



ITEM# UJKA283

## A HIROTAKA KATANA

SIGNED IN ECHIZEN, EARLY EDO PERIOD (MEIREKI ERA: 1655~1658)

<b>Swordsmith:</b>	<i>Hoki no Kami Hirotaka (shodai, first generation, ubu nakago)</i>		
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>Length:</b> 69.0cm	<b>Curvature:</b> 0.9cm	<b>Moto-haba:</b> 3.31cm
<b>Jihada:</b>	<i>Ko-itame with chikei</i>		
<b>Hamon:</b>	<i>Gunome midare, long ashi, and sunagashi</i>		
<b>Certificate #1:</b>	NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon ( <i>designated as Especially Worthy of Preservation</i> )		
<b>Certificate #2:</b>	NTHK-NPO Kanteisho ( <i>koshirae designated as Authentic</i> )		
<b>Fujishiro:</b>	Chûjô-saku ( <i>ranked as an above average swordsmith</i> )		
<b>Asaemon:</b>	Wazamono ( <i>maker of sharp swords</i> )		
<b>Included:</b>	Edo-period koshirae, shirasaya, bags, stand, kit, booklet, printed description		

**SOLD**

This a solidly built, dependable katana from the mid-1600s by *Hoki no Kami Fujiwara Hirotaka* from Echizen province - a *wazamono* ranked swordsmith known for producing strong, healthy blades with excellent cutting ability.

A bright *gunome midare hamon* brightens the blade with long *ashi* and *sunagashi*. This sword was given a recent polish and now shines with confidence. An antique koshirae from the early 1700s (almost original to the blade) accompanies the sword giving it a mystique that transports one back to the heart of the Edo period. Note the unique *gampi* wrap on the *tsuka* (hilt) and reflective *Jakushi school* fittings. This is a samurai sword with a spiritual core, purpose and presence.

Saki-kasane: 4.9mm <sup>^</sup>

Moto-kasane: 7.0mm

Saki-haba: 2.16cm

Nagasa: 69.0cm

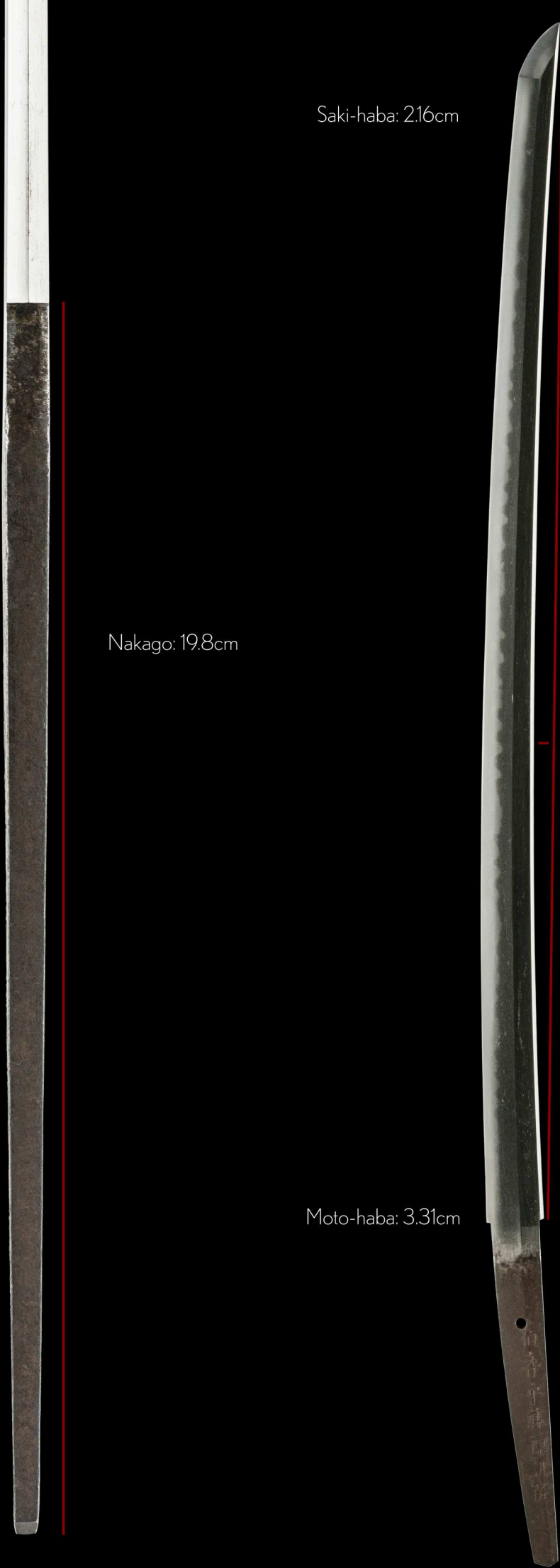
Nakago: 19.8cm

Sori: 0.9cm

Omosa: 765g

Moto-haba: 3.31cm

Mekugi-ana: 1



One of most prolific students of first generation *Kanetane* was swordsmith *Hiroataka*. Hiroataka was active around *Meireki* era (1655~1658) and although he sometimes signed with the supplement *Shimosaka* he is regarded as an *Echizen-Seki* smith.

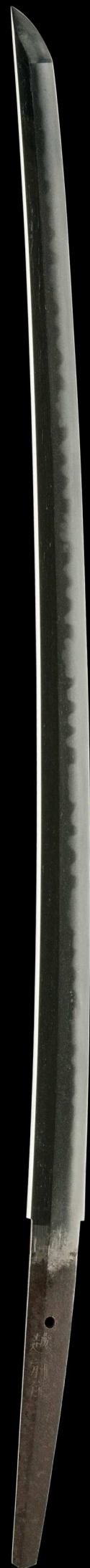
Hiroataka bore the honorary titles *Hôki no Daijô* and later *Hôki no Kami* in which this katana was signed as. The nakago also states that he was living in the castle town of *Echizen* at the time. Hiroataka forged with an *ô-mokume* (large burl grain) with *ji-nie* and produced a range of tempered works in both *suguha* and *gunome-midare*.

Some swords are built with dependability written all over them. This is one such sword. It is weighty, healthy and extra sharp. A sword with a shallow curvature can be drawn from the scabbard quickly - and this is precisely what it was designed to do.

In and out of trouble, *fast*.

A long standing Edo period koshirae accompanies this sword that has a calming zen quality to it.

Be zen, and carry on...





Location: *Echizen Province*

Clan: *Fujiwara*

Swordsmith: *Hirotsuna* (first generation)

*ubu-nakago* (original, unaltered tang)

*sujikai-yasurime* (diagonal file marks)

Ho

ki (no)

Kami

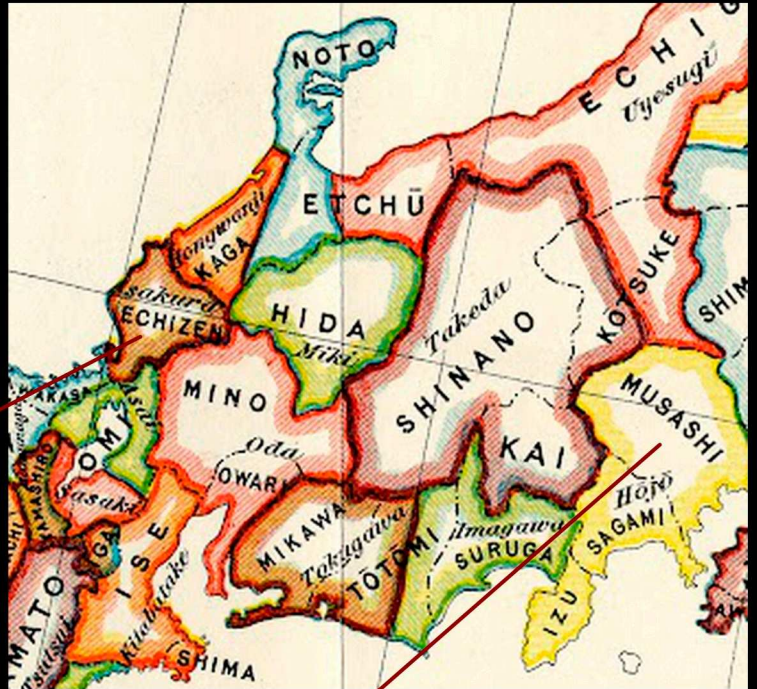
Fuji

wara

Hiro

taka

Swordsmith *Hiroataka* crafted this katana while living in *Echizen* province. Below is a portion of the *Feudal map of Japan* during the Edo period, note how Echizen borders the Sea of Japan.



越前住

Echi  
zen  
Ju

Musashi (modern-day Tôkyô)

The *nakago-jiri* (butt-end) of the tang comes to a sharp point at the centre.

This type of finish is called *kengyô* or sword-shaped.

特 保  
28201611

№ 1006488



鑑 定 書

一 刀 銘  
伯耆守藤原汎隆  
越前住

長二尺二寸八分

右は當協會に於て審査の結果特別保存刀劍と  
鑑定しこれを証する

平成二十九年二月二日

公益財団法人日本美術刀劍保存協會



富山 教育委員会  
第 1297 号  
昭和 26年 5月 1 日

## NBTHK Tokubetsu Hozon Certificate of Designation

A sword designated as *Especially Worthy of Conservation*  
by the Society for the Preservation of the Japan Art Sword

Issued in the 29th year of Heisei (2017), February 2nd

One, Katana

Mei (signature)

Hoki no Kami Fujiwara Hiroataka  
Echizen Ju

Nagasa (length)

2-shaku 2-sun 8-bu (69.0cm)

Nihon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai  
(NBTHK)



*ô-mokume hada*  
(large burl gain)

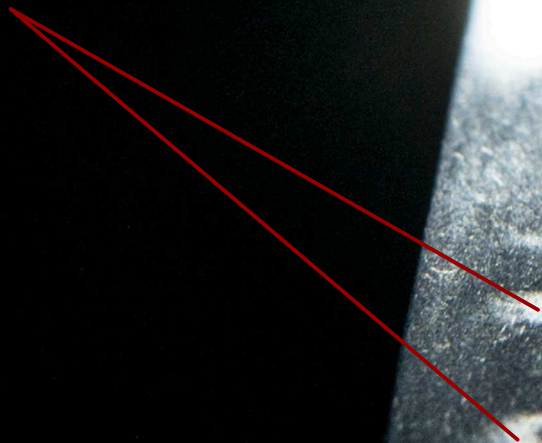
A bright, wavy *gunome midare hamon* over a darkish *jigane* that is typical of swords crafted along the *Sea of Japan* given the unique characteristics of the iron sand.

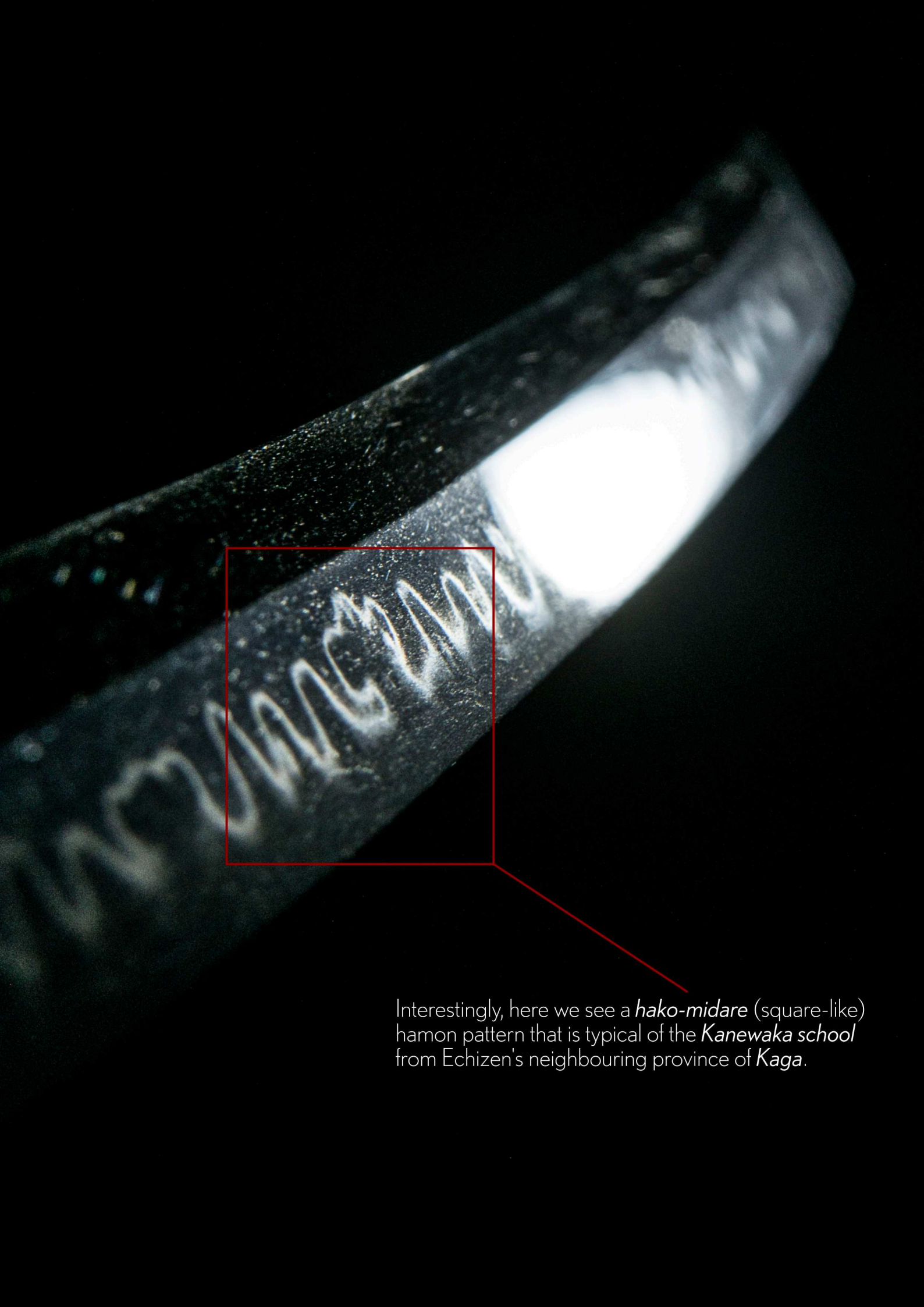


dark *jigane*

*gunome midare hamon*

Long *ashi* (legs) make strides towards the cutting edge.





Interestingly, here we see a *hako-midare* (square-like) hamon pattern that is typical of the *Kanewaka school* from Echizen's neighbouring province of *Kaga*.

Apex predator.





*Shirasaya*  
(protective scabbard)



gold wrapped *habaki*  
with straight file marks

*Kuro roiro-nuri saya*  
*uchigatana-koshirae*  
(黒呂色塗鞘打刀拵え)

Uchigatana koshirae with  
black-glossy lacquer saya

Circa Mid-Edo period  
(1688-1780)





A rounded-off angular shaped polished iron tsuba with two *hitsu-ana* (holes).  
Low relief design with coloured accents depicting sparrows in bamboo.





A close-up of the *fuchi* (collar). This rare *tsuka* (hilt) has been well-preserved. It has been handled by several samurai since the mid-Edo period, circa mid-1700s.



The hilt is wrapped in black lacquered *gampi* paper. *Gampi* is made from the inner bark of the gampi bush which must be obtained in the wild. Japanese gampi is very shiny even after being formed into paper, and has a natural sized quality which prevents absorption.





A polished iron *kashira* (pommel) depicting a virtuous man in a deep ravine. The *fuchi* (collar) is signed *Jakushi*, of the Jakushi school which was founded in the early Edo period by *Jakushi Kawamura* who was taught painting in the Northern Sung style by a Buddhist priest called *Itsuzen*.

A complimentary sword maintenance kit with *mekugi-nuki* and a bottle of *Fujishiro* sword oil (trusted by the Japanese sword museum) is included with all sword purchases.



safe, extra large cloth for adding oil to the blade