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# Shishi odoshi

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***Shishi odoshi*** (ししおどし, 鹿威し<sup>?</sup>) literally means "deer scarer" in [Japanese](#). In a wide sense, it refers to Japanese devices made to scare away birds and beasts damaging agriculture, such as the **kakashi** ([scarecrow](#)), **naruko** ([clappers](#)) and **sōzu** (below). In a narrower sense, it is synonymous with **sōzu**.

***Sōzu*** (そうず, 添水<sup>?</sup>) is a type of [water fountain](#) used in [Japanese gardens](#). Usually made of [bamboo](#), it consists of a hollow pivoting arm attached to upright supports and a hard surface or object that the arm may come in contact with. Water pours from a tube or pipe into the arm. When the arm gets full, the weight of the water causes it to tip over and empty, making a sharp sound when it hits the hard surface below it. This noise is intended to startle any [deer](#) which may be grazing on the plants in the garden. The empty arm is then free to swing back up into position and refill. The rhythmic clacking sound punctuating the silence reminds visitors to the garden of the passage of time. Although simple in design, it is highly effective, and safer than most modern deer repellents. Some people collect them as [antiques](#).



A shishi odoshi breaks the quietness of a Japanese garden with the sound of one end of the bamboo [seesaw](#) hitting the edge of a stone bowl.

## See also

- [Scarecrow](#)
- [Suikinkutsu](#)
- [Water scoop \(hydropower\)](#)

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Sōzu, a kind of shishi odoshi, in [Shisen-dō](#), a historic spot in [Kyoto](#)

- [Information, diagram, and audio file](#) [🔗](#) [🔊](#)
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Categories: [Japanese style of gardening](#) | [Water](#)



*Sōzu* recording

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Sound of a sōzu. Recorded at [Shisen-dō](#), [Kyoto](#), [Japan](#)

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