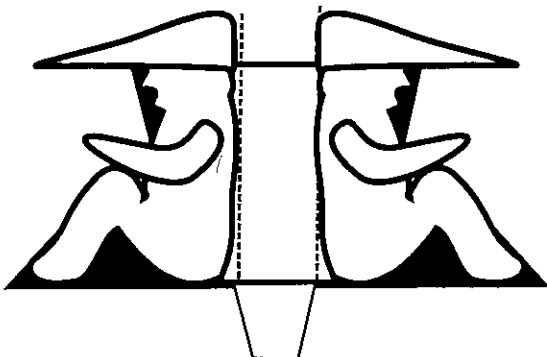


Chagudax[^]

(Bentwood Visor)

This bentwood visor with its extra long bill is a beautifully decorated example of a practical hat worn for centuries by kayak hunters in search of sea mammals, birds and beluga whales along Alaska's western coast. The shape of the hat helps the hunter see and hear better by shading the hunter's eyes and cupping and the hunter's ears. This visor is like one created in the 1840s on the Aleutian Islands by an Unangan (Aleut) carver. The hat is made from a driftwood board that is carved very thin and bent while it is hot and soaking wet in a steam bath. Hats are decorated with purple, blue, green, gold, red, black and white paints, long sea lion whiskers, feathers, beads, and carved ivory.

This visor has an ivory hat ornament of a hunter wearing his bentwood headgear.



Hat ornament

Make the Hat:

1. Color the hat
2. Cut out the hat and the hat ornament.
3. Fold in the tabs on the ends of the hat. Knot two rubberbands together. Place one rubberband loop inside one of the hat tabs and staple the tab shut. Place the other rubber band loop inside the other tab and staple to complete the hatband.

4. Fold the hat ornament along the dotted lines to create a triangular shape like this:



Fold out and tape the tab at the base of the hat ornament in the center of the hat.

5. Cut out long strips of white paper from the scraps to make sea lion whiskers. Tape the whiskers behind the beaded rim extending over the opening in the crown.

Your completed hat should look like this:

Alaska State Museum - *Just Old Hat(s)*

395 Whittier St., Juneau, AK 99801 www.museums.state.ak.us