

Kyogetsu-Shogei (version for training) Manual of a possible variation

For a Kyogetsu-Shogei (in this example) you need:

- 3 cuts (sickle-knife, 2 handles)
see the "Kyogetsu"-picture at the DinA4 "29cmx21cm" paper)
- rope (approx. 3.5m-4m, depending upon type of node)
- rubber band (or ring replacement with strong tape)
- Pattex (strong adhesive)
- fastening clamps (to stick together the handles with the sickle-knife)
- drill (10 mm) with a drilling machine
- possible white "belly"-bacon

The pattern (Kyogetsu picture on the second page) should be fit exactly for printing on a DinA4 page (about 29x21cm). Cut out the pieces and bring it on a piece of solid and hard wood (e.g. birch). You can saw out the sickle-knife and the handles by yourself or you give it to a carpenter. If you make enough shogei you should get a cheap price incl. wood of about 5-10 DM. You can buy the rubber ring as a diving ring in a sport shop or as a dog-biting-ring at an animal shop. (diameter of about 15 cm, about 8-10 DM). You can also use a straw ring, like it is used on christmas (advent wreath, about 3 DM). Then you have to wrap it in a strong tape (like the tapes you use for closing holes in car tubes). It is for holding the straw inside of the ring but I think a rubber ring would do it better.

The sickle knife should be about 9 mm thick and you make it from a solid wood. The handle-pieces make the handle stronger, they should be about 5-6 mm thick. You should phase the handle-pieces (with a file) in an angle of 45 degrees before you glue them together with Pattex. After glueing clamp them together with the fastening clamps. When the Pattex is hard you should file round (finish) all edges (1,2,3,4) and the points (1,6) to avoid damage in training. No fragments should be there after polishing (with fine file or fine sand paper). Then you drill a 10mm hole at the bottom handle of the shogei. You fix the rope at this hole and connect it to the rubber ring (10) with a second knot. You should choose the length of the rope in a manner, that if you hold the sickle-knife in one hand, the rope (9) would go from this sickle-knife to the other hand (with stretched arms to the side, about

2,5-3,5 m) and from this hand down to earth. The rubber ring should touch the ground lightly. Use a gallows node (7) and a 3-times-slipknot (8), they have done good work for me. They shouldn't open if you swing the shogei (use a safety-knot with your tying-knot). If you don't know much about knots then look at www.ninjutsu.de to the weapon and tool page (future expansion). At the end you can rub the wooden shogei with a white bacon to cover it with grease and put them under the sun or at a warm place to let the grease go deep in the wooden material. After that you clean it with toilette paper or krepp. This prevents the wood from loosing fragments or shattering (don't use oils from plants because they dissolve if you put them in the sun).

This is only an example to build a shogei. For a fast one we use at Bujinkan Dojo Erlangen a "rice-sock" (with little stones / gravel filled sock as an exchange for the rubber ring). This manual is only an example and not the ultimate solution nor a original build-up from a original shogei. It is suitable for training purposes. I am very sure that other amateur craftsman have found other good ideas to build this weapon !

You will find more information at www.ninjutsu.de (at the weapon and tool section) in the future.

And please don't flame me for my English. It's not my native language. Have fun, thank you.

(Bujinkan Dojo Erlangen, Manfred Meilner, Juni 2001)



