

ONDERHOUD KATANA &
BEHOUD JUISTE PASVORM TUSSEN
KOIGUCHI EN HABAKI

SHOGUN.NL

Instructions on how to achieve a good fit between koiguchi and habaki

Fig. 1

In order to prevent unintentional unsheathing your sword is produced with a tight fitting saya (scabbard) and this often leaves a gap of approximately 2~4mm between the koiguchi (saya mouth) and the tsuba (guard) when the sword is sheathed, exposing part of the habaki (blade collar). Changes in atmospheric moisture can further affect this fit, so you may find that your sword has a tighter fit than that described above.

Fig. 2

It is important not to close any gap between the koiguchi and tsuba by forcing the blade into the saya. The saya can crack if excessive force is used.

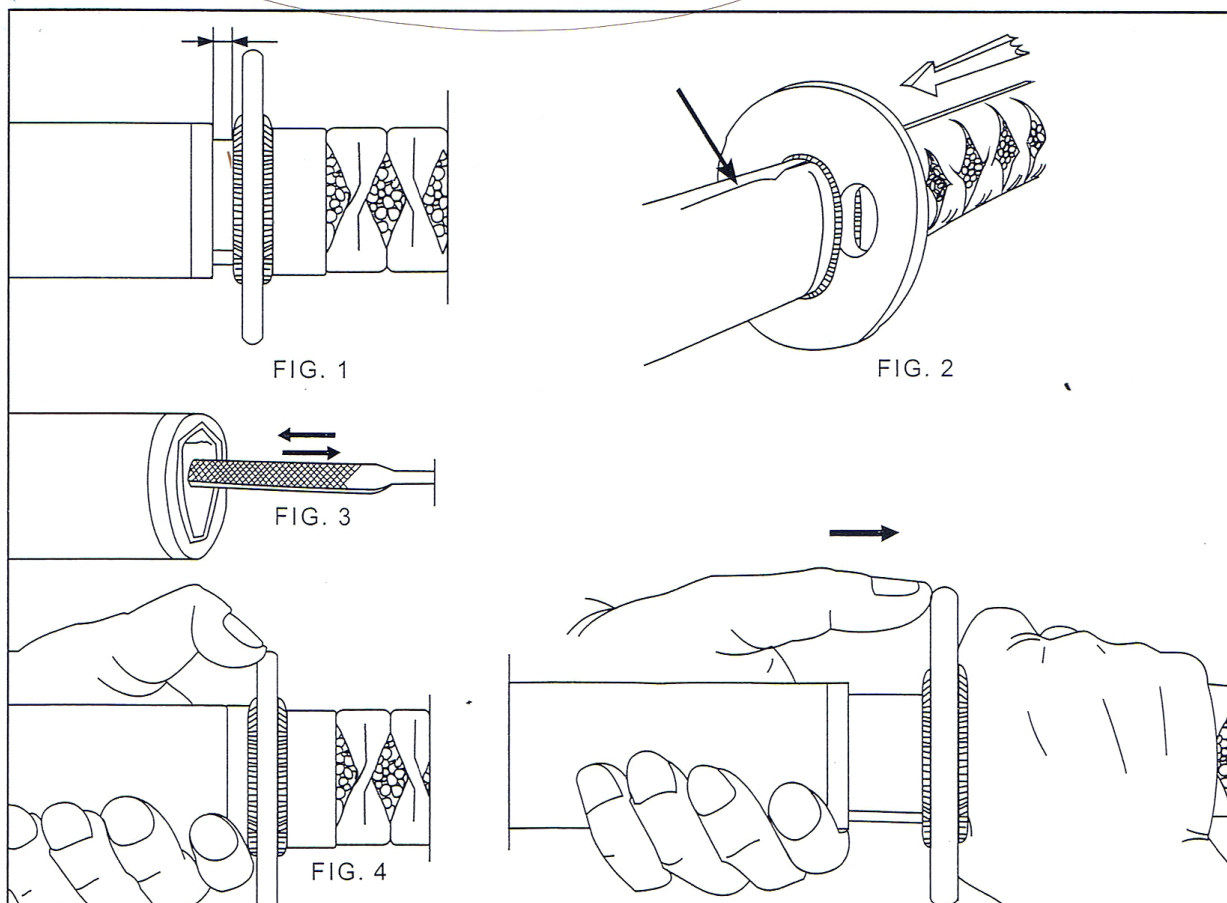
Fig. 3

The blade fit will loosen in time after repeated drawing/sheathing of the blade but if desired you can loosen the fit by working with a small file (not sandpaper - it will cause scratching of the blade) inside the koiguchi. Do not remove too much wood from inside the koiguchi at one time. Check the blade fit after a small amount of file work and then repeat the process until the desired fit is achieved. You are aiming to retain enough friction between the habaki and koiguchi to prevent the blade from slipping out the saya unaided, whilst removing enough wood to allow the whole blade to enter the saya, with no visible gap between the koiguchi and the tsuba. Remember that the fit will be looser in conditions of low humidity, so a slightly tighter fit than that normally required is a good idea.

Fig. 4

To test the fit hold the saya in your left hand and push the tsuba with your left thumb, whilst holding the tsuka (sword handle) in your right hand. You should feel some resistance before the "seal" is broken, but the resistance should not be so great that you are not able to break the "seal" with pressure from your left thumb alone.

With repeated sheathing/unsheathing, your sword may become looser in the scabbard than you wish. To correct this, use the wooden shims in the Samurai Sword Maintenance Kit (included with some swords, otherwise available from your dealer) and follow the included instructions.



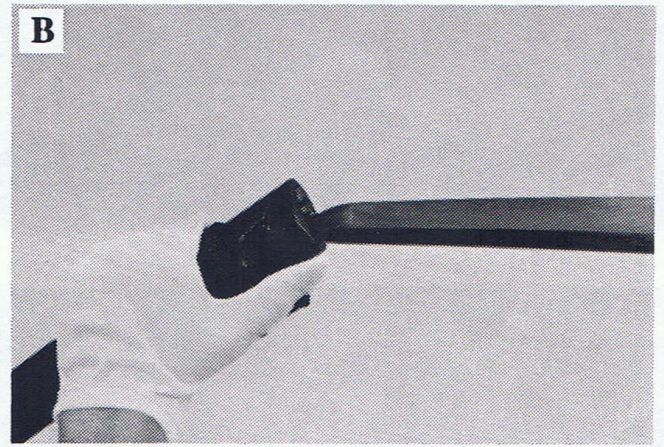
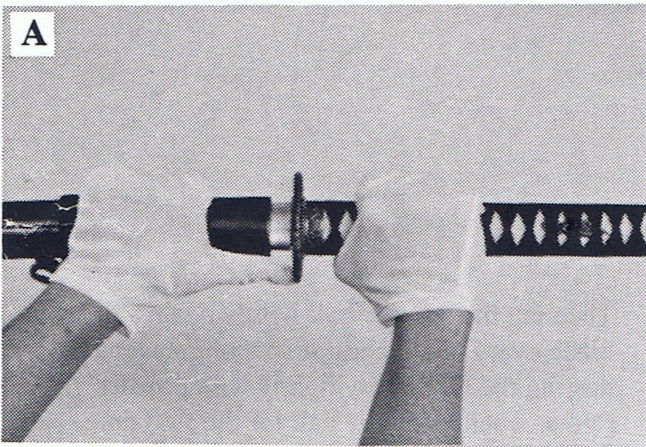
Care and Handling of your Katana

Caution - the blade of your Katana is extremely sharp and may cause serious injury. Make sure that the blade edge is never in a position where it could injure yourself or others. Never clean or oil the blade with the edge towards you and avoid touching the edge at all times. Never allow children to handle the Katana.

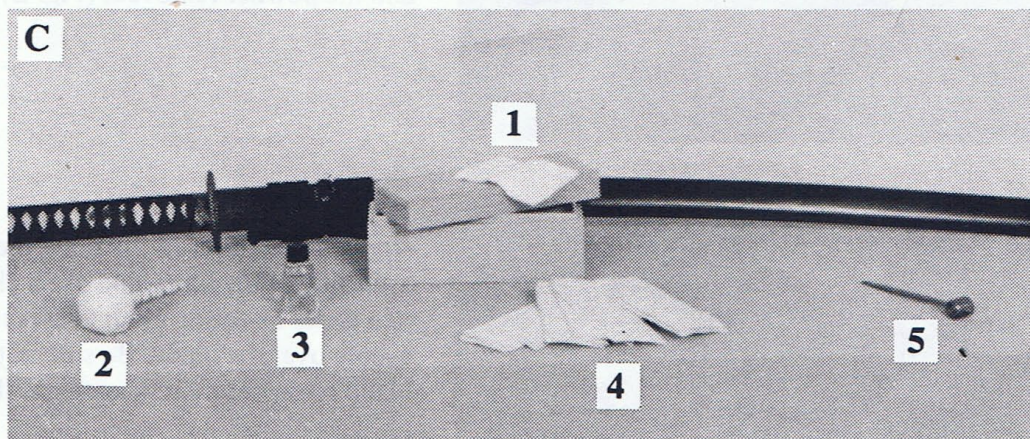
Unsheathing and sheathing the Katana.

The blade fit in the scabbard is deliberately firm to avoid accidental unsheathing. Do not unsheath the blade by simply pulling the handle and the scabbard apart, this is dangerous and will wear the scabbard throat. To correctly unsheath the blade, hold the wrapped section of the scabbard with the left hand (edge side up) and the handle with the right. With the left thumb push the guard away from the throat of the scabbard (Fig. A). When the friction resistance is broken, slide the blade gently from the scabbard, making sure the back of the blade, not the edge, contacts the scabbard during withdrawal (Fig. B). This avoids dulling the blade and cutting the scabbard.

To re-sheath the blade, hold the katana handle in the right hand, edge up, and the scabbard by the wrapped section with the left hand, making sure that the scabbard is curving in the same direction as the blade. Carefully insert the tip of the blade into the throat of the scabbard and gently slide the scabbard and blade together, again making sure that the back of the blade, not the edge, is in contact with the scabbard. Resistance will be felt when the guard is within about an inch of the scabbard, and a slightly firmer push will then be needed to fully seat the blade.



Always store your Katana horizontally with the edge side up. This prevents the edge from bearing on the scabbard and preserves the condition of both. If the fit between the Katana and the scabbard becomes loose, through usage, the fit must be restored to prevent accidental unsheathing. This may be achieved by contacting C.A.S. Iberia for detailed instructions or by returning the complete unit to us, postage prepaid, with a check or money order for \$20.



Contents of Maintenance Kit (fig. C)

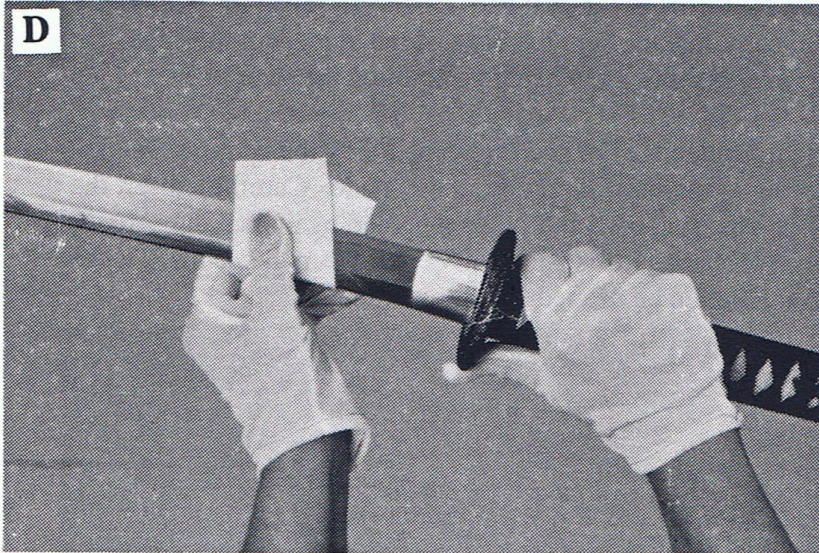
- (1) Cotton Cloth
- (2) Powder Ball, for applying polishing powder to blade
- (3) Blade oil
- (4) Rice Paper, for cleaning oil from blade, polishing and spreading oil on blade
- (5) Brass Hammer, for removing and installing bamboo pins in grip. While this tool is a traditional part of the maintenance kit, we strongly recommend against disassembly of the Katana as the bamboo pins will wear, resulting in a loose grip.

Maintaining your Katana.

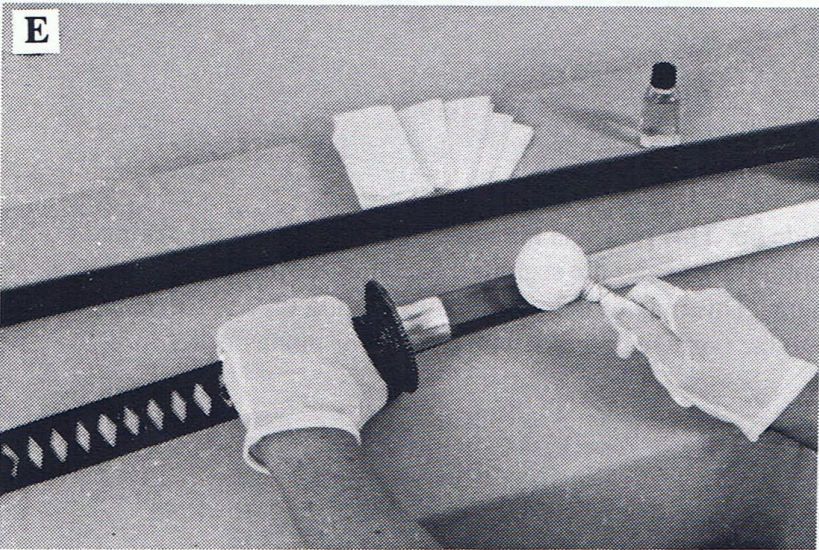
The scabbard of your Katana is finished in many coats of black lacquer. To preserve the sheen, the scabbard needs only to be wiped occasionally with a very soft cloth. Handle the scabbard only by holding the wrapped section, otherwise fine scratches caused by handling the lacquered sections will dull the finish.

Blade maintenance is very important to preserve the finish. The maintenance kit allows you to maintain your blade the same way as original pieces were (and are) maintained. Blade maintenance should be performed at least every three months and any time the blade is touched (skin oils will cause rapid corrosion of fine steels).

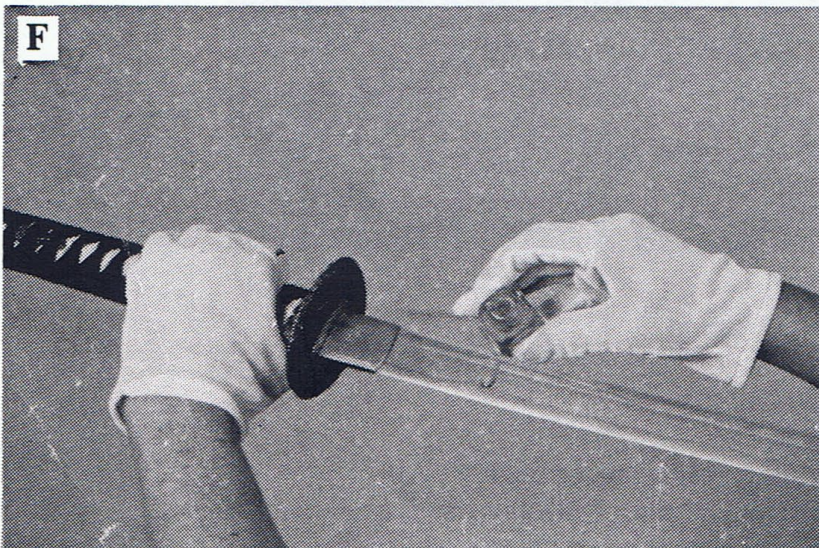
Blade Maintenance



First, use a sheet of rice paper to remove oil from previous maintenance, holding the edge away from you and working very carefully to avoid injury. (Note: if you wish to save the rice paper, a soft cotton cloth may be substituted). (Fig.D)



Then tap the powder ball lightly against the blade every two inches or so along its length, dusting the blade very lightly with powder. (Note: when using the ball for the first time, you may need to tap the ball against the blade a number of times to "start" the powder flow through the fabric of the ball.) Then use a clean piece of rice paper or cotton cloth to carefully rub over the powder to polish the blade. Repeat until both sides of the blade have been polished and the powder removed. (Fig. E)



Apply a few drops of oil along the length of each side of the blade and use a clean piece of rice paper or cotton cloth to spread the oil evenly over the blade. Be sure not to touch the blade again before re-sheathing. (Fig. F)