

## TANAKA KIKINZOKU KOGYO K.K.

JAPAN

### LOCATION

**Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo K.K.** is the leading gold refiner and bar manufacturer in Japan. Its headquarters is located in the Chiyoda-ku area of Tokyo.

Gold refining and the manufacture of bars take place at the Shonan Works, which is located in the Kanagawa Prefecture, about 60 km from Tokyo.

The Shonan Works operates one of the world's largest refineries with an annual capacity exceeding 500 tonnes.

### OWNERSHIP

Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo K.K., incorporated in 1918, has been privately owned since its establishment in 1885.

### ACCREDITATION

1978 London Bullion Market Association  
1980 CME Group – Market Contract: COMEX  
1982 Tokyo Commodity Exchange  
2005 Dubai Multi Commodities Centre

Japan Gold Metal Association  
Japan Gold Bullion Coin Association

In 2004, the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) appointed Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo K.K. as one of five referees to the LBMA Good Delivery system.

### BACKGROUND

Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo K.K., founded in 1885 by Umekichi Tanaka, was incorporated in 1918. Between 1885 and 1943, the company was known as Tanaka Shoten.

The company has the distinction of having had only three presidents during its first 100 years: Umekichi Tanaka (1885-1935), Ichiro Tanaka (1935-1963) and Jun-Ichiro Tanaka (1963-1989).

For 70 years, gold refining took place at the head office site in Chuo-ku area of Tokyo. In 1955, it was transferred to the Sunamachi Works in the Kohto-ku area of Tokyo, until its closure in 1976. Since that time, all gold refining has taken place at the Hiratsuka No 2 Works (established 1966), renamed the Shonan Works in 1999.

Cast bars were manufactured at the headquarters in Tokyo until 1979, minted bars until 1998. In 1979, bar manufacture was progressively transferred to the Isehara Works (established in the Kanagawa Prefecture in 1973). In 2007, bar manufacture was transferred to the Shonan Works.

In 2006, the company relocated its head office to the Tokyo Building in the Chiyoda-ku area of Tokyo.



The company was founded by Umekichi Tanaka in 1885.



Tanaka was the first refiner in Japan to manufacture London Good Delivery 400 oz bars, in 1978.



All bars are manufactured to a fineness of 999.9.



Subsidiary companies include:

Tanaka Kikinzoku Hanbai K.K. (a domestic company marketing Tanaka Group industrial products); Tanaka Kikinzoku Jewellery K.K. (a leading jewellery retailer and wholesaler in Japan, originally established as Yamazaki Co Ltd in 1930); Tanaka Denshi Kogyo K.K. (established 1961, the world's leading manufacturer of gold bonding wire); Tanaka Kikinzoku International K.K. (established 1991, markets Tanaka Group industrial products outside Japan).

Other joint ventures include:

Electroplating Engineers of Japan Ltd since 1965; Heesung Metal Co Ltd in Korea since 1974; Nippon PGM Co Ltd since 1991; TC Catalyst Inc since 2008.

Apart from gold, the company refines platinum group metals and silver, producing bars and other products for the precious metal industry.

Number of employees: 3,600

**GOLD SERVICES**

Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo K.K. focuses on:

- (1) Gold refining and the recycling of scrap
- (2) Gold products for the jewellery sector
- (3) Gold products for the electronics sector
- (4) Gold products for the decorative sector
- (5) Gold products for the dental sector
- (6) Gold medals and coins
- (7) Gold bars

**GOLD REFINING AND RECYCLING OF SCRAP**

The company normally accepts the following gold-bearing materials for refining to specified purities up to 999.9:

- Semi-refined bullion
- Electrolytic slimes: derived from copper
- Electrolytic slimes: derived from silver
- Precipitated gold slimes
- Loaded carbon
- Old jewellery
- Jewellery manufacturers scrap
- Electronic scrap
- Dental scrap
- Old coins and medals
- Slag and other refining scrap
- Gold-bearing resins
- Chemical waste

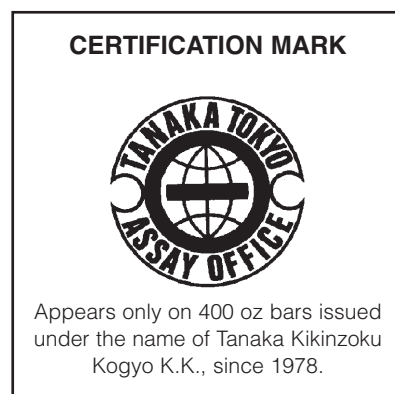
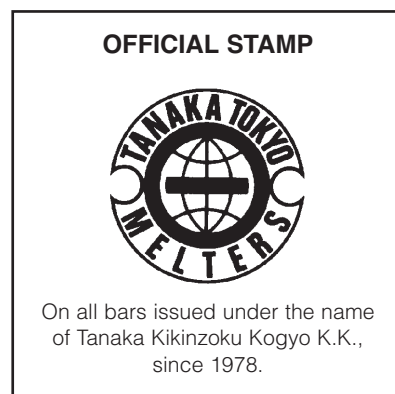
Gold refining methods include pyrometallurgical chlorination, wet chemical chlorination (aqua regia) and wet chemical parting.

Annual gold refining capacity is recorded at approximately 540 tonnes: dry chemical refining (480 tonnes), wet chemical refining (60 tonnes).

To ensure the quality and integrity of its products, all bars purchased domestically and internationally (including its own bars) are re-refined before being used in industrial applications or reissued as new bars.



Refining takes place at the Shonan Works, about 60 km from Tokyo.



**GOLD BARS**

A standard range of 6 cast and 4 minted bars:

Cast: 400 oz, 1000 g, 500 g, 300 g, 200 g, 100 g

Minted: 50 g, 20 g, 10 g, 5 g.

Customised bars are manufactured for external entities.

The gold bars of Tanaka are available to the public throughout Japan from the company's own retail outlets in Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Fukuoka and other cities, 131 jewellery stores, 44 department stores, 8 banks and 3 security houses.

The company was the first to launch Gold Accumulation Plans in Japan, in the early 1980s. Its Plan enables members to purchase gold easily each month.

The company is also the sole importer and distributor of Japan's two most popular gold bullion coins: Canadian *Maple Leaf* (since 1982) and the *Vienna Philharmoniker* (since 1989).



Tanaka was the first, among accredited refiners, to manufacture cast bars using computer-controlled robots, in 1982.

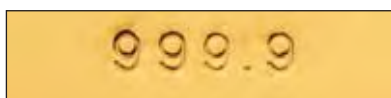
**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION**

Weight	Type	Fineness	Shape	Dimensions mm	First Issued	Serial Number System	System Introduced
400 oz	Cast	995+, 999, 999.9	Rectangular	258 x 82 x 47 230 x 56 (base)	1978	Year date Plus 5 numbers	2000
1000 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	113 x 52 x 10	1978	2 letters Plus 6 numbers	1988
500 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	87 x 44 x 9	1978	2 letters Plus 6 numbers	1988
300 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	77 x 33 x 7	1978	2 letters Plus 6 numbers	1988
200 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	48 x 28 x 8	1978	2 letters Plus 6 numbers	1988
100 g	Cast	999.9	Rectangular	40 x 24 x 6	1978	2 letters Plus 6 numbers	1988
50 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	40 x 25 x 2.6	1981	-	-
20 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	33 x 20 x 1.6	1981	-	-
10 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	27 x 16.5 x 1.18	1979	-	-
5 g	Minted	999.9	Rectangular	20 x 12.5 x 1.05	1979	-	-
1 g	Minted	999.9	Fine Gold Cards*	14 x 9 x 0.41	1991	-	-

Source: Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo K.K. \* Manufactured in other weights and with a diverse range of decorative designs.

**Serial Number System**

100 g – 1000 g. The first letter records the robot which stamped the bar; the second letter indicates the year date.



All cast and minted bars are issued at a gold purity of 99.99%.



**HISTORY OF GOLD BAR MANUFACTURE**

All bars, from the establishment of the company in 1885 until 1959, were denominated in monmes. 1 monme = 3.75 g.

During the 1960s and 1970s, 4 narrow cast bars denominated in grams were introduced: 1000 g, 500 g, 200 g and 100 g.

In 1978, these 4 bar weights were reissued in their current shape, together with 400 oz and 300 g cast bars.

In the same year, the 400 oz cast bar was the first in Japan to be accepted as London Good Delivery.

During the 1960s and 1970s, early versions of 5 minted bars were introduced: 50 g, 30 g, 20 g, 10 g and 5 g.

Between 1979 and 1981, standard minted bars replaced them: 10 g and 5 g (1979), 50 g, 20 g and 10 g (1981). In 1981, 1 g and 2 g minted bars were also issued.

Fine gold cards (1 g) with decorative designs were launched in 1991.

The company was the first, among accredited refiners, to launch a 0.5 g minted bar (1990) and a 0.3 g minted bar (1991). They have not been made since 2006.

The current official stamp has been used since 1978. An earlier official stamp had been applied to all cast bars until 1977 and on the earlier versions of the minted bars until 1978. For a few months in 1978, a temporary stamp was applied to cast bars.

The certification mark, which appears only on 400 oz bars, was introduced in 1978 and remains unchanged.

A serial numbering system was first applied to 1000 g, 500 g, 300 g, 200 g and 100 g cast bars in the 1960s (est). The system for these bars was changed in 1979, in 1982, and again in 1988. The original system for 400 oz bars in 1978 was modified in 1979, and again in 2000.

**TRADE COMMUNICATION**

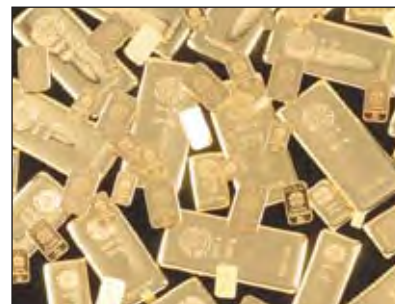
Enquiries by gold dealers and industrial customers should be directed to the company's headquarters:

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 Chiyoda-ku  
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**Precious Metals Division**

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 Email: soba1s@ml.tanaka.co.jp

Website: www.gold.tanaka.co.jp



Cast and minted bars have been issued in the same dimensions since 1978.



Fine gold cards have been manufactured since 1991.



Tanaka staged a Worldwide Gold Bar Exhibition at Ginza Tanaka during Tokyo Gold Week in 2009.



EXAMPLES OF GOLD BARS



1000 g



200 g



100 g



50 g



10 g



London Good Delivery 400 oz

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Refer to disclaimer on website: [www.goldbarsworldwide.com](http://www.goldbarsworldwide.com)

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