

KEN JUTSU

Ken Jutsu teaches sword skills. The katana is utilised within the Fuma Ryu as a battlefield weapon. The basic cuts within the ryu are taught as part of the Kiri Tsuki Ju Ippu. This series of eleven cuts is done from a standing position. They can be done one handed or with two and are used so as to teach the student different cuts with the sword. This kata teaches the student control with each cut, areas to strike and each cuts name.

These cuts are as follows...

- 1) *Naname Giri* - Right to left
- 2) *Naname Giri* - Left to Right
- 3) *Yoko Giri* - Aimed at neck, Right to Left
- 4) *Yoko Giri* - Aimed at neck, Left to Right
- 5) *Tate Otoshi Giri* - To cut Right shoulder area
- 6) *Tate Otoshi Giri* - To cut Left shoulder area
- 7) *Age Giri* - Right to Left
- 8) *Age Giri* - Left to Right
- 9) *Yoko Giri* - Aimed at the stomach area, a very small cut to make intestines pop out, cutting Right to Left.
- 10) *Yoko Giri* - Reverse of before, cutting Left to Right.
- 11) *Tsuki Waza* - Thrust to Hara area of the opponent.

These cuts teach the basic moves for using the katana and allow the student to develop name association with each cut. This is important as they need to know the name of the cut when practicing ken jutsu as the names will be given as instructions for initiating techniques.

In addition to learning the cuts students are encouraged to learn about the different types of Japanese sword to complement their practical understanding of the weapon. A variety of swords are detailed below:

Wanto - (Blade with curvature)

- Tachi* - (Old & long sword)
- Katana* - (General name of sword)
- Uchi-Gatana* - (Sword produced prior to the 12th century)
- Naginata* - (Japanese halberd)
- Yoroidoshi* - (Armour-piercing dagger)
- Tanto* - (Dagger)
- Kaito* - (Dagger)
- Kaiken* - (Dagger)
- Wakizashi* - (Mid-size sword, appeared after the 12th century)

Altogether Ken Jutsu teaches many aspects of martial knowledge and doctrine to the student and allows them to gain a sound insight into the importance of the sword within Japanese culture.