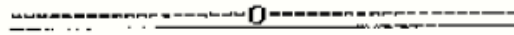


TITLE: Handles For The Cricket Bat Using Local Materials  
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Trinidad and Tobago carries a complete and unsurpassed range of cricket equipment. However, the finest bats in cricket are produced in England. These bats are imported and as a result sold at very high prices.

In a previous project, cricket bat blades were successfully produced using local woods. However, the handles of these bats were imported. In this project, the Physics of the imported handles were carefully investigated and an attempt has been made to produce the bat handles using various local materials. Our philosophy is to source and select the best possible local material and manufacture it, to an unparalleled level, into a high performance bat handle, which offers sensational value and true performance when compared with the imported handles.

The material samples investigated were Bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris*), Monkey Vine, Bois Canon Root (*Cecropia peltata*), Bois Canon Trunk (*Cecropia peltata*), Sarawak Cane and Car Tube Rubber. All the samples were dried in a solar drier and kiln to reduce the moisture content to 18% to 20 %. Parameters measured were the density, Flexural or Bending strength and Damping Factor. The properties of the Standard Handle were also determined and compared to handles made from the local materials.

Work is still continuing, therefore a material with properties similar or close to that of the Standard Handle is still to be determined. This study satisfies the physical and mechanical properties required.

