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Japanese Decorative Panels

Matt Kenney

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In Japan, doors, windows, and room screens are often decorated with a delicate wooden framework called kumiko. The beauty of these frames is enhanced by using small pieces of wood to create geometric or floral patterns in the framework. This same technique can be used in furniture making to add a beautiful detail to a door panel, table top, or cabinet base. Kumiko panels also make eye-catching wall art.

At first glance, kumiko panels certainly give the impression that they'd be extremely difficult to make. However, they aren't. In this class, you'll learn how to make a square framework, and the classic asa-no-ha infill pattern. On the first day of class, I'll show you how to cut the half-lap joints that hold the framework together. Each student will then assemble a roughly 24 in. square frame. After that, you'll learn how to create the small pieces used to make the infill pattern, and then get to work making them for your panel. On the second day of class, you'll have time to complete the panel, and I'll show you how to make strong frame, and how I make fabric backings for my panels.

All materials will be provided by me.

Tools to bring

- 3/4 or 1 in. wide bench chisel
- Small, fine tooth dazuki saw
- Sharpening stones

NOTE: THERE IS A \$45.00 MATERIAL FEE PAYABLE TO MATT WHEN YOU ARE HERE FOR CLASS. PLEASE BRING CASH OR A CHECK TO MATT DIRECTLY.