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Authentic Samurai Sword Buying Guide

By John Gottshall

If you've every thought about buying a new samurai sword (I'm talking about a real samurai sword that you can really use for cutting exercises, not just to hang on the wall) you've probably have several questions. There's a plenty out there to choose from but there are a few key things to look for in a quality blade.

The most important thing is that you get a blade that has been forged using traditional construction methods and had authentic parts.

Take the Thaitsuki Nihonto swords, they're forged using a 400 year old family method, are you can normally find them for under \$1000, however people are realizing more and more that they are very high quality swords, so their prices probably won't stay low for very long.

Here are a few qualities to look for in a quality samurai sword. An authentic samurai sword should be at least a high carbon steel forge blade (like the Thaitsuki swords) or a folded steel blade. A stainless steel blade is not a blade that is forged using traditional construction methods and should only be used for decoration. Many of them look really nice, but they absolutely must not be used for any type of cutting exercise.

If the blade is not made from at high carbon forged steel or folded steel then it's most likely just stainless steel. When purchasing your authentic samurai sword, make sure that the blade is forged high carbon steel or folded steel. Many companies will tell you that they can sell you a quality authentic samurai sword made from stainless steel. Stainless steel is fine if you're only going to hang it on the wall but it's not an authentic samurai sword made using quality forging methods.

Take the Paul Chen Shinto Katana. It's a fine sword made from traditional claying methods that make it nearly impossible to break, it's a fine authentic samurai sword. Paul Chen swords are some of the best samurai swords you'll find for the money. You can literally get a sword made from traditional construction methods and authentic parts for around \$300.

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At Japanese Swords 4 Samurai we have a samurai sword expert waiting to answer any questions you might have. Want to own an

authentic samurai sword

come and check out our store. You can find

us online at

<http://www.japaneseswords4samurai.com>

Japanese Samurai Swords Buying Guide

By Keith Hammerschlag

When it comes to Samurai Swords, there is quite a bit of terminology for the new collector to understand. But we want to make it easy for anyone to find a good quality samurai sword that will last a lifetime, no matter if you're looking for one of the very sought after Paul Chen Katana swords for battle or just a quality sword to hang over the mantle.

The first thing to consider for your new samurai sword is the type and quality of the blade. If you're looking for a you want to be sure and choose a full tang blade, which all of our authentic samurai swords feature as well as all of our battle ready swords. The term "full tang" means that the blade and the part of the sword under the Tsuka (handle) is one long piece of steel. If you get a sword that is not full tang then you're basically buying it to hang on the wall and nothing more.

The next thing to consider when choosing a sword is the type of steel that the blade is made of. There are basically 3 types of steel, 420 J2 (Stainless steel), High Carbon, and Folded steel. If you are looking for a battle ready sword you'll want to stay away from the 420 J2 Stainless. High carbon steel is very high quality steel; however folded steel is the strongest. Actually it's not that the folded steel is a different type of steel, but how the blade is forged.

A folded steel blade is typically made from high carbon steel. The difference is that a folded steel blade is just like it says; the steel is folded over and over again until the smith believes that it is adequate.

Some people say that a good high carbon steel blade can be just as strong as a folded steel blade. The smiths for the Thaitsuki Nihonto Swords claim to have mastered a form of forging high carbon steel blades that is just as strong if not stronger than many of the folded steel blades.

When choosing Japanese Swords there are basically 3 different styles to consider, the katana sword, the Wakizashi sword and the Tanto sword. The Japanese Katana Sword is the most popular among collectors and martial arts students alike.

The katana sword was the first and is still the most popular of all samurai swords. The blade is typically 29" long with an overall length around 40"

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The Wakizashi sword is the shorter companion blade of the katana sword. We first see the Wakizashi sword during the Muromachi period (1568–1603). The Wakizashi was about 18" long and only allowed to be carried by a samurai. Carrying both the katana and the Wakizashi was popular for the next few hundred years.

The smallest samurai sword would be the tanto sword or dagger. Originally tanto swords were 12" in length or less but it's not out of the ordinary to come across a Tanto that is 15" long.

Samurai sword collecting is a very popular past time for many Americans. Something that is becoming even more popular is martial arts that make use of samurai sword for fighting and cutting exercises. The most popular and affordable authentic samurai swords are the Paul Chen Swords. You can find decent Paul Chen Practical Katana Swords for under \$200. However for less than a hundred more you can get yourself a Paul Chen Practical Plus Katana. If you're looking for something a little more pricy

the Paul Chen Bushido Katana or the Orchid Katana will last a lifetime and can take quite a beating. The Orchid and Bushido also come in a Wakizashi and Tanto.

In conclusion, the most important thing when buying your sword is that you know what kind of blade you're getting. If you want a functional sword be sure that you're not getting one that's only made to hang on the wall.

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