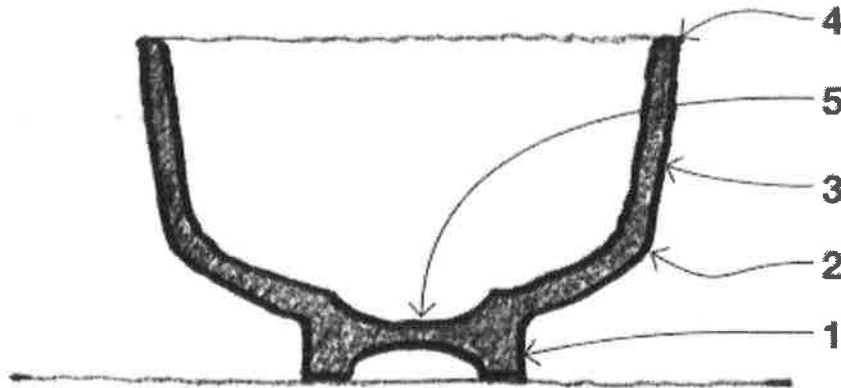


Chawan Basics

Chawan (Japanese tea bowls) come in various shapes and styles. To be used in a Japanese tea ceremony, a chawan needs to have several important features. It is truly a case of “form follows function”. The below tips are things to keep in mind when creating or selecting a chawan.



1. Foot

- Is it stable and level? Can you press down on the lip and not feel it tip?
- Is it tall enough for your fingers to slide under the hip to be able to pick it up?
- Would you feel secure turning it completely over to empty hot water out of it? Try holding it with 4 fingers under the foot and your thumb at the lip.

2. Hip

- Is it wide enough to allow the bowl to be handled one handed? Try grasping with 4 fingers at the hip and your thumb at the lip.

3. Body / Wall / Size

- Is there enough room to whisk tea?
- Are the outer and inner sides free of sharp bumps that might catch the tea whisk or linen cleaning cloth?

4. Lip

- Does it feel good against your lips?
- Does it come straight up? A lip that curls under will trap the tea and may cause it to spill when drinking.

5. Tea Well

- Is there a small depression or design (ex. spiral) on the bottom inside of the bowl?

Presented by: Tea Practitioners of the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Minnesota Association (aka Yukimakai)
Cynthia Haskell (chawan aficionado, leading today's talk)
Ben Gavin (ceramic artist; assisting consultant for today's talk)

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