



## Comb making

Comb making belongs to the woodcraft profession and it is also called as «shonataroshi» (crafting a comb) or «shonagari» (combmaking). Comb making starts by choosing a right wood and the best wood is considered to be that of walnut tree. Wood from apricot or pear trees is also employed. First a piece of wood is chopped and made flat into a piece of board and left in the sun to dry. To make it evenly flat the material is shaved to give a smoother surface twice; the first

is called «khomtarosh» and the second «pukhtatarosh». The teeth are cut out using a saw. The teeth and surface are rounded off and the surface refined further. A vegetable oil is then applied and kept for 2 to 3 hours for the wood to be softer and a fine sanding tool is used to make it delicate that it won't scratch head skin when used. If it is two-sided comb the middle part is made to be little thicker for holding purpose.

The next stage is decoration procedure when

the surface of the comb is decorated with different geometric or vegetal designs. The ornaments are done by incision technique and after than pattern is finished it is sanded on top so the 'scratch' patterns are smooth. In the distant past after finishing the comb making its teeth was thoroughly cleaned and polished with the bird feathers, which was known as «parzani». After the entire process is over again more oil is applied and left it to dry. For certain decorative combs honey honeycomb is used to give it extra shine.

According to the craftsmen and those using wood combs, it is considered to be medicinal. For example if the comb is made from the inner part of the walnut tree it is useful for dry hair if it is from the 'upper' surface of the tree than it will help to regulate the oily hair. A comb crafted from the pear tree wood is softer and can be used for head massage.



