

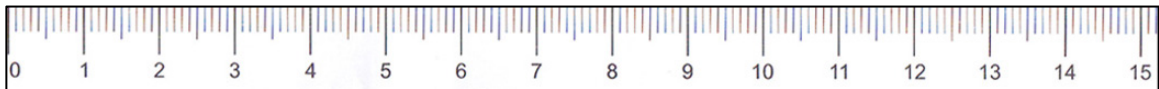
## How to Measure a Shakuhachi for an Utaguchi Cover

Utaguchi covers are designed to protect the delicate mouthpiece of a shakuhachi. Since bamboo used to make shakuhachi vary in size, the utaguchi cover must be custom made to fit to each individual instrument.

Caps come in over 30 different sizes depending upon the circumference of the bamboo. Shakuhachi ranging in size from 1.3' to 3.0' vary in circumference from about 90 mm. to 130 mm. depending upon the length of the flute. Classical 1.8' instruments generally range between 105 mm. and 115 mm.

If a shakuhachi is not on hand when an utaguchi cover is made, it is important to provide an exact measurement—accurate to +/- one millimeter—for the cap to be sized properly.

Here's how to do it:



This is a metric tape measure. Each number represents 1 centimeter or 10 millimeters. Each line is one millimeter.

1. Check with a steel metric ruler to be certain that your computer print out is totally accurate. This calibration is critical. Do not use a cloth tape.
2. If the print out does not precisely match your steel ruler, an alternative method can be found at <http://www.shakuhachi.com/U-MeasureCap.html>
3. If it does match, cut the print out tape measure around its border.
4. Wrap the tape measure around the outer surface of the bamboo about 1 inch (25 mm.) down from the top of your shakuhachi.
4. Be sure that the zero end of the ruler overlaps on top of the tape measure.
5. Wrap one turn only. Cut off excess if necessary.
6. Using a sharp pencil, mark where zero end intersects the tape measure.
7. This dimension is the outside circumference of your shakuhachi. Having this number is essential to determine the appropriate utaguchi cap size for your flute.
8. Send this information to me with your order or via e-mail.