

Goenne Premium Fuki-urushi Japanese lacquering Kit Reference Sheet



Urushi Lacquering Kit includes:

- Goenne Ki urushi 20 g x 2
- Premium Daigo Urushi 10 g x 1
- Jinoko powder 50 g
- Handmade Cherry wood spatula (set of 2)
- Wet sandpaper set
- Non-woven wiping cloth pack
- Non-latex gloves

What to prepare on your own:

- Camphor oil or Turpentine
- Gloves (you will need more gloves)
- Sleeve-cover or apron
- Clean rag or towel
- Tissue paper
- Eraser cut into small pieces
- Cotton swaps
- Canola oil (for cleaning hands and tools)
- “Muro” curing box (see [YouTube video](#))
- (Optional) Hard cardboard tube (paper towel core tube, or saran wrap paper core tube)
- (Optional) Strong double sided tape

Build your own muro:

- Lacquer requires a controlled environment for curing (hardening).
- You can make a simple muro at home.
- Our YouTube video shows how to build a urushi-muro with wood boxes (we use apple box).

Other suggested material for home-made muro curing box:

- Cardboard box, large styrofoam box, or large Tupperware storage bin with lid.
 - Wood box or old bookcase/cabinet with door is also ok!
 - Wet towel
 - Small plate for water
 - Humidity / Temperature meter
1. Use any box with cover or lid. Remember, the idea is not about air-tightness, it is to prevent dust getting onto wet lacquered work, and to control the temperature and humidity.
 2. Place a wet towel or sponge inside the box (place it on plastic surface or a ceramics plate), replenish the water as needed.
 3. Place a gauge inside the box where you can read the temperature and humidity.
 4. Make sure you have enough space to place your lacquered pieces inside the box without touching the wet lacquered surface.
 5. Maintain humidity of 80% or above. Temperature 20-30C (68F-86F).
 6. In winter time, you can insulate the box with blankets or large towels.

*If temperature and humidity is not kept within range, it will just take long time for lacquer to cure.

OPTIONAL TOOL Make a handle for easy handling of wet lacquered pieces during work.

1. Find a sturdy cardboard paper tube (can use the cardboard core tube from your saran wrap or aluminum foil), cut it shorter to fit your hand.
2. Place strong double-sided tape on one side of the tube.
3. Place your wood lid on the adhesive tape, the paper tube will be come a handle for you to hold the wood piece while lacquering.

We suggest you follow our lacquering online course which will explain in details all the tools and techniques (scheduled to launch in June 2024). The following are simplified steps for reference only.

FUKI-URUSHI LACQUER RUBBING INSTRUCTION

1. Sand the wood surface with #240 or #400 sandpaper, to smoothen the surface and remove any loose splinters.
2. Wipe the surface with a lightly wet cloth to remove wood dusts from the sanding and allow the wood piece to dry until no water mark is visible.
2b. Optional step: apply sabi paste to smoothen wood grain. See paragraph on "me-tome" method.
3. Apply first base coating: rub or brush a thin and even coat of Goenne ki-urushi over the surface of the wood piece. If the ki-urushi is too thick for application, it is ok to thin it with turpentine for the first coating. Use cotton swaps for hard to reach corners and edges.
4. If you are lacquering a flat lid, plan to lacquer one face each time so wet lacquered surface is not touching any surface inside the muro. After curing, lacquer the opposite side. If you are lacquering the entire box, lacquer the inside first and then the outside at a separate time.
5. Place inside muro and cure for 24 hours in controlled environment for first base coating.
6. After you lacquered all surfaces for 1st coat and cured completely, wet-sand the surface with #800 sandpaper.
7. Rub or paint 2nd coat lacquer. Allow for 2-3 days curing in controlled environment.
8. Apply as many coat as needed to achieve the richness of lacquer surface you want. NOTE: The more layer you apply the MORE GLOSSY the surface will become. NOT DARKER. This is the unique characteristics of Japanese lacquer.
9. Wet-sanding in between layers. Once you have reached the level you desired, wet-sand the surface with #1500-#2000 sand paper.
10. FINAL COAT: Rub a thin coat of Daigo Premium urushi lacquer as your final finish. This premium Japan-grown urushi will give your finish the best gloss and durability. Allow for final curing in muro.

ME-TOME METHOD: REPAIR BLEMISHES OR FLATTEN WOOD GRAIN WITH “SABI”.

Your kit also comes with jinoko powder, which is a clay powder for filling cracks and blemishes. You can also use it to fill in the natural grooves of wood grain, and achieve an extremely smooth-to-touch surface. The wood grain will still be visible, but the uneven surface will be patched flat.

SABI is a mixture of water, jinoko powder and ki-urushi.

1. Add small amount of water to jinoko powder to create a paste with consistency of wasabi (or toothpaste).
2. Gather the paste into a small mound, and add equal amount of Goenne ki-urushi to the paste, mix well with spatula.
3. Apply even and thin coat of sabi paste with wood spatula onto the entire surface you want to smoothen.
4. Cure in muro for 3-5 days. The sabi will cure into a dry crust in flat gray-brown color on the surface.
5. Wet-sand with #400-#800 paper to remove all sabi. Only a very very small amount of sabi will be left of the wood surface, filling in minute grooves of the wood grain.
6. Proceed with all the lacquer coating as desired.

Fuki-urushi and me-tome are the fundamental and versatile techniques in lacquer craft. Once you get a hang of the steps, you can apply these techniques to repair damaged wood surface or refinish old wood boxes. You can also use this to finish wood chopsticks and miso soup bowls, keepsake boxes etc.

CAUTIONS:

- Always wear gloves and protective sleeves / apron during work.
- Always wipe your work surface clean with alcohol after work.
- Always clean your tools properly with oil after work.
- Keep your lacquering kit away from animals and children.
- Avoid any bare skin contact with urushi. If you get urushi on your skin, IMMEDIATELY wipe it with oil or rubbing alcohol.
- Once urushi absorbed into your body, you will possibly get skin rash or itchy blisters for the coming week(s). (Like poison ivy)
- Use calamine lotion or topical ointment for temporary relief, but it may not work for everyone.



Youtube “How to make your muro”



Goenne Kintsugi Home Page

For kickstarter backers, we will send out the access code for our Lacquering online course once ready. And we are looking to launch more online workshops for various Japanese crafts in the near future. Hope you can continue to support our work!