

Building—Englulitaallriit (N), Unglulitaallriit (S)

The objects in this class are associated with house building and large-scale woodworking. This includes the tools used in the initial stages of log reduction and plank making, as well as those used for digging foundations (Table 8.6, Figure 8.15).

Table 8.6. Alutiiq terms for building tools

English	Alutiiq	Comment
Adze Handle	TupuuRum puunga ^c	
Adze Socket	TupuuRum lliwia	“place to put an adze”
Mattock	Ipugsuun ^m ; elautaq ^h	“tool for digging stuff up”
Plank	Qupuraq ^m ; Alasarnaq ^h	
Shovel	Lapaat’kaa ^m	from Russian term for shovel, <i>lopatka</i>
Wedge	Murut’uuruasinaq ^c ; Mulut’uuruasinaq ^c , Murut’uurpak ^c	

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

Figure 8.15. Examples of artifacts associated with building.



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Adze Handle		Alutiiq Names	TupuuRum puungac	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Building/Woodworking	Function	Hafting a woodworking tool
Common Materials	Wood				
LxWxD (cm)					
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Karluk One, Malina Creek		
	<input type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>These handles are designed to provide a haft for stone adze blades. They are made out of a natural curved length of wood—a portion of a tree branch and the adjacent trunk. This adds strength to the tools, and is a technique used in manufacturing other curved items (e.g., kayak prows). The handle (proximal end) is formed by a debarked branch and is often little modified, cylindrical, and up to about 60 cm long. However, the size of these tools is variable and reflects the size of the stone blade intended for hafting. At the distal end of the handle, where the branch meets the sturdier trunk, there is a roughly rectangular platform, shorter than the adze to be hafted and flattened on the top. Portions of this hafting platform extend on two sides of the handle, with a shorter thicker portion on the dorsal side and a thinner, sometimes tapering portion on the ventral side. This longer portion may have a groove around its underside, to assist with hafting.</p> <p>Wooden adze hafts are known from Koniag tradition assemblages, but the production of adze blades throughout Alutiiq history suggests that they were used in early times as well.</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.				
Last Update	07/14/2021		Updated By	Amy Steffian	

Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

ADZE HANDLE

Adze handles from Karluk One (AM193) – Top: with stone adzes; Bottom: without adzes



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names

Adze Socket

Alutiiq Names

TupuuRum Lliwia

Industry

Carving

Activity Building/Woodworking

Function

Hafting an adze blade to a handle

Common
Materials

Bone

LxWxD (cm)

ca. 15 cm long

Tradition

Ocean Bay

Kachemak

Koniag

Alutiiq

Miniature

Yes

Example Sites Found

AFG-004, Uyak Site

No/Unknown

Description

Typically carved from sea mammal bone, these pieces are used to haft a stone adze blade to a wooden handle. They look like spoons, but are more robust. They have a scoop-like socket on the ventral side of the distal end, and then a rectangular proximal end. Some have flared edges on the sides just below the socket, probably to aid with lashing.

This style of adze hafting appears to be characteristic of Kachemak tradition assemblages. Although adzes are widely present throughout Alutiiq history, bone adze sockets are so far limited to Kachemak assemblages.

References

Heizer, Robert F., 1956, Archaeology of the Uyak Site, Kodiak Island, Alaska. University of California Press, Berkeley. (Plate 74, page 188)

Last Update

07/14/2021

Updated By

Amy Steffian

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ADZE SOCKET

Sea mammal bone adze sockets from AFG-004 (AM330), courtesy of the Pestrikoff Family



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

A large, adze-like piece from the Uyak site appears to be a mattock or pick - a digging tool - made from a section of walrus tusk. It is flat on the ventral side and curved on the dorsal, with a beveled edge at the distal end. There are two wide grooves across the dorsal side likely created to aid in hafting.

This tool could have been used to dig for lily roots, but its size and hafting (like an adze) suggest it was for larger jobs, like digging a house foundation or cutting sods.

The mattock shown on the next page resembles one pictured in Riordan's study of Yup'ik technology (Riordan 2007:44).

References

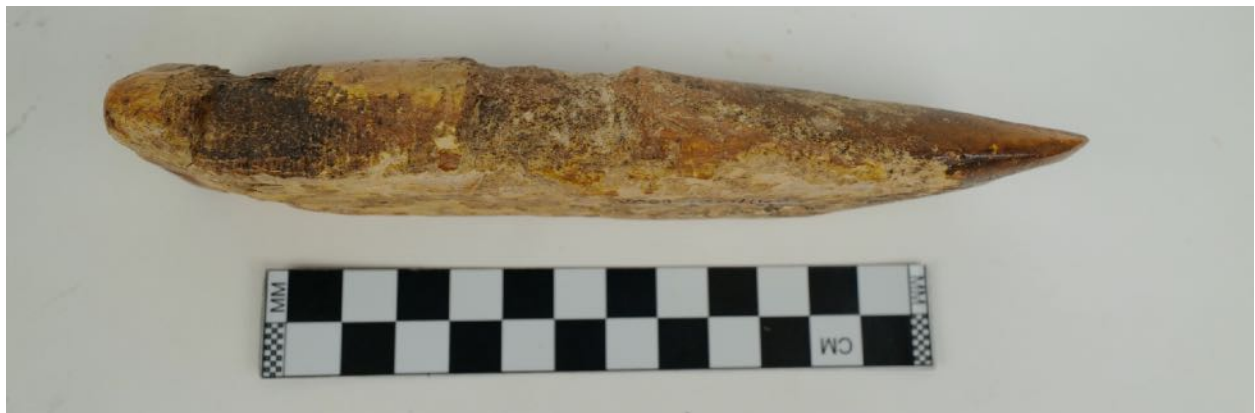
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

MATTOCK

Ivory mattock from the Uyak site (AM3)—Top: dorsal, Middle: side, Bottom: ventral





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Plank	Alutiiq Names	Qupuraq, Alasamaq
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Industry	Carving	Activity	Building/Woodworking	Function	
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Common Materials	Wood
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LxWxD (cm)	Variable
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Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Karluk One, Malina Creek
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown		

Description	<p>Alutiiq word carpenters used planks in house building - particularly to create structure walls. Planks were also used on the floors of entrance tunnels and to cover drainage and / or line ditches. Plants are flat pieces of wood created by splitting logs with wedges and mauls. They may be further worked (planed) with adzes.</p> <p>Planks are known from Koniag tradition sites but could be found in sites of any age with wood preservation.</p> <p>Planks were common in the deposits at Karluk One, but only a few examples were kept.</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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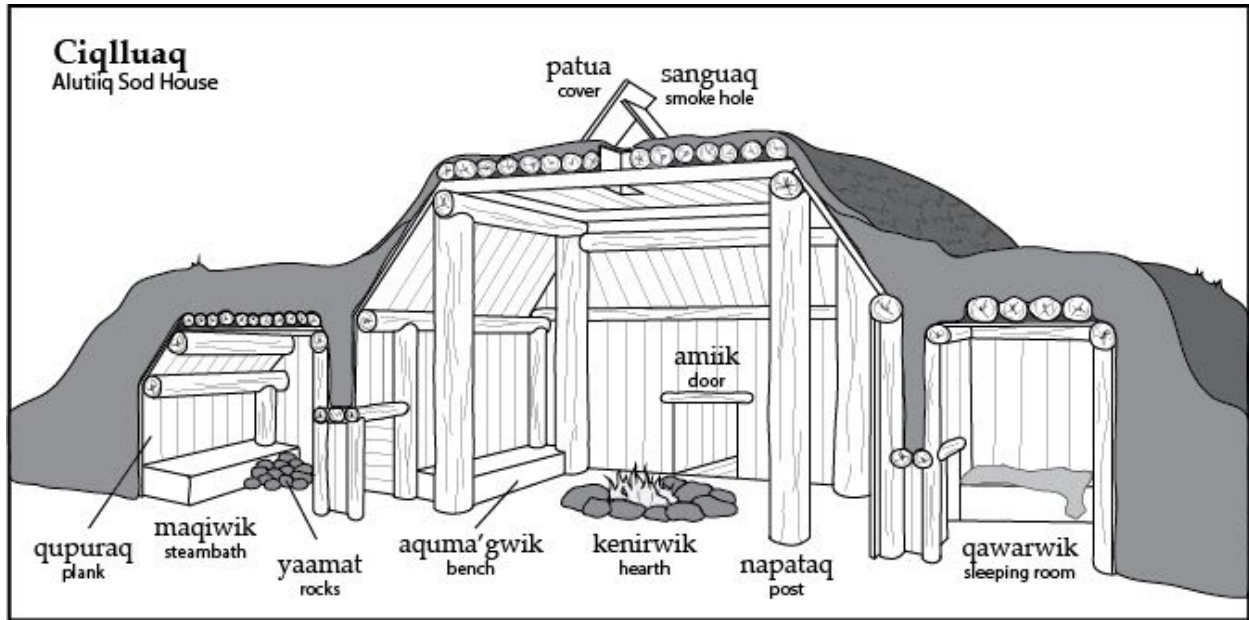
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

PLANK

Planks were used to line the wall of Alutiiq structures, like this drawing of a ciqlluaq—house.



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names

Wedge

Alutiiq Names

Murut'uuruasinaq; Mulu't'uuruasinaq, Muru

Industry

Carving

Activity Building/Woodworking

Function

Splitting wood

Common
Materials

Sea mammal bone, antler, wood

LxWxD (cm)

Quite variable

Tradition



Ocean Bay



Kachemak



Koniag



Alutiiq

Miniature



Yes

Example Sites Found

Uyak, Karluk One



No/Unknown

Description

These very common tools are found in assemblages dating throughout Alutiiq history. The most common type are relatively flat, trapezoidal pieces of sea mammal bone (often rib segments) that thin / taper from the top to a rounded distal end. The tops (proximal end) are often damaged from pounding, showing smashed, compressed, and splintered bone. Some examples have one of more wide, circular hole in the surface of one face. These holes are for grease, placed on the wedge to reduce friction and ease splitting.

Wooden wedge may look like tapered bone wedges, or they may be segments of branches with a beveled distal end, a cylindrical body, and a damaged proximal end.

Wedges come in many sizes and degrees of finishing. Some are carefully worked to shape. Others are simply made. These tools also vary greatly in size.

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.

Last Update

07/14/2021

Updated By

Amy Steffian

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WEDGE

Wooden wedges from Karluk One (AM193)



Bone wedges from Karluk One (AM193)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

Bone wedge with a grease hole from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Shovel	Alutiiq Names	Lapaat'kaaq
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Industry	Carving	Activity	Building/Woodworking	Function	Digging, shoveling snow or midden
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Common Materials	Bone
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LxWxD (cm)	
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Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Uyak Site
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown		

Description	<p>Several pieces excavated by Hrdlicka and crew at the Uyak site appear to be bone shovel blades carved from a sea mammal scapula. These pieces are rounded around the perimeter and have a thinned and gently curved distal end. One complete example features two holes for hafting to a handle.</p> <p>A complete example has scratches on the blade, perhaps from encountering rocks.</p> <p>The age of these pieces is not known. The shovel blade shown on the next page resembles the blade of a wooden example collected from neighboring Yup'ik people (Riordan 2007:43).</p>
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References	Heizer, Robert F., 1956, Archaeology of the Uyak Site, Kodiak Island, Alaska. University of California Press, Berkeley.
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Last Update	07/14/2021	Updated By	Amy Steffian
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

SHOVEL

Shovel blade made from the scapula of a sea mammal, from the Uyak Site (NMNH collection).
Photo from Heizer 1956.

