

Pottery for Drinking Awamori

The Smallest Alcohol Cup in the World?

Tsuboya pottery includes many special items for drinking, storing, and transporting awamori.

Karakara and Choko

Karakara are awamori servers. A flat base makes them well-balanced and easy to use. Awamori *choko* are similar to the small cups used for drinking sake.

Chibuguwa

Chibuguwa (Okinawan dialect for “small container”) are used for sipping the most precious of aged awamori. Only slightly bigger than a thimble, *chibuguwa* may well be the smallest alcohol cups in the world.

Yushibin

These large, gourd-shaped awamori bottles are used to transport awamori intended as a gift, or for celebrations or ceremonies. The receiver transfers the awamori to his or her own container and returns the *yushibin*. The bottle has a “waist” so that it can be easily carried under one arm.

Dachibin

Dachibin (“clutch bottle”) hang over the shoulder on a strap and carry small amounts of awamori for personal use. *Dachibin* are often ornately decorated to show off the potter’s skills.

Uninuti

A large, sturdy awamori flask. The name means “ogre’s arm.”

Fuchukurubin

These small containers were filled with awamori and placed in the garments of the deceased during funeral rites. The alcohol inside was a gift to ancestors.