

### [Cautionary Statement]

A Bamboo bow is very delicate and is susceptible to damage by improper use and climate changes. Damage due to these factors is not covered under the Warranty. [\[details\]](#)

## Instructions to purchase a TAKE YUMI (bamboo bow)

### Choosing a TAKE YUMI

If you plan to purchase a TAKE YUMI please consult first with a qualified Kyudo instructor who is familiar with the care and use of bamboo bows for advice on a TAKE YUMI that is suitable for you. If no instructor is available and/or you live in an area of extreme climate (hot, cold, dry or moist) then a Fiberglass or Carbon Fiber YUMI is strongly suggested. These synthetic bows are more durable and far more forgiving of improper technique.

*\* Please note that persons with shoulder or elbow injuries should avoid using Fiberglass or Carbon Fiber YUMI. These produce a greater amount of shock at the release and may aggravate the injury.*

It is typical in Japan to wait until 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> dan is obtained before acquiring a TAKE YUMI; and then only if a qualified instructor is present to assist the student with the care and use of the TAKE YUMI. Do not purchase a TAKE YUMI if you do not meet these requirements.

Also, as a first choice TAKE YUMI a non-HIGO YUMI (constructed without cross lamination) may be preferable. They are less expensive and sturdier than HIGO YUMI.

TAKE YUMI are made with either a synthetic bonding agent or NIBE, a natural bonding agent. NIBE is made by boiling fish air bladder and deer skin for long periods of time. The use of this special glue creates a bow with a smoother draw and release than is possible with a YUMI constructed with a synthetic bonding agent. However, these high quality NIBE YUMI are constructed during the fall and winter months. And, therefore, one must avoid using a NIBE YUMI in hot, humid conditions because they are susceptible to warping and damage in these circumstances. They are also susceptible to extremely cold or dry weather. Special care and consideration for one's local environmental conditions must be considered before ordering a NIBE YUMI.

When ordering a TAKE YUMI please understand that if the desired pull strength is not available, we will have to wait until the following season to complete the order.

When purchasing any TAKE YUMI you must remember that it is unwise to rely on the continual use of a single TAKE YUMI. At least two bows are necessary to allow periods of rest to avoid damage to the TAKE YUMI.



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### Choosing the correct bow length

It is extremely important to choose the correct length of bow. The bow length is determined by two factors: The archer's height and YAZUKA (arrow length). Below is a chart to help determine the proper size bow.

Archer's Height	Arrow Length	Recommended Bow Length
Less than 150 cm	Less than 90 cm	Sansun-tsumari (212 cm)
150 - 165 cm	90 - 95 cm	Nami sun (221 cm)
165 - 175 cm	95 - 100 cm	Nisun-nobi (227 cm)
175 - 185 cm	100- 105 cm	Yonsun-nobi (233 cm)
185 - 195 cm	105 - 110 cm	Rokusun-nobi (239 cm)
More than 195 cm	More than 110 cm	Hassun-nobi (245 cm)

### Choosing the correct pull strength

The correct pull strength is determined by two factors: experience and physical makeup. Ideally, an instructor will start you with a relatively low pull strength (8 to 12 kilograms) and move you up in strength until you are ready to purchase your own bow. If you are unable to do this, then a decision will have to be made concerning the proper pull strength for you. As a guide, experienced female archers generally use bows with a 12 to 17 kilogram pull strength while experienced male archers tend to use bows in the 15 to 20 kilogram range.

There are two factors to consider when deciding pull strength: If the YUMI is too strong then it is difficult to learn correct shooting technique. However, if the YUMI is too weak then you may outgrow it relatively soon.

Pull strength may be measured differently among various Kyudo shops. ASAHI ARCHERY measures the pull strength of all TAKE YUMI at a 90 cm draw length.

Please note that to assure you receive a TAKE YUMI in the finest condition ASAHI ARCHERY will keep your YUMI for about three months once we receive it from the YUMI maker. This time is necessary for the newly made YUMI to settle into its proper form. ASAHI ARCHERY will not send the bow to you until we are certain it is in prime condition. Please be mindful that such care may take some time once you have made your order.



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## Instructions for the care and use of a TAKE YUMI (bamboo bow)

### Care of a TAKE YUMI

A TAKE YUMI should be treated as if it were a living organism. It will be immediately affected by extremes of temperature, humidity and misuse. Its strength may vary according to the season (generally stronger in cold, dry winter months and weaker in the summer). It is not recommended that a TAKE YUMI be used excessively during the course of a day's shooting. Any use of more than a couple dozen times a day may irreparably weaken the bow. Please respect the YUMI and be responsible for treating the YUMI with the care it needs to function well and provide you with years of use.

You must limit shooting of a brand new YUMI to about 15 or 20 arrows a day in the first six months, gradually increasing the number of daily shootings throughout this period.

A TAKE YUMI needs to be watched over carefully. It may be left un-strung for short periods of time but leaving it un-strung for extended periods may cause the URAZORI (recurve) to become excessive or the shape of the YUMI to become misaligned. Such conditions may lead to a twisting of the string to the opposite side at the release and cause KUBIORE (bow breaks at the SEKIITA) or breakage at the HIMEZORI (the curvature below SEKIITA). **Such damage is self-inflicted and is not under Warranty.** An experienced instructor is needed to understand the proper shape of the bow, when and how long to leave the bow strung or un-strung, and the proper stringing of the bow.

Do not leave a TAKE YUMI in an area with high humidity or temperature such as a bathroom or the inside of a car. If the YUMI gets wet, immediately dry it with a soft cloth. If it is cold, warm it with a soft cloth prior to shooting.

Take care not to scratch or chip the surface area of the TAKE YUMI. The TODAKE (outer face bamboo) is especially susceptible to KOGAI (breaking away of the bamboo) if scratched or chipped.

### Stringing the YUMI

Concerning the stringing of the bow, proper tying of the string must be learned to avoid damaging the bow. The upper TSURUWA (top string loop) should be the



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same diameter as the URAHAZU (The tapered end of the bow that holds the string); too small or too large an opening in the loop will cause the string to slip. Once attached, the TSURU should pass through the center of the KAMISEKIITA (the part just under the URAHAZU). Any bow that curves to the right (the string sits left of center) is called DEKI. This is an undesirable condition and requires immediate attention. The bow can be returned to its original position through the use of KYOUSEIKI (shaping blocks). Likewise, any bow that curves excessively to the left (the string sits right of center) is called IRIKI and will also require reshaping.

Along with this, the KYUHA (distance from the bow grip to the string) must be maintained to a distance of around 15 cm (this depends on the bow). The KYUHA must be maintained at all times to avoid damage to the bow. If the URAZORI (recurve) becomes greater, but the YUMI is not yet misaligned, the KYUHA may be increased a little (to about 16cm or so) to correct the condition.

*\* Please note that ASA TSURU (natural hemp strings) should be used on a TAKE YUMI (especially a NIBE YUMI). Synthetic strings may cause weakness or damage to a TAKE YUMI. However, ASA TSURU are more delicate than synthetic strings and, therefore, need care and attention to avoid breakage. Your shooting technique may also affect the longevity of a natural string. If this is the case then use a high quality synthetic string that has hemp at the upper and lower ends. It is important to always string your bow before changing into your Kyudo uniform. This gives the string time to settle in and adjust to the bow. Stringing the bow twenty minutes prior to shooting is a good rule of thumb.*

The NAKAJIKAKE (arrow nocking point) should be built up to hold the arrow in place using natural material (hemp or cotton thread).

**Never** draw and release the bow without an arrow as this can cause serious damage to the bow. Likewise, if the arrow nock slips off the string while in full draw do not attempt to shoot the arrow as this can damage the bow.

As a general rule the TAKE YUMI should be kept un-strung when not in use. However, a new bow may need to have the string attached until it settles in shape. Also, if the URAZORI (recurve) becomes too great then the bow should be kept strung. To check the height of the URAZORI, place the ends of the unstrung bow on the floor. If the distance between the grip and floor is greater than 20 cm then the URAZORI is too high. An experienced instructor can advise you on this.

If the TSURU slips and the YUMI happens to twist backwards with the string attached after “Hanare,” or releasing, **Never** attempt to re-set the string to the correct position. **Immediately cut the TSURU carefully from the YUMI.** Attempting to un-twist the string may cause the YUMI to break at the SEKIITA (the weakest part of the YUMI). Please do not continue to use the YUMI without making it checked by the pro shop such as Asahi Archery. This turning over implies that the YUMI has some problems and needs to be checked thoroughly for further normal use.



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## Common causes of damage and breakage of a TAKE YUMI

- Storing or using the TAKE YUMI in excessive climatic conditions (extreme heat, cold, moisture and dryness)
- Using the YUMI excessively without periods of rest
- Leaving the bow strung or unstrung for long periods which may cause the bow to lose its proper shape
- Improper technique that causes the YUMI to twist counter-clockwise (HINERI) at HIKIWAKE (draw), KAI (full draw) or HANARE (release) due to an improper TENOUCHI (gripping the bow) or excessive strength or torque in the YUNDE (left hand)
- Releasing the YUMI without an arrow
- Scratching or chipping the bamboo surface
- Over-drawing the YUMI due to improper bow length
- KUBIORE (breaks at SEKIITA) because the string twists upon release due to:
  - a) an improperly tied or sized TSURUWA (string loop)
  - b) the URAZORI (recurve) is too high (over 20 cm)
  - c) the KYUHA (width between grip and string) is too narrow (under 15 cm)
  - d) twisting bow is too strong
  - e) the YUMI is misshapen