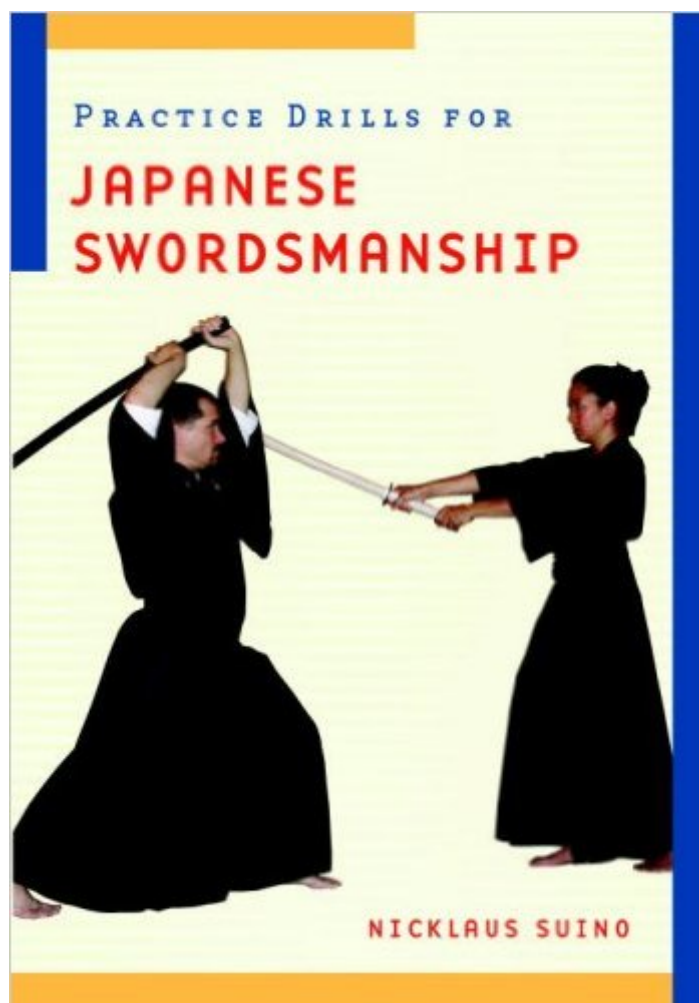


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# Practice Drills For Japanese Swordsmanship



## Synopsis

To become an expert swordsman, one must pay close attention to detail, be highly self-critical, and practice diligently every day under the guidance of a good teacher. Unfortunately, contact time with a worthy mentor is limited for most. Practice Drills for Japanese Swordsmanship fills this obvious gap in the training of the modern swordsman by providing bokuto (wooden sword) drills to supplement the formal class activity of forms practice. Both single and two-person drills are presented, some common to iaido and kenjutsu, others extracted from iaido forms by the author and used to teach his own students the proper ways of drawing, parrying, and cutting. Each drill is illustrated with step-by-step drawings to help students hone their techniques; together they provide a comprehensive system of general skills development for anyone interested in using the Japanese sword.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book performs its function perfectly, as a supplement to iaido or kendo training, not as a comprehensive guide to these other arts. The drills are excellent, the illustrations clear and concise, especially to a proponent of the art. The book is NOT a stand-alone manual to any specific art, and shouldn't be read as such. For something like that, try "Kendo: The Definitive Guide" or Suino's "The Art of Japanese Swordsmanship;" both of these are as close as I've found to "definitive" works.

I found this book valuable for the Author's insistence and emphasis on the basic techniques of swordplay. My only experience with swordsmanship is in the European tradition, but I found the

authors drills to be helpful, in terms of illustrating the importance of timing and distance. The drills are not flashy, but were never represented as such. My experience in fencing suggests that the best and most successful swordsmen do simple moves, very fast, very accurately, and at just the right time. I believe the drills in this book will help any swordsman develop such skills. This is not a book for someone with no experience or no teacher, but if you want to learn some valuable insights into real swordsmanship, this book will be helpful, especially at this price.

This book, when used as it was intended, is an excellent source for practice drills. When use as a companion book with Suino Sensei's other book (the art of the Japanese sword - Eishin Ryu Iaido) it is invaluable. This book is not meant, however, to be a stand alone book for teaching swordplay.

This book is great for new students to the art of Iaido, it tells you step by step instructions on almost all of the drills to be practiced and is one of the best books to start with

For the record... This book is NOT for someone that is trying to learn on their own. You need to be around someone that has taken some lessons & has at least a basic idea of what they are doing. (Or know yourself) There are a few details left out that but if you're in a school they tell you what this book doesn't. This book is what it says "practice drills" nothing more. Others have comments about footwork not being able to tell which foot is left & right. I have taken kendo but was also shown some Iaido by a friend. In both, your rt. foot is always forward. (Unless you're doing something special like sonyko) (I probably spelled that wrong but it is the bowing sequence you do in kendo before you spar) I only give this book a 4 because the pictures are really small. The information in the text is good & deserves a 5. As a side note I am not sure this book is worth more than 10 dollars. (my friend bought his used for 7, I would not pay more myself after seeing it) But it is a good book.

Despite the fact that it claims to have some advanced techniques this really is a very basic book of sword drills. The writing is adequate, the knowledge is for the most part correct, the pictures while small and elementary are serviceable, and the information is okay but frankly nothing in this book stands out as special at all. There are stepping/footwork drills, solo drills, and two person drills that are usable as a supplement for just about any Japanese sword art. There is nothing truly wrong with this book but in my mind it is about 100 pages of extraordinary averageness. Find it used if you want to pick up a copy. Lawrence Kane Author of Surviving Armed Assaults, The Way of Kata, and Martial Arts Instruction

I expected better pictures explaining techniques not stick figures. I would of sent it back but it is too much of a pain to do so. This is by far the worse book I have bought from . It did not allow you to look inside the book, otherwise I would of most likely not of purchased this book. I highly recommend you do not purchase this book.

Bought this as a learning book for a 14 year old boy. He was very excited to get the book, he picked this one out himself :) He is happy with it and we also bought some practice swords to go along with the book so he could learn the art of Kenjitsu. He is teaching himself using the book and we are all very happy with the purchase :)

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