

[Process of Kogin-zashi]
 1. Weaving > 2. Designing > 3. Choosing thread > 4. Fabric cutting > 5. Stitching > 6. Ironing > 7. Processing > 8. Finishing



How to make a Tsugaru Kogin-zashi
 You can see from the weaving of hemp, fabric cutting, stitching, until finishing and also having an order-made by visiting Hiroasaki Kogin Laboratory (established in 1962).

Mishima Kogin
 Started in areas centered on old Kanagi town (current Goshogawara city) and old Sharki village and old Kizukuni village (both are now Tsugaru city). Characteristic of Mishima Kogin is 3 thick layers of stripes stitched from the shoulder to the back. Due to cold weather damages and bad crops, stitchers were few in this area, so there are very few existing and they are very valuable.



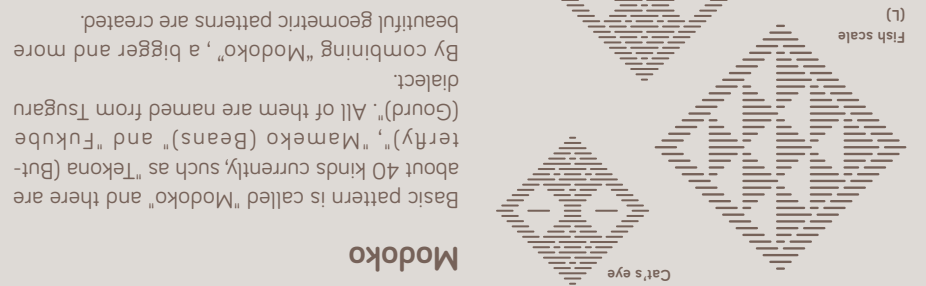
(Photos provided by Hiroasaki Kogin Laboratory)

East Kogin
 Started in areas such as Kuroishi city, Hirakawa city, and Hiroasaki city. Ishikawa area which are located in the east of Hiroasaki city. Most are made by stitching into clothes which is woven with thick rough linen thread. Same big bold pattern is applied from the front to the back part of the clothes.



3 types of Kogin-zashi

West Kogin
 Started in areas such as Nishimeya village and Hiroasaki city Iwaki area, Souma area which are located in the west of Hiroasaki city. Since it was stabbed with a fabric woven with thin thread, it has very dense pattern. In order to carry heavy luggage such as carrying sacks of charcoal from mountain, the shoulder straps is reinforced with stripes of navy and white thread. This is one of the characteristic of West Kogin.



Modoko

Basic pattern is called "Modoko" and there are about 40 kinds currently, such as "Tekona (But-terfly)", "Mameko (Beans)" and "Fukube (Gourd)". All of them are named from Tsugaru dialect. By combining "Modoko", a bigger and more beautiful geometric patterns are created.

Kogin-zashi became widely known. I'm impressed that you left such things to this world", in book "Kogei" Vol.14. Thanks to this, highly evaluated the beauty of Kogin-zashi saying "Dear the anonymous women of Tsugaru, Showa period (1926-1989), Yanagi Muneoyoshi who advocated Japanese folk art movement As distribution of cotton cloth started, Tsugaru Kogin-zashi declined. However, during the early pete with each other to stitch beautiful patterns. choose their wear freely. As part of enjoyment in their daily life, women from farm village com- From late Edo period (1603-1868) to the early Meiji period (1868-1912), people are allowed to clothes made from linen, people began to sew cotton thread to the clothes for reinforcement. During the Edo period (1603-1868), since the Tsugaru farmers were only allowed to wear

Tsugaru women added heat retention and reinforced linen clothes with cotton thread, making beautiful pattern in the process.

◆ Locations

- green ☎ 0172-32-8199 22 Daikancho, Hirosaki
- Sato Yoko Kogin Museum ☎ 0172-82-3367 199-1 Higashikawa, Mazuchi, Hirosaki
- Starbucks Coffee Hirosaki Koen-mae ☎ 0172-39-4051 1-1 Kamisiroganecho, Hirosaki
- Taisho Roman Café ☎ 0172-37-5690 8-1 Kamisiroganecho, Hirosaki
- Tsugaru Koubousha ☎ 080-1675-3753 Inside the Western House of Fujita Memorial Garden 52 Mototeramachi, Hirosaki
- Dotebako ☎ 0172-34-7121 112-1 Dotemachi, Hirosaki
- Hirosaki Kogin Laboratory ☎ 0172-32-0595 61 Zaifucho, Hirosaki
- Hobby shop TSUKIYA ☎ 0172-32-2727 122-8 Dotemachi, Hirosaki

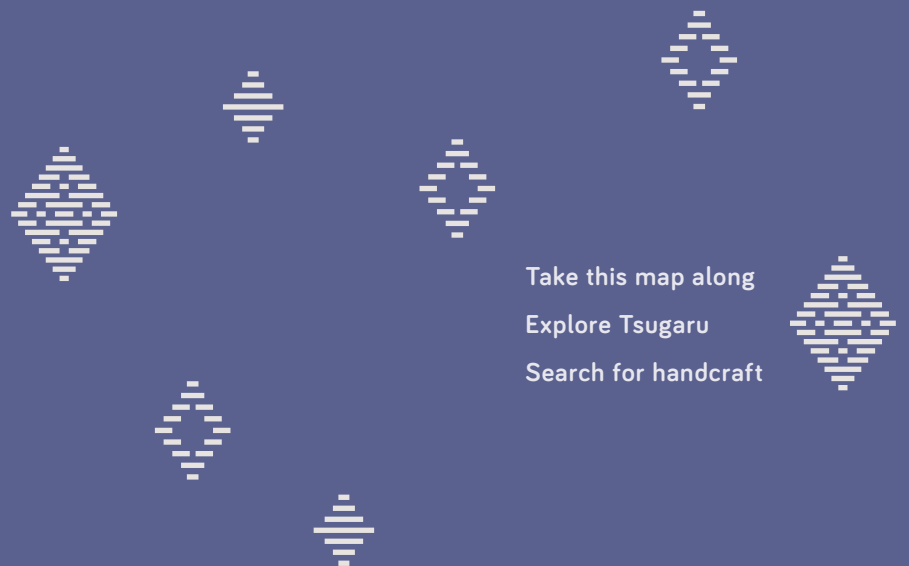


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Tsugaru handcraft

Kogin-zashi

Take this map along
 Explore Tsugaru
 Search for handcraft





Thinking about their family, women working hard with their stitching.

From the Edo period (1603-1868), Tsugaru women concentrate stitching white cotton thread into indigo linen working clothes so that their family can get warm to go through stormy cold winter.

Single horizontal line of the stitching eventually become a beautiful diamond shape pattern, and people started calling it Kogin-zashi.

Shapes which are primarily knitted to add heat retention, reinforce, and decorate work clothes is known as "A modest beauty which born in restriction" and now can be seen in daily life of Tsugaru people.



Various handmade artworks by the craftsman. [Dotebako]

Dotebako

Town walking map for Tsugaru Kogin-zashi

You'll love it on each discovery!

Watch it, touch it, and stitch it.

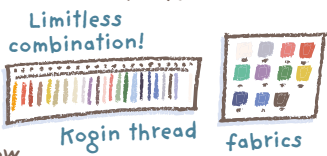
"To those who wants to feel the history of Kogin-zashi, we recommend you to go to Sato Yoko Kogin Museum, feel the "Old work" from Meiji period (1868-1912) and buy Kogin-zashi kit there." You will have hard time choosing because there are many variation of accessory such as name card holder and pouch bag made from arrangement of modern color threads and fabric. When you get tired walking the town, visit Taisho Roman Cafe in Fujita Memorial Garden. While tasting different kinds of apple pie, you can also enjoy the beautiful view of Hirosaki, the City of Apple.



Modern and cute Kogin-zashi items. [green]

Hirosaki Kogin Laboratory

Accepts orders, production, and sales of Kogin-zashi items. Actually you can have an order made here too!



Limitless combination! Kogin thread fabrics



Exciting! wow maybe this pouch bag

When you see the stitching work closely, you will realize the product is an offer you cannot miss.



green

Good sense of modern color combination while cherishing the traditional pattern.

Original Kogin-zashi items of select shop "green"



Bought name card holder and stamp case! ♥

Sato Yoko Kogin Museum

Old work of noragi (farmer's working clothes) is snazzy!



Tsugaru women are so cool. Looks like a one piece dress of haute couture store.

You can find impressive Kogin work from precious old work to recent Ms. Sato work! You might find unfinished stitching work of Kogin somewhere over there. "Which should I stitch today?" It depends on Ms. Sato's mood that day.

Taisho Roman Cafe

Delight of the trip! 6 kinds of apple pie are available here, better try different taste.



We recommend "Nice Life" apple pie which is stuffed with apple and nice cinnamon seasoning

Starbucks Coffee Hirosaki Koen-mae



Kogin-zashi workshop is hold once a month. You can join by paying for the material cost and one cup of drink.

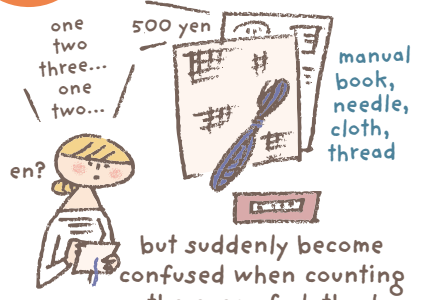
Leaning on the Kogin cushion, even the coffee tastes special.



Kogin-zashi sofa...also quite comfortable.

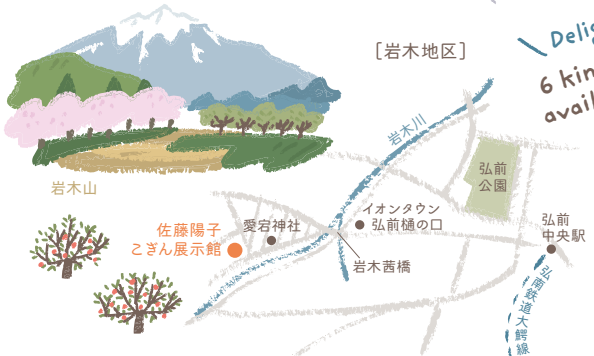
TSUKIYA

Got a starter kit. Coaster should be easy!



one two three... one two... en? but suddenly become confused when counting the eyes of cloth...!

Special kogin fabrics with natural vertically long pattern and strong threads are also available here.



[岩木地区]



Try the old works. [Sato Yoko Kogin Museum]



Delicious apple pies. [Taisho Roman Cafe]



Kogin-zashi matches perfectly with western style building. [Starbucks Coffee Hirosaki Koen-mae]



Different kinds of original fabric, needle and thread. [Hobby shop TSUKIYA]



Meet the artworks of artists from inside and outside of Aomori. [Tsugaru Koubousha]