

## How to make paper ito



Although there are many styles of tsukamaki that use paper ito, the majority of them, regardless of the style or size, share a fundamental design in the ito.

First, choosing the correct paper "density," or weight, is crucial. To help me gain a better understanding of the spectrum of paper used in paper ito, I took several samples of paper ito taken from older tsuka like the two below to a local expert, Richard Backstrom.



Here is his "best guess" analysis of the weights and thicknesses of the samples in standardized measurements. I am certain that other weights fit in or out of this spectrum can be used.

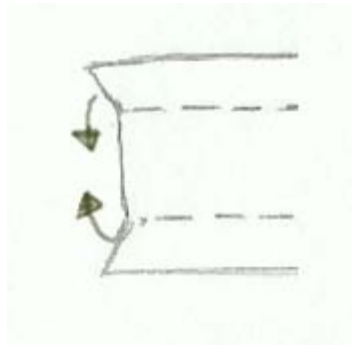
<b>Basis Weight (lb)</b>	<b>Caliper (inches)</b>	<b>Thickness (mm)</b>	<b>Grammage (g/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>
<b>16</b>	.0032	0.081	60.20
<b>18</b>	.0036	0.092	67.72
<b>24</b>	.0048	0.120	90.30

After the paper is selected, the actual process is relatively simple.

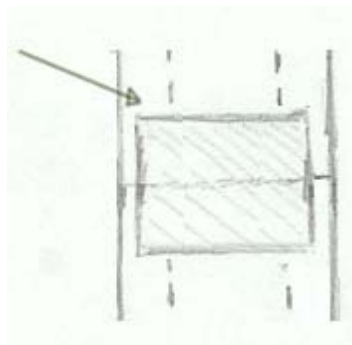
- **Step 1:** Measure and Cut strips that twice the width of your desired ito width.



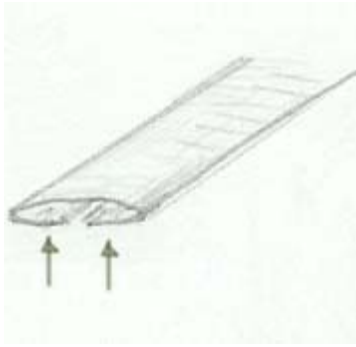
- **Step 2:** fold the edges of the strips in toward the center, measuring the folds a quarter of the way in from either edge.



- **Step 3:** Join the strips by cutting and pasting small patches where the ends of the strip meet, make a tight seam and have the patches slightly overlapping the folds.



- **Step 4:** After the patches have completely dried, refold and glue the edges to the center of the paper strip. Remember, the patches should not be visible on the completed ito, going on the inside of the fold.



Here is an example of a tsuka wrapped in paper ito before it is lacquered.

