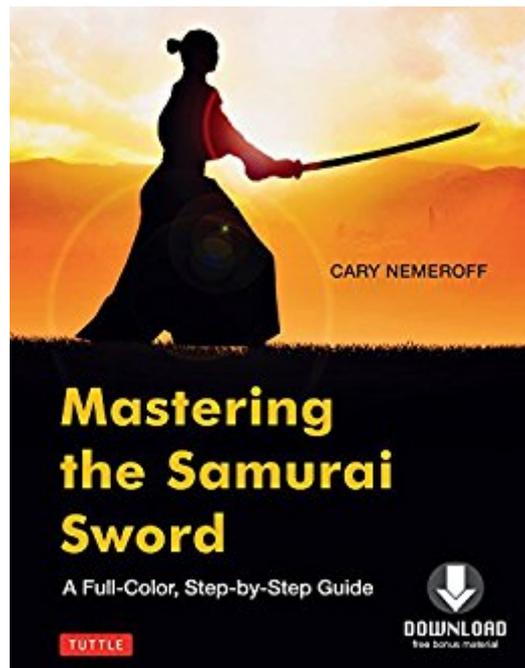


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Mastering The Samurai Sword: A Full-Color, Step-by-Step Guide [Downloadable Material Included]



Synopsis

Memorialized in countless books and movies, the history of Japan's fearsome samurai warriors is known all over the world. Who can forget these Japanese masters' skills with the sword? Today, samurai warriors no longer exist, but their legacy of swordsmanship endures. Now, the way of the samurai sword is learned in the martial arts Iaijutsu and Kenjutsu. This book is the perfect introduction to using this beautiful and ancient weapon. In *Mastering the Samurai Sword*, you'll learn the sword's fascinating history, its evolution, and the philosophy behind its use. You'll also learn practical guidance for mastering the sword itself. Full-color, step-by-step photographs detail many of the most useful and famous samurai moves, including: drawing the samurai sword, guard positions, cutting blows, and blocking, falling and rolling techniques, and evasive strategies, standing forms and kneeling forms. All of the martial arts techniques discussed in the book are performed for readers in the downloadable material to help you perfect your form. Beginners will learn everything from proper attire and behavior in the dojo to how they might practice at home, while more experienced samurai sword people will find a new appreciation for the deeper meaning and tradition behind the graceful way of the sword.

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Customer Reviews

I have been a student and instructor of numerous martial arts (Judo, Jujitsu, Karate-Do, Krav Maga, Combatives, Boxing, wrestling, Kendo, Kenjutsu, Tanto-Jutsu, Wakizashi-Jutsu, Hanbo-jutsu) in my more than sixty years of training. I have also been fortunate to have read and reviewed numerous books on these many martial arts. This book, *Mastering the Samurai Sword* by Cary Nemeroff, is one of the very best texts I have ever read on Ken-jutsu and Iai-jutsu. This fantastic book is organized into 14 detailed chapters covering the following material: The history of the Samurai sword, Iai-Jutsu and Ken-Jutsu, Knowing the sword, Selecting the right equipment for practice, Samurai attire, Saho (formal etiquette), Sword holds, Ken-Jutsu, Suburi (Cutting), Uke-Waza (blocking and evasive techniques), Ukemi and Shikko-Waza, Iai-Jutsu, Katas (standing forms, and Seiza Katas (Kneeling forms). There is also an excellent glossary section in this book. The photographs are all in color and the instructions are very clear, straight forward, and easy to follow. One of the things which makes this volume unique besides the excellent and detailed writing, is the DVD that comes with this book. I have always maintained that books can only do so much and the best results are achieved when you receive hands-on training under the watchful eyes of a competent instructor along with studying the book. The DVD in this book covers the material in the book where you can actually see in detail how the technique should be done. In this respect, if there is no place where you can obtain instructions from a qualified Ken-jutsu and Iai-Jutsu instructor, following the material CLOSELY in the book and DVD, you may be able to develop a basic level of skill using the Katana (Samurai Sword).

This is the best and most informative guide to the Samurai Sword that I've yet read. It also isn't 1000 pages long which helps in digestion, and it includes a DVD which aids in retention. It also makes sense that this was originally meant to be a guide for Mr. Nemeroff's own students however, I'm grateful it was published, as it is also invaluable as a reference for the lesser-known arts of Iaijutsu and Kenjutsu. There also seems to be much confusion over the subject of this book, as evidenced by some of the reviews. This is a book on Iaijutsu and Kenjutsu. Not Kendo or Iaido. A student of Iaijutsu and Kenjutsu myself, I found that not only in North America, but even when I traveled to Japan, only the oldest and best teachers of the sword seemed to know why I held the sword the way I did, and why I used the sword the way I did. After training in Iaijutsu and Kenjutsu, one learns the true battle methods of the Samurai Sword- not the popular Kendo sport techniques that are only useful for fighting with bamboo swords for points. The more experienced teachers in Japan recognized that my technique came from Iaijutsu and Kenjutsu, the predecessors to modern

day laido and Kendo. These same teachers were amazed to see that these techniques were practiced outside of Japan as they are truly very hard to find in today's age. Therefore a big thank you to Mr. Nemeroff for this valuable source of rare information in a world dominated by only Kendo and laido. One clear example of the difference between the -jutsu and -do arts is the grip of the sword. This changes significantly between Kenjutsu and Kendo. In the former, you're holding a Katana that's meant to slice through the opponent or through weak spots in armor, thus requiring a very strong grip.

After reading several of the silly reviews (and having to actually comment on the inaccuracies of one), I decided I had best put my money where my mouth is and write my own. There is no question that Mr. Nemeroff is highly skilled with the samurai sword. This book, however, is not about showing off his skills or demoing little known techniques. It is (as he says in his first sentence) a manual for his students which he hopes others find useful. As such it is important to read this book with that in mind. The style is clearly very formal and he covers everything from entering the dojo to preparing and housing both your sword and uniform. He starts with a brief history of the samurai sword as well as all the parts of the sword and cleaning equipment. All of this information is accurate and concisely written. The pictures are terrific and both meticulously placed and described. The sections on the different types of cuts, blocks and evasive maneuvers are very detailed and accurate (these can be check by numerous sources). However, the part that I find so great is the detail that he goes into to describe all of the Katas. Any student of his style that doesn't buy this book would be foolish. How many nights at home would this save after learning a new kata and you agonized over trying to remember the last lesson and being frustrated by having to wait for the next class. This book removes that difficulty and must be a terrific supplement to a student's studies. There are really three issues one major and two minor, that I have found with this book. The biggest problem is the DVD. The quality of the DVD is poor.

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