

# Kumiki Puzzles



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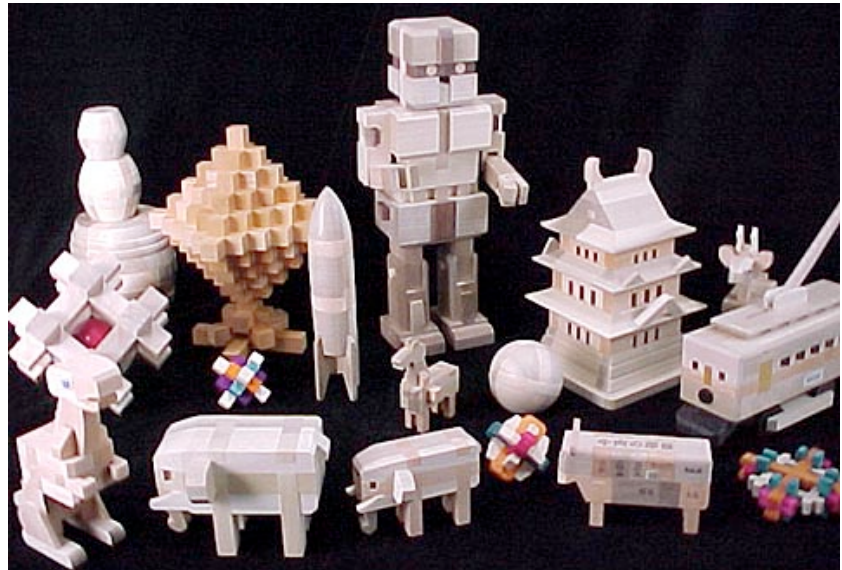
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**K**umiki is a Japanese word that means "to join wood together." In Japan, the word kumiki refers to several different varieties of wood craft.

For our purposes, a kumiki is a 3-dimensional wooden interlocking solid puzzle made in a familiar shape.





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	<p><b><u>Knot Puzzle</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ 2.5" x 2.5" x 2.5"</li> <li>✦ Weight: 0.9 ounces</li> <li>✦ Difficulty: Easy</li> <li>✦ Number of pieces: 6</li> <li>✦ Slocum Classification: 3.1</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$3.50</b></p>
	<p><b><u>Horse Puzzle</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ 3 1/2" tall, 3 1/2" long, 1 1/2" wide (8.8 cm x 8.8 cm x 3.7 cm)</li> <li>✦ 0.7 oz (20 g)</li> <li>✦ Unfinished Japanese ho wood, 10 pieces</li> <li>✦ Difficulty: Easy</li> <li>✦ Slocum Classification: 3.1</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$3.50</b></p>

	<p><b>Great Pagoda 9 piece, color</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 2" x 2" x 2" (5.1 cm x 5.1 cm x 5.1 cm)</li> <li>✳ Weight: 0.4 ounces (12 g)</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy - Moderate</li> <li>✳ Slocum Classification: 3.4</li> </ul>	<b>\$4.50</b>
	<p><b>Round Flowers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood</li> <li>✳ 12 pieces</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Moderate</li> </ul>	<b>\$4.50</b>
	<p><b>Geta</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 12 pieces</li> <li>✳ An unusual kumiki - in green or pink</li> <li>✳ 3.5" x 2.75" x 2.75"</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Moderate</li> </ul>	<b>\$4.50</b>
	<p><b>Trolley Car</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 6 pieces</li> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood</li> <li>✳ 3.75" x 2" x .87"</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy</li> </ul>	<b>\$4.50</b>
	<p><b>Diamonds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 3 different sizes</li> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood - unfinished</li> <li>✳ 14 pieces</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Moderate</li> </ul>	<b>\$5.00</b>
	<p><b>Barrels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 2 different size puzzles</li> <li>✳ 14 pieces</li> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood - unfinished</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Moderate</li> </ul>	<b>\$5.00 to \$7.00</b>
	<p><b>Parts of Cow</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood - unfinished</li> <li>✳ 11 pieces</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy - Moderate</li> </ul>	<b>\$5.50</b>
	<p><b>Steamship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood - unfinished</li> <li>✳ 16 pieces</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy</li> </ul>	<b>\$6.00</b>
	<p><b>Burr Sets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 4 sets</li> <li>✳ 2 kumiki puzzles</li> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood</li> <li>✳ Instructions included</li> </ul>	<b>\$7.00</b>

	<p><b><u>Lantern</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ Great details</li> <li>✳ Classic kumikis</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy - Moderate</li> </ul>	<b>\$8.00</b>
	<p><b><u>Cabin Bank</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 23 pieces</li> <li>✳ A complex kumiki - unusual</li> <li>✳ 3.5" x 2.75" x 2.75"</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Moderate</li> </ul>	<b>\$10.00</b>
	<p><b><u>Trolley kumiki puzzle - small</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ H 5" x W 2.5" x D 1.5"</li> <li>✳ Weight: 2.5 ounces</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy</li> <li>✳ Number of pieces: 12</li> </ul>	<b>\$12.00</b>
	<p><b><u>9mm handgun Kumiki</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 11 pieces</li> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood - unfinished</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy</li> </ul>	<b>\$13.00</b>
	<p><b><u>Lucky Bear</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ Huge! - 4.75" x 3" x 1.25"</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy</li> <li>✳ Number of pieces: 9</li> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood - unfinished</li> <li>✳ Boxed</li> </ul>	<b>\$14.00</b>
	<p><b><u>Lucky Owl</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 14" x 3.25" x 1.13"</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy</li> <li>✳ Number of pieces: 6</li> <li>✳ Japanese "Ho" wood - unfinished</li> <li>✳ Sliding dovetail construction</li> </ul>	<b>\$14.00</b>
	<p><b><u>Lion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 2 1/2 tall, 5" long</li> <li>✳ Unfinished Japanese ho wood</li> <li>✳ 12 pieces</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Moderate</li> <li>✳ Slocum Classification: 3.1</li> </ul>	<b>\$15.00</b>
	<p><b><u>Cottages</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 2 different size puzzles</li> <li>✳ 12 pieces</li> <li>✳ They are both coin banks</li> <li>✳ Difficulty: Easy</li> </ul>	<b>\$18.00 &amp; \$29.00</b>

	<p><b>Clearwater</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ 4.25" cube</li> <li>✦ Weight: 7 ounces</li> <li>✦ Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult</li> <li>✦ Number of pieces: 54</li> <li>✦ Assembly diagram</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$42.50</b></p>
	<p><b>Great Pagodas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ 3 different sizes</li> <li>✦ Also called "Crystal Burrs"</li> <li>✦ The biggest one has a stand</li> <li>✦ Difficulty: Easy - Difficult</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$4.50 to \$55.00</b></p>
	<p><b>Custom Cube</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Custom made for Cleverwood</li> <li>✦ Laminated hardwoods</li> <li>✦ 20 pieces</li> <li>✦ Difficulty: Moderate</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$46.00</b></p>
	<p><b>Custom Great Pagoda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ 129 pieces</li> <li>✦ Custom made for Cleverwood</li> <li>✦ Gift Boxed</li> <li>✦ Difficulty: Very Difficult</li> </ul>	<p><del><b>\$96.00</b></del> <b>\$81.00</b></p>

*Cleverwood* imports our kumiki puzzles directly from the workshops in Odawara and Oisi, Japan. *Cleverwood* deals personally with the makers, so we are able to offer a huge selection of high quality kumiki puzzles to you at exceptionally reasonable prices: \$3.50 - \$96.00. With more than seventy different kinds, *Cleverwood* has the greatest selection of kumiki puzzles outside of Japan, and the largest selection available at any web site.



Wooden interlocking figural puzzles made in Germany are mentioned in the classic book, Professor Hoffmann's *Puzzles Old and New* of 1893. Although Japanese artists may not have been the first to make this puzzle craft form, they have fully developed the interlocking figural puzzles now known as kumiki to the highest degree.

Traditional Japanese craftsmen did not use nails in building construction because nailed wooden joints were easily compromised during earthquakes. They developed ingenious methods of interlocking wood joinery that would stand up to earthquakes. Even today, books are available on the unique, traditional wood joinery of Japanese craftsman. Kumiki puzzles utilize the concept of notched joinery to make interesting





looking and working puzzles.

Tsunetaro Yamanaka (1874-1954) was the first craftsman to develop the figural wooden interlocking puzzles known as kumiki. He designed and constructed puzzles that resembled buildings and vehicles, not just abstract shapes like spheres and cubes. His descendants continued to carry on the tradition, still creating new puzzles including animal shapes. Today, Tadaaki Yamanaka, great grandson of Tsunetaro, continues his great grandfather's work. The "Robot" kumiki is an example of one of his newer designs (1993)



There are four different Kumiki design techniques: oshi, mawashi, kendon and sayubiki. The first means push, these puzzles have a key piece which has to be pushed out. Puzzles based on the mawashi principle have a piece which has to be twisted in order to solve the puzzle. In kendon puzzles you have to remove a piece by moving up and down or from left to right. With sayubiki two key pieces have to be removed simultaneously. The key piece is always skillfully

hidden.

Most kumiki puzzles are made from Japanese ho wood and are unfinished, but we have quite a few deluxe kumiki which are extra large and dyed. Ho wood is also known as Boku or Japanese Magnolia - "Magnolia Hypoleuca."

To learn more about interlocking solid puzzles read the books of Jerry Slocum, Puzzle Collector and noted author of books about Mechanical Puzzles.

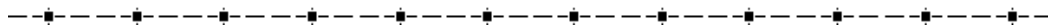
• Because they are so inexpensive, Kumiki puzzles are perfectly suited for beginning puzzle collectors - especially children.

## Guaranteed Quality

Each and every kumiki puzzle we sell here at Cleverwood is carefully visually inspected right before it is shipped to you. We look at the assembled puzzle carefully. But, we do not disassemble and reassemble each puzzle. That would be just too time consuming, and we are assured that the puzzles shipped to us are the very best made.

We will replace or refund any of our kumiki puzzles that you judge to be unsatisfactory within 30 days of the date you receive it. We will make all reasonable accommodations after 30 days at our discretion.

Your satisfaction is our top priority. Please read the [Comments from our Customers](#).



• [Pronunciation Guide to Japanese Terms](#)



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*“A mechanical puzzle is a self-contained object, composed of one or more parts, which involves a problem for one person to solve by manipulation using logic, reasoning, insight, luck, and/or dexterity.” - Jerry Slocum*

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