

Making an Odaiko Shell for Joji Hirota



First, we had to prepare the wood so that 36 pieces would make a circle of 930mm diameter.



Then, we made the inside and outside forms so that the shell stayed square during construction.

Making an Odaiko Shell for Joji Hirota

The next stage involved 3 people gluing the staves as quickly and accurately as we could. Hence, no photos! Each 6th joint was not glued, so it can divide into 6 pieces for easy transportation.



Ted and Alice putting in the wedges.



Making an Odaiko Shell for Joji Hirota



The drum shell pieces were then sanded, stained and lacquered over a one week period.



The pieces were re-assembled to prepare the bearing edge; the top rim where the heads will sit.

Making an Odaiko Shell for Joji Hirota



Andrew making the bearing edge with a router.



The drum heads were made by Hatamoto-san in Japan. They're over 1 metre in diameter.

Making an Odaiko Shell for Joji Hirota



The hooks and fastenings were made by Luciano-san in Italy.



Joji Hirota assembling the Odaiko.

Making an Odaiko Shell for Joji Hirota



All done and ready to play!