

## **Wau - A Malaysian Kite Made From Bamboo**

By

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### **Abstract**

Bamboo is a non-timber forest product commonly used by the local and indigenous communities in Malaysia. Its use is closely associated with local culture which is often expressed in proverbs and sayings. The saying "Bending the bamboo from its shoot" conveying the educational message of educating the children while they are still young. The proverb "Like bamboo and the river bank" describes the strong bond among the people. Bamboo is made to make a wide range of products of which one of them is the popular kite called wau. Wau is the name given to Malaysian kite and is one of Malaysia's national symbols. It has been used as a corporate logo for Malaysian Airline System (MAS) and also appears on Malaysia bank note. There are different types of wau and the most popular is wau bulan. Wau bulan got its name from the crescent moon-like shape of its lower section (bulan means "moon" in Malay language). The main frame of the wau is made from bamboo strips. Then a layer of strong paper with several coloured patterns is used. Normally, wau decoration is based on nature or Malay folklore. The price of a wau can be as low as USD 10 to a few hundred dollars depending on its size and decoration. For some entrepreneurs, wau making can be a lucrative source of income. Aside from flying, the wau are often used as decorations in restaurants and house interiors. Local wau competitions are held from time to time depending on the season. An international wau festival and competition would be held annually in Skudai, Johor with participants from all over the world.

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