

Greetings Students,

Thank you for joining us on the upcoming workshop. There will be much to learn and plenty of wood to cut. Basic power tools such as drills will be available for us to use. Each student will need their own hand cutting tools. The first portion of the class will be devoted to sharpening and setting these tools. Then you will work with them creating joints and finish planing surfaces. By the time you return home these tools will be your good friends ready to be of service for whatever quality woodworking projects you desire.

Attached is a list of the necessary tools. Please review the list and feel free to contact me if you have questions. I recommend that you pursue acquiring these tools early. Some suppliers have limited stock and others will be shipping from Japan. Following are a few thoughts to consider as you look for Japanese tools:

- 1) It is not necessary to get the very best. In Japanese tools "the very best" is very expensive! Medium professional quality will be plenty adequate to learn on. After becoming accustomed to these tools, gradually moving up to higher quality makes sense. There will always be a use for the less expensive tools.
- 2) There is a lot of information and misinformation about Japanese tools on the web, which can be pretty confusing. Please don't worry about what color of steel the tools will have. Please do make sure to get tools that are made of laminated steel including the chip breaker on the hand plane. There is no need to purchase tools that are pre-setup. That is what the class is about.
- 3) Chisels come in various styles. Oire or bench chisels are small sized for furniture and finish work. Tataki or timber chisels are large for cutting timber frames. Chu-tataki or medium timber chisels are in-between sized. Any of these styles can be used during the workshop. Most important is to choose according to the type of work that you will be doing when you return home.
- 4) For planes, 70mm is standard and most versatile. But, a smaller width is handy and perhaps easier to hold onto, especially for a beginner or someone with small hands. In such case 60mm is a good size. Less than 50mm can be difficult to work with.
- 5) Common replacement blade type saws are adequate for the class. Traditional forged steel saws are great, but pricey.
- 6) Japanese sharpening stones come in two basic types. Standard and Ceramic. The Standard (old style) is like a fired brick. The ceramic are improved, harder, cut quickly and more expensive. For the standard type I recommend King brand. For the ceramic type I recommend Shapton (medium and coarse stones), Sigma (all of them) and Suzukitool stones (all of them).
- 7) The following is a list of tool dealers that I recommend as trustworthy and offering decent quality:
<http://hidatool.com/>

<http://www.toolsfromjapan.com/store/>

<http://www.suzukitool.com//>

<http://www.shapton.com/> (shapton ceramic stones only)

http://www.twopines.net/Two_Pines_Trading_Co./home.html

Note: Amazon and ebay are alternative sources for stones if you know what you want.
Compare prices. Lee Valley also offers Sigma and King brand stones

<http://www.leevalley.com/US/Wood/page.aspx?p=67175&cat=1,43072>

Best Regards and I look forward to seeing you soon at the workshop!

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