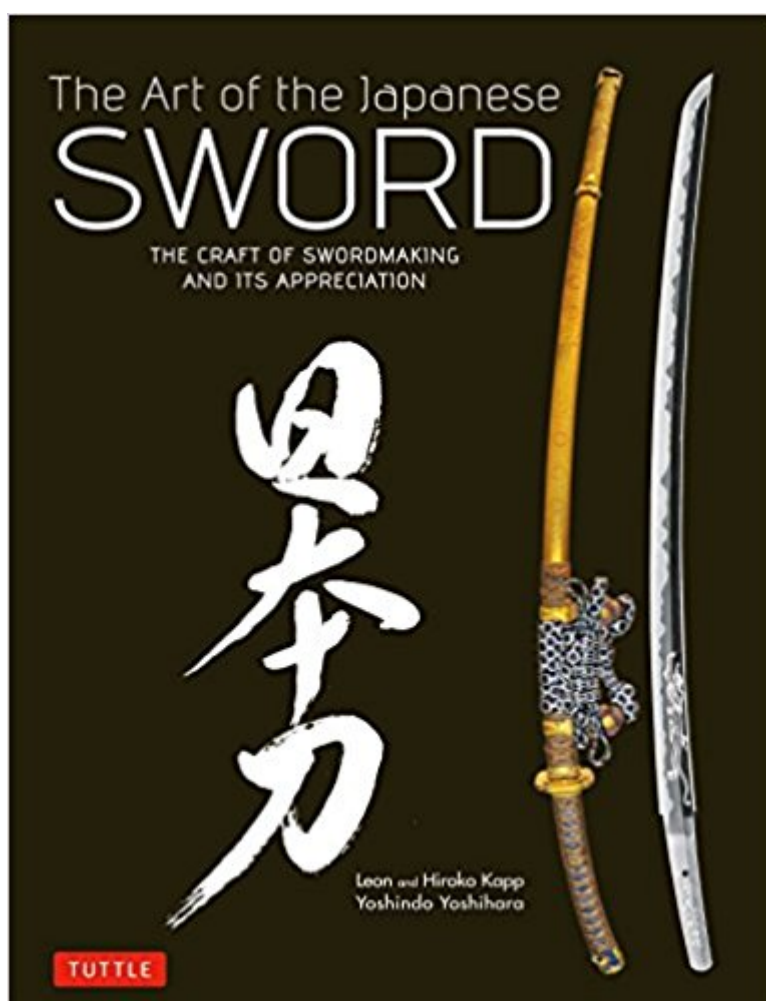


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# The Art Of The Japanese Sword: The Craft Of Swordmaking And Its Appreciation



## Synopsis

In *The Art of the Japanese Sword*, master swordsmith Yoshindo Yoshihara offers a detailed look at the entire process of Japanese sword making, including the finishing and appreciation of Japanese blades. Japanese sword art stands out in many ways: functionality as a weapon, sophisticated metallurgy and metal smithing, the shape of the blade itself—all contribute to the beauty of these remarkable weapons. *The Art of the Japanese Sword* conveys to the reader Japanese samurai sword history and Japanese sword care, as well as explaining how to view and appreciate a blade. With 256 full-color pages, this sword book illustrates in meticulous detail how modern craftsmen use traditional methods to prepare their steel, forge the sword and create the unique hardened edge. By gaining a good understanding of how a sword is actually made, the reader will be able to appreciate the samurai sword more fully. Topics include: Appreciating the Japanese sword, History of the Japanese sword, Traditional Japanese steel making, Making the sword, Finishing the sword.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Hardcover with Jacket edition (September 10, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 4805312408

ISBN-13: 978-4805312407

Product Dimensions: 9 x 1 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 105 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #153,662 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Conventional > Firearms #13 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Weaponsmithing #13 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Firearms & Weapons > Swords & Knives

## Customer Reviews

"Though there can be no substitute for the study of Nihonto in person, [this book] but for the lay person, a sword novice, or bladesmith without an understanding of the process, this book is the next best thing. The authors have set a standard for a glimpse into the world of Nihonto, associated arts and complexities of the craft." —SwordForum  
"This is a very nice publication with wonderful photographs that tantalize one's mind. A worthy addition to any library." —Jason Lee A.

Hatcher, Founder, Katsujinken, a Sword Arts Journal" It doesn't matter if you are simply interested in the history and function of Japanese swords or a would-be smith yourself, you will find a vast amount of useful chapters in each of these chapters. All sections of this book are illustrated with high-quality color photos, with many full page in size. The authors state they feel a person needs to understand every facet of making a Japanese sword to fully appreciate the finished weapon. I know of few books on the subject that do a better job of meeting that goal." Ã¢â¬â •Tactical Knives blog "The Art of the Japanese Sword is a very thorough look at the history, making and appreciation of the Japanese sword and serves well both the connoisseur and the novice. This book is most definitely recommended to anyone with an interest in Japanese art and culture." Ã¢â¬â •Diverse Japan blog "After reading it, I can say the authors accomplished what they set out to do. The book was thorough enough to be a resource, but it wasn't weighty." Ã¢â¬â •Introvert Japan blog "The Art of the Japanese Sword is an extensive tour through the methods of sword creation, preservation, and appreciation. More than that, it is a celebration of the creativity and dedication of a culture in refining a tool of war into an implement of extreme philosophical and aesthetic beauty." Ã¢â¬â •Ikigai Way blog

Yoshindo Yoshihara is a third-generation swordsmith. His grandfather Kuniie began making swords in 1933 in Tokyo and was ranked among the top swordsmiths in Japan during his career. Yoshindo lives and works in Tokyo with his son, who represents the fourth generation of swordsmiths in the family. Yoshindo, who is always training young swordsmiths and currently has five apprentices working with him, has been named an Important Cultural Property of the city and prefecture of Tokyo, and is a mukansa (top-ranked swordsmith) in Japan. Leon Kapp, a molecular biologist, lives with his wife Hiroko in San Rafael, California. He has been seriously interested in Japanese swords for over twenty-five years, and has spent a great deal of time learning about them from Yoshindo. Hiroko Kapp is a writer for Senken Shimbun News of Tokyo and writes about fashion and the fashion industry in the US. She graduated from Musashi-no Art University in Tokyo. For twenty-five years, she was active in the apparel business and designed scarves for her own line in the US.

Bought this for a family member who was looking for this book for the longest time. I first spotted this book in Japan and was regret not getting it then. Couldn't find it anywhere when I came back to the states. Great book, very detailed.

Very clear. Explains everything there is to know about Japanese swords. There is a point missing. The lamination of very old Japanese swords is not touched in this book. But apart from that a superb book

Great book that really taught me a lot about how katana are made and especially how to evaluate and appreciate them. Lots of terminology and all the little parts are explained. Lots of history and GREAT pictures.

I have a zillion books on Japanese swords, but never found one specifically detailing the metallurgical and technical side of how a sword is made. This is THE book to have if you want to know step by step how its done. An incredible read. I don't care how much you know about swords, you will learn something here and have a deeper understanding and appreciation for how brilliant a Japanese sword really is. 1000yrs of technology in one book. You will never look at a Japanese sword the same way again.

This was a gift for a knifemaker friend in South Africa. He told me that he really enjoyed it.

This Book was very formative and a great Aid in helping me create my first Tanto Knife

Fantastic Book !!!This book starts with some history and the respect to be shown for the swords, and from there, it tells (with an abundant amount of pictures) just how every step in the process of the construction of the sword is performed, by the master sword smith himself, Mr. Yoshindo Yoshihara. You will realize just how much effort goes into making a REAL sword, the CORRECT way. I highly recommend this book, one of my favorites.

A must for any sword collector or enthusiast or just for someone who wants to learn more about Japanese swords.

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