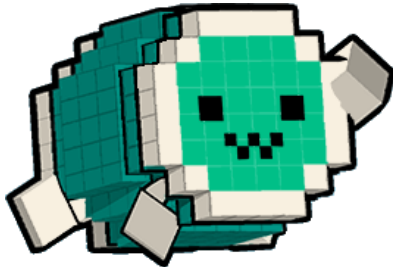


The Maibachi Textbook



randomewok

This is a small guide on Maibachi which discusses what to look for when buying sticks as well as some nuance and details regarding them.

This is and will always be a WIP, growing with time. Feel free to contact me on *Discord* if you have any feedback or things which need to be amended!

Contents

General Properties of Sticks	2
Tuning Bachi	4
Brands	6
International Proxy Shipping	14
Common / Useful Search Terms	14

Personal Note

To preface this whole guide, it's important to remember that a good pair of bachi won't necessarily make or break your performance. The player themselves is ultimately the driving force and a good pair can only help you improve yourself. So no matter what you're able to get, you will be able to improve and become a better player. Debatably only once you reach roughly Choujin 超人, will bachi become a hindrance.

If you are interested in bachi themselves, I would highly recommend experimenting and making your own bachi, it can be a fun experience and only then, do I think that you'll be able to find your own "endgame" pair.

I'd also like to thank the members of the Australian and American Taiko communities who have helped me put together and clean up this guide 🙏. It would not have been without the effort of the community that this could have been put together.

General Properties of Sticks

This section covers the general properties of sticks and the main features which will discern any two pairs. Alongside this information there is a good guide for preferencing and figuring out what may be best for your use here: minamitori.jp/features.

Material

Material is the most significant quality of a pair of bachi since most other things can be tuned down later. For beginners, most any wood can be used however generally Japanese Cypress or American Cypress is recommended because of its light weight quality.

Name	Qualities	Notes
Common Materials		
Aomori Hiba ヒバ (Japanese Cypress)	- Softwood - Lightweight - High Rebound	- Prone to breaking after long use - Comfortable and good for rolling - <u>Type of Japanese Cypress</u>
American Cypress 米ヒバ	- Softwood - Lightweight - High Rebound	- Pretty much the same as Aomori Hiba
Magnolia 朴 (ホオノキ)	- Hardwood - Often on the heavier side	- Very durable - Good for stability
Uncommon Materials		
Hinoki ヒノキ	- Softwood - Lightweight	- Should be the same as Aomori Hiba - <u>Another Type of Japanese Cypress</u>
Maple	- Hardwood - Lower Rebound	- Found in Official Blue Maibachi - More durable
Beech	- Hardwood - Somewhat light - High Rebound	- Prone to breaking after long use - Found in Official Red and Yellow Maibachi
Oak	- Hardwood - Heavier	- Very Durable
Walnut	- Hardwood	???
Cherry	- Hardwood	???
Resin	- Extremely Brittle	- Only really good for the aesthetics

Weight

Weights mostly follow the *bachi material* and its *density*. Often any two pairs of bachi will not be the same weight and will have some amount of difference. Bachi producers typically aim to build pairs of sticks which already have similar weights so there *isn't too much to worry about*, this includes $\pm$ *weight differences*.

For beginners, the particularity of weight should not be a large concern as learning or training with heavier sticks can help improve forearm strength and endurance. If it is a concern, look for Aomori Hiba and Cypress sticks.

Weight can also be tuned with grip tape to aid in the position of the center of gravity of a stick.

Length

Length primarily contributes to the handling of a pair of bachi. For the most part, it comes down to feeling and preference, however it is important to note that most bachi are made to be within the **39 cm** range.

Length	Qualites
35cm	- Better for slower / standard speed songs - Good for single tapping - Less rebound - Seen in Official Red Maibachi
37cm	- Better for slower / standard speed songs - Provide more support on hits - Can be better for beginners, given the increased control
39cm	- Better for faster, high note density songs - High rebound - Recommended for rolling / double stroke - Can have too much rebound if sticks are too light and not used to feeling

Tuning Bachi

Grip Tape Purchasing Mini-Guide

Grip tape is typically used to tune bachi by providing either cushioning for comfort or by helping balance out weight. Typically, “**Badminton Overgrip**” is used as it provides an easy to control and manipulate material. Generally speaking, any kind of overgrip tape will work to wrap bachi but how you use the tape matters significantly more than the tape itself. Having said that, there are qualities which definitely benefit tape.

It is important to differentiate between **overgrip** and **replacement grip** as replacement grip is significantly thicker however, typically lasts longer. It is not often used due to its thickness and typically increases tackiness however is not impossible to use.

With tape, the **texture** is the key feature for long term usage. In applications such as racquet sports, having a tacky grip is incredibly important as it generally aids the power grip. Therefore looking for slightly smoother grips can reduce friction between your hands and the tape. The 3 more popular types of grip tape which can be seen are “**Wet**”, “**Dry**” and “**Perforated**” tapes.

Ultimately with grip tape, the most important thing is that you find the tape which feels best for you and the tape you like the look of. There are many varieties of tape in different colours and designs so finding the tape which best suits your eyes is key because, ultimately you will see your bachi the most, so best to find something you like.

Not much actively maintained documentation is done on the difference between grips. However from personal experience, I prefer a wet grip tape due to the smoother feel against perforated. I am yet to properly try a dry grip due to availability.

Suggested Brands:

- [Yonex](#)
- [Victor](#)

Wet	Dry	Perforated
		

Grip Tape Usage

Applying grip tape is fundamentally the same as any other application. The primary techniques and motions to actually apply it are well documented on YouTube ([Personal video suggestion](#)). Most typical applications include two layers of badminton overgrip for increased cushioning and a thicker grip.

For beginners wrapping over existing wrap especially with cheaper unbranded pairs is a good way to start wrapping as it lets you get a bit more comfort out without the risk of no longer having warp on your sticks.

It is important to remember when wrapping, to have a strong and taut wrap around, while not also stretching out the tape too much. With time, the feeling and proficiency to wrap will come. Wrapping by personal feel is again the most important thing, as you will generally find positions where comfort is achieved.

There are a few gripping styles which have been seen which provide either performance or aesthetics. Below are some of these including their qualities.

Name & Example	Qualities
All Purpose	- General Use - Better for accuracy - Can vary between 1 to 2 layers of overgrip - Most common
	
Rolling	- Better for rolling / double stroke - Brings the center of gravity closer to the center of the sticks - Mostly 2 layers of overgrip
	
Super Long	- Grip may eat some amount of rebound depending on material - <i>May distribute weight more evenly across entire stick</i>
	
Super Long Rolling	- Grip may eat some amount of rebound - Thickness of lower wrap may lead to a more bottom heavy weight distribution
	
Multi coloured Inline	- Aesthetic focused - Performance should be unaffected - Used to great effect by @Key2o2
	

Brands

This section covers the more popular brands of bachi which have been seen within different communities. This is not an exhaustive list but are some of the standout brands which you may find yourself while looking. For some guidance on international shipping, please see [here](#).

In any community, there will always also be local makers and smaller producers who want to share their own pieces with others. If you are beginning, this may be a good opportunity to get a pair for a reasonable price and to support a local business.

Brandless Maibachi

- Typically an inconsistent build with a heavy, low quality timber
- *Will make-do for beginners* as fundamentally they are a weight improvement over house bachi
- Notes
 - Can be found on almost every marketplace
 - Often a dropship / resell from a much cheaper marketplace such as AliExpress
 - Reasonable to purchase if you are only exploring Taiko and seeing if you enjoy it

Examples	



Official Maibachi

- “Maybe” purchasable from your local arcade
- Consistent build quality
- Are the only allowed bachi for the [Taiko World Championship](#)
 - Additional grip tape can be applied
- Notes:
 - Yellow maibachi are prone to breaking more frequently than other sticks
 - Blue and Yellow maibachi are considerably thinner than other sticks
- Links:
 - [Taiko no Tatsujin Dondor WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2024](#)
 - [Taiko no Tatsujin Official My Bachi | Bandai Namco Amusement](#)



極 Kiwami Maibachi Workshop

- Reliably made high quality sticks
- Notes
 - I think the official likes are meant to be for younger children given that it wouldn't be usable in official WCS events
 - Premium has just a nicer feel but the price tag should be kept in mind
- Links:
 - [マイバチ工房 - 極 Website](#)
 - [Amazon JP](#)
 - [Twitter / X](#)

Bachi Style / Material	All-Purpose	Rolling	Premium All-Purpose	Premium Rolling	“Official” like
Hiba	Category Link	Category Link	Category Link		
Magnolia	Category Link	Category Link			
????					Category Link

All-Purpose	Rolling	Premium	“Official” like
			

Minamitori Workshop

- Large variety and customizability of sticks
- Each filter category can have any combination of stick properties so you need to find the one you want to purchase
- Links:
 - [【公式】Minamitori/バチ工房 Website](#)
 - [Amazon JP](#)
 - [YouTube](#)
 - [Twitter / X](#)

Filter / Links	Grip Style	Length	Weight	Material
	“N Grip” (Solid Colors)	39 Cm	Lighter (110g - 129g)	American Cypress
	Camouflage Grip	37 Cm	Standard (130g - 145g)	Magnolia
	“Minamitori” Style Grip		Denser (146g - 160g)	

“N Grip”	“Camouflage”	“Minamitori”
		

Yazaserori Workshop

- Simple and clean sticks
- Not currently listed on Amazon JP so shipping may be harder
- Links:
 - [やざせろりバチ工房 Website](#)
 - [YouTube](#)
 - [Twitter / X](#)

Bachi Style / Material	All-Purpose	Rolling
Hiba	Category Link	Category Link
Magnolia	Category Link	Category Link

	All-Purpose	Rolling
Hiba		
Magnolia		

逆鱗 Gekirin

- Produces alternate styles of sticks either non-standard lengths, materials or grips
- Relatively well priced
- May have inconsistent product quality based on Amazon JP Reviews
- Links:
 - [Amazon JP](#)
 - [Yahoo Japan](#)
 - [Twitter / X](#)

Model Style	Link
<i>Black Walnut</i>	Product Example
<i>Resin Material</i>	Product Example
<i>Extended Grip</i>	Product Example
<i>Aodamo Japanese Ash</i>	Product Example

Black Walnut	Resin Material	Extended Grip	Aodamo Japanese Ash
			

心 Kokoro Maibachi Workshop

- Provides a wide range of standard bachi shapes and woods at a high quality
- Links:
 - [Amazon JP](#)
 - [Mercari](#)
 - [Twitter / X](#)

Bachi Style / Wood Type	American Cypress	Magnolia
All-Purpose	Product Example	Product Example
Rolling	Product Example	Product Example

All-Purpose		Rolling	
American Cypress	Magnolia	American Cypress	Magnolia
			

Zhong Taiko

- Duplicate of Official Red Maibachi
- Super super cheap
- Thin gripping so additional grip wrapping is recommended for comfort
- Notes:
 - Comes from the same producer as the ZhongTaiko home drum
- Links:
 - [ZhongTaiko Website](#)
 - ["THE ONE" Maibachi](#)



International Proxy Shipping

For purchasers in regions where brands / marketplaces cannot ship directly too, a proxy service or direct contact to a shipping company may need to be made. Different services have different monetising methods and is beyond scope of discussion of this document. Below are some existing guides which may get your research started.

With larger marketplaces like Amazon, their global shipping services are quite good and is my personal suggestion for grabbing high quality bachi in a very convenient way. I recommend buying sticks with friends to distribute the cost of shipping.

Links:

- [Japan proxy service MEGA guide/comparison project : r/AnimeFigures](#)
- [Garage Kit Proxy and Forwarding Guide](#)

Common / Useful Search Terms

Typically on marketplaces such as Taobao, Mercari or Rakuten there is a large variety of smaller bachi makers who are looking to sell their own creations. Below are some common search terms in these respective languages which may help you find sticks you are looking for.

		Translation	
Term	Alternate Names	Mandarin	Japanese
Taiko No Tatsujin		太鼓達人	太鼓の達人
Maibachi		太鼓 鼓棒	マイバチ
Maibachi Workshop			マイバチ工房
American Cypress	Rice Hiba	米	米ヒバ
Aomori Hiba	Japanese Cypress	ヒバ	
Magnolia	Ho / Honoki	朴	朴 / ホオノキ

If there are errors or you want to contribute an additional language feel free to contact me.