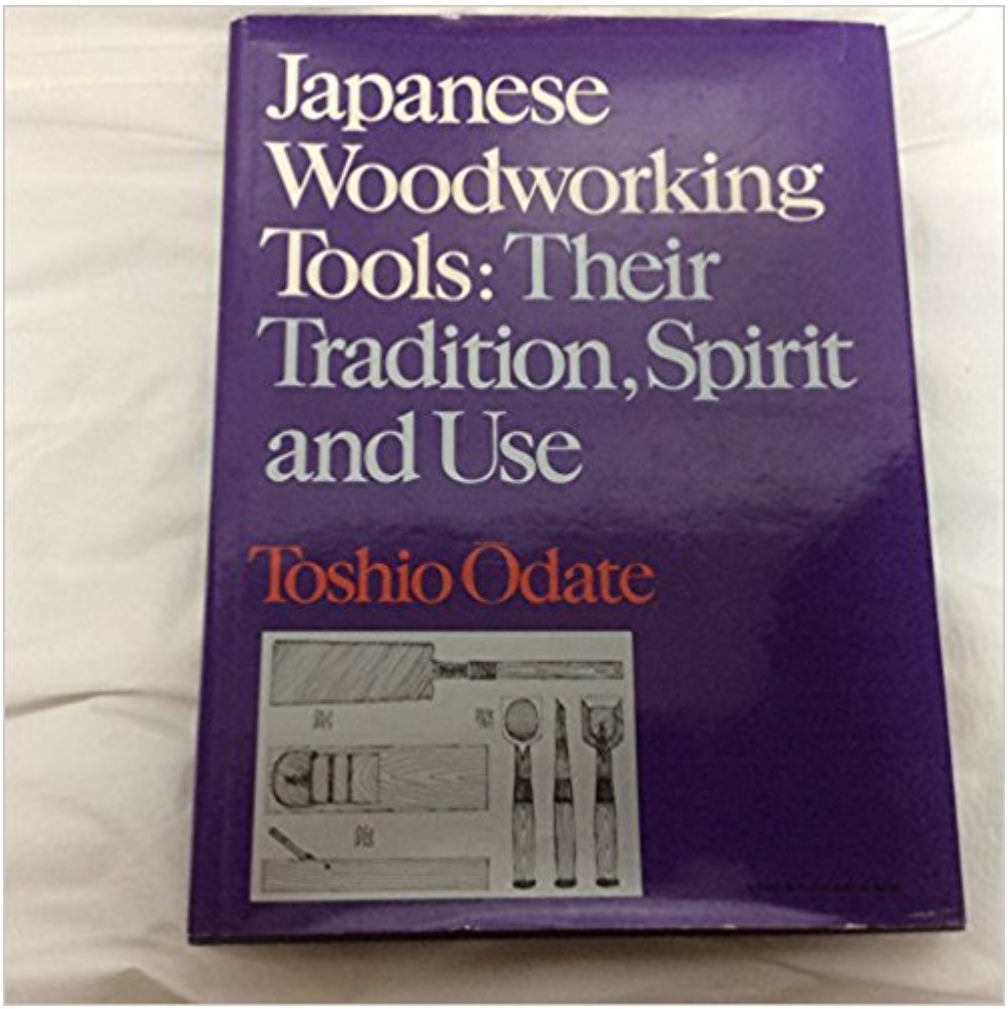
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# Japanese Woodworking Tools: Their Tradition, Spirit, And Use (A Fine Woodworking Book)




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## Synopsis

This text shows how to use Japanese tools effectively and maintain them properly, and explains the role they play in traditional Japanese craftsmanship. It describes how to create razor-sharp cutting edges and introduces almost 50 different planes.--This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Series: A Fine woodworking book

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Average Customer Review:  4.7 out of 5 stars  45 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Odate was apprenticed in Japan.

If you are looking for information on the sometimes mystifying topic of Japanese carpentry tools, this book written in the 80’s could be really useful.Odate does a great job of categorizing the different kinds of tools ,including the more exotic items like keshiki (gauges) and sumitisubo (ink line) with really extensive drawings, and tips for do-it-yourself maintenance, like chisel and saw re-handling.His insights into the Japanese craftsman’s attitude toward workmanship and their traditional tools is unique. Still, the photos are muddy and small, and some of the explanations are just puzzling. He doesn’t cover any of the amazing joinery that can be done (and has) with these refined,and yet basic tools. The book could really use an update to fix these problems, but since there aren’t a lot of books around on this topic, its’ still the best thing going ,in English.

A thorough, and delightful work on the subject of Japanese Woodworking Tools. The words flow from the mind of a master who not only knew his craft, but the tradition that is all encompassing of the craft itself.

This is an excellent introduction to Japanese tools. I really love this book. This is really about Shokunin, craftsmen or artisan in the literal sense. More correctly, a Shokunin means not only having technical skill but implies an attitude and social consciousness. The qualities are encompassed in the word but are seldom written."The Shokunin demonstrates knowledge of tools and skill with them, the ability to create beauty and the capacity to work with incredible speed. The value of an object is dependent on a subtle combination of skill and speed; this is what the apprentices master and collegues teach, and this is what the Shokunin believes. One without the other is not Shokunin.""The Shokunin has a social obligation to work his best for the general welfare of the people. This obligation is both spiritual and material, in that no matter what it is, if society requires it, the Shokunin’s responsibility is to fulfill the requirement."Prior to moving to the US, the author was a Shokunin and was raised in a family who passed the art to him. The passionate description of their relationship with their tools, and the proper care is really inspiring.So this is more than just a book about the different tools and their use and care. Odate’s passion and reverence for this art is felt on every page. If you are interested in Japanese architecture or are a craftsman, I highly recommend it.

As a woodworker who is increasingly getting away from power tools and back to hand work, reading about how Japanese woodworkers do it was fascinating. I have only one Japanese tool sofar, a small dozuki saw, but it’s cut is so fine and so easy to control that I intend to aquire more Japanese tools. This book has inspired me; equally importantly, it shows the way to their use, and in some cases, how to make your own. I heartily recommend this fine book to anyone interested in learning more about Japanese woodworking, or in becoming a better woodworker with hand tools in general. In addition to being well written, Toshio Odate gives a fascinating account of his apprenticship to his stepfather within its cultural context.

Great read. Was what I was looking for to expand my view of the Japanese wood worker.

Purchased this for my son to use with my tools. The book has clear detailed instructions and helpful photos to assist with suggested projects. It is well written with easy explanations to assist the novice

wood wooker. You will need special tools for the work so look into what you need as so you are not disappointed that you can not start with a project.

A wonderful compendium of tool information and insights into life as a Japanese apprentice and tradesman. I learned more from Toshio Odate about Japanese tools and their use than from any one else so far. For the Western woodworker this is a must. I thought I knew something about tools and using them but found a whole new world in using and learning about Japanese tools their use, making, sharpening and their spirit. Broaden your horizons!

Excellent book. Odate explains about everything you need to know about japanese tools, including many that most of us will never use. Highly recommended book.

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