



# Musical instrument (hasapi)

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**Not on display**

**Title/Description:** Musical instrument (hasapi)

**Object Type:** Musical instrument

**Materials:** Wood

**Measurements:** l. 686 x w. 72 x h. 98 mm

**Accession Number:** 798

**Historic Period:** 19th/early 20th century

**Production Place:** Oceania, Pacific, Sumatra

**Cultural Group:** Batak, Toba

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The Batak developed a distinctive two-stringed musical instrument (*hasapi*), generally referred to as a lute. *Hasapi* usually have a seated figure as a terminal, here wearing an elaborate turban, and also a projection beneath the resonating chamber, which in this case takes the form of an inverted face.

The instrument is carved from a single piece of wood except for the sound board, which is a replacement for the original. The back of the resonating chamber has an oval aperture and both ends of the neck have pierced scrolls which were formerly linked by a chain or cord. The two holes beneath the figure are for string-tightening pegs.

Steven Hooper, 1997

Entry taken from *Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Vol. 2: Pacific, African and Native North American Art*, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997) pp. 84-85.

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