
PAGODA RED



AUSPICIOUS GOURD CARPENTER LINE

\$688

c. 1850 • Northern China, China • Northern Elmwood • Collection #BJC097D

W: 9.5" D: 5.5" H: 3.75"

Given the beauty and thoughtful design of traditional Chinese furniture, it's no wonder that Qing-dynasty carpenter's tools were accorded the same attention to detail. This remarkably intact 19th-century in-tilt reel was hand carved from northern elmwood with swirling clouds and auspicious double gourd motifs, symbols of longevity and protection. Used to mark straight lines, this ingenious tool runs a thread across an inkwell as its drawn across a measured surface. Anchored by a stickpin, the thread is then stamped to create a straight guide line. Continued...



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Once an essential component of a Chinese carpenter's toolkit, this reel lives on as a storied sculptural object.



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