

The Book Of The Chochin

By Jacob Hoffman

Sometimes packaged with a sexy lamp :)

The Earliest Historical Occurrences Of The Chochin

Wikipedia Has the following information regarding the chochin :

The *chōchin* (ja:提灯) has a frame of split bamboo wound in a spiral. Paper or silk protect the flame from wind. The spiral structure permits it to be collapsed into the basket at the bottom. The *chōchin* hangs from a hook at the top. In present-day Japan, plastic *chōchin* with electric bulbs are produced as novelties, souvenirs, and for [matsuri](#) and events. The earliest record of a *chōchin* dates to 1085, and one appears in a 1536 illustration.

The *akachōchin*, or red lantern, marks an [izakaya](#).

According To Wikipedia, the dates of chochin occurrences are as follows:

Earliest Record of A Chochin	1085 AD
Earliest Drawing Of A Chochin	1536 AD

However, I could not find any sources confirming the 1085AD occurrence of the chochin in literature.

But on the internet, people are widely agreeing that it was mentioned in 1085 AD literature.

I could not find the 1536 Drawing Either.

However, There are plenty of antique mid 19th century chochin circulating. Here is a picture of one, that was found very easily with a simple google search.



Chochin In Mythology

Wikipedia Has The Following Information On Chochin Obake :

Chōchin-obake (提灯お化け, "paper lantern ghost") is a type of [Tsukumogami](#),^[1] "[the] lantern-spook (chochinobake) ... a stock character in the pantheon of ghouls and earned mention in the definitive demonology of 1784."^[2] The Chōchin-obake also appears in the [obake karuta](#) card game, popular from the [Edo period](#) to the early 20th century (and still in use today).



Chochin Artists Today

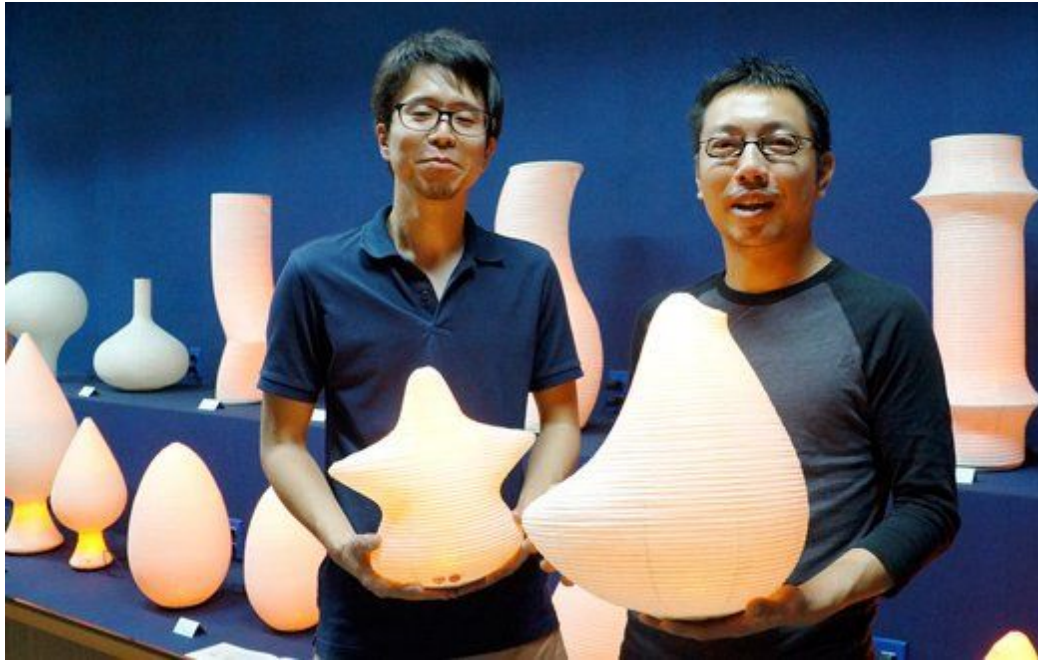
The Suzuki Mohei Chochin Store has been around since 1865.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SooJG9cVpKI&t=432s>

<https://www.suzumo.com/en/company1/>

Suzuki Mohei experts make their chochin from hand.

They begin by constructing a wooden frame and then they apply a paper coating.



What Makes A Chochin Not A Chinese Lantern?

Once again, let us review the Wikipedia Excerpt on the Chochin:

The *chōchin* (ja:提灯) has a frame of split bamboo wound in a spiral. Paper or silk protect the flame from wind. The spiral structure permits it to be collapsed into the basket at the bottom. The *chōchin* hangs from a hook at the top. In present-day Japan, plastic *chōchin* with electric bulbs are produced as novelties, souvenirs, and for [matsuri](#) and events. The earliest record of a *chōchin* dates to 1085, and one appears in a 1536 illustration.

The *akachōchin*, or red lantern, marks an [izakaya](#).

The chochin is different because of its spiral frame.

What is the Chochin Wall Lamp?

The Chochin Wall Lamp is a lamp designed to hang from a wall from two hooks. It is made from two traditional Chochin Hemispheres, one sliced latitudinally and one sliced longitudinally.



The Following are two images. The left image is the Chochin Wall Lamp frame. It is latitudinally sliced. The right image is the Chochin Wall Lamp shade. It is longitudinally sliced. As can be observed, both pieces are made from Chochin hemispheres.

The Design Challenges Of The Chochin Wall Lamp

When the chochin lamp is sliced in half, there is no more tension keeping the spiral filament wound. Once sliced, the chochin lamp shade loses its shape.

However, Robust Innovations found a way to emulate the tension forces at play in the lamp when not cut in half.

The assembly instructions of the Chochin Wall Lamp are in a very particular order for a reason.

By including a frame that hangs from two hooks on the wall in the assembly, vertical tension is made. The frame is held to the wall because of a lot of tension.

Then, when the lamp shade is attached to the frame, it naturally coils around the frame. The tension that used to exist in the lamp shade is emulated by the pressure coming from the wall, the hooks, and the frame.

The redesign of the Chochin for the wall required many physical variables to line up.



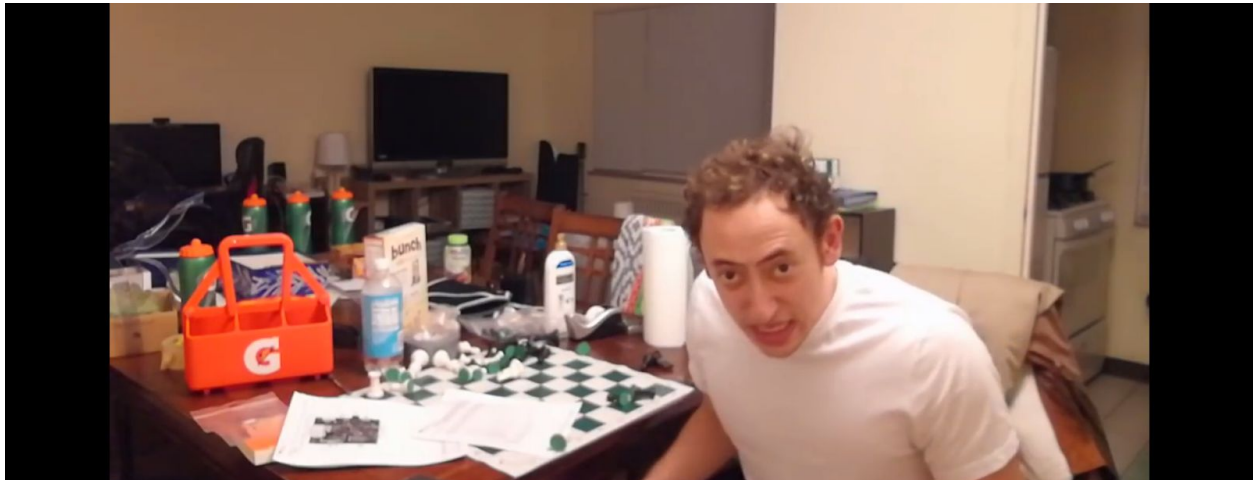
The Origin of the Book Of The Chochin

The Chochin Wall Lamp was designed by Robust Innovations : robustinnovations.org

Jacob Hoffman, the designer for the Robust Innovations Chochin Wall Lamp wrote this book.

Jacob Hoffman includes instructional media on the Chochin and more on his youtube channel "Jacob Hoffman". He loves when people search his name "Jacob Hoffman" on youtube and subscribe to him, so he can provide information to a wider audience.

Jacob Hoffman is a very credible source for information on the Chochin, he has no biases that would influence his interpretation on the History of the Chochin.



The following is a picture of Jacob Hoffman in one of his youtube videos.

Sources :

Robustinnovations.org

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_lighting_equipment_of_Japan

Jacob Hoffman (Youtube Channel)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ch%C5%8Dchin-obake>

<https://www.suzumo.com/en/company1/>