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Chinese Swords: What to Know Before Buying

By John Gottshall

If you are looking for a sword worthy of battle you want to be sure and choose a blade that is made of high carbon steel or folded steel. What's wrong with a stainless steel blade you might ask? Stainless steel blades are nice if you're going to hang the sword on the wall. As a matter of fact, they're often called "wall hangers". Stainless steel blades simply are not made to stand up to the rigors of cutting and dojo exercises.

Two very popular makers of blades that are battle ready are Paul Chen and Cold Steel. Cold steel, although an American Company has most of their oriental blades forged in China. They have done well in replicating the look and feel of a well made Chinese sword at a very affordable price. Cold steel has a great video that you can usually get for free that shows professionals putting Cold Steel blades to the test. You can never go wrong with a Cold Steel Chinese sword or weapon.

However Paul Chen swords are quite a bit more popular in the United States and around the world. Most Paul Chen blades are forged with a technique called "differentially tempering", meaning that the top of the blade is actually stronger than the edge, which means that it's nearly impossible to break the blade when you're really putting it to the test. You'll probably pay a bit more for a Paul Chen sword than a Cold Steel but most people are happy to and believe it's well worth the extra cost.

Another popular brand of swords is United Cutlery, which are mostly for show or hanging on your wall. United swords are usually much less expensive but are very nice for above the mantle or a great decorative piece for a study or office.

Probably one of the most popular Chinese swords that everybody wants to get their hands on right now is the Chinese Saber which was used by cavalymen and foot soldiers in the rush of battle.

Whether you're looking for a battle ready sword like the Paul Chen Zatoich Sword or one just to hang on the wall for decoration, you can be sure that it will add beauty and appeal to any room in your home or office.

Chinese Swords: What to Know Before Buying

John Gottshall is the owner of Japanese swords 4 samurai. In addition to samurai swords they also have a large selection of chinese swords and weapons. The page dedicated to Chinese swords is at

<http://www.japaneseswords4samurai.com/chinese-swords-weapons.htm>

Japanese Military Swords--Rich In Tradition And Quality Of Construction

By Mary Murtha

Ever since humans learned how to shape metal, the sword has been the weapon of choice for many warriors. It is a sturdy, durable weapon that has been a fixture in the hands of soldiers for thousands of years. Military swords have been used in combat in nearly every continent and come in a myriad of styles.

The process of creating traditional Japanese military swords is not really a process - it is an art. These swords are made using an intricate process developed by the Chinese and improved by the Japanese. The method involves an extraordinary amount of labor, and frequently, several workers would create swords through an assembly-line like process. The sword maker must heat, fold and hammer the metal until it reaches the desired thickness.

The steel used in Japanese military swords is thought to be the best for the creation of these deadly blades. Folding and hammering the metal enabled the steel to reach its strongest and most resilient state. Air bubbles were beaten out and the composition of the steel was turned uniform, thereby eliminating points of weakness.

Japanese military swords were only allowed to have a single edge; the dull side was for support. Up until the onset of World War II, the majority of Japanese military swords were made by hand. With industrialization and a need to mass produce, swords created during WWII were done so by machine.

It is interesting to note the quality of these blades drastically decreased as the progression of the war gradually turned against Japan. High quality military swords created at the beginning of the fighting were replaced with low quality swords made with poor materials as combat came to an end. American forces in the Pacific Ocean had created a stranglehold on Japan's ability to obtain resources and the quality of these weapons reflected it.

Today, with the modern weapons available to soldiers, military swords are no longer needed for combat. However, modern armies still produce swords for many of their troops as part of tradition. There are still a handful of traditional Japanese military sword makers that work to keep the art alive.

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