

Ronin Kenjutsu



Kamae - Postures

High Kamae

Dai Jodan no Kamae

"Great Upper Level Posture" Forward alignment, sword held overhead at a 45 degree angle.

Hasso no Kamae

"Eight Aspects Posture" Sideways alignment, sword held vertically at the right side.

Kasumi no Kamae

"Haze posture" Sideways alignment, sword held horizontally across forehead.

Kocho no Kamae

"Butterfly Posture" Sideways alignment, sword held horizontally forward from shoulder with wrists crossed.

Middle Kamae

Seigan no Kamae

"Correct Eye Posture" Sideways alignment, tip of sword aligned aiming at eyes

Ichi no Kamae

"Figure 1 Posture" Sideways alignment, blade extended parallel with ground.

Chudan no Kamae

"Middle Level Posture" variation with sword at middle level parallel with ground

Kongo no Kamae

"Thunderbolt Posture" Forward alignment, sword vertically in front of chest.

Low Kamae

Gedan no Kamae

"Low Level Posture" right side forward and sword angled low.

To Sui no Kamae

"Clear water posture" Forward alignment, sword lowered in front of right side.

Jizuri Gedan no Kamae

"Earth-hover low posture" Sideways alignment, sword low with wrists crossed.

Ryu Sui no Kamae

"Willow Water Posture" Sideways alignment, sword pointing back from rear hip

Kiri Gata - Cuts

Kiri Otoshi - Downward Cut

Kiri Otoshi cuts high to low in a direct vertical direction.

Kesa Giri - Diagonal Downward Cut

Kesa Giri is a diagonal cut from high to low following the path of the keikogi lapels.

Do Giri - Horizontal Cuts

Do Giri is a horizontal cut from either side.

Kiri Age - Diagonal Upward Cut

Kiri Age is a diagonal cut from low to high.

Tsuki - Thrust

Thrusting with the tip of the katana. Either directly or spiraling around your target's sword.

Cutting Targets

Men Uchi

A vertical strike to the dome of the skull.

Yoko Men Uchi

A strike to the side of the head.

Do Uchi

A horizontal strike to the body.

Kote Uchi

Cutting the hands or wrists.

Gedan Uchi

A low cut to the legs.

Tsuki Uchi

A thrusting strike to the torso, throat, or face.

Note: These targets are not an exhaustive list. These are simply the most common targets to end a fight quickly.

Kukishinden Ryu

Kukishinden Ryu is our battlefield kenjutsu for armored combat.

Strikes in the Kukishinden Ryu do more than cut their target. Because you and your opponent would traditionally be wearing armor, your cuts should move your target.

This does not mean you are striking with great force, but rather, that your strikes project through your target and cause your target to lose position and good kamae.

Kata

The kukiishinden ryu has 9 kata with 3 approaches - Inside, Outside, Advancing/Retreating.

Tsuki Komi

- From Seigan no Kamae
- Uke cuts down diagonally from Jodan at your throat
- Kneel back with the left leg and extend your katana to thrust into uke's throat

Tsuki Kake

- From Seigan no Kamae
- Uke cuts down diagonally from Jodan at your throat
- Fake a thrust to uke's midsection
- Under under uke's triceps and step past to cut under uke's armpit

Kiri Age

- From Hasso no Kamae
- Uke cuts down from Jodan.
- Step forward and perform a circular upward cut under uke's arm
- Or cut across uke's chest to set up osoto gake

Kiri Sage

- From Tenchi no Kamae (reverse Hasso)
- Uke cuts down and diagonally at the left side of your neck
- Step forward and bind at the tsuba
- Rotate in and cut uke's neck

Kinshi (Kasugai Dome)

- From Gedan no Kamae
- Uke cuts down diagonally toward the right side of your neck
- Aruki step toward uke's inside while lifting your katana
- Shift in cutting down on uke's hand

Kocho Gaeshi

- From Seigan no Kamae
- As uke attacks from Jodan no Kamae, move in and rest your blade on uke's wrist
- Using uke's wrist as a fulcrum, thrust up under uke's chin

Shi ho Keri

- From Hasso no Kamae
- As uke prepares to cut, shift in with upward cuts
- continue to press the attacks to overwhelm uke

Happo Keri

- From Jodan no Kamae
- As uke prepares to cut, shift in with downward cuts
- Continue to press the attacks to overwhelm uke

Tsuki no Wa

- From Seigan
- As uke prepares to attack, shift in
- Project your katana in a thrust with your left hand only

Togakure Ryu

Togakure Ryu uses a short bladed katana with a full length tsuka. This allows deceptive and agile movements.

Cuts in the Togakure Ryu use precision targeting to strike into gaps in your opponent's armor.

New Kamae

Totoku no Kamae

"Shielding Posture"

Holding your sword in the reverse grip, either kneeling or standing, keeping it between you and your opponent as a shield.

Reverse Grip

Holding your katana in a reverse grip is a perfectly acceptable approach within the Togakure Ryu. There are no specific kamae or kata that call upon it, but it can still be useful to you.

Kata

The Togakure Ryu is composed of seven kata practiced inside, outside, advancing and retreating.

Hiryu no Ken

"Fire Dragon"

- From To Sui no Kamae, Uke attacks with a Tsuki thrust
- Retreat diagonally to the left while lifting and parrying with your sword
- Step in and create two circles with your blade to control uke's blade
- Step in to cut across uke's torso while grabbing uke's belt with your left hand

Kasumi no Ken

"Mist"

- From Seigan or To Sui, Uke attacks with a downward cut
- Inward parry and circle to control uke's blade
- Clear their sword and reset
- After you have cleared uke's sword a couple times repeat the circle parry but end with a kesa giri downward cut in the middle of the parry

Muso Ken

"No Intention"

Ura Nami "Inner Wave"

- From Gedan no Kamae, Uke cuts down from Jodan no Kamae
- Step in, lifting your sword to catch under uke's right wrist with your sword tip
- Outward Parry followed by a belly cut

Dato no Ken

"To Strike and Fell"

- From Gedan no Kamae, Uke cuts down from Jodan no Kamae
- Step in and cut both elbows from underneath
- Continue your step with a cut across uke's torso

Issen no Ken

"In a Flash"

- From Gedan no Kamae, Uke cuts down from Jodan no kamae
- Switch step with an inward parry
- Step in with a cut to uke's neck

Raiko no Ken

"Thunder & Lightning all around"

"Everything becoming one"

- No set techniques
- Understand how to use the previous five in a matrix
- Understand how to deal with multiple attacks in all directions

Itto Nage

"Throw the Blade"

Batto Jutsu

Batto Jutsu means literally "Sword Drawing Method." We practice the 12 seito iaido kata.

Batto Jutsu can be practiced with a bokken, but it is highly encouraged to practice with a blunt iato.

Mae - Front

- From Seiza
- Grip and unlock your saya
- Draw with a horizontal cut while stepping forward with your right foot to a kneeling position
- Raise your katana over your head
- Cut down to kneeling seigan
- Lift your katana over your head and clean it with a single downward swing while rising to a stand
- Switchstep
- Sheath the katana before kneeling to your right knee
- Stand

Ushiro - Rear

- From Seiza
- Grip and unlock your saya
- Turn 180* to a left up kneeling position while drawing your katana
- Raise your katana over your head
- Cut down while advancing
- Lift your katana over your head and clean it with a single downward swing while rising to a stand
- Switchstep
- Sheath your katana before kneeling to your left knee

Uke Nagashi - Deflection

- From Seiza
- Grip and unlock your saya
- As you draw your katana, step your left leg up
- Finish your draw to Jodan as you stand and turn to your left, feet together
- Step your left leg back and cut down right to left
- Turn your katana over across your right leg
- Reverse your right hand and grip your saya
- Turn your katana over and return it to your saya as you kneel to your left knee

Tsuka Ate - Handle Thrust

- From right leg up Seiza
- Grip your katana & saya
- Step up to a kneeling position while thrusting your tsuka forward
- Remove your saya and rotate to your left
- Thrust at the target behind you
- Return to front, lifting your sword to Jodan and cut downward
- Sheath your katana as you return to right leg up Seiza

Kesa Giri - Diagonal Cut

- From Shizen
- Step your right foot forward as you unlock your saya
- Step your left foot forward while drawing and cutting upward from left to right
- Two-handed downward cut to Chudan
- Step back to Tenchi Jodan
- Step back and clean your sword while gripping your saya
- Return your katana to your saya

Morote Tsuki - Two Handed Thrust

- From Shizen
- Step your left foot forward as you unlock your saya
- Step your right foot forward while drawing your katana to a one-handed seigan
- Shift forward and thrust with both hands to seigan
- Turn 180* to jodan and cut down
- Turn 180* to jodan and cut down
- Clean your katana with a horizontal whip
- Sheath your katana

Sanpou Giri - Three Way Cut

- From Shizen
- Step your left foot forward as you unlock your saya
- Step your right foot to the right while turning and drawing your katana to a one-handed seigan
- Turn 180* through Jodan to cut downward behind you
- Step your right foot to the right while cutting downward through Jodan
- Step your right foot back to jodan
- Step your left foot back and clean your blade with a single downward swing
- Sheath your katana

Ganmen Ate - Face Strike

- From Shizen
- Step your left foot forward and grip your katana and saya
- Step your right foot forward and thrust your tsuka at your target's face
- Pull your saya to your obi and turn 180*
- Step and thrust at the target behind you
- Turn 180* and cut down from Jodan while stepping your right foot forward
- Clean your blade with a right horizontal whipping motion
- Sheath your katana
- Step up to shizen

Soete Tsuki - Joined Hand Thrust

- From Shizen
- Step your left foot forward while gripping your katana and saya,
- Step your right foot forward and turn your focus to your left
- Step your left foot back and turn toward your left drawing your katana in a downward circular cut to your target's wrist
- Step your right foot back and place your left hand on your katana's spine
- Step forward with your left foot and thrust at your target's belly
- Lift your katana to shield across your belly
- Step back and clean your blade with a horizontal swing
- Sheath your katana and return to shizen

Shiho Giri - Four Way Cut

- From Shizen
- Step your left foot forward while gripping your katana and saya
- Step your right foot forward and out 45* while striking down with your tsuka
- Unsheath your katana and turn 180*
- Step forward with your left foot and thrust at the target's belly
- Step your left foot 180* inside and cut down from jodan
- Turn and step your right foot 45* and cut down from jodan
- Turn 180* and step your right foot forward to cut down from jodan
- Step back to jodan
- Step back and clean your blade with a diagonal swing
- Sheath your katana and return to shizen

So Giri - Complete Cutting

- From Shizen
- Step your left foot forward while gripping your katana and saya
- Draw and cut downward through jodan
- Shift forward with left kesa giri then right kesa giri
- Circle back to left ryu tsui
- Left to right do giri
- Step your left foot to jodan
- Step your right foot with a downward cut
- Clean your blade with a right horizontal swing
- Sheath your katana and return to shizen

Nuki Uchi - Sudden Draw

- From Shizen
- Grip your katana and saya
- Step back with your left foot, drawing to jodan
- Shift forward with a downward cut
- Step back with your right foot and clean your blade with a right horizontal swing
- Sheath your katana and return to shizen

5th Kyu

Reiho

- Standing Salute
- Kneeling Salute
- Battlefield Salute

Katana no Mochi

- Wearing the Katana
- Gripping the Katana

Kamae

- Dai Jodan no Kamae
- Seigan no Kamae

Kiri Gata

- Tai Otoshi (Falling Cut)

Tai Sabaki

- Shuffle Step
- Passing Step
- Switch Step
- Aruki Step

4th Kyu

Kamae

- Hasso no Kamae
- Kongo no Kamae
- Chudan no Kamae

Kiri Gata

- Kesa Giri (Left)
- Kesa Giri (Right)

Batto no To

- Horizontal Draw
- Simple Return

3rd Kyu

Kamae

- Kocho no Kamae
- Gedan no Kamae
- Jizuri Gedan no Kamae

Kiri Gata

- Tsuki

Batto no To

- Rising Cut
- Falling Cut
- Reverse Return

2nd Kyu

Kamae

- Ryu Tsui no Kamae
- Kasumi no Kamae

Kiri Gata

- Kiri Age (Left)
- Kiri Age (Right)

1st Kyu

Kamae

- Ichi no Kamae
- To Tsui no Kamae

Kiri Gata

- Do Giri (Do Uchi)
- Do Giri (Yoko Men Uchi)
- Do Giri (Gedan Uchi)

1st Dan

Uke Kata

- Parries
- Shielding
- Counter Cutting

Juji no Ken

- Ura
- Omote

Tsubute Sabaki

- Deflecting Objects

Dan Ranks

Each Dan rank beyond first represents an understanding of a specific ryu-ha of kenjutsu. The ryu-ha we teach include -

- Kukishinden Ryu
- Togakure Ryu
- Seito Iado

Dan ranks beyond 4th represent an ever increasing skill level that can only be achieved with years of practice.