

How to swing a sword

There are many differences in the way of swinging a sword by school and so on. How to swing the sword which we know is introduced here. But, details can't be transmitted by the sentence. Therefore, I want to increase detailed explanations and so on later.

Approximate shape was written in the picture. Therefore, approve it when you can't understand it in the angle of the picture.

Having the teacher of iaido teach directly of the method that a sword is used is the best.

About the Beginner

The orbit of the proper sword is said as "Hasuji". A beginner must make the practice which makes "Hasuji" right first more than swinging it fast. If "Hasuji" is right, sound rings with the sword which "Hi" carves. "Hi" is the thing of the groove carved in the sword body.



- 1, it lighten the weight of the sword.
- 2, it make a sword not break easily.
- 3, it ease a shock.

It is good to practice it by using iaito and so on which a gutter carves at first.

Attention

When "mekugi" becomes loose, a sword body comes out of the hilt. Never turn the edge of the sword to the person. It is very dangerous to turn the edge of the sword to the person. Be careful not to hurt yourself and a unrelated person when dealing with a sword.

How to hold a sword



Avoid the fuchigane of the hilt first, and hold a sword lightly with your right hand. And leave a left hand from the right hand about 4cm (It varies according to the length of the hilt.), and hold a hilt.

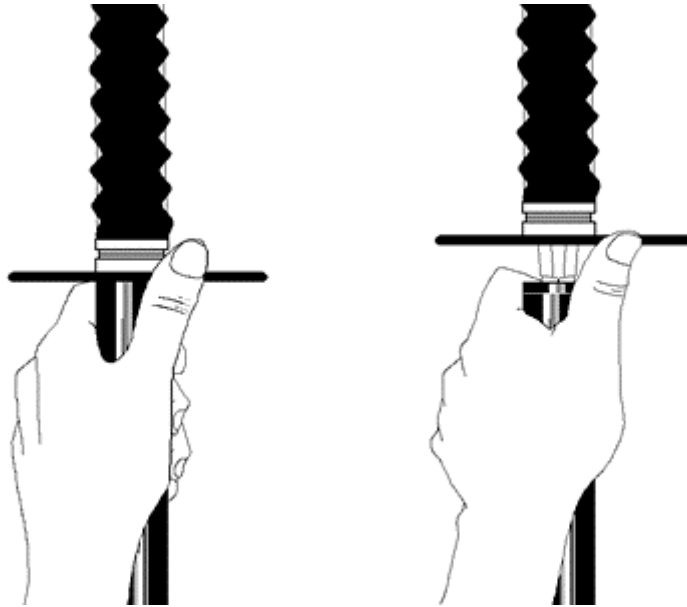
Tighten a little finger and a third finger strongly, and then tighten the middle finger lightly. And try to float a thumb and a forefinger a little, and hold a hilt. It's the same in both hands.

At this time, there must not be looseness in the hand. But, don't hold a hilt with all your strength. A sword is fixed when a hilt is held with all your strength. Then, you can't swing a sword so that you may think.

The distribution of the power of the right hand and the left hand is about 4 (the right) : 6 (the left). Bend an elbow a little, and remove the power of the shoulder a little. And tighten both armpits lightly. Then, space between the hilt head and the navel is about one fist.

How to „cut a koikuchi“

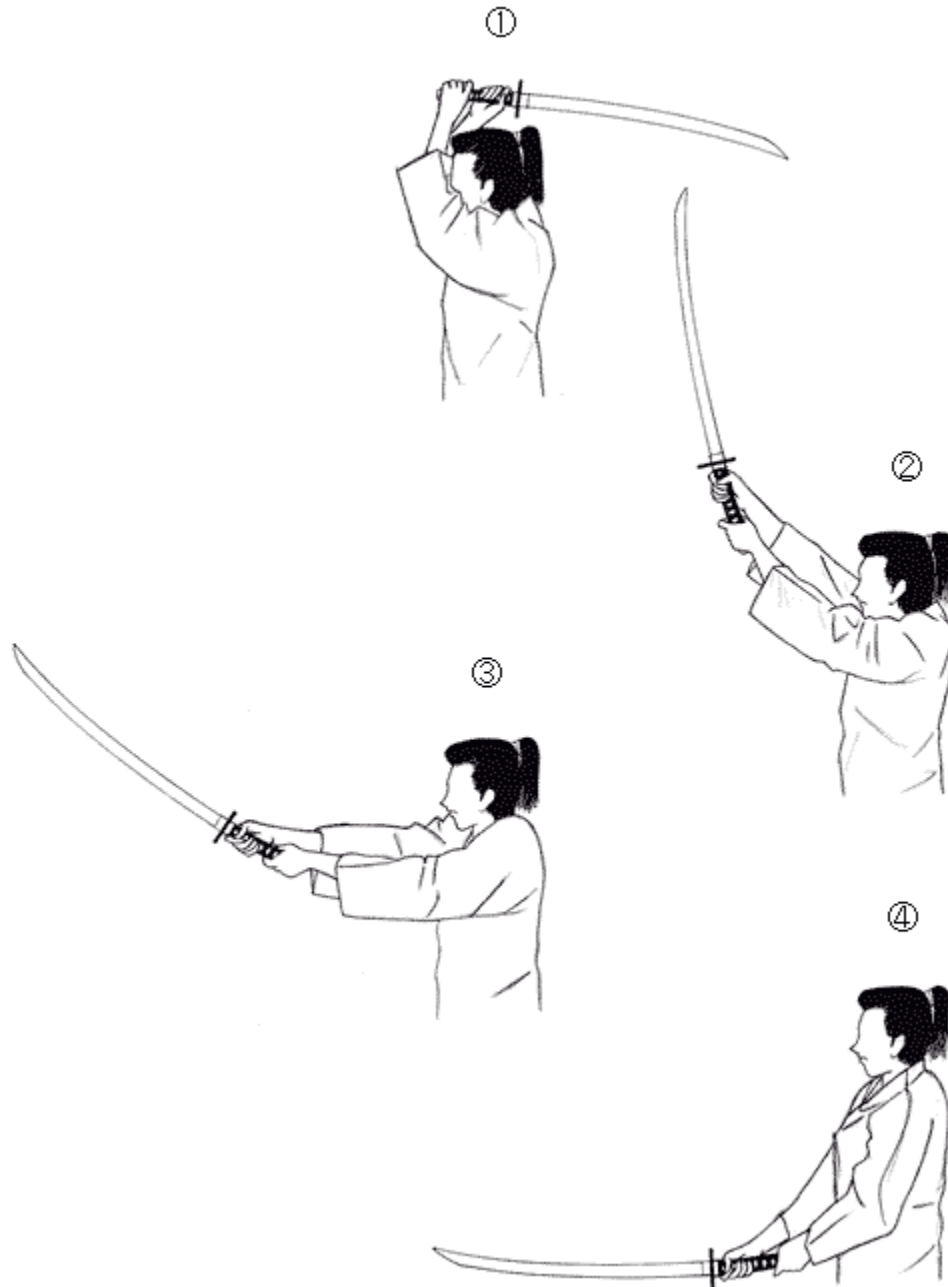
The part of the entrance of the sheath is said as Koikuchi. Because it has a shape like the mouth of the carp. A sword is pulled out a little when a sword guard is pushed in the thumb of the left hand. This is said as "Cut a Koikuchi."



Grip a koikuchi first with your left hand, and put the thumb of the left hand on the inside on the sword guard. And, push out a sword guard between the point of the thumb of the left hand and the first joint. At this time, you must not put a thumb right over the edge of the sword. This is the most careful point. When a thumb is put right on the edge, a finger is cut on the edge of the sword.

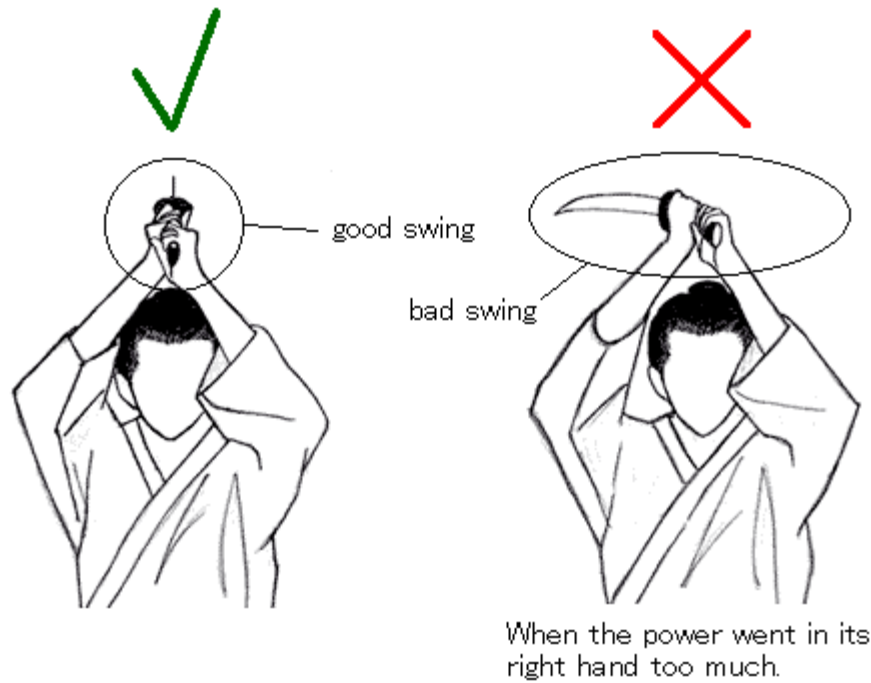
Try to push up a hilt with your right hand from the bottom, and pull out a sword. Then, a sword comes out easily along the curve of the sheath.

Basic Swing



When a sword is swung, it is the most important that the biggest power is applied to the kissaki. But, the power sometimes goes into the shoulder when a beginner tries to put the power in the kissaki. A sword isn't swung fast when the power goes into the shoulder. Remove the power of the shoulder and the arm, and swing a sword by the point which throws a fishing rod. Swing a sword by a feeling that a kissaki is thrown toward the target. Then, stretch both arms enough, and try to draw a big circle. At this time, the orbit of the sword must always pass through the center of the body. Tighten a little finger and a third finger strongly when swinging down a sword.

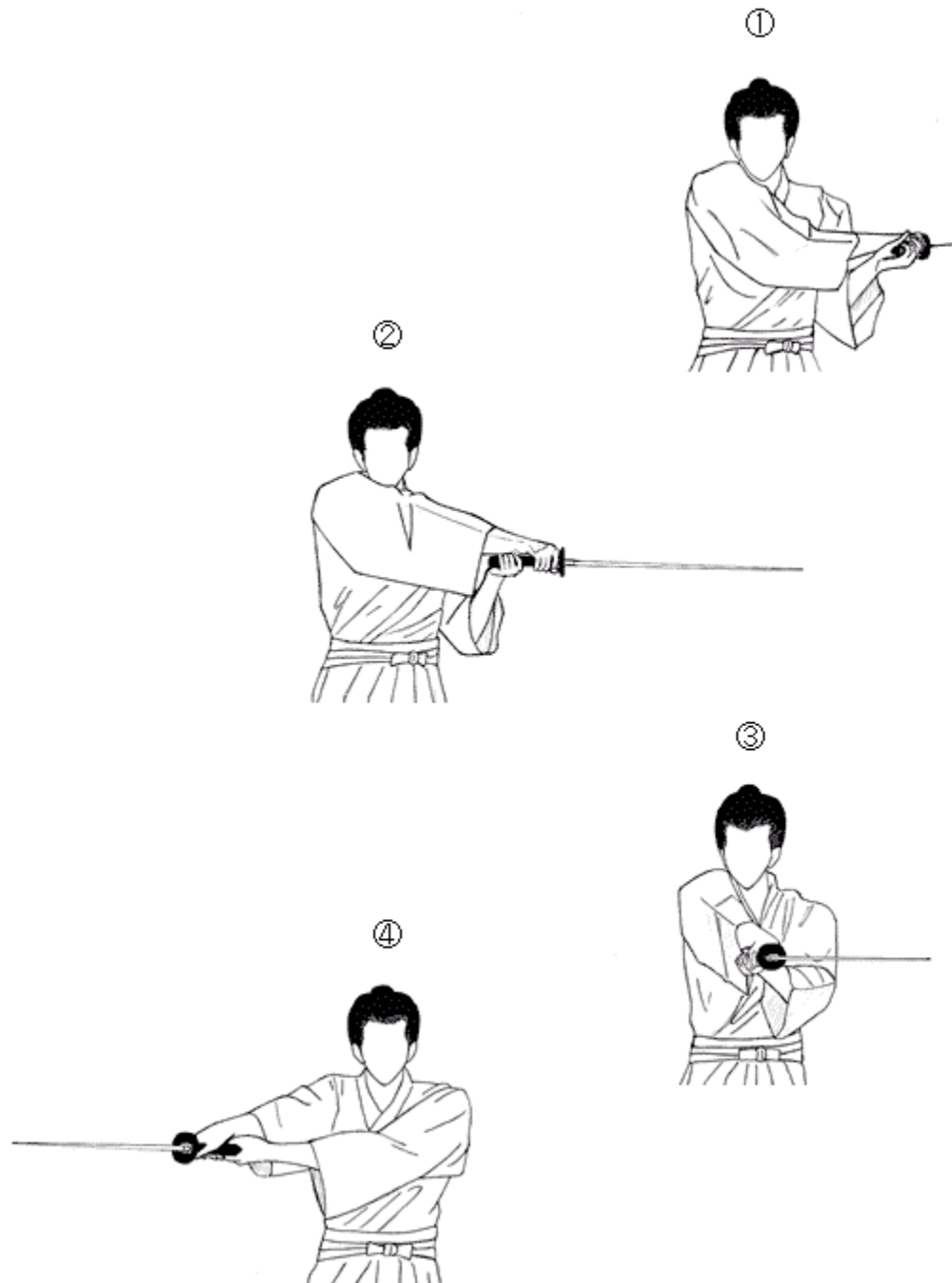
After you finish swinging a sword, make the hilt head of the sword come in front of the navel. Space between the hilt head and the navel is about one fist. And turn a kissaki a little below from the level. Then, bend an elbow a little, and remove the power of the shoulder. And tighten both armpits lightly.



The distribution of the power of the right hand and the left hand is about 4(the right) : 6(the left). The orbit of the sword deviates when the power goes in right hand too much.

Level (Right)

A fundamental principle is the same as "Basic swing".
But, a sense is really wrong because it becomes horizontal from the vertical.
Therefore, the orbit of the sword deviates easily very much



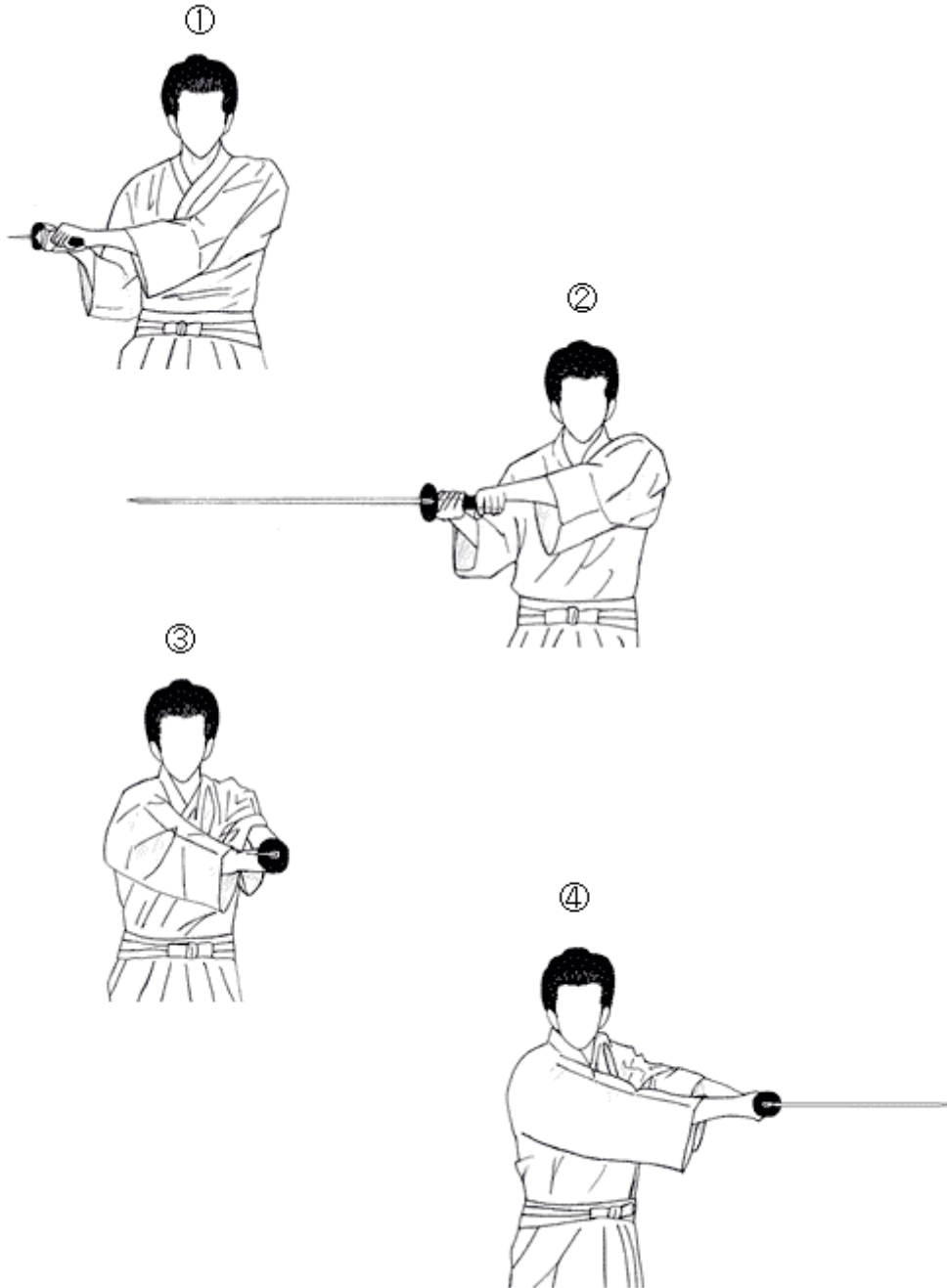
A point is almost the same as "Basic swing". Therefore, swing it by a feeling that a kissaki is thrown.

An attention point is to stretch its right arm firmly. When a right arm bends, a hard target can be hard to cut with a sword.

It is because an elbow becomes a cushion and the power is absorbed.

Level (Left)

A sense is a little different from "Level (right)". "Level (left)" becomes the shape which swings a bat easily. Be careful, because "Hasuji" deviates when swing becomes the shape which swings a bat.



A point is almost the same as "Basic swing". Therefore, swing it by a feeling that a kissaki is thrown.

An attention point is to stretch left arm firmly. Be careful that an elbow must not bend because an elbow bends easily when "Level (left)" is done.

Kesa Right

"Kesa" is the clothes of the Japanese priest. It is the rectangular cloth to put on the right shoulder from the left armpit.

Therefore, it is said as "Kesagiri" that it is cut with the sword from an enemy's shoulder to the armpit.

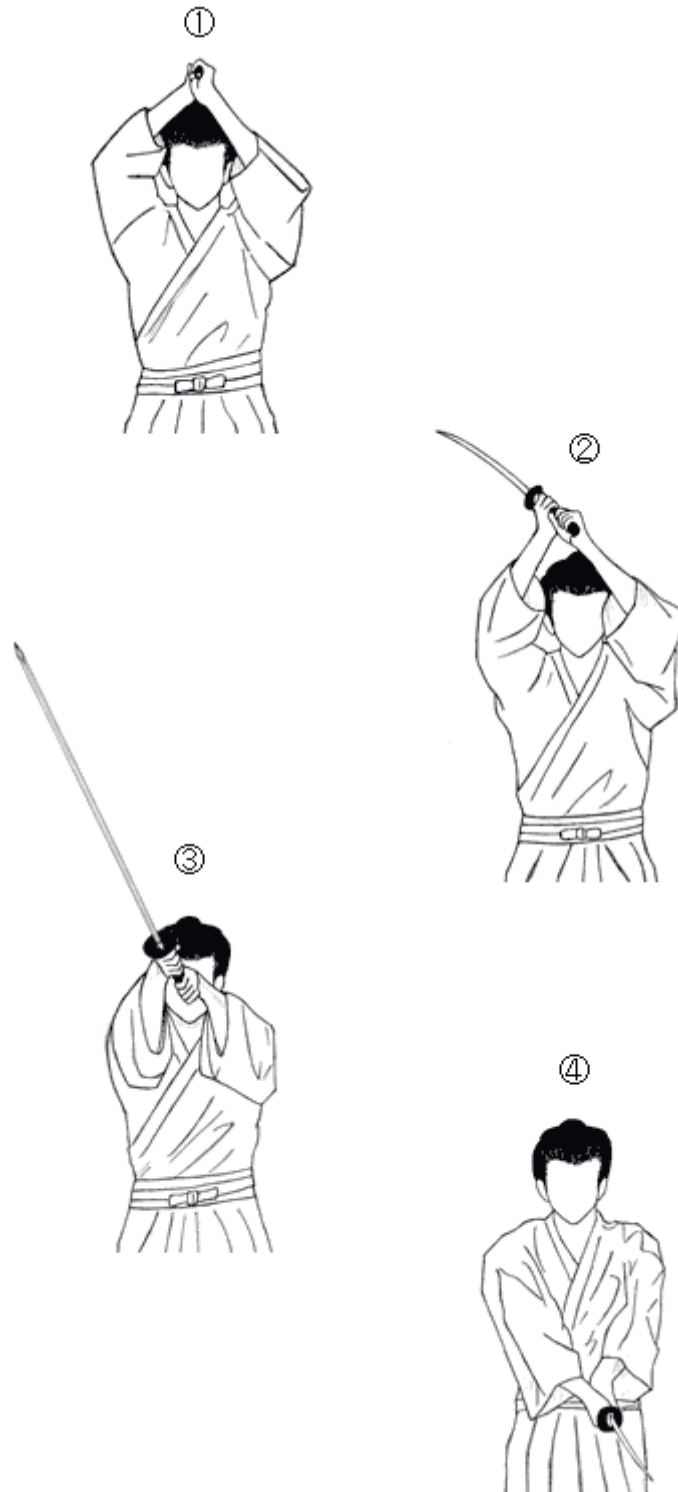
A sense looks like "Basicswing", "Kesagiri" is thought that it can be done soon.



The power may not go into "kissaki" when it changes from "2" to "3". This is because an arm isn't stretched enough.
Then, the orbit of the sword draws a little circle. Therefore, the character of the sword isn't being made use of.
Therefore, stretch an arm enough, and swing it.

Kesa (left)

Because a sense is almost the same as "Basic swing", "Kesa (left)" is thought that it can be done soon.



When changing from "1" to "2", be careful that the power doesn't go into your right hand too much.

"Hasuji" deviates when the power goes into your right hand too much. The point of the rest is about the same as "Basicswing".

Try to stand an edge a little when "Hasuji" deviates. A beginner's case, there are many cases that an edge becomes oblique too much.

Nukitsuke

A Nukitsuke is the skill which can cope with an enemy's preemptive attack. Of course, it is effective in the preemptive attack toward the enemy as well. A Nukitsuke is the important skill which a battle is decided as at a moment.





(1) Bend both knees a little, and stabilize the posture of the body.

(2) Take the left foot forward a little, and then put a hand on the hilt. Do "cut a Koikuchi" in the thumb of the left hand, and hold a hilt with your right hand from the bottom. At this time, do it quietly so that an enemy may not notice this movement. Then, you must not hold a hilt with all strength.

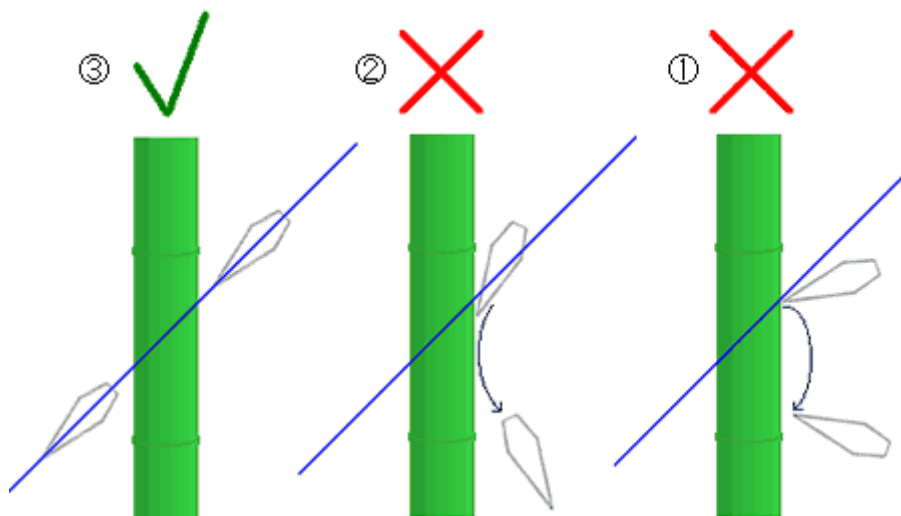
(3) Take the right foot forward greatly, and pull out a sword with turning the edge of the sword to the top. A beginner may slant a sheath from the beginning. Then, a sword is easy to pull out from the sheath. (There is a school which slants a sheath from the beginning without turning the edge of the sword to the top, too.) When a sword is pulled out, you must not pull it out fast suddenly. Pull it out to become fast gradually after beginning to pull out it. Then, pull it out from kissaki to 9cm.


(4) Slant a sheath horizontally the moment a sword pull out of the sheath. Then, Cut a target horizontally with a sword quickly. At this time, pull a sheath backward with your left hand. This is said as "Sayabiki". If you don't do a "Sayabiki", a sheath is likely to be shaved by the sword's edge. Nukitsuke's power increases when this reaction of the "Sayabiki" is used. The height of the right fist after you finished swinging a sword is the height of the shoulder. And it is improper to raise a sword point more than the horizontal.

Hasuji

The performance of the Japanese sword is very excellent as a cutlery. But, how to handle a Japanese sword is very difficult.

Because the body of the Japanese sword is slender and curves. The wide shape of the body width is more suitable for the cutlery to cut an object. Then, the straight sword's body is suitable for stabbing an object.



 a Hasuji deviates, a target can't be cut with the Japanese sword.

(1) When a target is hard, the sword is repeled, and a sword body may break.

(2) And, an edge sometimes slides when a bamboo and so on is cut with a sword.

This is because the surface of the bamboo slides easily.

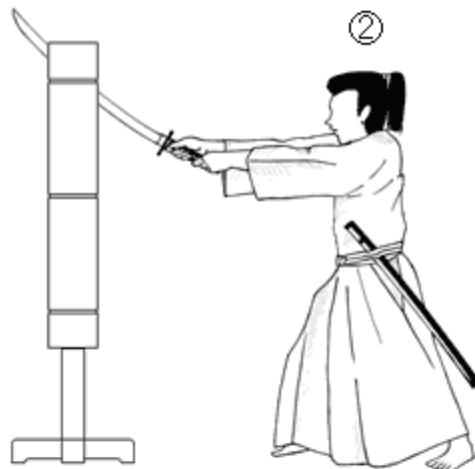
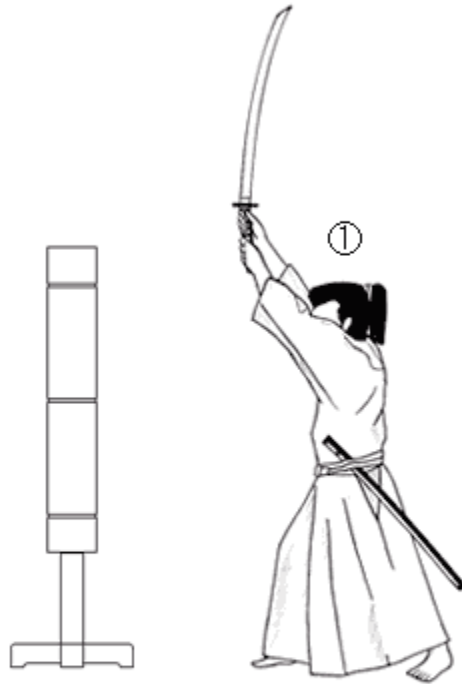
Of course, there is a point which a Japanese sword is superior to, too. A Japanese sword has a curve moderately. Therefore, the shock is absorbed when a target is cut with the Japanese sword. Then, a target can be cut easily with a sword without adding the useless power if a Hasuji is correct.

But, it can't do easily if the person who uses a Japanese sword lacks skill. Therefore, when an amateur tries to cut straw(Makiwara) and so on with a sword, an edge cuts into the straw(Makiwara), and it can't be cut well with a sword.

Cut the target which never damages an edge with a sword, and ascertain whether a Hasuji is correct. Then, use the target which resistance is as small as possible in so that a sword body may not warp. (Thin paper and so on is good.)

Tameshigiri 1

How to cut a target(Makiwara) with a sword is being explained here. The Japanese sword cuts very well. Therefore, even if you don't put the power, you can cut a target easily with a sword. But, when you handle a sword carelessly, you can't cut a target well with a sword, and a sword sometimes bends.



(1) Swing up a sword as the figure. At this time, stretch an elbow and a wrist. Then, Lower the left foot in the time of Kesa (left).



(Lower the right foot in the time of Kesa (right)).

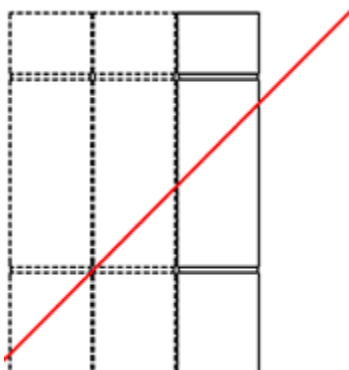
This is the stance not to cut own foot with a sword.

(2) Swing down a sword under the condition that an elbow and a wrist are stretched. At this time, be conscious so that the power may go into kissaki. The power must not go into the root of the sword.

You can't cut a target well with a sword if an elbow and a wrist curve when a sword hits a target.

(3) At this time, be careful not to cut your foot with a sword, and be careful that a sword doesn't hit ground. Do Chibururi after cutting a target with a sword, and take care of a sword.

Then, put a sword in the sheath.



Imagine that there are at least three Makiwaras if you can't cut Makiwara well with a sword. It often fails when a beginner cuts Makiwara with a feeling that only one Makiwara is cut with a sword.

Care of a sword

Care Tools

Oil (Chojiabura)



Oil is used to prevent the rust of the sword. Oil makes a film of the oil between the sword body and the air, and it prevents the oxidization of the sword body. Oil dries in about five months. Therefore, reprint it in the new oil once in three months. Oil a sword body by using the thing which cut a Nuguigami and flannel into the suitable size. (The absorbent cotton and the leather of the deer as well are being used.)

Das Öl wird benutzt, um das Rosten des Schwertes zu verhindern. Es legt einen Schutzfilm zwischen der Schwertklinge und der Luft, und dieses verhindert das

Oxidieren der Schwertklinge. Das Öl trocknet innerhalb von fünf Monaten, deshalb empfehle ich es minimal alle 3 Monate oder nach jeder Benutzung neu mit Öl zu behandeln

Uchiko



The thing which made a whetstone powder-shaped is being packed into the Uchiko. White powder appears from the Uchiko when a sword body is struck with the Uchiko. There are two use purposes. The Uchiko removes the old oil which sticks to the sword body. Furthermore, the Uchiko beautifies the surface of the sword

Es gibt zwei Verwendungszwecke. Das Uchiko entfernt das alte Öl, das am Schwertkörper festklebt und verschönert mit der Behandlung des Nuguigami die Oberfläche des Schwertes

Neguigami



It is not regular paper, the high quality thick Japanese paper and flannel are being used. It is used for wiping out old oil and wiping out an Uchiko. The paper which wipes out oil and the Uchiko is distinguished respectively, and it is being used.

Das Nuguigami ist kein einfaches, sondern qualitätsdickes japanisches Papier. Es wird dafür benutzt das Katana vom alten Öl zu befreien und das weiße Pulver vom Uchiko zu reinigen

Mekuginuki



This is used to remove the Mekugi of the sword. The Mekuginuki can remove(thrust) the Mekugi with the sharp part. Moreover, the Mekuginuki can put(push) the Mekugi in the surface of a part like a hammer.

Dies wird benutzt, um die beiden Holzstücke aus dem Griff zu lösen um so das Schwert in seine Einzelteile zu zerlegen. Oberhalb des Hammers "Mekuginuki" kann man den Schlagstift zur Benutzung rausschrauben.

How to take care (simple)

How to take care of the sword after an laido practices is being explained easily with this topic. Take care of the sword after the practices always. If the care for the sword is neglected, a sword rusts in the sweat of the hand and so on.

Wie man das Katana pflegen sollte: kümmern Sie sich immer um das Schwert nach der Benutzung, wie z. B. laido. Wenn die Sorgfalt für das Schwert vernachlässigt wird, verrostet ein Schwert, z. B. durch den Schweiß der Hand. Man sollte immer vermeiden, die Klinge mit der bloßen Hand zu berühren.

Bei der Reinigung mit dem Papier "Nuguigami" ist darauf zu achten, nicht das gleiche Papier "Nuguigami" zu nehmen für das Reinigen der Klinge beim 1. Durchgang und beim 2. mit dem Uchiko.



- (1) Face an edge toward the top, and pull out a sword slowly from the sheath. Then, be careful not to damage a sheath.



- (2) Hold the sword pulled out with your left hand. Then, remove old oil and dust from the sword with the Nuguigami. Put a Nuguigami on the Mune of the sword when wiping the sword, and wipe the sword toward the top from the bottom.

Mit dem Papier "Nuguigami" entfernen Sie zuerst das alte Öl und Schmutz. Reinigen Sie die Klinge von der Spitze zum Griff hin.



- (3) Pat a sword body with the Uchiko. Powder equally on the both sides of the sword body. Then, wipe the white powder with the new Nuguigami which is different from the paper used some time ago. Repeat this handle, and remove the blurs of the oil completely.

Klopfen Sie die Schwertklinge mit dem Uchiko beidseitig ab. Wischen bzw. polieren Sie dann das weiße Pulver mit dem Papier "Nuguigami" und wiederholen Sie dieses, bis beidseitig keine Flecke und Öl mehr vorhanden sind.



- (4) Apply new oil to the sword body, and put away a sword to the sheath. Put the oiling paper on the Mune of the sword when oiling the sword, and oil the sword toward the top from the bottom. Don't oil a sword in quantity very much. Oil equally the both sides of the sword body.

If the care for the sword is finished, put a sword in the sword bag, and keep it. Keep a sword in the place where it dries in the shade.

How to take care of the sword of this topic isn't perfect. Therefore, remove the hilt once in three months, and care for the tang(Nakago) and so on.

Zum Schluss wenden Sie das Öl mit dem Baumwolltuch auf der Schwertklinge an. Ölen Sie beide Seiten von der Spitze zum Griff. Auf keinen Fall zu viel Öl nehmen "Viel hilft nicht viel".