

◆ Corporate profile



BUSINESS NUMBER	
COMPANY NAME(JAPANESE)	加藤木工
COMPANY NAME	katomokko
YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	1947
TYPE OF INDUSTRY	Woodworking
MAIN PRODUCT	Sakata Funadansu, Wood crafts
POST CODE	998-0027
COMPANY ADDRESS	7-47 Kitaima-machi Sakata Yamagata Japan
REPRESENTATIVE	Osamu Kato
TEL	+81-90-5671-5410
FAX	+81-234-22-2242
URL	http://katomokko.com
Instagram	kato_mokko
Facebook	katomokko
E-commerce Website	https://base.katomokko.com/
MAIN SELLING CHANNELS	Domestic consignment sales, Domestic EC site
SALES PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS EC SALES	Yahoo shopping
AVAILABLE LANGUAGE	Japanese, English

◆ EPISODE OF FOUNDATION FOUNDER'S THOUGHT

Kato Mokko is a fourth-generation family-run woodworking business specializing in sashimono--joinery for assembling wood without metal nails or screws--for making Sakata funa-dansu (ship chests), a traditional craft item of Sakata City, Yamagata Prefecture. Sakata funa-dansu chests of drawers were widely used between the mid-18th and late 19th centuries aboard Kitamaebune merchant ships mostly serving ports on the west coast of Japan. As one of the country's three major producers of funa-dansu along with Mikuni (Fukui Prefecture) and Ogi (Sado, Niigata Prefecture), Sakata attracted great numbers of skilled artisans. Demand for Sakata funa-dansu declined with the demise of the Kitamaebune shipping route, however, and today, with most homes furnished in Western-styles, demand for Sakata funa-dansu as a utilitarian piece of furniture is all but gone, although it is admired for its workmanship and decorative value. With the loss of demand, Sakata lost its funa-dansu makers, leaving Kato Mokko as its only surviving maker continuously engaged in funa-dansu production.

◆ CRAFTSMAN'S THOUGHT, COMMITMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

Alongside preserving and continuing traditional production techniques so that Sakata funa-dansu can be enjoyed by generations to come, Kato Mokko is focusing much effort on developing products incorporating technical innovations complementary to today's lifestyles. A Sakata funa-dansu typically has a substantial, hardwearing exterior of zelkova, iron hardware, and lacquer coating. In contrast, its interior drawers are made of paulownia for superior airtightness--funa-dansu could be recovered from sunken ships because of their buoyancy, according to anecdotes. For exterior wood, we use zelkova harvested in Shonai, Yamagata Prefecture, thereby contributing to sustainability of the local forest industry. We also encourage local manufacturing by studying traditional iron hardware engraving and lacquerwork techniques that have lost practitioners and supporting younger people to acquire such skills.

◆ Product information



BRAND NAME	Katomokko
PRODUCT NAME	Sakata Funadansu [Kakesuzuri]
GENERIC NAME	Funadansu(ship chest)
MATERIALS	Zelkova, iron, lacquer
PERSON IN CHARGE	Katomokko
PRODUCTION AREA	Sakata Yamagata Japan
SIZE	W45 x D45 x H45 cm
WEIGHT	40kg
DOMESTIC RETAIL PRICE	JPY1,000,000 (excluding tax)

Sakata City in Yamagata Prefecture maintains the tradition of crafting this type of chest of drawers, which was widely used aboard merchant vessels serving ports on Japan's west coast between the mid-18th and late 19th centuries. This chest boasts a hardwearing exterior of zelkova, iron hardware, and lacquer coating, while the interior drawers are made of paulownia for superior airtightness--a feature popularly believed to have made these chests buoyant enough to be retrievable from sunken ships.



BRAND NAME	Katomokko
PRODUCT NAME	Nekokeshi (shiro-kuro)
GENERIC NAME	Creative Kokeshi
MATERIALS	Japanese cypress
PERSON IN CHARGE	Katomokko
PRODUCTION AREA	Sakata Yamagata Japan
SIZE	W4 x D4 x H8 cm
WEIGHT	40g
DOMESTIC RETAIL PRICE	JPY2,500 (excluding tax)

Hand-carved, hand-painted wooden kokeshi doll. Natural wood grains make each adorable palm-sized cat unique. The surface is left unsealed so that the texture of hinoki cypress can be appreciated. The use of water-based pigments makes this product eco-friendly.



BRAND NAME	mokkodaano
PRODUCT NAME	Spoon / Fork for infants [mokkodaano]
GENERIC NAME	Spoon / Fork for infants
MATERIALS	Hackberry
PERSON IN CHARGE	Katomokko
PRODUCTION AREA	Sakata Yamagata Japan
SIZE	W2 x D2 x H13 cm
WEIGHT	20g
DOMESTIC RETAIL PRICE	JPY1,500 (excluding tax)

Hand-carved wooden flatware for children, laser-engraved with pretty face designs for happy mealtimes. Finished with olive oil (rather than synthetic sealers) for safe hygienic use without obscuring the look and texture of the natural wood.