

enriched with kaolin clay and medicinal carbon powder. The charcoal is a microporous active ingredient, which gently cleanses your pores, while the bentonite allows your skin to retain its natural moisture. Use either on your face or as an all-over body soap.

fig. 18, pg. 64

**COLOR INGRES BOOKS**

Paper, Metal & Cotton Twill Tape

These notebooks come in two sizes and are filled with a range of pastel colors. They're perfect as a photo album, scrapbook or just a plain old, beautiful gift. Hard cover with a fabric tie. Approximately 25 pages per book. We get a lot of questions about the name. In the 1980s, it was common for J-English (Japanese-English) to run amok. These days, sadly, it has all been corrected. Gone are the days when a tough guy, going to the corner 7-11, would be wearing his girlfriend's slippers and a t-shirt saying "I Rike Young Boy!" The cute thing about this very serious Japanese company is that they either don't know about the implications of their name, or they don't care. Either way, these are great notebooks with high quality paper.



fig. 19, pg. 64

**CROWBAR**

14.25"  
Steel

The crowbar - every country makes one with its own subtle signature and one purpose - prying. Whether casual prying or emergency prying, you want to make sure you have one of these handy for the day you need to do a bit of prying. This is a great gift for the person who has everything because they probably don't have one of these in their car - a place heavily loaded with prying potential.



fig. 20, pg. 64

**GINGER GRATER BRUSH & SMALL TONGS**

Brush: 5.5", Tong: 4.75"  
Bamboo

Have you ever grated ginger? If so, then you know it grates easily, but after all your hard labor (and possible skin abrasions), it's impossible to get the ginger off the grater. Now you know why - it's because you are missing the key element: a ginger grater brush. The little tongs are perfect for pickles, nattō beans or any type of small condiment.



fig. 21, pg. 64

**HAND PRINTED WOODCUT CARDS & ENVELOPES**

4" x 6"  
Paper

Mr. Honda started drawing and making woodcuts 30 years ago. Today he is 55 years old and continues to refine his art. He lives on the island of Oshima, close to Tokyo, and is very influenced by the nature that surrounds him. He loves the ocean and feels the island is a good place for his work. We think so too. His prints are done on handmade washi paper. Here, we present a selection from the 30 different camellia images he offers, and one orchid.



fig. 22, pg. 64

**HAND STENCILED CALENDAR**

11.5" x 15"  
Washi Paper

The artist and teacher Keskuke Serizawa first designed this hand stenciled calendar in 1945. It has been in production ever since. In 1956, he was named a "Living National Treasure of Japan." He developed his technique of stencil making in Okinawa, printing on handmade washi paper in small quantities. The design is known throughout the country. The calendar is very delicate and considered to be a work of fine art.



fig. 23, pg. 65

**HANDMADE COTTON INDOOR SLIPPERS (WARAJI)**

Cotton

These handmade slippers are woven from recycled scraps of fabric by a 90-year-old woman. Just think, when she was a young girl, Japan was an imperialist country at the end of the Meiji Era. It had only been open to trade and foreign influence (1853) for about fifty years. Surprisingly, there are quite a few Japanese centenarians (mostly women) from this era, giving Japan the highest life expectancy in the world. The slippers she makes are mostly for decoration or wearing around the house. They only come in size six and seven. Each slipper is one of a kind - the fabrics they are made from differ slightly.



fig. 24, pg. 65

**HANDMADE FLOWER HAIRPIN**

2.5" long x 1.75"ø  
Plastic & Metal

This hairpin was made by an artist living in Tokyo. We first discovered her work in a small store in Yanaka, an area of Tokyo with many small buildings, residences and little winding



little winding

streets. Yanaka was developed as a temple town in the Edo Period and still retains much of its historic value. Kanzashi are hair ornaments used in traditional Japanese hairstyles. They can be very elaborate - or simple - like this. They first appeared when women abandoned the traditional taregami hairstyle (where hair was kept straight and long) to adopt coiffured nihongami hairstyles. Kanzashi became popular during the Edo Period

(1600-1867) when artisans began to produce more finely crafted products. Today, brides and professionals, who wear kimono such as geisha, tayu and yujo or those adept in Japanese tea ceremony or ikebana most often wear kanzashi. But more and more so, there is a growing revival in Japan of traditional styles.

*fig. 25, pg. 65*