

Primary & Secondary Kobudo Weaponry

Bo [*Kon* in Okinawan] The *roku-shaku bo* is a 6-foot staff. This is kobudo's primary weapon, and was derived from a tool that farmers used to help carry heavy loads of grain or water across their backs.

Our kobudo system includes five primary and six secondary *bo* kata:

Shiushi no kon This kata was created by a Chinese budo master named Shiushi, who brought the kata from China to Okinawa in the very early 19th century.

Choun no kon This 300-year old kata was developed by a martial artist named Choun. The name, roughly translated, means "ending the morning mist."

Sakugawa no kon This kata was created by Tode Sakugawa, a famous Okinawan martial artist. Matayoshi Shinko learned it from Chinen Yamane.

Tsuken no kon [or *Chiken no kon*] Named after the island on which it was created, *Tsuken Jima* and is said to be over 400 years old. Matayoshi Shinko learned it from Gushikawa Teragua.

Shishi no kon This kata is named after its creator, though a stone reference in the name also refers to the technique of tossing small stones with the feet that is contained in the kata, and is said to be over 300 years old. It was supposedly created by Shishi Oyakata, a martial arts instructor to the Ryukyu king, and passed down only to members of the royal family and the eldest son of the Shishi family. Matayoshi Shinko learned it from Shishi Ryoko.

Ufutun no kon This kata is said to have been made by a garrison commander at Urasoe castle. It may also have been influenced by local *bo* dances.

Tokumine no kon This kata was created by Tokumine-sensei and passed on to Matayoshi Shinpo by Kyan Chotoku.

Yonegawa no kon A left handed *bo* kata.

Kubo no kon This kata may have been created by Matayoshi Shinchin.

Yara no kon This kata may be related to *Chatanyara no kon* from the Taira lineage.

Papuhaku sho and *Papuhaku dai* These kata are training kata for the *bo* created by Kimo sensei.

Sai

These weapons are of Chinese or possibly Indonesian origin. They are usually used in sets of three, with a third sai kept in the belt, ready to replace one thrown or left behind.

Our system includes three primary kata for the *sai*:

Nicho Zai

This kata was created by Matayoshi Shinpo.

Sancho Zai

This kata was created by Matayoshi Shinpo.

Shinbaru no Zai

This kata was created either by Matayoshi Shinko, or by his teacher, Gushikawa Teragua. The kata is also sometimes called *Matayoshi no sai*.

Tonkua

Also called *tonfa*, *tuiifa*, or *sonkua*. This implement is derived from the handle of a small stone mill used for grinding grain. The baton many American police officers carry is modeled after this weapon.

Our system includes one primary and three secondary kata for the *tonkua*:

Tonkua dai Ichi and *Tonkua dai Ni*

These kata were created by the Matayoshi family, and the techniques were taught to Matayoshi Shinko by Irei, of Chatan village.

Tonkua dai San

This kata was created by one of Matayoshi sensei's senior students.

Matayoshi Sen De no Tonkua

This kata was taught to Stolsmark-sensei by Matayoshi Shinpo in 1984. Like *Tonkua dai Ni* and *Tonkua dai San*, it is not an official kata of the OKDR.

Nunchaku

The origin of this weapon is clouded in mystery. One theory is that they were derived from rice flails or threshers. Another is that they were derived and modified from a much older Chinese weapon. While many systems use a great deal of flashy movement with the *nunchaku*, when hitting something the rebound is very difficult to control, so combative technique is often very simple and direct.

Our system includes one primary kata for the *nunchaku*:

Matayoshi no Nunchaku

This kata was created by the Matayoshi family, and the techniques were taught to Matayoshi Shinko by Irei.

Tekko

Also called *tetsuko*. This weapon is supposedly derived from the stirrups from a saddle, or from horse shoes. The ends of the stirrups have a diamond shaped bump that can be used as a dull spur, (and to amplify the effects of a hammer fist) but the top of the curved section is either smooth or has just a couple of small studs.

Although there are no Matayoshi-lineage kata specific to this weapon, the foreign *Miyazato no Tekko* is often practiced, as well as modified versions of certain empty hand kata.

Ekku

Called a *kai* in standard Japanese, this is a boat paddle. Similar paddles are still visible all over southern Japan and Okinawa in festival boat races and village dances, and are used as emergency paddles in all manner of boats.

Our system includes one primary kata for the *ekku*:

Tsuken Akachu no Ekku

The name of the kata refers to the creator, a martial artist nicknamed "red man" (*Akachu*) for his red face, who lived on *Tsuken jima*. This kata was passed to Matayoshi Shinko by Gushikawa Teragua.

Nunti Bo

This is a Chinese weapon, learned by Matayoshi Shinko from Kingai while he was in Shanghai. It consists of a *bo* length staff with a *nunti sai* affixed into the end, leaving a long point and two hooks in opposing directions. The kata also includes techniques for throwing the two *nunti-sai* usually carried in the belt while using the weapon.

Our system includes one primary kata for the *nunti bo*:

Nunti no ti

Also occasionally referred to as *Matayoshi no Nunti*.

We also practice this weapon using certain *bo* kata, in particular *Tsuken no kon*, properly modified for the hooked end of the weapon.

Kuwa

Also called a *kue*. This is a heavy agricultural hoe. It has a waist high stock and a blade about 8 - 9" long and 4 - 5" wide. A potato hoe, with 3 or 4 rake like points instead of a single blade, is also used in the same manner.

Our system includes one primary kata for the *kuwa*:

Kuwa no Di

Kama

These are standard sickles used for harvesting rice and other farm and garden tasks.

Our system includes one primary kata for the *kama*:

Matayoshi no Kama or *Kama
no Ti*

Sansetsu Kon

This means "three piece staff," and the weapon is also called the *Shorin (Shaolin) Sansetsukon*. Matayoshi Shinko learned the techniques for using it from Kingai, in China, where it is a common weapon.

Our system includes one primary and one secondary kata for the *san setsu kon*

Tinbe

In the Matayoshi system, this consists of the *tinbe*, a shield like implement, made of leather, cane, or metal, and the *seiryuto*, a machete. The traditional *tinbe* is made with a reed base covered with leather and coated with a thick, almost tar-like, material. The *tinbe* is used to hide the *seiryuto* from view, to defend and cover, and to scoop sand or dirt into the opponent's

face. Other styles in Okinawa use a turtle shell shield and a rochin, a short spear-like weapon, but these are not part of the Matayoshi ryu.

Our system includes one primary and one secondary kata for the *tinbe*:

Matayoshi no Tinbe

Matayoshi Shinpo also once referred to this kata as *Kamanta Hukencho no Tinbe*. The kata comes from Matayoshi Shinko's studies with Kingai, and comes from the *Chugoku Nanban Shorin Ken* (Southern Chinese Shaolin Boxing) school.

Suruchin

This is a 2-3 meter long rope with a teardrop shape rock tied to each end. The style of use is derived from Chinese and Okinawan sources.

Our system includes one primary kata for the *suruchin*:

Suruchin no Taeseiki

Some Secondary Weapons:

Kudamon Bo

Also called an *utsu bo*. This is a 130-160 cm bamboo staff with another length of bamboo, about 60-100 cm long attached to it by either a piece of rope or a rotating joint made from bamboo. The implement itself is derived from a grain threshing flail; this is much more logical than a similar origin for the *nunchaku* would be, as with a long threshing flail the user wouldn't have to crouch over to do his work. Similar flail type weapons are common world wide. There is one kata for this weapon, a relatively new kata not practiced in all the Matayoshi kobudo schools, called *Kuramon Bo no Di*, and it is the only kata in the Matayoshi kobudo that includes kicking techniques.

There are various other types of *bo* staff, ranging in length from the 4-foot *Jo* to the 13-foot staff.

San bon Nunchaku

Also called the *Sanshaku*, is a three section *nunchaku*, used much as the normal *nunchaku*.

Manji Sai

These are *sai* that have one of the two tines bent backwards towards the handle, not towards the point. They are called *manji* due to their shape, which resembles a swastika, a symbol used to represent Buddhism in Japan. In Japanese, this character is called a *manji*. They are used much like the *sai* are, with the same kata, and are also sometimes called *Matayoshi sai*.

Nunti Sai

These resemble *manji sai* in that they have one tine bent backwards, however they have no handle; both ends are pointed like the long end of the *sai*. While they can be used in the hands, they are usually used with the *nunti-bo*, kept in the back of the belt and thrown.

Roku Shaku Kama

These are *kama* affixed to the end of a 6 foot pole, like a pruning hook. It is practiced using modified *bo* or *kuwa* kata.

Gifa

Also called *kanzashi*, *ji-kuwa* or *jifua*. These are hairpins, made of metal or wood. They are practiced using karate or *chizikun bo* kata, properly modified.

Naginata

A scimitar like blade, 3 feet in length, is fixed to a 6-foot staff. Also referred to as the "women's spear," because women of the Japanese military class were expected to have perfected its use by the age of 18.

Kusarigama

Kama with rope or chain attached, and used like the *kama* but has the capability of twirling and trapping the opponent, or opponent's weapon, with the rope. This weapon was made

famous by Sensei Tadashi Yamashita through his demonstrations, and in the film "The Octagon" with Chuck Norris.