

# A Yamato Daijo Masanori Custom Daisho

*Featuring horimono engraving of Buddhist deities*



*A two-body cutting test in 1679  
was performed with this katana.*

[View details >>](#)





## A 'Past meets Present' Daisho Koshirae

The katana *tsuka* (hilt) above is from the mid 1800s, late Edo period.

The wakizashi *tsuka* (below) was part of a custom *daisho koshirae project* (matching set of wakizashi and katana fittings) crafted for the client in 2015.

The aim of the project was to source Edo-period fittings for the wakizashi that complimented the look and feel of the katana as closely and elegantly as possible.

This was common practice for the Samurai during the Edo period when it was unrealistic to source fittings that were 'exactly' the same.

And the finished result? One word...magical.

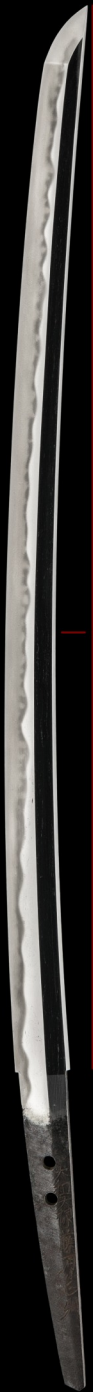




A Shodai Masanori Katana  
Yamano Hisahide Cutting Test

Edo Period  
Keicho era (circa 1596-1615)  
NBTHK Hozon Token  
Fujishiro Yushu Kanteisho

延寶七年五月廿二日  
武少阿蘇野 山野勘十郎 久英



Cutting Edge: 53.4cm

Curvature: 1.1cm

Motohaba: 2.8cm

The gold kinzogan writing on the nakago certifies that on May 22, 1679 Shogun-appointed sword tester Yamano Kanjuro Hisahide performed a cutting test with this katana by severing two human bodies in one stroke.



Futatsu  
dou

Saidan

Yamano

Kanjuro

Hisahide

延寶七年五月廿二日  
貳ツ胴截断  
山野勘十郎久英  
五

7th year of Enpo (1679)

5th month (May)

22nd day



*Yamato*

*Daijo*

*Fujiwara*

*Masanori*

# Fujishiro Yushu Kanteisho

This is a rare certificate of authenticity (kanteisho) by master polisher Matsuo Fujishiro (1914-2004), who was designated a Living National Treasure in sword polishing in 1996.

This certificate affirms that the katana is a *Yushu* work of art (superior level) and a genuine sword by *Yamato Daijo Fujiwara Masanori*.

The certificate hold information on the blades characteristics such as the signature, hamon, jihada, horimono (performed by another artist, not the smith himself) and the mention of a kinzogan cutting test.

The certificate was issued in the 59th year of Showa (March 15th, 1984).





№ 375321

保存

18200611



# 鑑定書

長二尺三寸一分強

## 一、刀銘

大和入棟藤原正則(彫物記内別人)

延宝七年五月廿二日

式部卿裁断 野崎正之丞(兼)

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と  
鑑定しこれを証する

平成十九年二月一日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



## Yakushi-Nyorai (*Bhaisajyaguru*)

*Yakushi-Nyorai* is Medicine Master and King of Lapis Lazuli (Light), is the buddha of healing and medicine in Mahayana Buddhism.

Commonly referred to as the "Medicine Buddha", he is described as a doctor who cures *dukkha* (suffering) using the medicine of his teachings.

The Twelve Vows of the Medicine Buddha upon attaining Enlightenment, according to the Medicine Buddha Sutra are:

- 1) *To illuminate countless realms with his radiance, enabling anyone to become a Buddha just like him.*
- 2) *To awaken the minds of sentient beings through his light of lapis lazuli.*
- 3) *To provide the sentient beings with whatever material needs they require.*
- 4) *To correct heretical views and inspire beings toward the path of the Bodhisattva.*
- 5) *To help beings follow the Moral Precepts, even if they failed before.*
- 6) *To heal beings born with deformities, illness or other physical sufferings.*
- 7) *To help relieve the destitute and the sick.*
- 8) *To help women who wish to be reborn as men achieve their desired rebirth.*
- 9) *To help heal mental afflictions and delusions.*
- 10) *To help the oppressed be free from suffering.*
- 11) *To relieve those who suffer from terrible hunger and thirst.*
- 12) *To help clothe those who are destitute and suffering from cold and mosquitoes.*





## Bishamonten (*Vaisravana*)

Bishamonten (sometimes simply *Bishamon*) is thought of as an armor-clad god of war or warriors and a punisher of evildoers – a view that is at odds with the more pacifist Buddhist king.

Bishamon is portrayed holding a spear in one hand and a small pagoda in the other hand, the latter symbolizing the divine treasure house, whose contents he both guards and gives away.

In Japanese folklore, he is one of the Seven Lucky Gods.

Bishamon is also called *Tamonten* "listening to many teachings" because he is seen as the guardian of the places where the Buddha preaches.

He is believed to live halfway down Mount Sumeru.



Tamonten statue  
(Todai-ji, Nara)

## Kokuzo Bosatsu (*Akasagarbha*)

*Kokuzo Bosatsu* is regarded as one of the eight great bodhisattvas. His name can be translated as "boundless space treasury" or "void store" as his wisdom is said to be boundless as space itself.

Since *Kokuzo* is the great wisdom of the Buddha that exists throughout the entire universe, he has the virtue of enabling those who chant his mantra, form his mudras, discipline themselves to a strict regimen, and practice this *Gumonji* method to obtain the wisdom of the Buddha and become enlightened.

Kobo Daishi embodied the wisdom of *Kokuzo* Bodhisattva into himself, and became the Bodhisattva of the Three Realms.



Kokuzo Bosatsu statue  
in Jingo-ji, Kyoto  
9th century



# Sankozuka

(*ken* with *vajra* thunderbolt)

*Horimono* (sword engraving) served as religious talismans for the Samurai. *Ken*, meaning "sword" is also an incarnation of the Buddhist deity *Fudo Myoo*.

This horimono features a long *suken*, *vajra* thunderbolt and on top, a *renge* (*lotus flower*).



*Vajra* is a Sanskrit is a symbolic ritual object that symbolizes both the properties of a *diamond* (indestructibility) and a *thunderbolt* (irresistible force).

The vajra is used symbolically by the Dharma traditions of Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism, often to represent firmness of spirit and spiritual power.



The larger katana *tsuba* (guard) carries the beautiful design of *Mizu Aoi Zu* - a species of flowering plant with heart-shaped leaves in the water hyacinth family.

The smaller wakizashi *tsuba* carries the depiction of *Noshi* - a decorative ribbon wrapped on gifts and congratulatory presents in Japan.

The reason for attaching a *noshi* was to symbolize the immunity to evil things: the sender's pure mind and the harmlessness of the gift.

The *tsuba* is signed *Ito Masatoyo* of the Bushu School (crafted Mid-Edo period, circa 1692 -1779).





A beautiful *kogai* (ear pick) in the design of a hen, her chicks with a gold and silver egg.

NBTHK Hozon certification attributing to *Kyo Kinko*



A traditional *kozuka* (utility knife) in the design of quails and a village scene.

Each design works in harmony with the themes built on each sword



Fuchi-kashira is signed *Ichinomiya Tsuneyuki (1769-1828)*



Quails amongst flowers

*high-relief engraving on  
shakudo-nakako*



A Japanese crane

*high-relief engraving on  
shakudo-nakako*

# A Yamato no Daijo Masanori Wakizashi Momoyama - Edo Period (circa 1596-1615)

NBTHK Hozon Token certification  
Blade has recently been polished  
This sword is available for purchase

[See full description and photos >>](#)





A Masanori Wakizashi  
Edo Period  
Keicho era (circa 1596-1615)  
NBTHK Hozon Token

保存  
17200503



370258



鑑定書

一、脇指 銘 大和 大掾 藤原 正則

長一尺七寸五分半

右は當協會に於て審査の結果保存刀剣と  
鑑定しこれを証する

平成十七年四月八日

財団法人日本美術刀剣保存協會



NBTHK Hozon Certificate

(a sword Worthy of Conservation by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword)

*Yamato no Daijo Fujiwara Masanori*

Issued in 17th year of Heisei (2005), April 8th

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



Nakago (tang, omote)

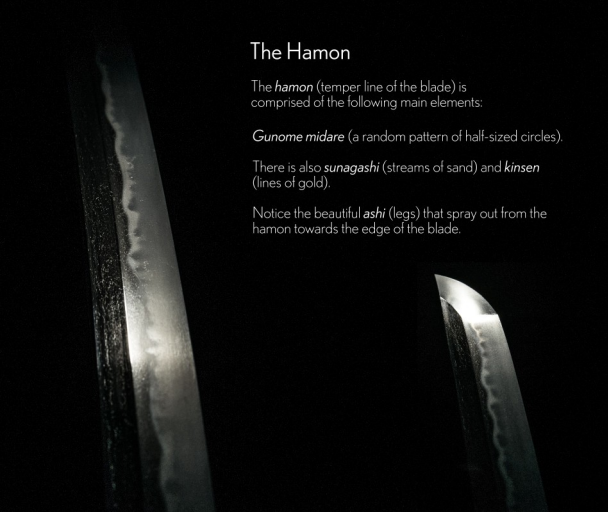
Title: Yamato no Daijo  
(Assistant Lord of Yamato province)

Clan: Fujiwara

Swordsmith: Masanori

Yama  
to  
Dai  
jo

Fuji  
wara  
Masa  
nori

A close-up photograph of a sword blade, showing the hamon temper line. The blade is dark, and the hamon is a lighter, wavy line running along the edge. The background is black.

## The Hamon

The *hamon* (temper line of the blade) is comprised of the following main elements:

*Gunome midare* (a random pattern of half-sized circles).

There is also *sunagashi* (streams of sand) and *kinsen* (lines of gold).

Notice the beautiful *ashi* (legs) that spray out from the hamon towards the edge of the blade.

## The Jihada

The pattern of the surface texture of the steel produced during the forging process is called the *jihada*.

This *wakizashi* displays a beautiful *ko-itame* with areas of swirling *mokume*, much like annual rings on a tree. There is also *ji-nie* (tiny crystals in the *jihada*).



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Curvature: 1.1cm

Motohaba: 2.8cm



A Masanori Wakizashi  
Edo Period  
Keicho era (circa 1596-1615)  
NBTHK Hozon Token



品名  
17000502



鑑定書  
「銘」福山太刀  
此刀は、福山太刀の  
一ツとして、  
鑑定され、  
鑑定書に  
記載されています。

