



Wave Splitter (Tabuya)

Date
20th Century

Primary Maker
Massim

Medium
Wood

Description

Wave splitters are a part of the elaborate canoes used in the kula trade ring in the Massim area of Papua New Guinea. Known colloquially tabuya, wave splitters, also known as prowboards, are located on both the prow and the stern of the canoe. The tabuya project outwards from the bow or the stern and a splashboard is attached behind it. Together, these two components protect the canoe and its passengers from splashing ocean water as the canoe cuts through waves.

Dimensions

12 × 30 1/2 × 1 1/2 in. (30.5 × 77.5 × 3.8 cm)