuro construction. The long side plank surpasses the short side by 15mm thus completely protecting the head of the plank and offering enough space for a sturdy connection.
  - ② Minimalist box design. This detail is achieved by using thick planks (42mm or 50mm in place of the regular 33mm) thus assuring the same performance of the traditional detail with a simpler, sharper look.
  - ③ A top border frame is necessary for medium/large sized tubs. In general, all tubs wider than 750mm need a kamachi construction. Normally about 60x100mm height, we can make bolder/wider frames, filleted corners etc.
  - ① Common for extra large tubs and for tubs recessed in the ground or inside a ledge/ditch.
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4) Choose the details:



①Copper plates



②Wooden dowels



③Copper apron



④ Natural oil finish  
apron

- ② Copper plate joint covers: typical detail of shipbuilding technique typical of the Tokyo (Edo) area.
  - ③ The "dabo" (wooden dowel) is a good choice for a softer, natural look. (we can also do square dowels)
  - ④ Traditionally a copper apron is applied on the bottom to protect the side of the bottom plank. It prevents water penetrating the wood perpendicular to the grain also thanks to the copper oxide fungicidal action. Both mechanical and chemical protection. The copper will turn green overtime.
  - ⑤ For a lighter, more natural look we can treat the bottom plank section with natural oil by Kreidezeit.
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5) Choose the options:



①Brand logo



②Overflow cut



③Overflow drain



⑥ Slanted back

- ① Usually we proudly place our iron brand on the top right corner. Please let us know if you prefer a different location, if you want it both sides, or if you do not want the logo at all etc.
  - ② In Japanese tubs, the water overflows from the top. If the tub is in a niche or only a part of the floor is a wetroom you might want to direct the overflow in one direction by the means of cutting a section of the top edge.
  - ③ If required, we can use a western style overflow socket. Be sure to increase the overall depth consequently if you want a deep soaking tub. Also, in this case you will need to build a ledge to hide the corrugated overflow pipe.
  - ④ A straight corner box like Japanese tub is more comfortable than you can imagine. Anyway if you prefer to have the end slanted (one side, both sides) we can do it.
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6) Choose the accessories:



① Internal seat



② Step bench



③ Wall mounted spout



⑤ Floor mounted spout

- ① seat can be added in case of a short tub or to enjoy a half body bath. Unplug the metal deadbolt, slide out the seat plank and there you are: you can enjoy the full length, full width tub anytime you want.
- ② Made to order with the same wood as the tub, a step bench is used both as a help to enter the tub and as a surface to seat and relax before/after the bath or hold the towels etc.
- ③ We have experience with several shapes of wall mounted spouts. Please refer to the download section for the details. The sizes can be adjusted as needed. We can also produce new designs, just let us know your idea.
- ④ Floor mounted spout: more expensive than the wall mounted model. Custom sizes and shapes as above. As a general consideration, the spout is just a simple wooden box in which water is fed and pours out from the front. A common scheme consists of a thermostat mixer installed on the wall, or on the spout lower part: once you open the faucet the water feeds the spout box and flows out gently like a waterfall. We provide the spout without holes so you can drill on site as needed (back side/ bottom side/ premixed water/ cold and hot separately as per your site conditions). The spout has a lid to be opened for maintenance. It is important to consider the terminals inside the spout should face downwards, so that the water does not pop the lid open when you feed water at maximum pressure. Lastly, some installations consist in having 2 water inlets: one normal metal faucet pointing directly into the tub to fill it quickly, and one extra concealed in the spout (maybe connected to a water recirculation system) to enjoy the tranquil waterfall while bathing.



⑤ Traditional cover



⑥ Cover with handles



⑦ Sunoko duckboards



⑧ Bathroom accessories

- ⑥ typical stackable multi-section tub cover: planks are simply lined up, side by side. Compact and light weight.
- ⑦ Cover with handles: split in 2 or 3 sections to be easy to lift up, this cover can be deployed quickly and neatly
- ⑧ Floor grating panels allow water to drain while offering a warm, comfortable, non slippery floor surface. We usually split the floor in units that can be easily lifted for maintenance and cleaning. The joints are not noticeable as they coincide with the gap between slats. Size is custom, standard thickness is 55mm.
- ⑨ Standard accessories (handmade, serial production). See below:



Standard size floor grate panel  
(900x700x55H)



Minimalist stool  
(300x210x210H)



Traditional stool  
(300 x 170 x 200H)



Small bucket  
(180x290H)



Large bucket  
(210x105H)



**Point of pride #1:** Handmade in Japan by skilled craftsmen using traditional techniques.



**Point of pride #2:** Custom order of ofuro can be coordinated with accessories, doors, furniture



**Point of pride #3:** Shipped directly maker-to-end user to provide you the best value and service

Please use our homepage 「search box」 for detailed and updated information: <http://www.bartokdesign.com>

We remain at your disposal and invite to contact us by email, phone, zoom for any question or problem.