

Product: *Rolling Pin*

Medium: *Plywood and Reclaimed Pine*

Finish: *hand-waxed*

Rolling Pin: *W 50mm x L 300mm x H 50 mm.*

Course: *DR2009 Products in Asian Cultural Context (AY 2019-20, Semester 1)*

Project's title: *Rolling pin and its suspending components*

Designed & made by: *Tan Ying Hui (U1730916L)*

Photographed by: *Tan Ying Hui (2019)*

***The two image of source ideas:** *(from left to right)*

STEAMY KITCHEN RECIPES (n.d.). Xiao Long Bao – Shanghai Steamed Soup Dumplings;

PARAGON (n.d.). Din Tai Fung Xiao Long Bao

Project's description

Eastern Attributes *(maximum 60 words)*

18 lines is achieved in the segments, an auspicious number set by the folds of soup dumpling. The lines include the edge of the pin, representing the concept of unity in Dim Sum culture. While dimensions were intended to be multiples of 5 - following the 5 Element Theory in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Harmony *(material, form and ornamentation) max 60 words*

Despite the gradation, the ends - almost equal in width, uses two different materials; maintaining an illusion of balance. It is also obtained through the gradation countered by the direction of tapered, which applies to the orientation of the bead as well. The twisted cotton cord plays its part by continuing the lines – connecting the pin to the bead.

Versatility *(easy to grip, roll and suspend) max 60 words*

The pin may also be hung by the handle or stand vertically for storage. The handle is removable, so when rolling it may be removed and replaced after wash. As the process of making soup dumpling skin requires rolling pins of various thickness, the tapered edge fulfils that in a single product.

Originality or uniqueness *(max 60 words)*

The rolling pin is designed to the preparation of the skin of soup dumplings. It can be used to roll out dough and the larger end can flatten a dough ball to an estimated palm size. The material choice is also more affordable and sustainable as compared to the use of solid wood, fitting to the use of several segments.

E-Journal

References (Asian abstract inspiration or inspired forms) *max 1 page*

Williams, Claire. 2019. "History Of Dim Sum - Yauatcha Life". Yauatcha Life. Accessed October 24. <https://www.yauatcha.com/life/home/home-featured/history-of-dim-sum/>.

Republic, Food. 2014. "Taiwan's Most Famous Soup Dumplings Are Exceedingly Hard To Make - Food Republic". Food Republic. <https://www.foodrepublic.com/2014/10/23/taiwans-most-famous-soup-dumplings-are-exceedingly-hard-to-make/>.

"The Legend Behind Chinese Dumplings". 2012. Gbtimes.Com. <https://gbtimes.com/hello-china-60-dumplings>.

Weiss Adamson, Melitta, and Francine Segan. 2008. Entertaining From Ancient Rome To The Super Bowl: An Encyclopedia. Westport: Greenwood Publishing Group.

White, Aimee. 2019. "The History Of The Xiao Long Bao". Culture Trip.
<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/china/articles/a-brief-history-of-xiao-long-bao-shanghais-signature-dish/>.

Design trials (a sequence of stages in developing and embodying your ideas through a series of sketches, mock-ups and technical drawings) max 3 pages

Original shape

upright like a pizza

Hollow to be displayed on holder? Would it change shape when rolled?

Line tapers to original circumference

18 Folds

For dough

For palm

OBSTRUCTIVE?

For palm

For dough?

Balance \rightarrow 5 nature

Unity in "Sense of sharing & camaraderie"

dim sum "light touch to the heart"

18 folds of $\frac{1}{55}$

Balance/Symmetry

Chamber?

gentle curve line to the centre

Concave/Gentle

Unity + 5 nature (5 surfaces)

Aesthetic

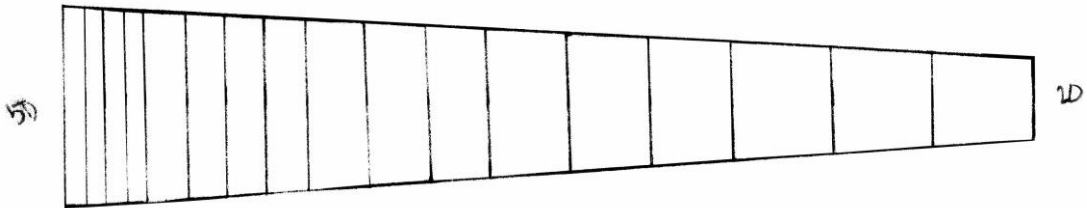
18 Folds / lines + Unity (gradation of undrawn lines)

Cone? Skew chisel

Familiar Trait

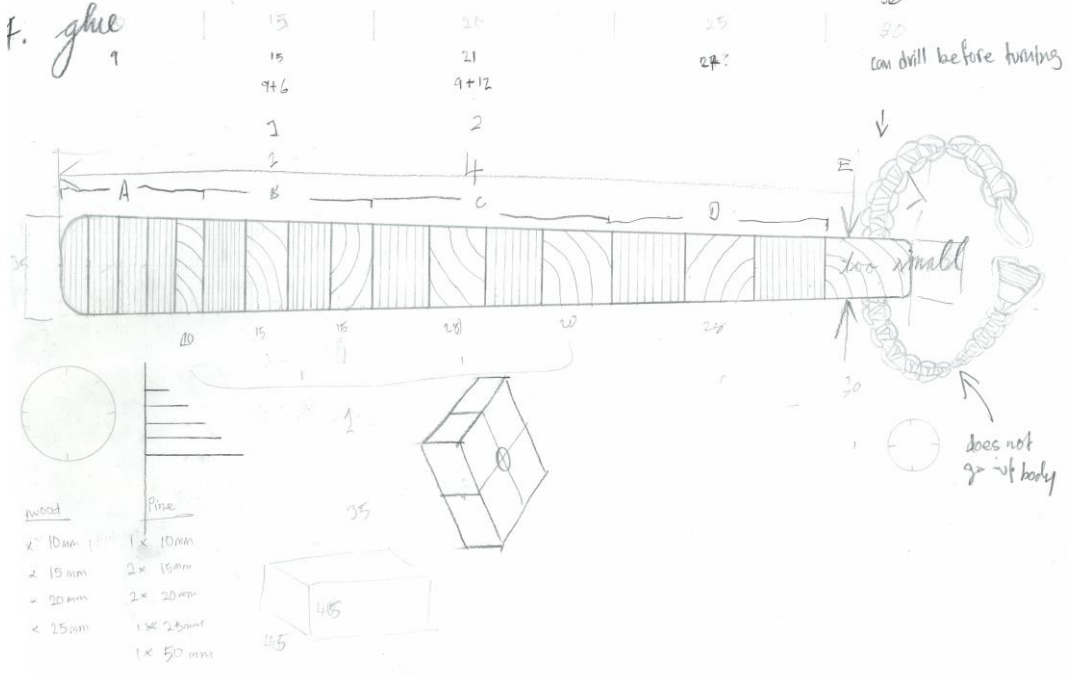
Bank of China HK

5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25



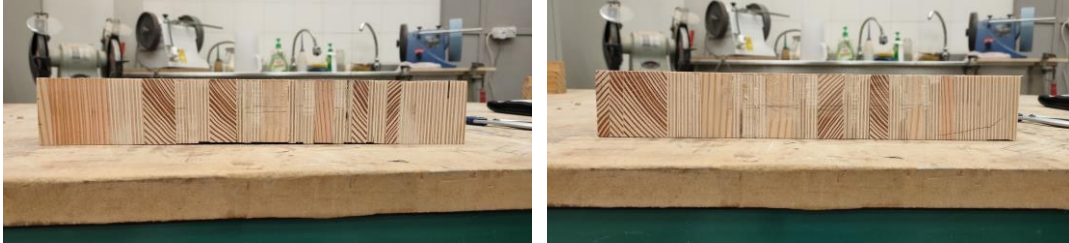
2. create referential alignment
 3. drill holes based on ↗

f. glue



Problems and solutions (occurred while developing your prototypes)

Firstly, I messed up drilling of the first cuts and ended up with a jagged block after it was all glued together. Which I then had to sand and trim down before cutting it octagonal in preparation for turning.



Secondly, I struggled with the gluing at the first attempt, resulting in weaknesses of multiple segments. To solve that I redrilled cavities for new dowels and reglued them. The second time was successful except the dowel snapped and the pin separated at a new segment that had withstood the drop test.



Therefore, I made three total attempts at gluing and the preparation is the most time-consuming part. Originally, the length of the pin was to be 300mm but because of the repeated breakage, it shrunk significantly.

Thirdly, I realised the reason to not use low grade plywood as the part where I used it kept breaking. It was supposed to be the inserted part for one sided turning, and it broke twice – once while turning, another when hammering. Ultimately, I had to resort to the standard two-sided method to turn my bead.



Fourthly, my turning is wonky and uneven, a result of my tremors and lack of strength. I have, for some reason, a heightened level of physiologic tremor. It is

something out of my conscious control. In addition, the plywood was so hard, the more strength I put into turning, the shakier I become. Thus, for this aspect, it cannot be solved.



I am not sure whether it is the material or my incompetency, but some parts of the pine had a tendency to chip and crack. Perhaps a little more turning may have removed the rough surfaces. But due to the previous problem, I was unable to shave it down.

Fifthly, I found that my bead is unexplainably dirty. Something must have gone wrong along the way, I have yet to figure it out.



Lastly, I made the mistake of redrilling the hole in the pin, when I could have compressed the cord with some tape. I was not systematic in my approach and ruined the pin even more by. I manage to sand it round somewhat to make it seem intentional, replicating a cone but alas it is too obvious to hide.



Self-reflection (*max 1 page*)

What did you learn?

Working on this project was a bumpy experience. Many problems were encountered partly due to my stupidity and physical capability but mostly due to the lack of experience. I think things could have been easier if I had known the hacks like chamfering the dowel with a pencil sharpener or sanding it down to ease assembling the pieces. It might have been common sense, but because the medium of wood is so unfamiliar that the possibilities were not known to me.

I learned of the impact material quality from turning both low- and high-quality plywood. A good comparison could be made when turning them side by side. The higher grade one is a little harder to turn while low-grade plywood tends to burn easily when turned with a parting tool. I also found that the preparation process should be meticulous and well planned for smooth production.

Design wise, I learned that a strong contrast does not deviate from the idea of unity, something that I disagreed before. It does, in fact, enhance the design visually. I see how if the colour and texture was too similar, it would be too boring. As long as, they contain similar elements, there will be a sense of belonging. In the case of my rolling pin, it was the lines – both in the plywood and the prominent grain of the pine.

In conclusion, this rolling pin being my first wood project, is an honest diary of my first timer's mistakes. I worked the best I could within the constrained timeframe, fixing all the errors I made along the way. If given a second chance hopefully I will work smarter. The possibility of working better is questionable, possible if I were to not tremble so.

Feedback (after the final presentation) *max 1 page*

There were concerns with the angle of taper, whether it might be too steep and its effectiveness in rolling. Hence a gentler slope is made for the final outcome.

How concrete should the design stick to the significant number of 5 was also a question, as only the dimensions were calculated while the number of segments were not.

First choice of materials was too similar and lacks contrast.



All elements should tie in together, applying same material, pattern or motif to make product look more cohesive.

Attach a piece of cotton to spinning jig to polish side of rolling pin.