



Bokuto ni yoru kendo kihon waza keiko ho

(Developed by the ZNKR (Zen Nihon Kendo Renmei))

Purpose of the kata is:

- to teach beginners and students of *niddan* and below that the basis of *kendo* is to cut with a blade.
- to show that the kihon kata can be applied to techniques. To make it easier to learn waza.
- to make it easier to learn kendo no kata.

Players roles: For *kendo no kata, Uchidachi* is the senior/teacher; whilst *Shidachi* is the junior/student. These descriptions are a basic understanding. For this set of *waza*, the roles are *Motodachi* or recipient; and *kakarita* or giver. *Motodachi* and *kakarite* have no real deeper meaning, simply one does the *waza*, the other receives the *waza*.

As in kendo no kata, the roles are predetermined.

Format: Motodachi and Kakarite are 10 steps apart. Just as in kendo no kata, the two move into the middle taking 3 steps, meeting at Issoku itto no maai, and retreat 5 steps at the end of each kata.

Standing Posture: Always from Chudan no kamae

Eye contact: Maintain eye contact throughout with the partner

Strike: Strike with *Monouchi*, using *te-nouchi* and cutting in one breath.

Foot movement: Begin using Okuri-ashi and strike with Suri-ashi

Voice: Kakarite calls out intended target loudly: Kote, Men, Do or Tsuki.

Zanshin: After each strike, Kakarite would take a small step back and apply zanshin strongly

from the Chudan no Kamae position.

SHIKAKE WAZA

Kihon 1: Men, Kote, Do, Tsuki

Motodachi (M): Opens kissaki slightly to the right.

Kakarite (K): Steps in to hit *Men*. Takes one small step back to *zanshin*, and another step to return to the original position.

- M: Raises kissaki slightly up.
- *K*: Steps in to hit *Kote*. Takes one small step back to *zanshin*, and another step to return to the original position.
- *M*: Opens by raising both arms above the eyes.
- *K*: Steps in straight to hit *Do*. Takes one small step back to *zanshin*, and another step to return to the original position.
- *M*: Opens by dropping the kissaki slightly to the right.
- *K*: Steps in to thrust *Tsuki*, and pulls back slightly.
- *M:* Takes one step back simultaneously.
- *K*: Takes one small step back to *zanshin*, and another step to return to the original position.

Motodachi joins in by taking one step forward at the same time as *Kakarite's* second step.

RENZOKU WAZA

Kihon 2: Kote, Men

- *M*: Raises *kissaki* to the left for the *kote* strike, then taking one step back opening slightly to the right for the *Men* strike.
- *K:* Steps in to hit *Kote* and takes another step to hit *Men*. Takes one small step back to *zanshin*, and another two steps to return to the original position.
- *M*: Follows *Kakarite* by taking one step forward at the same time as *Kakarite's* last step.



HARAI WAZA Kihon 3: Harai Men

K: Takes one step to execute *harai Men*. Then takes one small step back to *zanshin*, and another step to return to the original position.

HIKI WAZA

Kihon 4: Hiki Do from Tsubazeri

K: Hits *Men*.

- *M:* Receive the Men. The arms of both people are at about shoulder height. Both take half a step in and lower the hands into the *tsubazeriai* position.
- *K*: Pushes down, and *Motodachi* reacts by lifting the arms above the head.
- *K*: Lifts the *shinai* above the head, and as he steps back with the left foot he strikes do *Do*, then a small step back to *zanshin*. Both take one step back and assume *chudan no kamae* position.

NUKI WAZA

Kihon 5: Men Nuki Do

M: Hits Men.

K: Steps forward and slightly to the right and hits nuki do, maintaining eye contact all the time. After striking, Kakarite turns around to face Motodachi.
Both take one step back and maintain chudan no kamae position, Kakarite showing

zanshin, and both stepping to rotate to their original positions.

SURI-AGE WAZA

Kihon 6: Kote Suriage Men

- M: Steps forward to hit Kakarite's Kote.
- *K*: Kakarite performs *suriage* and immediately steps forward to hit *Men*.
- *K:* Then takes one small step back to *zanshin*, and both sides take one step to return to their original positions.

DEBANA WAZA

Kihon 7: Debana Kote

M: Moves slightly forward (without taking a step) as if to hit Men.

K: Immediately steps forward to hit small *Kote* sharply. Then takes one small step back to *zanshin*, and another step to return to the original position.

KAESHI WAZA

Kihon 8: Men Kaeshi Do

M: Steps forward to hit Men.

K: Receives the *men* strike in the same manner as *suriage*, high and to the front, then immediately steps forward and to the right, hitting *Do*, maintaining eye contact all the time. After striking, *Kakarite* turns around to face *Motodachi*. Both take one step back and maintain *chudan no kamae* position, *Kakarite* showing *zanshin*, and both stepping to rotate to their original positions.

OTOSHI WAZA

Kihon 9: Do Uchi Otoshi Men

M: Steps directly forward to hit *Do*.

K: Takes one step backward to the left and, using the monouchi portion of his bokuto, cuts down on Motodachi's bokuto, then takes one step forward to hit Motodachi's Men. Both take one step back and maintain chudan no kamae position, Kakarite showing zanshin, and both stepping to rotate to their original positions.

At the completion of the 9 kata, both sides perform *sonkyo* and take 5 steps back, the *reiho* being same as for *kendo no kata*.