



This is our temple's *onaijin*, or main altar.

# Dharma School DIY Butsudan

Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020



Traditional style



Modern style (small)



Simple style

## Home Butsudan (Buddha house, or altar)

Many Buddhist homes have a small butsudan as a focus for daily Buddhist practice and expression. Here are a sample from Japanese traditions.

# DIY Butsudans from *Kamaboko* boards

Our 4-board style butsudans will be similar to these 5-board style butsudans, without the top board.

Try to add something to your butsudans that is uniquely YOU (paint it a certain color or design, add a decoration)

The photo also shows the center board cut 1-inch, with that piece creating a mini-stand.





## Materials

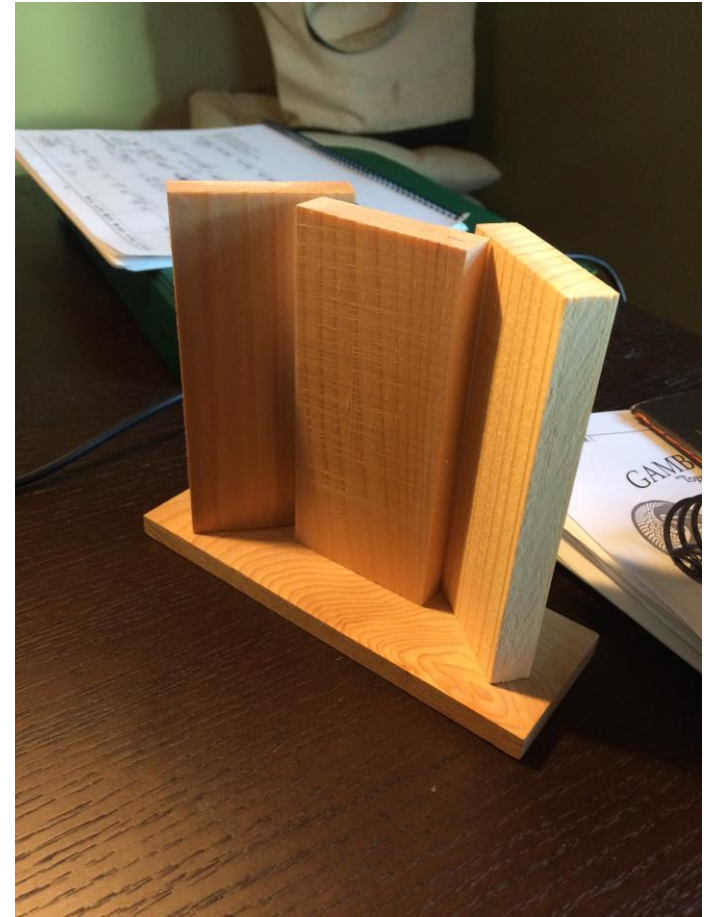
- 2 – 5 fish cake boards (cleaned and dry)
- Sandpaper
- Wood glue (or hot glue)
- Paint (optional)
- Amida image on paper (about 1-1/2” wide by about 3-1/2” tall, depending on the size of your boards)
- Hinges, nails, hammer (optional)



Ann and her Butsudan



Marilyn's Butsudan, made by one of her children.



Example of placement of boards for 4-board Butsudan.

- **Figure of Amida Buddha** or a scroll with the characters “Namo Amida Butsu”... occupies the central panel. Buddhists bow their heads in reverence before the wisdom and compassion of Amida.
- **Candle** symbolizes the Wisdom of Buddha, which drives away the darkness of the human mind. We need the light of Buddha to help us.
- **Incense Burning** is symbolic of cleansing, or preparing our minds, before hearing the Buddha and Dharma.
- **Flowers** are a symbol of impermanence.
- **Food** offerings are made as an expression of gratitude, usually fruits and vegetables.
- **Gong** is used during services to call attention to beginning of chanting. - Venice Buddhist Temple

## Buddhist Shrine

