

## Wadaiko information

**Taiko:** Literally translated “Big Drum” and can mean any kind of drum in Japan. Outside of Japan, this is the word usually used for both the drum itself and the type of drumming. In Japan, “Wadaiko” would be used.

**Wadaiko:** Literally meaning “Japanese Big Drum”  
This is the proper reference to “Japanese Taiko Drumming.”

Playing Styles	
Tachiuchi	Hitting while standing. Also the type of style and stand for upright drums.
Yokomenuchi	Hitting horizontally. Miyake Daiko and Hachijo Daiko are the most well-known pieces in this style.
Nanamenuchi	Hitting at a diagonal angle. This style was made popular by Oedo Sukeroku Daiko, hence the style is often incorrectly called “Sukeroku”. Midareuchi and Yodanuchi are their most popular pieces.
Suwariuchi	Hitting while in a sitting position. Chichibu Yatai Bayashi is the most popular piece for this style.
Katsugi okedo	Strap held okedo daiko
Kumi Daiko	Two meanings: Ensemble Drumming or one person playing many drums.

Note Legend:	
<b>Nagado (Miya Daiko)</b>	
ドン (Don) = Right hand strong hit	コン (Kon) = Left hand strong hit
ド (Do) = Right hand fast hit	ゴ/コ (Go/Ko) = Left hand fast hit
カ (Ka) = Right hand rim hit	ラ (Ra) = Left hand rim hit
ス (Su) = Right hand soft hit	ク (Ku) = Left hand soft hit
ゲン (Gun) = double hit	
<b>Tsukeshime (Shime Daiko)</b>	
テン (Ten) = Right hand strong hit	ケン (Ken) = Left hand strong hit
テ (Te) = Right hand fast hit	ケ (Ke) = Left hand fast hit
カ (Ka) = Right hand rim hit	ラ (Ra) = Left hand rim hit
ス (Su) = Right hand soft hit	ク (Ku) = Left hand soft hit
<b>Rests</b>	
ツ (tsu) = one beat rest	
ヅ = extension between notes (no sound)	

Common Base Rhythms	
Motoji	Straight beat.
Ohayashi	Jazzy (festival) beat.
Mitsuuchi	Horse (gallop-like) beat.
Matsuri	Festival Beat - Ohayashi and Mitsuuchi rhythms mixed.

# WADAIKO 達 TOKARA

Drums			
Drum parts		Drum types:	
Do	Body of the drum. This comes in various shapes and sizes, and is usually made from solid tree trunks, or wood staves.	Nagado Daiko	<p>(also called <b>Miyadaiko</b>: ‘miya’ means temple) - drum which can either be made from one solid piece of wood or staved wine or whiskey barrel. “Naga” means long, and “Do” means body.</p> <p>(In North America, these drums are often called either “Josuke daiko” or Chudaiko”. “Josuke” is not a term used in Japan, and “Chudaiko” refers to the size of a drum, not a type.)</p>
Men (kawa)	The playing surface of the drum. "Men" means surface. "Kawa" means skin. The type of skin used is usually cow hide, but sometimes horse is used for okedo daiko heads.	O-daiko	Largest type of drum, can be either Nagado or Okedo type.
Fuchi	Drum rim or edge.	Hira daiko	Shorter body and easy to transport, yet similar sound to full Nagado. Hiradaiko have recently become popular with soloists and small groups.
Kan	Metal handles on the body of the drum. Used for picking up and moving the drum.	Okedo Daiko	A lightweight drum with staved body and tied with rope.
Byou	Special tacks originally made in Japan which are used to secure the drum head to the body.	Tsukeshime Daiko	Family of drums tied with rope. Includes Okedo and Shime daiko.
Mimi	The part of the drum head that has been stretched on to the side of the drum. It has been folded, punctured with holes and doweling inserted in order to attach the drum head to the base via rope. This is how the drum head is stretched onto the body. Some manufacturers cut the mimi off once the head has been secured to the drum.	Shime Daiko	(also called kodaiko) - Small rope drum. The word “Shime” comes from “Shimeru” which means “to tie”.
		Sumo Daiko	Smaller nagado-style drum with longer body

# WADAIKO 遠 TOKARA

Drum Sizes	
<b>Sun</b> (pronounced “soon”) = 3 cm.	<b>Shaku</b> = 30 cm.
The largest taiko drum in the world is 10 shaku, 6 sun (318 cm). It is located in a cave museum which is buried inside of a mountain in Takayama City. The museum is called “Matsuri no Mori”.	
Taiko Drum bodies come in two types: <b>Solid shell:</b> one piece which is made from a hollowed out tree. <b>Stave Shell:</b> made from whiskey or wine barrels.	
Shime Sizes	
**Size is determined by the thickness of the ring on the shime head**	
Gochogakke	Gocho and Yoncho shime are usually used in professional groups. Length of rope is approximately 9 to 10 meters
Yonchogakke	
Sanchogakke	Sancho are mostly used in semi-professional groups. Length of rope is 7+ meters
Nichogakke	Length of rope is 6.5 to 7 meters.
Namizuke	This drum is used in Noh and Kabuki theater. It is not strong enough for ensemble performance.
Shime Tightening	
Tatejime	- Vertical rope tightening. Usually done by one person. Strong oak doweling (axe handle) needed.
Yokojime	- Tying vertical ropes together with excess ropes from tatejime. Two people are needed to do this. There are methods to do yokojime with only one person.