

Adornment—*Cucunarkua’itaallriit*

This group of objects includes jewelry and objects associated with clothing decoration (Table 8.14, Figure 8.22).

Table 8.14. Alutiiq terms for adornment artifacts

English	Alutiiq	Comment
Bead	Pinguaq ^m	
Fastener / Button	Puukicaaq ^m	
Hat Figurine	Caguyam Tangerhnit’staa*	“Visor’s decoration”
Labret	Qukaciq ^h , Qerllum mallarsuutii ^c , Kulut’ruaq ^m	Kulut’ruaq = “kind of a ring”
Labret Hole Stretcher	Qerllum neng’rsuutii ^c	
Nose Pin / Nose Ring	Pacii ruam kulut’rua’a ^c , maitaq ^h	
Pendant	Uyamillkuaq ^m	
Pin	Tangerhnit’staa*	Ornament, adornment, jewel

m = term in modern usage, h = historic term, c = term created by Elder Alutiiq speakers
 * = suggested term needing additional review

Figure 8.22. Alutiiq terms for adornment artifacts



UPCYCLED FABRICS | TIE DYE TREND | AESTHETIC



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	<input type="text" value="Bead"/>	Alutiiq Names	<input type="text" value="Pinguaq"/>
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Industry	<input type="text" value="Carving"/>	Activity	<input type="text" value="Adornment"/>	Function	<input type="text" value="Jewelry, Clothing Embellishment"/>
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Common Materials	<input type="text" value="Bone, ivory"/>
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LxWxD (cm)	<input type="text"/>
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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	<input type="text" value="Uyak, Karluk One, Malina Creek"/>
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown		

Description	<p>Carved beads are uncommon, but present in assemblages representing the span of Alutiiq history. They are may be round (like a Cheerio) or tube shaped (long or short), or a tapered tube—where the end of a long bead taper (shaped like a kayak bailer). They all feature a drilled central hole.</p> <p>Historic sources suggest people used a variety of item for beads. Korsun (2012) shows a necklace made of seeds. Halibut vertebrae, bird claws, and other items were also used as beads. At the Rice Ridge site archaeologists found pieces of some natural concretions (or perhaps fulgurites) with a hole in the center. These piece may have been used as beads.</p>
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References	<input type="text" value="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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Last Update	<input type="text" value="07/14/2021"/>
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Updated By	<input type="text" value="Amy Steffian"/>
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

BEAD

Beads (bottom cluster) and pendants (top row) from Karluk One (AM193)



Concretions or fulgurites from Rice Ridge that may have been used as beads (AM19)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Fastener: Button	Alutiiq Names	Puukicaaq		
Industry	Carving	Activity	Adornment	Function	Secure clothing
Common Materials	Bone, ivory, wood				
LxWxD (cm)					
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Uyak		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>This diverse group of small carved objects are all designed to hold cords or act like buttons. Some feature holes to thread the cord through, perhaps to create a way of securing and tightening a cord. They may be pieces for clothing or bags. Others have a central groove and appear to be pieces used to close bags or clothing, like a button.</p>				
References	Steffian, Amy F., 1992b, Fifty Years After Hrdlička: Further Investigations at the Uyak Site, Kodiak Island, Alaska. Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska 24(1and2):141–164.				
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

FASTENER

Fasteners from the Uyak site (AM3)



A variety of fasteners from Karluk One (AM193)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Fastener: Button		Alutiiq Names	Caguyam Tangerhnit'staa	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Adornment	Function	Hunting hat decoration
Common Materials	Ivory				
LxWxD (cm)					
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Karluk One, Myrtle Olsen avocational collection		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>These small carvings of a seated person are rare but distinct objects. The stylized figure is typically shown with knees bent and arms crossed and a prominent head. Black describes their overall shape as a hollow cube.</p> <p>They were used to decorate the crown of a bentwood hunting hat and can be seen in ethnographic collections from Kodiak.</p>				
References	Black, Lydia T., 1991, Glory Remembered: Wooden Headgear of Alaska Sea Hunters. Alaska State Museums, Juneau. (see pages 40-41)				
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

HAT FIGURINE

Hat figurine from the Myrtle Olsen Collection (AM603)



Hat figurine from Old Karluk (AM258)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Labret		Alutiiq Names	Qukaciq, Qerllum mallarsuutii, Kulut'ruaq	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Adornment	Function	Lip plug
Common Materials	Wood, bone, ivory, coal, slate				
LxWxD (cm)					
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Uyak, Settlement Point, Karluk One		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>Before western contact, one of the most common forms of jewelry was the labret, an object worn in facial piercings. People pierced the skin beneath the chin or near the corners of the mouth for one or more decorative lip plugs. Labrets appear in a variety of distinct styles and sizes suggesting that they carried information about the wearers identity—age, social position, family.</p> <p>The common parts of a labret are the flange (proximal part that rests in the mouth and against the teeth) and the body that stick out of the hole for people to see. Some feature a groove where the flesh of the cheek rests. Others have a flared proximal end that keeps the labret from falling out.</p> <p>Some labrets, especially large pieces, are elaborately decorated with surface carving or inlays. Examples from Karluk One feature inlays of salmon teeth or a carving of a bears paw. Most, however, are not decorated in this way.</p>				
References	Steffian, Amy F., and Patrick G. Saltonstall, 2001, Markers of Identity: Labrets and Social Organization in the Kodiak Archipelago. Alaska Journal of Anthropology 1(1 & 2):1–27.				
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

LABRET

Wooden labrets, Karluk One (AM193)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic



Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

Labret preform from Karluk One (AM193)



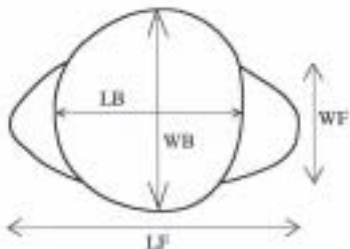
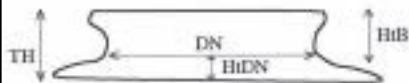
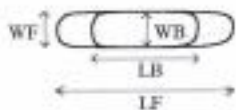
Bone and ivory labrets from Settlement Point (AM33)



Side View



Top View



TH - Total Height
HiB - Height of Body
DN - Diameter at Narrowest Point
HiDN - Height to Diameter at Narrowest Point

LB - Length of Body
WB - Width of Body
LF - Length of Flange
WF - Width of Flange

Figure 3: Labret dimensions measured

Figure 4: Kachemak labret forms

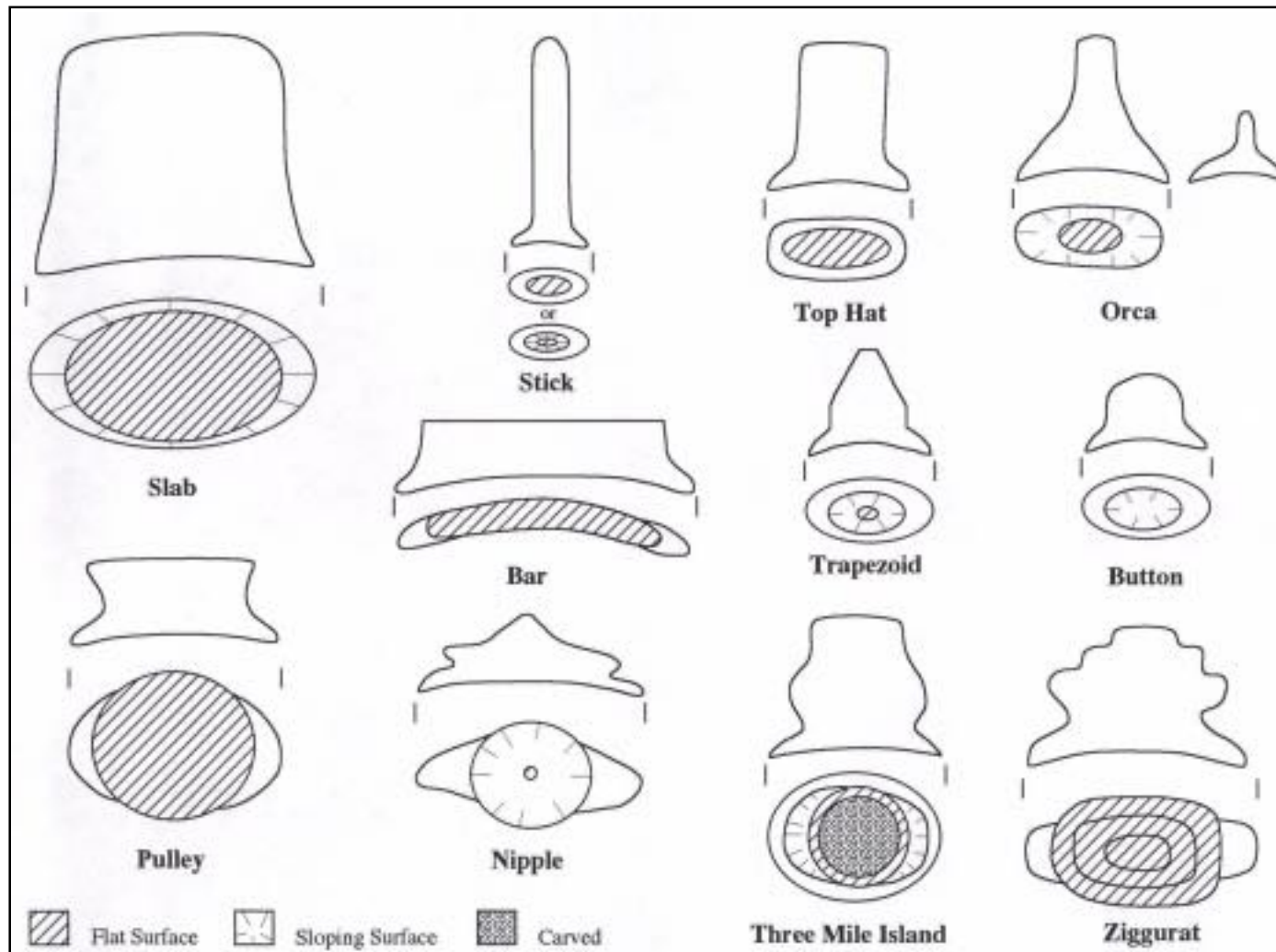
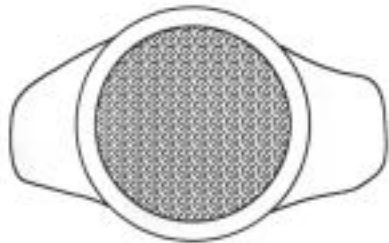


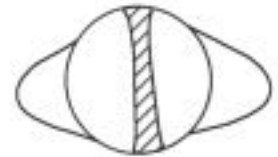
Figure 5: Decorative motifs on Kachemak labrets



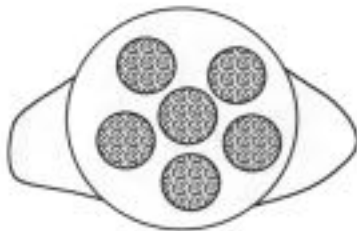
Hollowed



Carved Concentric Circles



Raised Bar



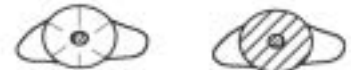
Multiple Carved Holes



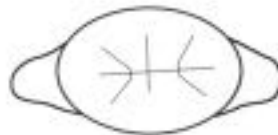
Front

Side

Vertical Side Groove



Peg Hole



Incised Design



Flat Surface

Sloping Surface

Carved



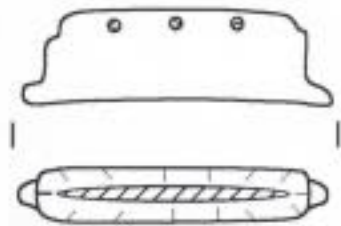
Bird



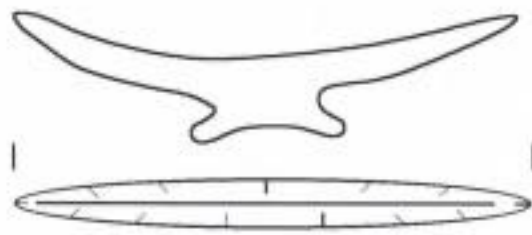
Canine



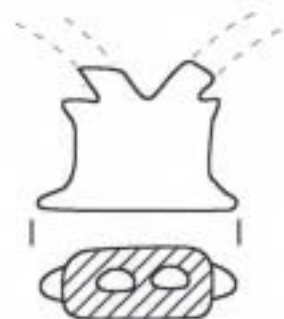
Stove Pipe



Bar



Winged



Tusked



Flat Surface

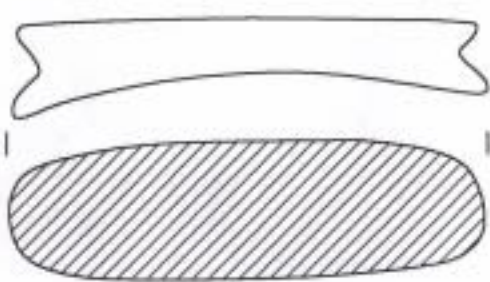


Sloping Surface



Carved

Figure 7: Common Koniag labret types (=4)



Cleat



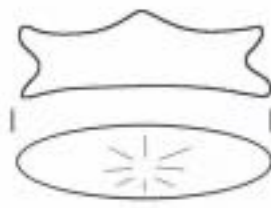
Plug



Top Hat



Pulley



Pagoda



Bowler



Stick



Flat Surface



Sloping Surface

Figure 8: Uncommon Koniag labret types (=3)



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 quickly carved segments of alder branch are designed to enlarge a person's facial piercing to accomodate a larger labret. They often have bark on them, and the ends are indented and smoothed to fit against the skin. Like labrets, hole stretchers occur in a set of distinct size classes, supporting the idea that people wore progressively large labrets over their lifetime.

References

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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

LABRET HOLE STRETCHER

Labret hole stretchers from Karluk One (AM193)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Nose Pin: Nose Ring		Alutiiq Names	Paciiruam kulut`rua`a, maitaq	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Adornment	Function	Jewelry
Common Materials	Wood				
LxWxD (cm)	5 to 8 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, Malina Creek		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>Some of the most common forms of Alutiiq jewelry were nose pins and labrets, objects worn in facial piercings. People pierced their nose cartilage to hold a narrow pin, and slit the skin beneath the chin or near the corners of the mouth for one or more decorative lip plugs. Nose pins are described as tubes of bone (Davydov 1977:110, 148; Lisanski 1814:195), and historic paintings of Kodiak Alutiiq people show them worn by both men and women (Korsun 2012:xxxii).</p> <p>Examples of nose pins from Karluk One are thin, gently curved pieces of wood, pointed on both ends (fig. 7.10). One features a small carving of a bird, perhaps a puffin based on the shape of its head (fig. 7.10 bottom). The Alutiiq also wore nose rings, U-shaped pieces of polished coal designed to hang from the nasal septum the piece of skin separating a person's nostrils. However, these are typically made of inorganic materials - e.g., coal and red shale.</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

NOSE PIN

Nose pins from Karluk One (AM193)



Kodiak Man, from Sauer 1802



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Pendant		Alutiiq Names	Uyamillkuaq	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Adornment	Function	Jewelry, Clothing decoration
Common Materials	Ivory, bone, animal tooth				
LxWxD (cm)					
Tradition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Uyak, Karluk One		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>Small pendants of bone, ivory and tooth are found in assemblages dating to the span of Alutiiq history, where organic preservation is present. These maybe jewelry or clothing decoration, or perhaps decoration for an object. They come in a variety of designs. Some are carefully carved and highly polished, others are more simply made. They are typically small with a single handling hole at the proximal end. One tear-drop shaped carving from the Uyak site features a tiny groove around its circumference, likely for hanging. A large crescent shaped piece from Karluk One features a pair of holes on the inner edge of the crescent.</p> <p>Animal teeth were also used as pendants. A number of teeth have a grooved carved around their proximal or root end for hanging. These may be bear or sea mammal teeth.</p>				
References	Steffian, Amy F., 1992b, Fifty Years After Hrdlička: Further Investigations at the Uyak Site, Kodiak Island, Alaska. Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska 24(1and2):141–164.				
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

PENDANT

Ivory pendants (left) and animal tooth pendants (right) from the Uyak site (AM3)



Bone pendants from the Rice Ridge site (AM19)



Ivory (left) and bear tooth (right) pendants from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Pin		Alutiiq Names	Tangerhnit'staaq	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Adornment	Function	Jewelry / Securing Clothing
Common Materials	Ivory, Bone				
LxWxD (cm)	from ca. 8 to 15 cm long				
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Uyak, Three Saints, Settlement Point, Igvak		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>These object may be hair ornaments or clothing fasteners. They are carefully carved from boen and ivory, and feature a point on the distal end (like a awl) that tapers to a long conical body and either a wider rounded proximal end. The proximal ends of some examples are elaborately decorated, with geometric designs and / or animal or human imagery (e.g., a whale tale, a bear, a sea otter, a human head). Others are undecorated.</p> <p>These artifacts are particularly common in Kachemak assemblages, but they are also found in Koniag and historic Alutiiq assemblages. An example from Igvak, dating to the early historic period, features a sea otter.</p>				
References	Steffian, Amy F., 1992b, Fifty Years After Hrdlička: Further Investigations at the Uyak Site, Kodiak Island, Alaska. Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska 24(1and2):141–164.				
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Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

PIN

Ivory pins from the Uyak site



Left: Three views of an ivory pin with a bear from Three Saints Bay, Right: Ivory pin with human head from the Uyak site, courtesy the Katelnikoff family.

