

中村 ローソク

Nakamura Rousoku

和・京蠟燭  
Japanese and  
Kyoto candles



Japanese candles that combine traditional techniques and beauty.

Nakamura Rousoku, founded as Nakamura Shoten in 1887, has been making Wa-Rousoku (traditional Japanese candles) for 132 years. Although Western candles have become considerably popular, Wa-Rousoku have many charms that Western candles do not. The biggest difference is in the raw materials. While Western candles are made with paraffin from oil, Wa-Rousoku are made with pure vegetable-based wax such as from the fruit of the Haze tree. As well as being friendly to the environment, they create less soot and drip. The small amount of soot also has the merit of rooms being less likely to get stained. Second is the distinctive way they burn. The hollow inside allows air to flow, creating a large and slow-moving flame and a mysterious, elegant atmosphere. The flame also sways in places with no wind, and does not blow out easily. It has been said that this swaying movement includes the "1/f fluctuation", which is a frequency said to be found in human heartbeats, the motion of trains, the noise of a brook and in healing music, that makes people feel comfortable. Because of this, looking at the light of a Japanese candle can relax the spirit. The final difference is the color of the light. The light of Wa-Rousoku made from vegetable-based ingredients is a subdued orange in comparison to Western candles. This is due to the melting point of vegetable-based wax being lower than oil-based wax, and thus looks gentler and warmer to the eye.

Electricity has meant less demand for candles these days, but by keeping the traditional methods of manufacture, Nakamura Rousoku continues to pass on their appeal by producing new Wa-Rousoku like scented candles and products that can be used as interior decorations.



↑ In the Edo period, these painted candles were traditionally placed on Buddhist altars instead of flowers, but they are popular nowadays as interior goods and souvenirs inside and outside Japan. Impressive Japanese candles with hand-painted "Fujin Raijin-zu" (Wind God and Thunder God Screens) artwork by a Kyoto artist. 1 candle, ¥59,000. (Height: 25cm. Includes stand and comes in a paulownia box.) \*All prices exclude tax.



↑ "Kyoto's Four Seasons", a set of 5 painted candles, is a popular gift. ¥3,200. \*Length 7.5cm, comes in a paulownia box.

← For some reason, you can keep on looking at the swaying flame that moves even when there is no wind.



↑ Wicks, made of Japanese paper rolled up and wrapped with the pith of rushes, are placed in a wooden mold in which wax is poured. Then, an overcoat of wax is shaped onto each candle with bare hands. No effort is spared for each step, as each candle is made one by one, handmade by a method that has gone unchanged since the shop's founding.



京都伏見

中村ローソク Nakamura Rousoku  
京都府京都市伏見区竹田三ツ杭町57-8  
57-8 Takeda Mitsukui-cho, Fushimi-ku, Kyoto  
TEL: 075-641-9381  
OPEN: 9:00 to 17:30 (Closed Sun. & National holidays, 2nd and 4th Sat.)  
Access: 15 min. from Kyoto Station by taxi  
\*Candle painting workshops are available.  
URL: <http://www.kyorousoku.jp/english/>

