



• CRAFT/PROFESSION

Roger PARAU crafts a variety of objects in wood: ukuleles, speargun stocks, va'a paddles, trophies, dishes...

Five days are required to craft a ukulele: first Roger must trim the wood, then glue the slats together and leave them to dry for 24 to 48 hours, depending on humidity. He uses a template to cut the wood to the required shape and planes it to ensure a smooth finish. The ribs must be shaped, frets cut in the neck, and holes drilled for the tuning pegs. The varnishing process takes about 12 hours. Finally, Roger attaches the strings to the pegs.

Finetuning the grip of a speargun but can take up to two days of work.

It takes longer - 13 days - to make a va'a paddle, laminating fine strips of wood together to build each paddle.



• BACKGROUND

Roger's father, a ukulele craftsman based in Tahiti and later New Caledonia, taught his young son the art. To Roger's great regret, he hasn't succeeded in passing on his passion to his own children.

• INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

Roger draws his inspiration from nature: sea creatures and the subtle patterns and hues of different types of wood which shape the way he works. He uses exclusively wood from Pacific Region tree species: blackwood, kauri, garou-garou...

On request, Roger is happy to personalise a special item using carving or pyro-engraving techniques.