

II Learn about the world of shogi

Making pieces

There are various types of artisans involved in the making of shogi pieces, such as the woodworker who makes the wooden base, the calligrapher who paints the characters on it, the carver who carves the characters, and the lacquerer who paints lacquer over the carved characters. All shogi pieces are manufactured by hand under a system of division of labor.

The types of pieces can be broadly divided into (1) stamped pieces; (2) painted pieces; (3) carved pieces; (4) lacquered pieces; and (5) raised pieces. In the past, the wooden base was made entirely by hand using a single hatchet in a time-consuming process, but today, most of the pieces are cut by machine.