

# Japanese Temari Ball

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Temari, literally meaning “ball made by hand”, is a traditional art that embodies cultural traits such as attention to details, beauty in simplicity and disciplined mastering of art. Temari Balls were originally made from old kimono swatches by mothers for children to play. In today’s world, the art is cherished as a decorative piece in a wide array of displays; as a Christmas Tree ornament, Hina Matsuri decorations, gifts for weddings and happy occasions. Due to its interesting themes and intricate patterns it never fails to stand out as a unique statement of style and art.

To give a brief explanation about how a temari ball is made:

Earlier for the base the artisans used old kimono swatches, husk wrapped in stockings and newspapers to make the round base. Now a days a styrofoam ball in various sizes is used as a base and it’s wrapped with yarn and stitching thread in all directions to get a perfect round shape. A plain paper strip with a pin is used to measure the ball. A pin attaches the strip to the ball. The strip swivels around in a 360-degree circle. That way we can find North Pole, South Pole and Equator (Obi).

The beautiful theme base designs that form on the balls are the rhythmic layers of threads in colors or shapes laid down in a pre-planned order using a variety of embroidery threads. Based on the intricacy of the pattern it takes from a few hours to weeks to finish each temari.

There is a Temari Museum in Setagaya (Traditional Japanese Temari on TemariKai.com Home) where they display and teach Temari in Japanese.

Amisha has learned the art of Temari from a renowned Japanese “sensei” for 9 years and received her master’s certificate from Japan Temari Association in May 2020. Despite achieving the highest level of certification, she has continued to learn and hopes to instill similar love in those new to this beautiful art through her teachings. She has participated in Temari exhibitions and commercial booths at various places in Tokyo including TAC Bazaar and exhibitions hosted by Temari Association and Indian Embassy. She has been living in Japan for the past 26 years and is fluent in Japanese. Her knowledge of language fueled her interest in Japanese culture and art. Website or social media account: IG: @temaribyamisha



# Temari in my experience

Kavitha Mohan

**Temari** balls are a folk-art form and Japanese Craft. originated in China and introduced to Japan around the 7th century A.D. *Temari* means "hand ball" in Japanese.

Historically, Temari were constructed from the remnants of old kimono. Pieces of silk fabric would be wadded up to form a ball, and then the wad would be wrapped with strips of fabric. As time passed, traditional Temari became an art, with the functional stitching becoming more decorative and detailed, until the balls displayed intricate embroidery.

**Temari are highly valued and cherished gifts, symbolizing deep friendship and loyalty.** Also, the brilliant colors and threads used are symbolic of wishing the recipient a brilliant and happy life.



Temari Poinsettia by Kavitha Mohan

This is made from Styrofoam ball which looks like Therma coal ball. Traditionally, *Temari* were often given to children from their parents on New Year's Day. Inside the tightly wrapped layers of each ball, the mother would have placed a small piece of paper with a goodwill wish for her child. The child would never be told what wish their mother had made while making the ball.

Alternately, some balls contained "Noisemakers" consisting of rice grains or bells to add to the play value. It is said that traditional Temari were wrapped so tightly they would bounce.



Kavitha mohan living in Japan for past 12 years. Learning Temari for the past 1 year.  
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