

GAMBUSU LUTE

ARTWORK

(SULAWESI)

Version	Date	On line	Updates	
V1.0	Sept. 2017	yes	Creation	dHerouville P.
V4.0	May 2020	yes	Addings : pegboxes	dHerouville P.
V5.0	May 2022	yes	Addings	dHerouville P.
V6.0	Dec 2022	yes	Pattern Addings	dHerouville P.
V7.0	Jul 2024	yes	Various addings	d Herouville P.

The **Gambus** designation nowadays took an unexplicit acception in the Indonesian archipelago, since the word became synonymous of “*middle east-like lute*” there. If the word is certainly rooted in the Yemeni name “Qanbus”, according to the homonymous lute of the Sana’an plateau, for sure, every current Indonesian avatars now embody various designs. In the province of Sulawesi, the “Gambus” name was corrupted to “Gambusu”. That said, this lute meets seldom the orthodox criteria with the three main categories of **Gambus**, as usually found in Malaysia and Indonesia:

1. - **Gambus Hijaz**, a monoxyle, long necked lute. Now rare and hardly survives reportedly in Johor state, Sarawak (near Kuching), Sabah (Semporna), and seldom in Papar, Bongawan), Kalimantan (**panting** music in Benjarsin /Banjarmasin) and various districts of Sumatra districts: Bengkalis, Penyengat, Jambi, & Medan. The Panting lute is a tiny avatar in South and South-East Kalimantan.

2 - **Gambus Hadramawt, a.k.a. « Gambus Johor »**, an *oud*-like lute. This can be found still in Johor state, Brunei, Sabah, Java, Sumatra, Madura, Sulu.

3- Bruneian monoxyle **Gambus Seludang** is a local crossover design family in Brunei and Sabah. Though often named “**Gambus Hijaz**”, the Bruneian making of “**Seludang**” feature the typical 100% wooden soundboard - unlike the existing **Gambus Hijaz** family. Anyhow the acception of the term « **Seludang** » highly varies between Riau and Brunei - Sabah.

Now on the way to extinction in many places, the **Gambus Hijaz** lute is still (seldom) accompanying **Zapin / Jepen** dance (Ar. **Zafin**, a dance genre from Hadhramawt, still widespread in **Sawt**-like sessions in the Gulf countries) namely the local **Hamdolok** dance – Batu Pahat – and the **Zapin Banjar** - Kalimantan-. Considering that Johore’s **Ghazal** music now substituted **Gambus Hijaz** lute with *oud* in continental Malaysia, the relevant regional musical avatars for **Zafin & Gambus Hijaz** are nowadays **Hamdolok** (Batu Pahat), **Tingkilan** (Kutai tribesmen, south Kalimantan) and **Panting-Banjar** (south Kalimantan and surroundings of Benjarsin/Banjarmasin city). The name **Banjar** echoes obviously “*Banjarmasin*”, which is an harbor-city, situated south of Kalimantan.

Having said that, the Sulawesi province features a versatile lute, possibly under influence of a late introduction. The instrument is found more or less anywhere in Sulawesi, but the avatars vary according to their locations.

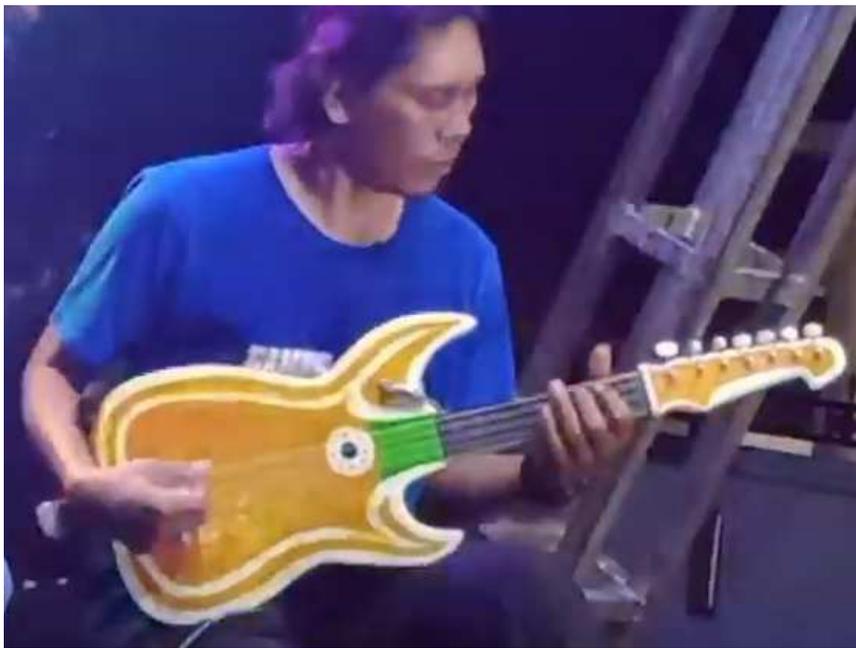
THE “GAMBUSU” LUTES IN SULAWESI

Unlike in Kalimantan, one can hardly speak about a unique concept of **Gambusu** lute in the Sulawesi, but at least four.

1. First comes a monoxyle, oblong shaped lute, much widespread in Makassar, Maros, Sinjang, Gorontalo, Toli-Toli, and even prominent in Mingondow, Buton, Kedari districts. One can consider the fretless mandolin-like instrument in Wakatobi as its later evolution. For each location, these items are tuned and played for the local genres, such as the **Turiolo** (Bone, Makassar), the Kabanti (Wakatobi, Muna), the **mandalin** (Maros), the **tanggomo** (Gorontalo, Mingondow) and various such pantun-based songs for entertainment. The entertainment songs of Muna, Wakatobi and Buton used to be accompanied with a glass-made bottle beat.
2. The endemic boat-lute variant hints about a parallel trend, possibly branching lately from the local **kasapi** boat-lute. Basically a very raw instrument, this rose among the Daeng bards, possibly for the modern songs of the Bugis (Gowa, WataBone), then the Makassarese (Makassar, Pare-Pare). This is sometimes nicknamed “Kasapi bugis”.
3. In Selayar, the first category is recently challenged by a later plain body variant. All are tuned and played in there for the local genres, namely the **Batti-Batti** (Selayar).
4. In addition, another, wider, ud-like **gambusu** appeared lately among the Bugis (WataBone, Gowa). This is sometimes nicknamed “gambusu bugis”. This is now often involved in middle-eastern evocations, such as “Electone” parties, public **Zapin/ jepen** dance parties or qasida hymns.

Wood-made and skin-made soundboards can be found. Except the odd case of the boat-lutes, two main standards for the pegbox proemine: the cello-like pegbox and the hook-shaped design. Though not observed out of the Celebes, the woodblock-shaped peghead seems to originate from the boatlute variant. Organology speaking, the mutation of the gambusu to a typically local instrument is obvious:

1. The progressive *substitution of the skin-made resonator with wood-made* one causing a boom for amplified use & microphone. The electrified lute is locally nicknamed the “Electone gambusu”
2. Unclear fate for *the hollowed body* and the related acoustic rendering indeed.
3. Recent influences from abroad: such as acoustic guitar bodied lutes (Makassar).



Gambusu possibly in Selayar (souh Sulawesi). .



Gambusu lute in Desa Andumowu (Kendari, NE. Sulawesi)



A customized "boat-lute" style *gambusu*, as observed in Makassar



Gambusu lute in Wakatobi Isl (E. Sulawesi)

That said, the se various types are obviously branching and blooming under a variety of avatars.

CONCLUSIONS

The Mbojo and the Sasak 100% diverted from the original melayu art & backgrounds. The religious musics was possibly a temporary avatar, and the lute music seems to have definitely turned to some newly created secular genres.

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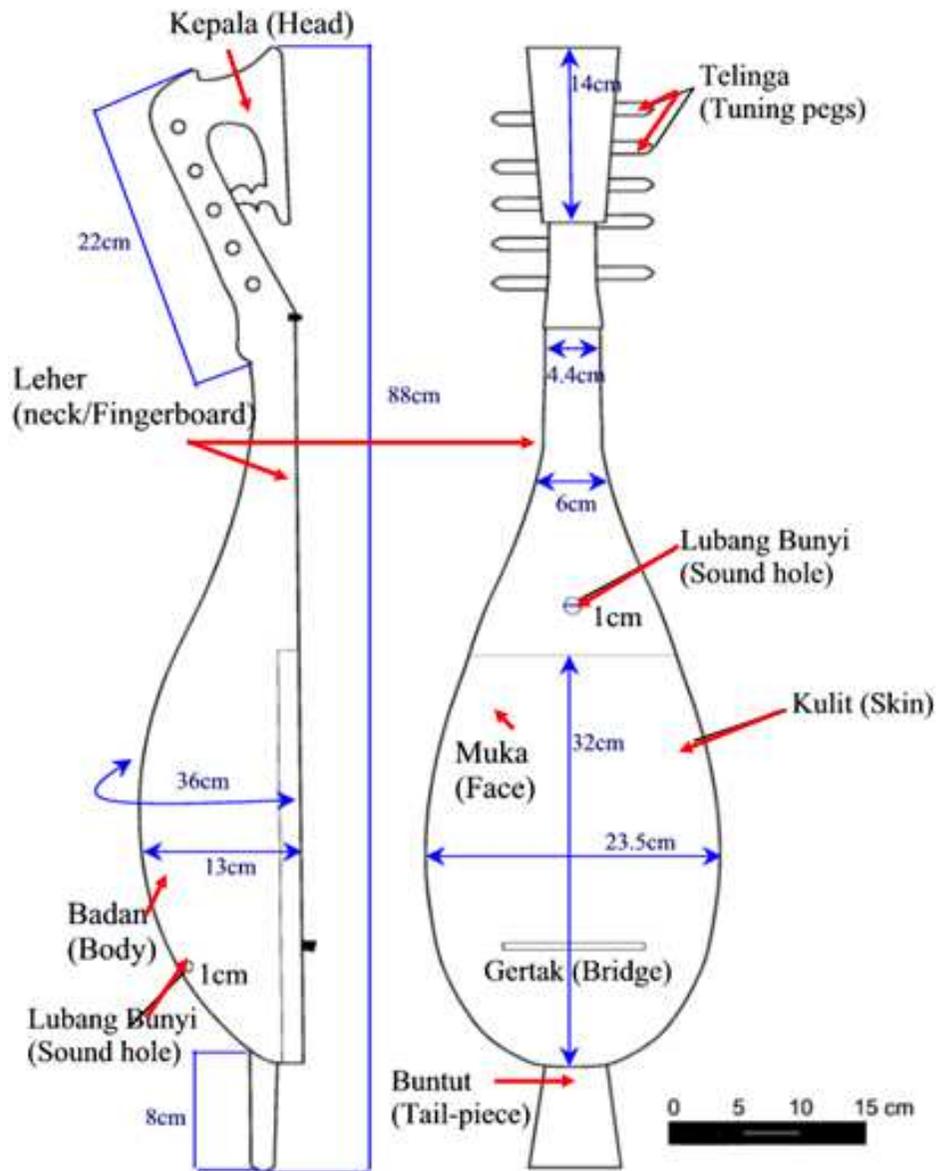
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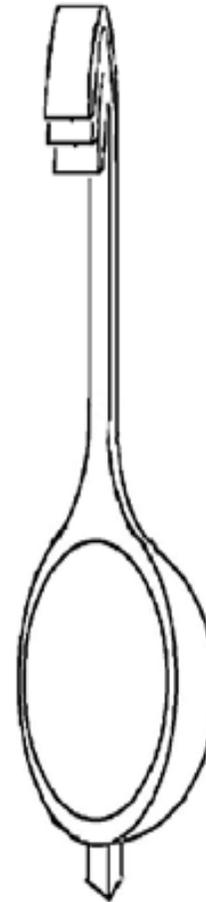


A customized **gambusu**, as observed in Kendari (East Sulawesi)



Malay name of the components , drawing and data from Larry Francis HILARIAN

09



08



Assy concepts observed in Sulawesi



A “daeng” bard, possibly in Selayar (souh Sulawesi).



The bard Daeng NAEI “CUDDING” in Makassar ft boat-lute **Gambusu**



The front panel of the traditional longhouses of the toraja (central Sulawesi)

KECAPI LUTE (TORAJA, SULAWESI) – “ROADSIGN” RESONATOR DECO



LEFT : this colorful kecapi lute of the Toraja people allegedly dates back to the early 20th century. The ITEM embodies a picturesque, old style « stripe » deco in the Toraja culture, forecoming so the « roadsign » type deco in the Gambusu lutery of the modern Bugis (ex : « boatlute Gambus » in Makassar BOTTOM RIGHT). The sun-flower (bunga rangka » in toaja language) is a symbol of beauty, goodness and pleasant smell

The present views are courtesy by Artemis gallery for auction purpose.

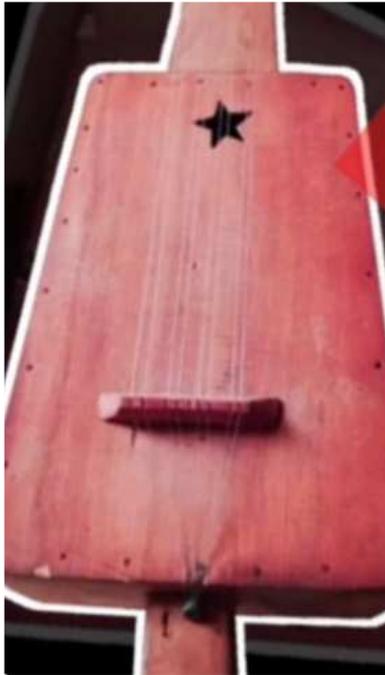


GAMBUS LUTE – “STAR” PATTERN - RESONATOR DECO

01



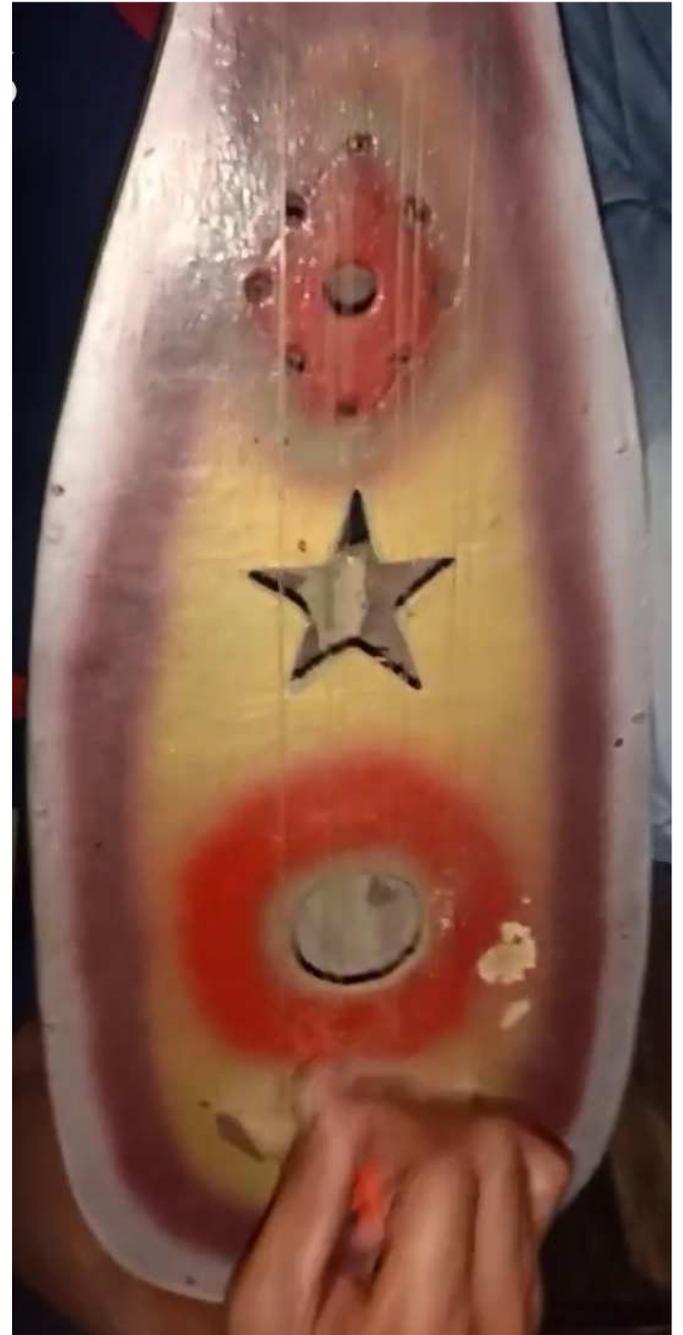
02



03



05



Mongondow

06



07



08



09

Kampubbu / (Wata)Bone

“Jack Daniel’s”, Sinjai, S. Sulawesi

Kampubbu / (Wata)Bone

Kg

Layanah Indah, S. Sulawesi

GAMBUS LUTE – “STAR” PATTERN - RESONATOR DECO

01



02

Gorontalo

03

Mongondow

Layanah Indah, S. Sulawesi

05



06



07

Utara Bombang, S. Sulawesi

08



"Desa Ampakkale, Maros

Kampubbu / (Wata)Bone

Makassar

GAMBUS LUTE – “MOON” PATTERN - RESONATOR DECO

10
1

02

03



05



Maros

Muna Isl, SE Sulawesi

Pulau Telaga Raya Buton, SE Sulawesi

06

07



08



09

Muna Isl, SE Sulawesi

Buton SE. Sulawesi

Buton SE. Sulawesi

Kg Pattiro Bajo, (Wata)Bone

Tompo, S Sulawesi

GAMBUS LUTE – “GEOMETRICAL” PATTERN - RESONATOR DECO

01



Maros

02



Maros

03

Makassar

05



Unclear location | S. Sulawesi

06



Utara Bombang, S. Sulawesi

07



Layanah Indah, S. Sulawesi

08

Kampubbu / (Wata)Bone

09



Kg Pattiro Bajo, (Wata)Bone

GAMBUS LUTE – “ROADSIGN” RESONATOR DECO



ITEMs n°01, 06 (Gorontalo), n°02 (Reo, S. Sulawesi), n°03 (Poso) , n°04 (Bulukumba), n°05 (Makassar), n°07 (Konawe)

GAMBUS LUTE – “ROADSIGN” RESONATOR DECO



Pangkep



Gorontalo



Bulukumba, S. Sulawesi

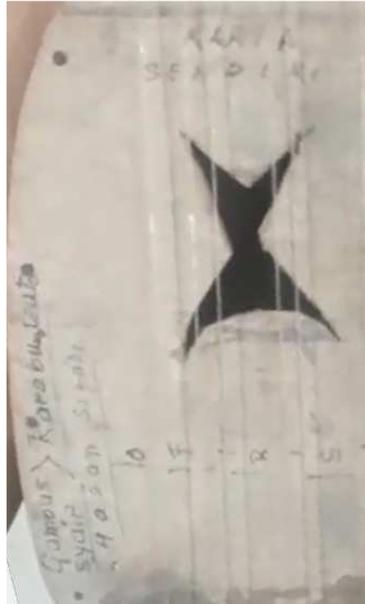


Sinjai, S. Sulawesi

GAMBUS LUTE – “MESSAGING” PATTERN - RESONATOR DECO

01

02



03



05

Maros

Muna Isl, SE Sulawesi

Bugis, C. Sulawesi

06



07



08

09

Kampubbu / (Wata)Bone

Kg Pattiro Bajo, (Wata)Bone



Sinjai, S. Sulawesi

GAMBUSU LUTE: PAINTING PATTERNS

14



02

03



04



05



06



ITEMs n°01 (Gowa), n°02 (Buton Isl), n°03 (Pandanan), n°04 (Mongondow), n°05 (Muna Isl) , n°02 & 06 (Gorontalo)

GAMBUS LUTE – “FLOWER” RESONATOR DECO

01



02



03

Gorontalo, N. Sulawesi

Buloa / Makassar

07



08



09

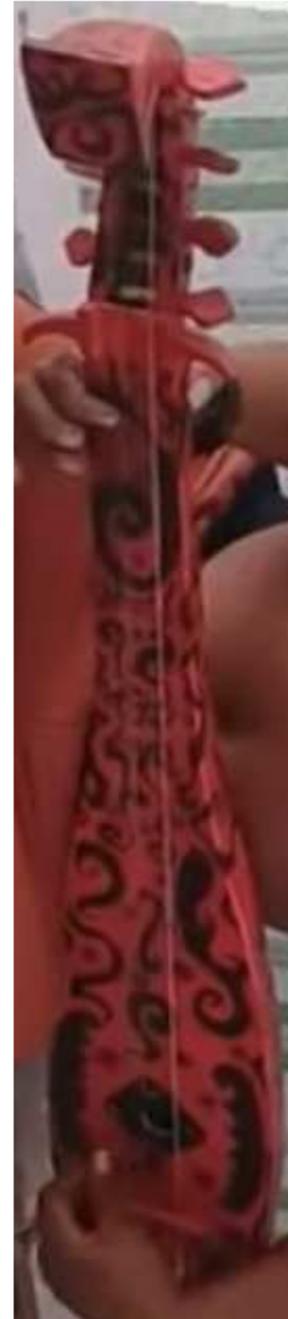


Selayar Isl, S. Sulawesi

Makassar, S. Sulawesi

Makassar

04



Gorontalo, N. Sulawesi



Bugis of Makassar

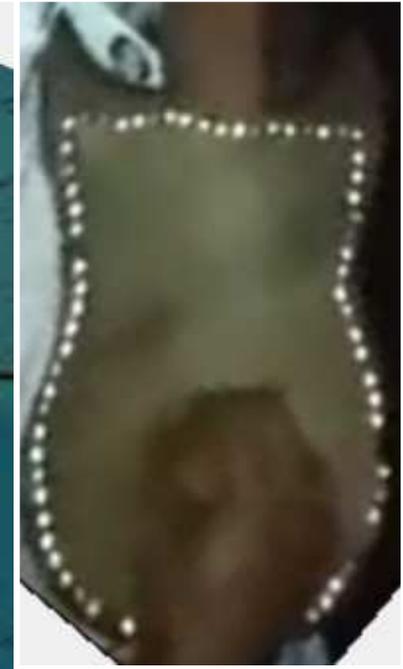
GAMBUSU / GITAR LUTES (SELAYAR & MUNA)



Pattern: Stratocaster by Fender (USA)



GAMBUSU / GITAR LUTES (TAKALAR, MUNA)



Pattern: Stratocaster by Fender (USA)