

大西京扇堂 Onishi Kyosendo

京扇子
Kyoto
folding fans



Presenting with pride to the world, Kyo-Sensu, or Kyoto folding fans, created from 1,200 years of history.

Folding fans are considered to have originated over 1,200 years ago in Japan with “hi-ogi” fans which were made by stacking and binding thin slats of hinoki (Japanese cypress) wood. Fans made with bamboo and paper called “kawahori-ogi” (named after its resemblance to bat wings) were invented during the Heian period (794–1185), and this is said to be the basic model for the folding fan of today. By the 13th century, folding fans spread to Europe where they beautifully colored the courtiers of the French Bourbon dynasty. Through numerous eras to present-day Japan, there are now folding fans for a variety of uses, such as for the imperial court, noh and kyogen theater, traditional Japanese dance, sado (tea ceremony), kodo (incense ceremony) and everyday use.

Onishi Kyosendo was first established in the Edo period (1603–1868) as Yamatoya by Yamatoya Shobei. Besides providing many fans for temples as a purveyor to head temples of Buddhist sects including Chion-in Temple and Nanzenji Temple, it also began handling fans for daily use such as for dance and the tea ceremony, because of the amount of visitors coming to Kyoto, which was the end of the Tokaido road, an important route which connected Kyoto to Edo (Tokyo).

Kyo-Sensu only refers to folding fans where everything from fan surfaces and ribs to the finishing process has been produced domestically, mainly in areas like Kyoto or Shiga prefecture. There are roughly 88 steps involved with making one Kyo-Sensu; a fan of high quality and beauty is created from each step being performed by a specialist craftsman. Onishi Kyosendo takes advantage of its experience of many generations of fan-making, and is dedicated not only to the designs, but also to the shape of the fan when it is closed, and to how it feels in your hand. In recent years, it is not just a handy tool to stave off the summer heat, there is demand across the world as an interior accessory for rooms. Please come and pick up an exceptional folding fan and feel the expert skills shining through for yourself.



- ↑From the 1940s, a depiction of the fan making finishing process. From left to right:
- ① Air is blown to widen the holes to ease insertion of the ribs.
 - ② Glue is applied to the fan and hit with a hinoki wood stick to remove air from inside, and then firmly creased.
 - ③ The side guards are trimmed and lengths adjusted.
 - ④ The fan ribs are heated and bent.

On the far right is the owner from two generations ago, and second from the right is the previous generation's owner.



↑“Miyabi-rakufu-sen Sakura” folding fans, decorated with a cherry blossom design, ¥11,000 (excl. tax), are popular as souvenirs. The red colored fan is for women, while the dark blue is for men.



←The “nakazuke” part of the fan making process, preparing to insert the ribs into the fan.



↑Fans range from ¥1,000 to expensive luxury items of ¥100,000. Kyo-Sensu fans are one of the 74 designated traditional industrial crafts of Kyoto city.

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京都市中京区三条通寺町東入ル石橋町18
18 Ishibashi-cho, Sanjo-dori, Teramachi-higashi-iru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto

TEL: 075-221-0334 OPEN: 10:00 to 21:00 (Closed Thu.)
Access: 20 min. from Kyoto Station by taxi

Instagram @onishikyosendo

URL: <http://www.onishi-kyosendo.jp>

MAP 4



Google MAP

