

# Basic Detail Report

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## Armband Currency (Mwali)

**Date**

late 20th Century

**Primary Maker**

Massim

**Medium**

Shell, beads and string

**Description**

Mwali armbands are made of shell, beads, and string. They usually travel as a paired item. They aren't normally worn, but instead are hung from rope and either exchanged as part of the Massim's region's Kula trade, used as bride price, or admired as wealth. The Kula trade was an exchange of gifts spanning thousands of miles in a route through the islands of New Guinea. In the kul aring mwali were traded in a counterclockwise direction and red shell discs were traded in the clockwise direction.

**Dimensions**

Each: 7 1/8 × 4 × 1 5/8 in. (18.1 × 10.2 × 4.1 cm)