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Alpine products between tradition and innovation: waterproof milk containers also make great sauna tubs.

Alpine workshop in a museum

“The best wood for the roof of a stall grows next to the stall,” says the Grisons-born shingle maker, Eva Gredig. She is one of seven shingle-making specialists from the Alpine region that are exhibiting their craftsmanship in the Swiss Alpine Museum, Bern. Visitors can pick up a hammer themselves, join in the slate-making workshop and cover parts of the Alpine museum in slates together.

The Alpine workshop exhibition depicts daily life rather than an idealised Alpine world. What does it mean

to create a product with your hands in a digitalised and globalised world? How much actual manual work do modern trades contain nowadays? How do you make a living from it? Besides slate makers and a ski builder, the exhibition includes further trades from the Alpine region just waiting to be discovered: carpentry, violin making, cobbling, cheese making and weaving. (TP)

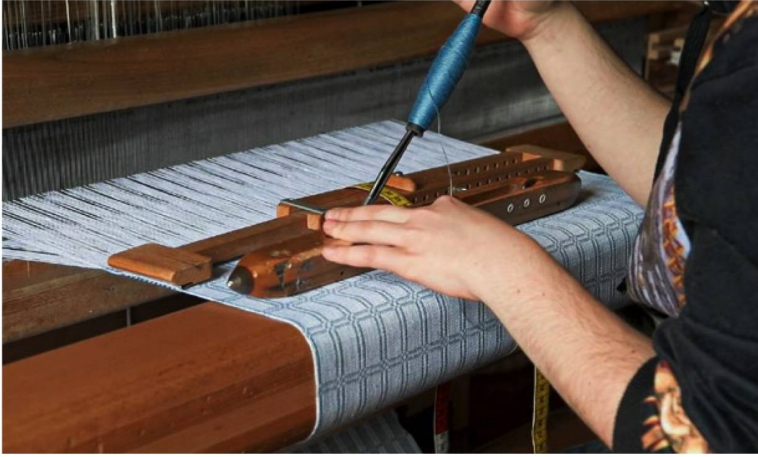
“Alpine workshop. The Artisans”, Alpine Museum Bern, until 27 September 2020. www.alpinesmuseum.ch



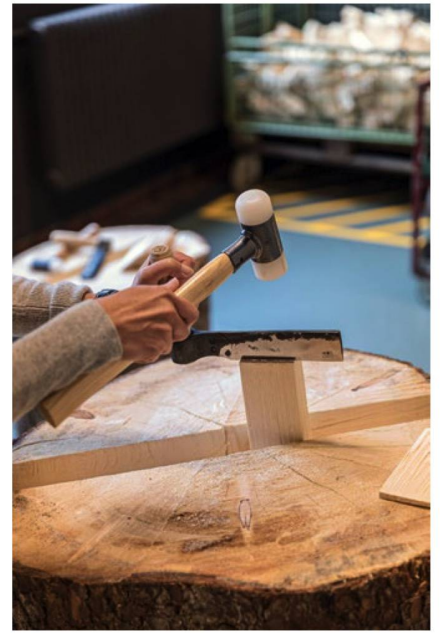
Students of the violin-making school in Brienz show off their craft.



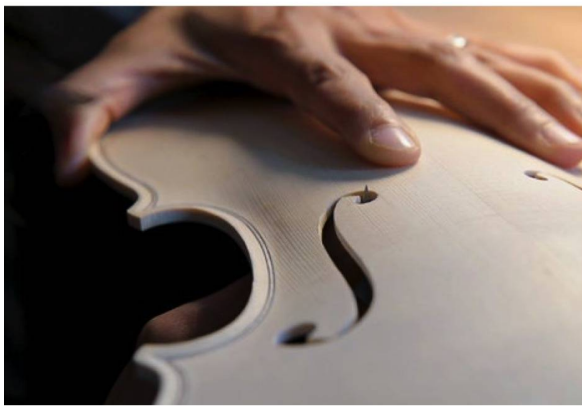
Vaud-born ski maker Lucas Bessard in his workshop in Cuarnens.



Video installations provide an insight into the daily life of professional people: Jessica Correia de Freitas in the Tessitura hand weaving mill in Poschiavo.



The public lend a hand in the museum's slate-making workshop.



Violin-maker Mahdieh Shahraki puts the finishing touches to her work in Brienz.

Touching is allowed: there is a story behind every tool.

