

Mill

Mill refers to a building equipped with machinery for grinding grain into flour and occasionally also used for grinding dry fruits. Due to the natural conditions in Tajikistan watermills and in some places hand grain mill is also used.

Watermills are built next to brooks and rivers. Typically, water is diverted from a river or impoundment to a water wheel, along a pipe of 6 or 7 meter. The force of the water's movement drives the blades of a wheel, which in turn rotates an axle that drives the mill's flat stones which grinds the gain.

On the top of the flat mill's stones is located *doull* (a wooden container where the grain is kept). It is located 90 to 120 cm above the grinder stones and can contain up to 150 kg grain products. Grain falls from hole at the bottom of the *doull* into the middle holes of the grinding stones and turned in flour. The flour than in every

movement of the grinder stones falls into another container called *okhur*, which is set lower than the grinder stones and accumulated there. This than is taken and bagged.

Grinder stones for the watermill are crafted by the rock artisan masters. It has round shape and has hole in the center. Depending on the capacity of the watermill the grinder stones can weight from 300 kg to 800kg. The thickness of the grinder stones: lower from 8 to 10 cm and upper stone from 4 to 5 cm.

Any types of the grain products can be grinded in the mill whose flour is used for baking bread or other type of food. Dried mulberries are also grinded in the watermill.

Another way to grind the grains is using hand grain mills, which is a large rounded rock. This hand grain mill rock in Badakhshan province is called «bulbulok», which is used for grinding grains and dried fruits such as walnuts, apple



and mulberries. The hand grain mill is used against the surface of another flat stone in rolling motion. Hand grain mills in Tajik called «dastos» or «osiyoi dasti» was widely used in the olden days, but extremely rare in our days.

In similar manner mortar, in Tajik called «ughur» or «hovan», is also used to grind grain products. Mortars are made from wood, rock and metal. Mortars are used for grinding smaller amount of products and sometimes for extracting juice from soaked wheat to cook *sumanak*.

