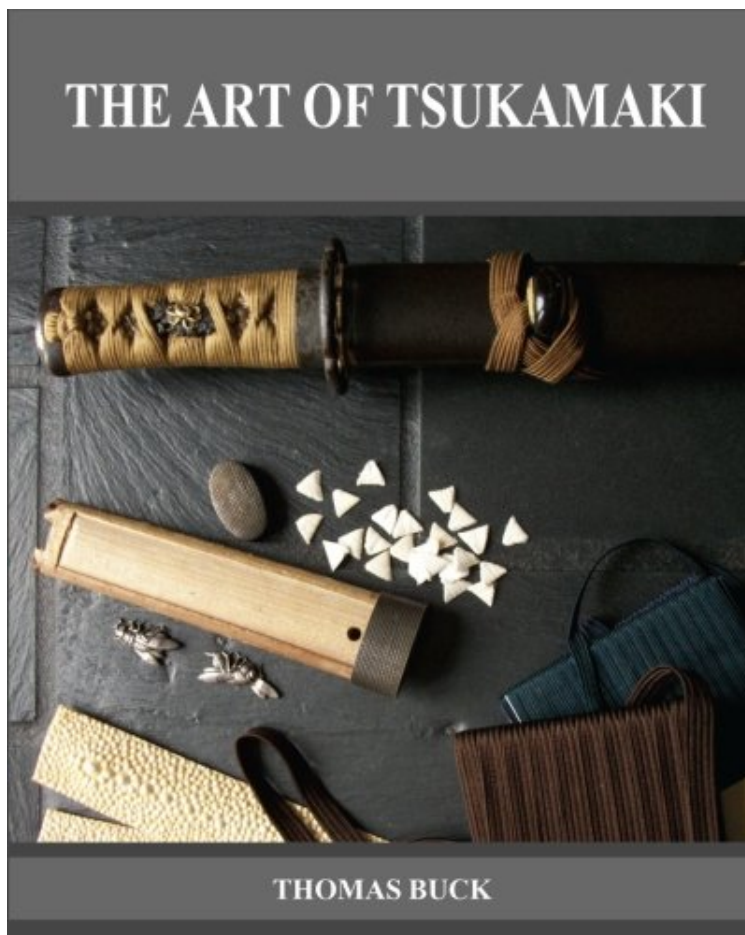


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The Art of Tsukamaki

Thomas L Buck

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Thomas L Buck : The Art of Tsukamaki before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Tsukamaki:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. More than the title impliesBy wiredweirdTraditional Japanese swordmaking stands among the most refined and complex of arts. In fact, it combines a number of different arts, including that of wrapping the hilt (the "tsuka"). This book covers that craft in enough detail for the determined artisan to put those techniques to use - not necessarily in such warlike manner. The reader finds more than two dozen variations, with surprising details like the use of paper shims to compensate for the thickness of layered bands. There's also a "tear-down" of an antique tsuka being restored by conservators - something very few artisans would be privileged to see. I fault this part of the book only for lack of clarity in the knotwork that ties off the ends of the wrapping materialMore than that, though, Buck gives brief but dense history of the swords themselves, describing how the blades' shape, length, construction, and metallurgy evolved over time. He details different patterns that remain from tempering the edge, and that appear in striations on the tang. Additional details cover signature markings, shape

of tsuka, and some of the ornaments on hilt and guard. The author describes tsukamaki itself in a usable level of detail, but brings a lot more to the interested reader, too.-- wiredweird2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. THE Bible of Tsuka Re-WrappingBy BookieNo nonsense, no BS. A serious book for serious tsuka repair. If you want the "fine print" about re-wrapping the handle of your Japanese or Japanese style katana, this is the book for you.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great book.By Mark CutrightThe production quality of this book is lacking, but it makes up for it in the quality of information. This book covers some aspects of Tsukamaki that are very difficult to find on the net and in much greater detail.This book has a home in my library!

Tsukamaki, combining aesthetics, form and function, is the deceptively simple Japanese art of sword handle wrapping. Dr. Buck's work presents a general historical overview of the evolution of Japanese samurai swords and sword mounts, as well as step-by-step instructions and diagrams for 25 specific types of sword handle wrapping. It also includes a compact visual glossary of Japanese swords, general temper patterns and common signature characters. As a reference book, it is both an excellent introduction to the art of Tsukamaki, and a complete how-to guide for the beginner tsukamaki-shi, or sword handle wrapper.

From the AuthorThis was not intended to be an elaborately illustrated book of Japanese sword masterpieces or museum collections, but more of an easy reference to the methods, materials and tools of Tsukamaki, and a practical starting point for anyone interested in Japanese sword handle repair. The book has a brief history of significant changes in Japanese sword design; a guide to setting up a Tsukamaki workshop; and, easy-to-follow illustrations for twenty-five of the more common styles of sword handle design. I also included three case studies on the disassembly, maintenance, repair and/or rebuilding of sword handles, as well as a visual glossary for the identification and understanding of such things as general Japanese sword parts, temper patterns, blade design, terms and definitions, and signature characters.About the AuthorDr. Thomas Buck has been collecting and studying the Japanese Art Sword for over thirty years, acquiring his first Samurai Sword in October, 1975. In 1987, with the guidance of Dr. W. Y. Takahashi, Sensei, he began a three year intensive study/apprenticeship of the restoration and preservation techniques of John Grimmitt and Takahiro Ichinose, concentrating his research on Tsukamaki and Japanese Lacquer-ware. Since 1988, he has been performing restoration and research work on tsuka for various institutions, private collectors, and dealers.