

Reporting for this advertisement page by students of Kyoto University of Foreign Studies



Handcrafts with a Twist

1 kabekazari

This simple yet striking ornament will liven up the wall of your room.

2 kumihimo ring

These rings are made of the kumihimo braid as the decorations of the Gion Festival.

3 hair band

These lovely colorful bands are crafted from silk.

4 kumihimo charm

Glossy charms made of silk add some panache to your everyday items.

5 bracelet

These pretty bracelets are worn wrapped twice around the wrist.

6kanzashi

These gorgeous hair ornaments are shaped like flowers.

7 sanadachimo strap

The versatile straps are made in the sanadachimo style.

8 shakadama keyholder

This keyring features a ball knot called a shakadama.

9 shakadama strap

These charming straps attach to your mobile phone.

1-2 Showen Kumihimo Main Store in Uji

This store is located in Uji, and sells an authentic kumihimo brand. The green city of Uji is a half-hour train ride from Kyoto city and makes a wonderful day trip. This shop has both workshop and a store. In addition, visitors can have the experience of weaving kumihimo. The store sells decorative kimono decorations such as obijime, kanzashi hair ornaments, straps and accessories. These items are also made on the premises. Bright and seasonal colors and always popular. There is also an outlet near Kodai-ji Temple in Kyoto.

Access A 12-minute walk from Uji station on the JR Nara line.

Phone 0774-66-3535

Open 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily (Closed on some public holidays)



6-9 Ito Kumihimo Store

Ito Kumihimo is an established shop specializing in this craft on Teromachi Dori, which is a buzzing street in central Kyoto. Various kinds of kumihimo are sold at the store. You can buy a made kumihimo items such as key rings made to order with your favorite colors and designs. The shop also sells Japanese style ornaments, sanadachimo braids and, a variety of kumihimo straps.

Access A six-minute walk from Kyoto Shiyokusho-mae Station, on the Kyoto City Subway's Tozai Line

Or an eight-minute walk from Sanjo Station on the Keihan Main Line.

Open 10:30 am - 6:00 pm **Closed** Irregularly and for New Year's holidays



A traditional Kyoto craft in the palm of your hand



Kumihimo is a kind of braid which is made from silk or other various threads. These beautiful braids are one of Kyoto's traditional crafts. The craft came to Japan from China along with Buddhism in the eighth century. There are some various methods for combining thread. The basic one is a twisted weave known as *kumi*, which is the repeated twisting of threads diagonally around each other. This technique can create more than 3000 different patterns by combining styles and colors. The second method, *ami*, is used to make weaves by forming loops with thread. The last is *ori*, as seen the fabric used in clothing, which is made by weaving threads across each other alternately at a right angle.

Products made from kumihimo have evolved with the times. Originally, it was only used in practical things such as tea utensils or the obi belts on kimono. In the twentieth century, the demand for kimono decreased with the Westernization of Japanese culture. For a time, the kumihimo industry faced difficult times, but nowadays, products using these beautiful threads, such as accessories, ornaments or charms, are popular among young people. The products have become especially known by people around the world thanks to the famous anime film *Your Name* (*Kimi no Na wa*). In the film, kumihimo appears as a key item. In addition, it has been used as shoelace material by famous sportswear manufacturer. These days, these beautiful products are attracting more attention, regardless of nation or generation.

Thanks to Adachi Kumihimo-kan for their co-operation with this article. Workshop lessons available - please see the homepage (in Japanese) for details.



Hand-made kumihimo will brighten your day!

While in Kyoto, why not experience kumihimo braiding under the guidance of a teacher? In these simple classes, participants weave a bundle of two colors of eight of thread using a *kakudai*, a corner stand which makes it easy for beginners to braid. The work may seem difficult at first glance, but it is actually quite simple, so anybody can do it. As you weave in rhythm, the wooden balls of the *kakudai* knock together with a pleasing sound. Without realizing it, you will become absorbed in the work. You can take your handmade items home with you, so they are perfect for souvenirs. Have fun making kumihimo!

[Number of participants] One to two people per lesson (Children under eleven are not permitted)
 [Reservations] Reserve at least one week in advance. [Cost] 2,500 yen per person (including tax)
 [Lesson time] Lessons are available three times a day; 11:00 am, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm
 [Length of lesson] Approximately one hour
 [How to apply] Please fill out an application form at showenkumihimo.com/contact-us.



Kyoto University of Foreign Studies www.kufs.ac.jp/en

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