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## Japanese Kusuri Dansu - Apothecary Box With Yosegi Marquetry & Raden Inlays



750 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : 35.5 cm

Height : 38.5 cm

### Description

A finely crafted Japanese Kusuri Dansu (???), or apothecary chest, featuring exceptional geometric marquetry (yosegi-zaiku), traditional to the Hakone region, and detailed mother-of-pearl inlay (raden) set into black lacquer panels. This compact cabinet would have originally served to store medicines, herbs, or valuable small items in a merchant or healer's household.

The chest comprises nine drawers--seven of standard size and two larger ones--with the largest drawer distinctly marked with twin artisan symbols, reflecting traditional Japanese workshop practices. All drawers are inscribed with a carved "X"-shaped assembly mark, confirming handcrafted joinery and careful construction.

The top compartment opens via a hinged lid, revealing a lacquered interior with delicate floral

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raden motifs, suggesting use for storing precious items or writing instruments. The marquetry features a range of traditional Japanese patterns--asanoha, kikko, and illusionistic cubes--crafted from contrasting natural woods. Fitted with original brass handles and escutcheons, this piece is in good antique condition with gentle wear consistent with age. The joinery remains tight, and the inlays are well preserved, making it both a functional piece and a collector's decorative object.

Condition:

Structurally sound with original hardware and patina

Minor surface wear and age-related marks throughout

Raden inlay intact; marquetry clean and vivid

One drawer marked with double joiner's symbol--possibly indicating a master drawer or reinforced build      The key is missing

Dimensions: H 38.5 cm × W 35.5 cm × D 18.5 cm      Origin: Japan Period: Late 19th century

(Meiji period)      Materials: Mixed woods, yosegi-zaiku marquetry, black lacquer, mother-of-pearl (raden), brass hardware