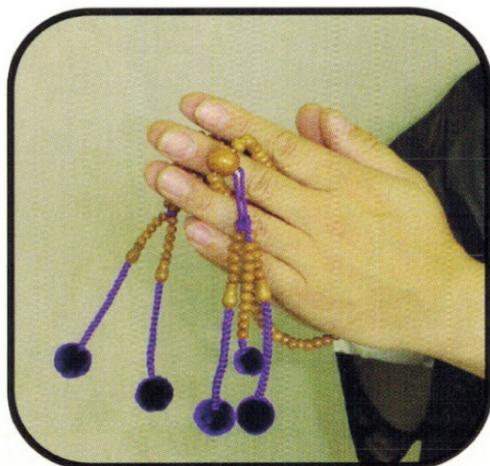


The third is to place the large bead with two tassels on the first knuckle of your middle finger of your right hand, twist the **Juzu** once and place the large bead with three tassels on the first knuckle of your



middle finger of the left hand, then put your palms together in Gassho.

This is used when you do not need to hold anything in your hands like during the first part of a service during prayer and while chanting **Odaimoku**, if you are not using a drum. This method also shows the relationship of ourselves in the **Saha** world, represented by our left hand, and the Buddha world, represented by our right



hand, by connecting the two together.

*If you have any questions about **Juzu** or about **Nichiren Shu**, please contact your local temple/church or to the Enkyoji Buddhist Network.*



Enkyoji Buddhist Network

Web: <http://www.enkyojinetwork.org>

E-mail: enkyoji.net@gmail.com

JUZU



Enkyoji Buddhist Network



Prayer Beads are used by all Buddhists and by many other religions as well. These beads are called *Juzu* or *Nenju* in Japanese, Mala by the Tibetans and in Sanskrit they are called Japamala.

When the Romans first saw prayers beads (Japamala) used by the Hindus, they mistakenly heard “*jap*” instead of “*japa*”.

Jap in Sanskrit stands for *Rose*.

Translated in Latin Japmala comes out as “*Rosarium*” and English as “*Rosary*”.

The *Juzu* or *Mala* may have been the inspiration for the Rosariy use by Christians y Muslims today.

Each Buddhist School may have a different use for the *Juzu*, but one of the main uses is for counting prayers or prostrations.

It is also a symbol that indentifies the carrier as someone who follows the Buddhist path.

Each school of Buddhism has their own style of *Juzu*. Some are small for the wrist and others are large. The beads may be made of bone, crystal, Bodhi tree wood, bamboo, coral or any number of materials.

The number of beads may vary but the most common denominator is one hundred and eight. One hundred and eight represent the one hundred and eight earthly desires.

The Nichiren Shu *Juzu* has one hundred and eight beads in a loop with five tassels, three on one side and two on the other.

Besides the one hundred and eight there are several special beads. Two larger beads represent Sakyamuni Buddha and Taho Buddha.

Four smaller beads in the main loop represent the four Bodhisattvas from under the earth. The *Juzu* also represent ourselves.

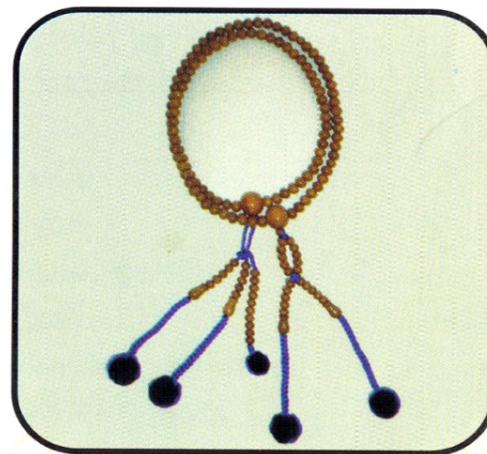
The tassels represent our head, arms and legs. This reminds us that we made up of the one hundred and eight desires.

There are several styles of *Juzu* used by Nichiren Shu. These styles vary in the tassels.

The first is used by lay followers and has five tassels with balls at the ends of each.

The second one is used by priest and has lace with tufts over the ball at the ends.

The third style is used by priest who can deliver a special kind of blessing called a **Kito** blessing.



There are several ways to hold a *Juzu*.

The first is to make a double loop and place the *Juzu* on your left wrist. This is used when you are beating the drum or during meditation practice or while listening to a sermon.



The second is to place the *Juzu* in the double loop between your thumb and finger on the left hand and to put your palms together in Gassho.

This is used when you need to be holding a Sutra book during the service.

