



Timber Framers Guild, PO Box 60, Becket, MA 01223
Voice: 413-623-9926 Fax: 888-453-0879 Website: www.tfguild.org
E-mail: will@tfguild.org

**Timber Framers Guild
Western Conference Japanese Workshop 2007**

This updated tool list is provided by Mike Laine, one of the assistant instructors at the upcoming workshop:

Tool List

Workshoppers et al,

What to bring? It depends. If you have a set of timber frame tools, bring them. If you want to build a set of Japanese woodworking tools, here are some guidelines...

The basic tool kit is a set of planes chisels and saws, and sharpening stones. The tools can be tailored to the application, that is, heavy duty tools for the timber work, or very delicate tools for instrument making. You should buy the style you are most likely to use in your regular work. Your first set of Japanese tools should be what they call apprentice grade, and Hida (hidatool.com) sells apprentice grade tools. They are excellent.

A basic kit will have a couple of saws, a set of chisels and a plane or two.

Saws..get Gyokucho brand. If you get one, get the 270cm length, if you get two, get the 210cm and the 300cm size, or get all three. You will use them.

Chisels...I recommend Fujihiro brand. They are what I use. The bench chisels are the all around set, but timber chisels are better for heavy duty work. I use 18mm, 24mm, and 42mm timber chisels mostly. The bench set I use all of the time, and I prefer the double hollow grind in the wider chisels.

Planes...I recommend Ishihisa brand, 65mm blade size. A scraper plane is a good item to have for maintaining the bottom of your plane...36mm is fine.

Sharpening stones...I use King stones, 800 grit and 1200 grit for grinding, and a Naniwa Ebi stone 10,000 grit for polishing. The Shapton 12000 is a bit less expensive, and is probably really good. An essential part of good sharpening is flat stones, and diamond plates are best for doing this. DMT (dmtsharp.com) makes a good product. The Duo Sharp 10" bench stone with the coarse and fine grits is the most versatile.

This is the basic kit, along with hammers, layout tools, and whatever else we use to get the work done. Those who can bring electric tools will be heroes. Accurate saws, drills, perhaps electric planes, these will be nice to have.

The only two resources I recommend for acquiring Japanese tools are: Hida tool.. www.hidatool.com . These people offer a discount to TFG participants, and it is where I get most of my tools.

Misugi Designs... www.misugidesigns.com . Kayoko has been selling high quality Japanese tools for years, and she is able to buy directly from her sources, no brokers or dealers. Great prices and great tools.

Hiraide, www.japanesetools.com is still another possibility, but they mostly have high end, expensive tools. I avoid Japan Woodworker.

Call with any questions...Mike Laine, Co-Instructor

650 233 8842

2/10/07