



Neck Strap for CNSM 2017

Kumihimo (組紐)

-Japanese Traditional Braiding Technique-

“Kumihimo” is a traditional Japanese braiding technique, which weaves strands made from silk, cotton, and other materials to create intricate and beautiful coloured texture. The woven cords (紐) is called Kumihimo, and can be used for multiple purpose, since they are strong even the cords themselves are slender. The cords are roughly classified into three types, “Kakuuchi”, “Hirauchi”, and “Maruuchi”. They have square shape, flat shape, and round shape, respectively. There are several ways of weaving strands by handcraft using tables specialized for the weaving called “Takadai”, “Kakudai”, “Marudai”, and “Ayatakedai” as well as using precisely controlled machines.



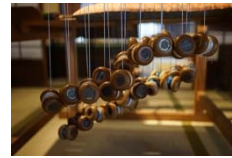
Takadai
(高台)



Kakudai
(角台)



Marudai
(丸台)

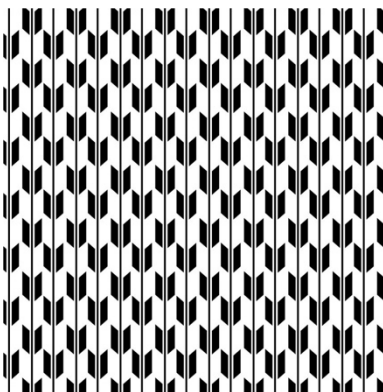


Ayatakedai
(綾竹台)



Machine-based

It is said that the origin of the braiding technique is initially introduced as braids for Buddhist altar equipment with the introduction of Buddhism to Japan about 1,500 years ago, and developed by Japanese culture until now. Nowadays, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Iga are thought to be thriving regions for Kumihimo.



Yagasuri (矢絣):

The texture for the neck straps is called Yagasuri, whose motif is derived from arrows (矢), especially for the feather of arrows. This is one of the most famous Japanese texture pattern, and commonly used for Kimono. Yagasuri is thought to be a kind of lucky charm, since arrows only go forward and never go back. Moreover, Yagasuri is also thought to be a talisman since it has a meaning of Hamaya (破魔矢), which is the arrow to expel evil spirits.

The neck straps for CNSM 2017 were made by Shoen Kumihimo Inc., Ltd. (昇苑くみひも)

Website: <http://showenkumihimo.com/>, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/showenkumihimo/>