

Kuntiqi

«surfriders who care»



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***Origin**

The name Kun_tiqi embodies a connection to the South American continent and to the main material – balsa wood.


The roots can be found in the Sun God «Kun_tiqsi Viracocha», known as the founder of the Inka civilisation in South America. His tribe had been forced to the west coast by other nations and subsequently had to leave the continent. They fled in balsa boats to the 8.000 km distant eastern islands, where they were the first to colonize them.



Kun_tiqi offers you a large assortment of exclusively handmade balsawood surfboards. Our choice of shapes ranges from high performance shortboards to the classic wooden noserider – all ecofriendly and completely handcrafted by shapers with more than 25 years of experience in a labour-intensive way.

By using the latest technologies and resources, the balsa wood surfboards have an optimal flexibility but simultaneously they are highly stable and durable. Furthermore 90% of the imported materials for the board-construction are renewable and biodegradable. The fact that Kun_tiqi's balsa surfboards are much more resistant than usual foam surfboards, lessens the environmental impact. Nevertheless the feeling of riding on wood is especially fluid and lively.

Over the past few years there has been – and still is – a revival in the use of balsa surfboards. The reason is not only their ecofriendly nature and fancy wood appearance, but mainly because of their surfing qualities: Super strong boards with good buoyancy properties are the key to a sweet, carefree surf session – and the fact that you're surfing ecofriendly makes it even feel better.



Kuntici

A BRIEF
BALSA SURFBOARD HISTORY

The use of balsa wood for surfboard manufacture goes back to the year 1930. With the invention of fiberglass during the Second World War, Balsa surfboards revolutionized the surf community dramatically. The combination of the light Balsa wood with the hollow surfboard production technique of surfer legend Tom Blake, made the surfboards a lot lighter, more maneuverable and though easier to surf.

The first surfboard entirely made of Balsa wood goes probably back to 1940. Their pioneer shapers are legendary surfers like Bob Simmons, Joe Quigg and Matt Kivlin. In the sixties, foam revolutionized the surfboard manufacturing, as Balsa did back in the 40ies. But balsa wood surfboards did never disappear from the surf scene, due to their beautiful look, strength and good buoyancy.

In 2005, the world's biggest foam fabric »Clark Foam« had to close its doors because of the environmental pollution* it had caused for many years. Back then surfers became more conscious of the harmful impact their wave toys are causing.

So, especially since that days, wooden surfboards are living a revival, as they are made of long lasting, renewable and biodegradable blank material, what helps to reduce the pollution of the ocean – the place surfers love so much.



*The production of »foamblanks« has an extremely negative effect on the environment. This is caused by the use of materials like Polyurethane or Polystyrene, which are produced from fossil fuels (mineral oil), as well as by the emission of carcinogen substances during their production process. Added to this, the production requires a great deal of energy and

ejects a lot of Carbon Dioxide. Moreover, the final product can hardly be recycled.

By contrast, Balsa wood is a fast growing, sustainable and recyclable raw material, producing no toxic substances. Therefore it can safely be said, that the use of Balsawood is a sustainable method of producing surfboard blanks.



With every surf session we immerse ourselves in mother nature and enjoy the uniqueness She offers us. At the same time we shouldn't forget, that every one of us is responsible for Her preservation.

Kun_tiqi has made it to it's business to give the surfers the chance to make their own contribution by using a product which is produced from ecofriendly and sustainable materials. Moreover Kun_tiqi is in trying to use the latest technologies in the field of ecofriendly and sustainable raw materials while at the same time optimizing the stability, longevity and performance of the wooden surfboards.

In addition to proclaiming the message to preserve the environment, Kun_tiqi takes on it's social responsibilities by paying a fair price to everybody in the production chain and is ensuring that proper working conditions are constantly maintained and improved.



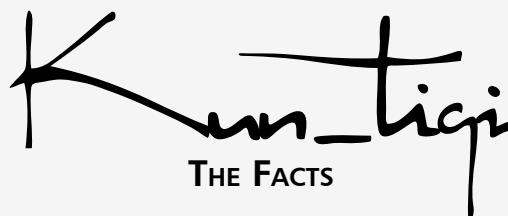


*The Balsa wood we are using comes from a family farm, situated in the coastal region of Ecuador. The head of the farm and family is Don Zandoval. The Balsa trees are planted in a sustainable mixed cultivation program together with bananas, yucca and beans.

*The Polyester and Epoxy Resin, which has been used up until now represents the most toxic part of

the surfboard. These resins are containing carcinogenes, corrosive and water polluting substances.

Not only the shaper is exposed to these materials – they also damage the environment by polluting the water and the atmosphere. Furthermore, the fabrication of these resins needs fossil raw material like mineral oil.



ABOUT Balsa WOOD

The core of Kun_tiqi's surfboards and therefore their main element, is balsa wood (*Ocroma Pyramidale*). Balsa* is the lightest wood of all and was already used as a transport float in South America 1.000 years before the Inka Empire. This plant is one of the fastest growing species, reaching a height of up to 10 meter and a diameter of 20-25 cm within 3-4 years.

ABOUT OUR RESIN

Our eco-resin contains 55% vegetable oil and is a sustainable alternative to the commonly used toxic and carcinogen resins.* It generates higher board flexibility, which is expressed in a very good adaptation to the contour of the wave. Furthermore it comes out of renewable resources and if the balsa board is laminate it's also less likely to split or crack, which reduces the quantity of repairs.

ABOUT THE FIBERS

The surface is laminated with fibreglass, made of silica sand. Since Balsa wood is hard and almost unbreakable, only little quantities of fibreglass are needed. Unfortunately the production still requires some fossil energy, but Kun_tiqi is trying hard to improve this process to reduce any negative effect on the environment.

A person wearing a black cap is working in a workshop. The background shows wooden beams and a wall with red and white stripes. In the foreground, there is a workbench with a piece of wood and a tool with a yellow handle. The text 'Kuntigi THE PROCESS' is overlaid on the image.

Kuntigi

THE PROCESS

Since our balsa wood surfboards are exclusively handmade, the production process requires approximately six times as long as it takes to produce a conventional foam board.

I. PLANTAGE

The process begins with a balsa seed in Don Zandoval's greenhouse. It takes 3-4 years before the trees have grown to the sufficient height for harvesting.

After they have been sliced into blocks they are transported by donkey to the nearest road, from where they are brought to the coast. In the local climate the wooden blocks dry in about 2-3 months.

II. THE BLANK

Afro, our „Blank Master“ with more than 40 years of balsa surfboard shaping and surfing experience, selects the lightest wood blocks to be manufactured into hollow blanks. For each board six blocks are required.

Once they have the right cut, they are glued with planks into a sandwich. During this process the scoop-rocker-line is given to the blank. When the blank is separated to introduce the stringer, the rails can finally be glued.





The logo for Kun_tiqi is written in a black, cursive, handwritten style. The word 'Kun_tiqi' is written in a single line, with a horizontal line underlining the 'un' part. The 'K' is large and has a long horizontal stroke that extends to the right, underlining the 'un' part. The 'tiqi' part is written in a more fluid, cursive script.

III. SHAPING

This is where Jimmy Zhañay's work begins to give the blank the right shape. He started surfing and shaping balsa wood surfboards when he was 14 years old, 25 years ago. He spent all his afternoons helping out a local balsa wood surfboard shaper and learning like this the artesan work of making wooden surfboards.

Before the outline can be marked, the surface of the board has to be planed very flat. Only then the board can be cut and shaped to the right form. Then again the board must be planed and sanded by hand before the final resin coat can be applied.

IV. LAMINATING

Afterwards, Stefan is finishing the Boards by laminating them with Kun_tiqi's Eco-Resin. Our resin is the latest development of the renewable and environment-friendly production industry. Our boards are laminated with 4oz of fiberglass on the bottom and 6oz on the deck. This is more than adequate due to the high strength and density of balsa wood.



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