

## Care for *buki* (weapons)

### Bo, Tonfa, Nunchiyaku, Eku, and other hardwood weapons

When you get the weapon, you should first sand it with a light sandpaper- around 200 to 400 grit, sanding along the grain. Wipe the weapon down fully, to get all the dust off. You can wipe it with a damp cloth, but be sure it is dry before you oil it. Then coat it lightly with natural linseed oil (not boiled) or some other oil that does not harden to a varnish (mineral oil will do, and some people recommend a mixture of equal parts Tung and Linseed oil). You can apply the oil with a cloth, or rub it in with your hands. Let this coat of oil soak in overnight. Don't lay the weapon flat or stuff will stick to it. Try to lean it up, or suspend it. This first coat of oil should raise the grain some. Wipe the excess oil off, and sand it again, lowering the raised grain. Then wipe it clean again, and apply another coat of oil, letting sit over night. If the weapon absorbs this coat, wipe it down, and give it another light coat. Once it is not absorbing oil quickly, wipe off any excess from the last coat. The weapon is now ready to train with. Make sure the excess oil is removed, however, or you will find it a bit sticky when using it. A new coat of oil, and perhaps some more sanding if the weapon gets dinged up much, should be done every year or two, and can be done again a month or two after you first do it. If the weapon gets a large ding, from a sai for example, the dent can be sanded a tad and oiled.

When storing your wooden weapons, do not lean the longer weapons against the wall, or in the back of a closet. They should be stored flat, suspended from hooks or pegs at roughly equal thirds, or stood vertically, resting on their ends. Nothing should be stacked on them. This will prevent them from warping much. They should also be protected as much as possible from rapid or radical changes in heat and humidity, so keeping them in your car in the winter between trainings is not such a good idea.

### Sai, Nunti & Mangi sai, and Nunti-bo heads

When you get the weapon, not much needs to be done. The cord on the handle should be lightly coated with Elmer's glue, or something similar and left to dry, (obviously not resting on anything). The weapon should be stored somewhere where it will not get wet. When transporting it, it is best to wrap it in a towel or carrying case of some type, so it does not sit against your gi and rust. If the weapon does rust, it should be wiped down with a towel until clean, and that is all. If it is VERY rusty, it can be cleaned with steel wool. The body of the weapon has a light, uneven coating on it that helps retard rusting to some extent- once this is rubbed off, it will rust quicker. Some people oil their sai to keep them clean, but this in turn usually gets your gi dirty, so I do not recommend it.

### Chizikunbo, and other small wooden weapons

These should be kept clean and dry. They should be sanded smooth, and can be lightly oiled or even stained and have a varnish or other sealant applied.

### Repairs

Occasionally strings need to be replaced on nunchiyaku or chizikunbo, the handle wrappings on sai, or the shims in tonfa handles will need to be re-seated, and so on. This is all pretty easy, so if it is necessary and you are not sure how to do it, just ask.