

Manufacturing—*Pilitaallriit* (they made things), *Canataallriit* (they built things)

This category of tools includes items designed to aid the manufacture of tools and clothing (Table 8.7, Figures 8.16 and 8.17). This category includes tools for sewing and carving.

Table 8.7. Alutiiq terms for manufacturing tools

English	Alutiiq	Comment
Awl	Siilaq ^m	
Comb	Kacagsuuteq ^m	also used for hair comb
Drill Handle	Ukit`suutem puunga ^c	
Flaker	Ilaiyarsuun ^c	“tool for chipping”
Gut Scraper	K`lignsuun ^c	“to scrape it, to carve it”
Needle	Mingquteq ^m	
Net Gauge	Kugyasim uspersuutaa ^c	
Paint Brush	KRaasirsuun ^m ; KRaasiyuuteq ^m	
Peg	Kuuliangcuk ^c	
Rodent-incisor Carving Tool	K`lignsuun ^c	“to scrape it, to carve it”
Spool	Qikarllum elgwia ^c , Qikarllum egwia ^c	
Tool Handle	Agaa ^m	“its handle”
Work Board	Amit neng`rsuutait ^c	
Worked Fragment	Calleq ^c	

m = term in modern usage, h = historic term, c = term created by Elder Alutiiq speakers

* = suggested term needing additional review

Figure 8.16. Sewing tools from Karluk One (AM193).



Figure 8.17. Painting tools and painted objects from Karluk One (AM193).





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Awl	Alutiiq Names	Siilaq
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Industry	Carving	Activity	Manufacturing	Function	Poking holes in leather
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Common Materials	Bird bone, bone, wood
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LxWxD (cm)	Variable
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Tradition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq
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Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Uyak, Karluk One, Rice Ridge
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown		

Description	<p>Awls are a very common tool throughout Alutiiq assemblages of all ages, and were made in a variety of styles. Some are simply slivers of bone sharpened to a point. Others are carefully carved and finished.</p> <p>Essentially, awls are sharpened pieces of bone and wood used to poke holes in leather for sewing. They are often made from slender fragments of bird bone cut from a length of long bone. Or, from a bird bone whose only modification is removal of one articular end and grinding of that end of the bone to a point.</p> <p>In addition to a variety of pointed bones, there are at least two more formal types. One looks a little like a golf tee. These taper from a broad, sometimes rounded end to a narrow point. Another has a flattish rectangular body with a carved point on one of both ends.</p> <p>There are also wooden pieces that look like top (child's toy) that may be awls. These have a cylindrical body (like a drum) with a thin, distinctive pointed projection from each end (flat face).â</p>
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References	Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

AWL

Sewing tools from Karluk One (AM193)



Bone awls from Karluk One (AM193) – photos courtesy of Amy Margaris



Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

Awls from Settlement Point (AM33) – two views, photos courtesy of Amy Margaris



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

These pieces typically have a rounded (half oval) body that flares gently toward the distal end where there is a set of ca. 8 teeth. They may have been used for hair care or for straightening grass for weavings. A few examples has highly decorated proximal ends. For example, a comb from th Clyda Christiansen collection feature an ornate whale tale carving above the body of the comb, as well as a crenulated edge and geometric designs on the body.

To date, combs have only been found in Kachemak assemblages.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

COMB

Left: antler comb, Uyak site (AM3), Right: ivory comb, Clyda Christiansen collection (AM679)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

These pieces are blacks of wood or bark sized to fit in an adult hand with a hole in the distal face (bottom side) to accommodate the end of a wooden shaft/handle holding a drill bit. They are part of the tool assembly used in hole drilling and were probably often unshaped, opportunistically selected pieces of material.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

DRILL HANDLE

Drill assembly – parts from Karluk One (AM193)

Drill Handle



Tool Handle (shaft with slot for drill bit)

Drilled Ulu





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition **Ocean Bay** **Kachemak** **Koniag** **Alutiiq**

Miniature **Yes** **No/Unknown** **Example Sites Found**

Description

Flakers are narrow lengths of bone or antler used for shaping chipped stone tools during the later stages of manufacture. An example from the Uyak site is about 14 cm long, slightly curved, with carefully rounded ends. It looks a bit like a tongue depressor, but it is narrower and thicker.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

FLAKER

Flaker from the Uyak Site (AM3)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

Thede tools look like spoons. They have a slender handle and an oval bowl. Gut scrapers, however, are distinguished by the thin, flat distal end of the bowl used to scrape material from the inner surface of animal gut so the gut can be cleaned for sewing.

The distal end of the bowl may show polish or damage from use.

Some examples have ornamental carvings.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

GUT SCRAPER

Gut Scrapers from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

This is a catch all category for the debitage created by carving organic materials. Worked fragment is for any item that shows carving, cutting, sawing, grinding, etc. but that is not a preform or a finished tool.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Needle	Alutiiq Names	Mingquteq
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Industry	Carving	Activity	Manufacturing	Function	Sewing
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Common Materials	Ivory, bone
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LxWxD (cm)	ca. 5cm long and 1.5mm in diameter
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Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Rice Ridge, Uyak, Karluk One
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown		

Description	<p>Seamstresses used the awls to poke holes in a hide and a needle to pull the thread through the holes. Slender bone and ivory needles are found throughout Alutiiq assemblages. They taper to a sharp pointed distal end, like a modern metal needle. Some have a tiny drilled eye at the proximal end. Others have a small knob and some are unmodified.</p>
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References	Steffian, Amy F., Marnie A. Leist, Sven D. Haakanson, and Patrick G. Saltonstall, 2015, Kal'unek—From Karluk, Kodiak Alutiiq History and the Archaeology of the Karluk One Site. University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks.
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

NEEDLE

Ivory needle from Karluk One (AM193)



Bird bone scored for needle making, Karluk One (AM193)



Figure 1.3. Bird bone artifacts illustrating the creations of an awl or needle, Uyak Site (AM3)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Net Gauge	Alutiiq Names	Kugyasim uspersuutaa
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Industry	Carving	Activity	Manufacturing	Function	Standardizes knot placement
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Common Materials	Wood
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LxWxD (cm)	
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Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No/Unknown	Example Sites Found	Karluk One
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Description	<p>When tying nets, craftsmen used these tools to measure the distance between their knots and create a uniform mesh. To do this you tie a knot and then use the gauge to measure from that knot to the spot where you will tie the next knot. Some of the Karluk One net gauges have multiple measuring devices, indicating the same tools were used to make nets with different mesh sizes.</p> <p>These distinctive tools feature a narrow handle with one or more rectangular pieces of wood at the distal end. Examples from Karluk One have three distinct sizes (about 3 cm, 7 cm, and 15 cm), illustrating that residents tailored their nets to catch particular species.</p>
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References	Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

NET GAUGE

Net gauges from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

These small wooden handles are about the size of a pencil and feature a tiny, delicate knob on the distal end. This knob is likely for attaching (typing) fibers to the handle so it can be used as a paintbrush. The knob is not sturdy enough to sustain much pressure.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

Paint Brush

Paint brush handles from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

Small wooden pegs - cylindrical pieces of wood tapering from one flat end to a blunt point - were used like nails, to join items together. Craftsmen used them to join the ends of bentwood vessel rims together and to connect vessel rims to vessel bases. Pegs were likely used in constructing other multi-part objects like kayaks.

A u-shaped bone piece from the Uyak site looks like a large staple and may be a similar sort of tool for joining objects.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

PEG

Left: Pegs and peg preforms, Karluk One (AM193), Right: pegs in a vessel rim



Pegs securing the base of a bentwood vessel to its rim, Karluk One (AM193)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Rodent-incisor Carving Tool		Alutiiq Names	K'ligsuun	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Manufacturing	Function	Fine carving
Common Materials	Wood and rodent incisor				
LxWxD (cm)	cal 16 cm long				
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Karluk One		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>One type of carving tool features a side-hafted blade. Short wooden handles held rodent incisors hafted perpendicular to the length of the handle. Judging from their size, the incisors may be from marmots or porcupines, animals found on the adjacent mainland. These tools were used to shape objects by gouging out material.</p> <p>The handles are roughly oval, but expand in width from the proximal end to the distal end where a hole is drilled from the top edge of the tools down and through the side to hold a naturally curved incisor.</p> <p>The proximal end often features a drilled hole, or a knob, perhaps for tying the tool to a lanyard?</p>				
References	Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.				
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

RODENT-INCISOR CARVING TOOL

Rodent incisor carving tools from Karluk One (AM193)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

Wooden spools feature a tall cylindrical body or barrel around which sewers wrapped sinew thread. Most of the barrels are round in cross section, although a small, undecorated example is hexagonal in cross section. A number of spools (though not all) have decorative carvings on the top - above the barrel. Examples from Karluk include a ptarmigan and bird and human figures standing back to back.

The bottoms of wooden spools commonly have a dimple, a circular depression, in the center. Many spools also have striation marks perpendicular to the long axis of the spool (cutting across the cylindrical body) from the thread wrapped around them. Most also have remnants of paint.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

SPOOL

Spools from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Tool Handle	Alutiiq Names	Agaa
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Industry	Carving	Activity	Manufacturing	Function	Holding a bit
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Common Materials	Wood
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LxWxD (cm)	Highly variable
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Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No/Unknown	Example Sites Found	Karluk One
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Description	<p>This is a diverse class of tools, but all are designed to hold an implement for cutting or gouging. Some tool handles were decorated and some have multiple places to insert a bit.</p> <p>Socketed handles: These tool handles come in many sizes, but they feature an open socket on the distal ends with a small hole (8mm across) for holding a bit. The very distal end of the socket sometimes has a narrow lip, probably designed to hold lashing that kept the bit in place. These tools are probably for gouging and maybe piercing .</p> <p>Side slotted handles: These narrow wooden handles are up to about 14 cm long and 2 cm wide, and they are gently curved on the ventral side. They feature a narrow slot on the distal end of the ventral side to hold a thin stone blade. The slot for this blade is typically 3 to 4 cm long. These tools are probably small knives.</p>
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References	Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

TOOL HANDLE

Tool handles with a socket at the distal end for a bit, Karluk One (AM193)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

Tool handles with a slot for a blade, Karluk One (AM193)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

Seamstresses stretched small hides, those of otters, foxes, squirrels, and ermine, over finely made wooden work boards that resemble a modern cutting board. There are several styles represented in the Karluk One assemblage. One type is a long, narrow rectangle with a curved end. Another has a rectangular body that tapers on both sides at one end - leading to a narrow rounded or pointed end. These shapes may have been to hold the snout of an animal. Karluk seamstresses also cut their hides on work boards, perhaps using one board as a cutting surface and another as a straightedge (Knecht 1995:484). Examples from Karluk One come in a variety of sizes and are heavily scarred with cut marks on one or both sides. Many are painted and some have carved decorations.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

WORK BOARD

Wooden work boards from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

This is a catch all category for the debitage created by carving organic materials. Worked fragment is for any item that shows carving, cutting, sawing, grinding, etc. but that is not a preform or a finished tool.

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