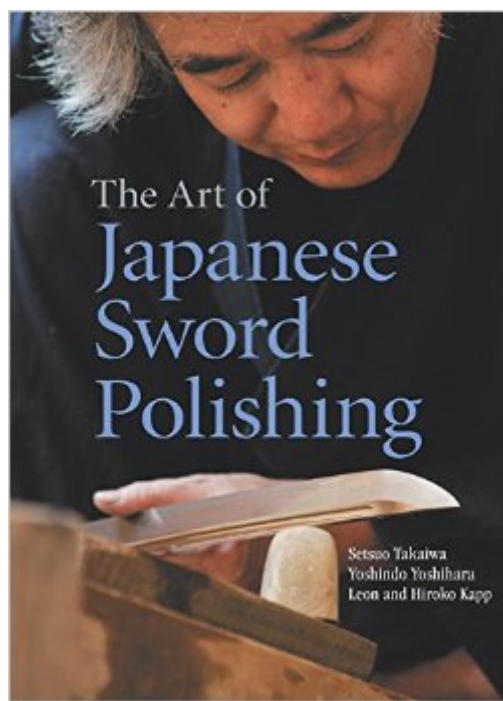


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The Art Of Japanese Sword Polishing



Synopsis

To understand Japanese sword polishing is to understand the Japanese sword. Down through the years, the great sword connoisseurs in Japan have been sword polishers. A swordsmith can spend a large amount of time forging a classic sword, but refining and bringing out its final shape, color, and texture so that all the details of the steel and hamon (the temper line) are clearly visible is the responsibility of another craftsman-the sword polisher. An experienced polisher can tell immediately by whom a blade was made, so distinctive is each smith's work and so vital is such knowledge to the skilled polisher. The Art of Japanese Sword Polishing is the first book in English to examine in great detail the polisher's techniques-skills it often takes up to ten years of apprenticeship to master. It illustrates the methods, materials, and tools used for this process. But the book's true aim is to enable the reader to fully appreciate the beauty of a well-crafted Japanese sword. As readers learn both how the sword polisher enhances the beauty of the blade and how he handles the problems of coaxing out its finest qualities through polishing techniques, they will come to a deeper understanding of the fine art of making the Japanese sword and will be able to purchase or collect swords with greater pleasure.

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Customer Reviews

I wish I had this book 20 years ago when I first started to investigate the art of polishing. This book provides a wealth of information on the techniques, the material and the different ways that can be used to get a sword polished. In fact, the diversity of the art is highlighted by the book and certainly dispels the notion that there is only one way to restore a blade. The section on foundation polish

discusses how to achieve the proper shape without removing too much material. The different stones are described and how each is used to establish and refine the shape. The finishing section covers the range of materials and tools used to bring out the grain and tempered edge unique to the Japanese sword. It also shows the burnishing and how to highlight the boshi. There are sections that talk about the history of polishing, the schools of polishing and interviews with several modern polishers. As always there is a note warning about the perils to the blade that can be inflicted by an inexperienced person. The book doesn't reveal all the secrets to the art, such as the various forms of nugui (other than the basic hadori and sashikomi formulas), what types of stones work best with each school or era, etc. But it certainly does provide a well documented, well photographed look at this art form. I highly recommend it for anyone interested in Japanese swords.

After reading the book entitled "The Art of Japanese Sword Polishing" I now have a much clearer and detailed understanding of the process used by traditional Japanese sword polishers. The book takes the reader through all of steps from the foundation polish, used to shape and sharpen the blade, to the finish polish, which is used bring out the details of the steel and shape of the temper line, using good text and a fair number of detailed photographs. It includes some Japanese sword polish theory and how Japanese swords have changed over the historical periods. It also explains how the age of the sword can affect how the sword should be polished and what damage can and cannot be repaired by a polisher. In the last section of the book it contains a few profiles of professional Japanese sword polishers the authors of the book had interviewed which I enjoyed reading. As someone who studies and appreciates the Japanese sword I found the book very helpful in educating me more about the process of how a Japanese sword is polished. I would recommended this book to anyone interested in learning in detail how Japanese swords are polished.

The book is excellent. It was not intended to teach as person how to polish, but does provide info about the various stones, equipments, and such. Still you can get enough information to start practicing until you can obtain proper instruction. The photography is very good and many sword components/terminologies are explained, as well as metal surface appearances. I feel it is a must for a serious student of the Japanese method of sword polishing. Unfortunately, my book was not protected in a box that was 20 times larger and arrived with the corners & pages bent and the cover torn in 3 places. Shame on .

Men have always decorated their weapons. The main items being decorated in the United States have been guns. But in Japan it is the traditional Japanese sword. Being more of a land of tradition, the Japanese sword became more or less standardized in shape as long ago as the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and polishing the sword had to have followed shortly after that. There are many books that describe the techniques of polishing and blueing guns. But this appears to be the first book available in English that discusses the polishing techniques used by Japanese craftsmen. The Japanese practice is a strikingly different process than that used here. Polishing stones, not unlike whetstones but in far more diversity are used. A shop selling such stones is pictured with what appear to at least a couple of hundred different types of stones. And unlike here where stones are simply given numbers to indicate coarseness, in Japan they are given names. The polishing area used with Japanese swords is a traditional form as well. It sits on the floor, and the polisher typically sits in a traditional position that most of us would find difficult to get into, and impossible to maintain for any period. All in all, a fascinating book on techniques very different to those commonly used here.

A very detailed book on the art of Japanese sword polishing...shows the reader the techniques used to polish a sword and the results that you would like to achieve for each step. One of only a handful of books on Japanese sword polishing in English! Highly recommended.!

I would recommend this book who are deeply interested on the whole process of Japanese bladesmithing, what follows the also highly appreciated forging of the blades. The book will NOT teach you how to make the polish in practice, (I think based on the book one can try it, but I also think it is not possible to learn without a master's direct instruction), but give you every theoretical knowledge in very details and very understandable way ! The book explains every step of the process, the sequence of the steps, what type of tools - as artificial and natural stones, powders, steel tools, oils, helping tools, etc. is used in the different steps. Explain how to modify the special polishing stones and how to use them. The book shows the results of the different steps, effect of stones on good pictures, so you can understand the meaning of the steps and stone materials. The descriptions explaining the polishing movements/directions of the blade and also the tools, in the different steps. Explain some special methods for masking or special treating. Make clear indication what has to be done and what should not be done, meanwhile the polishing. My opinion it is a must have for everybody who is a collector or just simply interested why the blades look like as they are, or why don't look like as we would like to have. Good theoretical explanation for everybody and

also make appreciation for the sword polishers and their precise, heavily trained work.

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