Karnay making

The karnay is a long trumpet made of copper or bronze. It consists of the following parts mouthpiece (dahana) the middle part (torsak), middle joining tube (nil), central air part (miyonajo), lower part of the end-piece (kaba), faucet (qubba) decorative piece (jiyaki oroishi). Karnay is 190-210 cm long with the central and middle pipe having 3.3 cm diameter and weights 1 kg. For example, mouthpiece and middle joining part is 85-90 cm, central air part 55 cm and lower end piece is including faucet 57-63 cm long.

Karnay is made from a bronze sheet where all constitutive parts are first drowning on the sheet by incision than these are cut, assembled and brazed together. Each part of karnay is assembled separately and than joined together. After the assembling process the instrument will be thoroughly cleaned by various safe acids to give it polish, shine and remove any roughness it got during the assembling process. Afterwards, it is tested by the chief master to ensure the sound and workmanship quality.

The craft of karnay making was widespread in major cities of Central Asia, but from the second part of the 20th century it has gradually demised. In contemporary Tajikistan there is one master in Istaravshan region, Mirzo Mansurov who still holds the skill of making of at least 8 variety of karnays, such as kajkarnay, shikasta, govdum etc.

Playing karnay has become popular in wedding and alike ceremonies in Tajikistan.