

The production of Utsumi Shears aims at fusing traditional skills and the latest technology.

The Utsumi manufacturing facility, located in Osaka, Japan, has a history of producing the highest-quality shears for more than 60 years. Throughout our history, the company has consulted with the best hair stylists in the world in order to obtain their ideas for improvements to our product line.

Utsumi research and development efforts have emphasized combining new technological innovations and state-of-the-art materials with time-tested, traditional methods used in hand-forging Japanese swords, to produce the finest shears available.

Utsumi was the first shear manufacturer to use Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) technology to produce the highest standard of quality shears. At Utsumi, we continue to utilize both modern technology and traditional methods to create shears "with a heart and spirit" that meet the most exacting quality standards and are guaranteed to please all professional hair stylists.

Development

いつもシザーを科学する...



Traditional

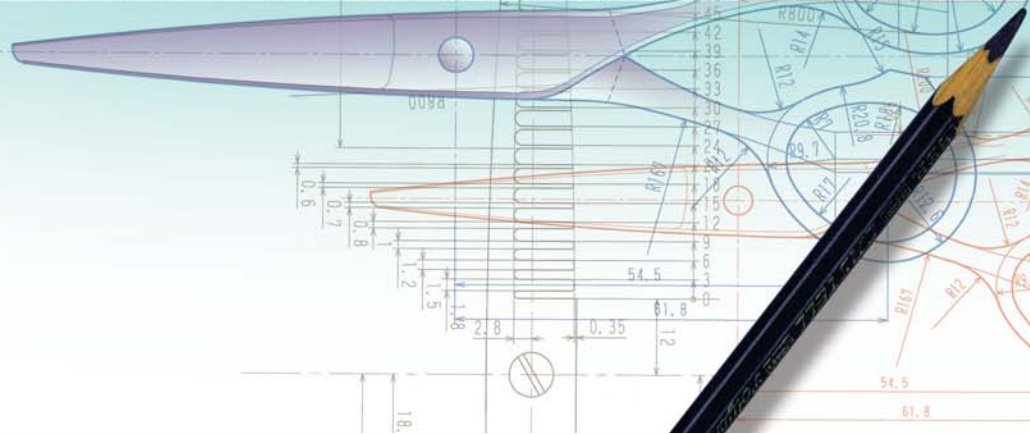
伝統技の極めたるちからを今に...



UTSUMI

Creation

未来基準を創造し、とさめさと夢をカタチに...



UTSUMI History

In 1987, Utsumi Inc., was founded by Chimaki Utsumi to achieve his vision of becoming the creator of the highest quality shears designed specifically for professional barbers and hair stylists. Prior to the establishment of his own company, Chimaki Utsumi had attained industry-wide acclaim as the person behind the world-renowned "TENYO" barber shears. He was designated as "Mr. Tenyo" and earned great respect in the barber and hair salon industry for both the quality and innovation of his shears.

After founding Utsumi Inc., Mr. Utsumi dedicated his efforts to create high quality shears for all professional appreciations. He was the first in the world to successfully produce professional shears by using a Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) technology. This innovation led to the creation of the next generation of high tech shears under such original brands as U&U®, and NOVA®. He also adapted new technology to bring the same quality improvements to thinning shears. In 1994, he developed a new double-bladed thinning shear by collaborating with leading top hair stylists. This invention gained phenomenal popularity and is still in use today.

Along with the double bladed thinning shears, he developed other original thinning shears. He created and introduced a series of video tapes, "Let's use thinning shears" which made the thinning shears a booming success in Japan. Using the latest technologies available, he also understood the importance and difficulty of maintaining the traditional techniques that had been practised by a few craftsmen. This led him to make the decision to acquire the Tenyo factory which was founded in 1946. The acquisition allowed him to apply his technological and design advancements to well-respected brands of hand-made shears including Jyo-Utopia® and Nova® and introduce his products worldwide through the Utsumi's product line. He has participated with exhibitions at the "Hair World" trade shows in Japan, England, and the United States since 1990. Utsumi has also exhibited its products at many other conventions and trade shows all over the world.

In 1998 Utsumi, Inc. purchased B.W. Boyd Shears Inc., a California corporation, which had been distributing Japanese shears since 1976. This acquisition has allowed Utsumi to better expand and improve the marketing of the company's products in North America and beyond. The new

company, Utsumi America, Inc, which uses the tradename of B. W. Boyd Shears is headed by CEO, Kazumi "Christy" Hagino. The U.S. company participates in conventions and trade shows nationwide and develops and markets original shears for the U.S. market. Utsumi America conducts seminars designed to introduce the company's extensive product line and proper shear maintenance procedures. The company also provides sharpening services by technicians trained at the Utsumi factory in Japan.

Top hair stylists from Japan and many other nations visit the Utsumi factory in Osaka in order to gain an understanding of how shears are manufactured as well as see and feel the company's attention to quality and detail. Utsumi also gains an advantage from these visits by obtaining instant feedback for better product design and quality.

In 2000 Utsumi began manufacturing and marketing an original nail clipper after requests from manicurists who supplied their technical requirements to address quality needs. In 2004 Utsumi completed construction of the company's new headquarters office building in Settsu City, Osaka, Japan.



President
Chimaki Utsumi



HANDMADE

The Manufacturing Process of Utsumi hand-made shears, Jyo-Utopia, and NOVA brand shears

Material used in the manufacture hand-made shears consists of an alloy of iron, chrome, carbon, cobalt and other materials. The style of the shears itself is simple, but achieving this simplicity requires a fine and high degree of skill from skilled craftsmen with many years of experience.

The Utsumi manufacturing process starts by welding together a stamped handle with the blade. This process determines the center of gravity of the implement and can only be accomplished by skilled veterans. The next step is rough shaping. The quality of the shears will be determined in this important process which involves grinding and smoothing of the weld and shaping the shears according to the product specification for width, length, surface and blade shape, hollow ground, and drilling the hole for the pivot.

The hollow ground part is the heart of the shears. It is the base of the "twist" when the shears are in the final finishing process. The "twist" enables the even distribution of the feedback force even when you cut from the base to the tip of the shears. This process cannot be performed by a computer and requires skilled, and experienced human touch.

Utsumi craftsmen have between 10 to 20 years of experience before they are qualified to handle this crucial step in the manufacturing process.

The final process removes any distortions and fine tunes the shears to approach the finished product. The hollow ground side of the shears are polished using a cloth buffing machine and sharpened by a disc stone. The hand sharpening involves several steps from coarse to fine which are applied to both blades. Finally, with the pivot screw installed, dynamic performance is adjusted and verified using a special instrument for fine tuning the completed product. A skilled professional will notice the quality of the hand-made shears the moment they hold them in their hand.



These "Giant Shears" are on display at the factory, they actually have sharp edges.



Major steps to the completion for hand made shears.

There are approximately 60 steps for completing Utsumi's hand made shears. We show you here the major steps among them.

Manufacturing process



Welding



Stamped handle portion and "cobalt" blade portion are welded and then finger ring is adjusted.

Coarse Process



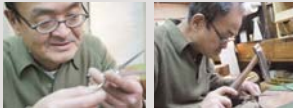
Removing welding bumps, shaping the shears according to the product specifications in width, length, surface, blade shape, and hollow ground using stones.

Edging



Adding edge for surface is done by circular stone, back side by coarse stone and fine stone.

Fine tuning



After pivot screw was placed, mating of stationary and moving blades are fine tuned by the special hammer.

Completion



Utsumi is the only manufacture that continues to use the method of "Smith Forging". This method, fusing "iron" and "steel" by the power of "fire" and forming shears with one hammer, from the point of the blade to the handle, to the finger rings, to the finger grip can be called a craftsmen's "skill". You can experience both the "skill" and the "heart" in Utsumi Shears.



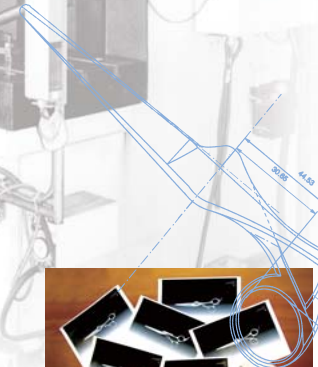
MACHINE MADE

The Manufacturing Process for Utsumi U&U and Nova handmade shears What is C N C Technology?

CNC is shorthand for computer-numerically controlled machinery which allows for very fine tolerances in grinding of shears. Utsumi utilizes CNC technology for grinding of both front and back hollow ground blades of its shears to achieve precision tolerances not otherwise attainable.

The grinding process, which utilizes water to provide constant cooling, is designed so that the heat-forged metal maintains its optimized characteristics. Upon close examination one will notice the consistent rainbow-colored finish which results from the precision machining using CNC technology. The resulting deep radian hollow permits the implement to be repeatedly sharpened to a very fine edge during the entire life of the implement. The process is computer-controlled to produce shears of consistently high and even quality.

Once the computer-controlled machining process is completed, the final finish is performed by hand by skilled craftsmen using time honored methods. Utsumi's skilled craftsmen sharpen, assemble, and fine tune our products to meet exacting standards designed to guarantee years of use.





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Company Profile

The capital 10,000,000 Yen
 Founded 1987
 Employee 20
 Main Bank The Kinki Osaka Bank, Ltd.
 Kansai Urban Bank, Ltd.



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Utsumi America, Inc.
 In 1998, B.W. Boyd Shears, Inc was purchased by Utsumi America Inc. and started actively marketing activities of Japanese shears in the United States. We also developed and marketed shears for the US market. We participated in major conventions and trade shows, visited various trade schools, and conducted seminars, introducing the Japanese shears and teaching how to do the maintenance of shears. We also provided sharpening services at the US office by the employees who were trained in Japan.

