



Jumonji-dome (Cross-bar fixture)

Make a free-style arrangement in a *Nageire* container of any shape using “*Jumonji-dome*.”

The dynamic, horizontally extended work can be made by using this fixing method, so try a composition which makes the best use of this characteristic. The vase must be strong to withstand the force applied to it. Glass containers, thin ceramics, or valuable vases are not suitable for this fixing method.

First, choose a strong but not very thick branch. Cut off two pieces from it and place them horizontally at the position a little below the rim of the vase to cross each other at right angles. Both of them need the length to be a little longer than the inner diameter of the vase, and one end cut flat and the other end obliquely.

Then, put the first bar horizontally in the vase with its slant cut end facing down, put the flat end against the inner wall of the vase and pull down the other end till its tip is crushed and firmly in place.

The second piece is put underneath the first one with its slant cut end facing up. Brace the flat end and pull up the other end so that the tip is crushed and firmly in place to make a fixing. There is no particular rule as for the directions of these bars (See figure on p.27.) These fixture bars placed in the vase are called *Komi*.

Now, fix the first branch using them. Hold the first branch outside the vase to see at which angle and direction it is to be arranged and cut it obliquely after judging the exact angle at which its end attaches to the inner wall of the vase. The branch is fixed by attaching to the inner wall of the vase, the crossbars, and the rim of the vase (although not always), but at least to the former two points. The plants which can be firmly fixed in this way or can be bent are suitable in using this fixing method. Place the second branch and others leaning on the partitions made by the crossbars.

When arranging *Kakei*, it was preferable to use two sections, or three at the maximum, divided by those. Now in free style ikebana, however, you may use any or all of the four sections. Before finishing, be sure to trim off excess twigs and leaves and neaten the area around the rim of the vase. Then, check if the work is done as was originally thought. If you notice any unsatisfactory points, make sure to improve next time.

Keep on trying out this method until you can fix plant materials at any angle you wish.