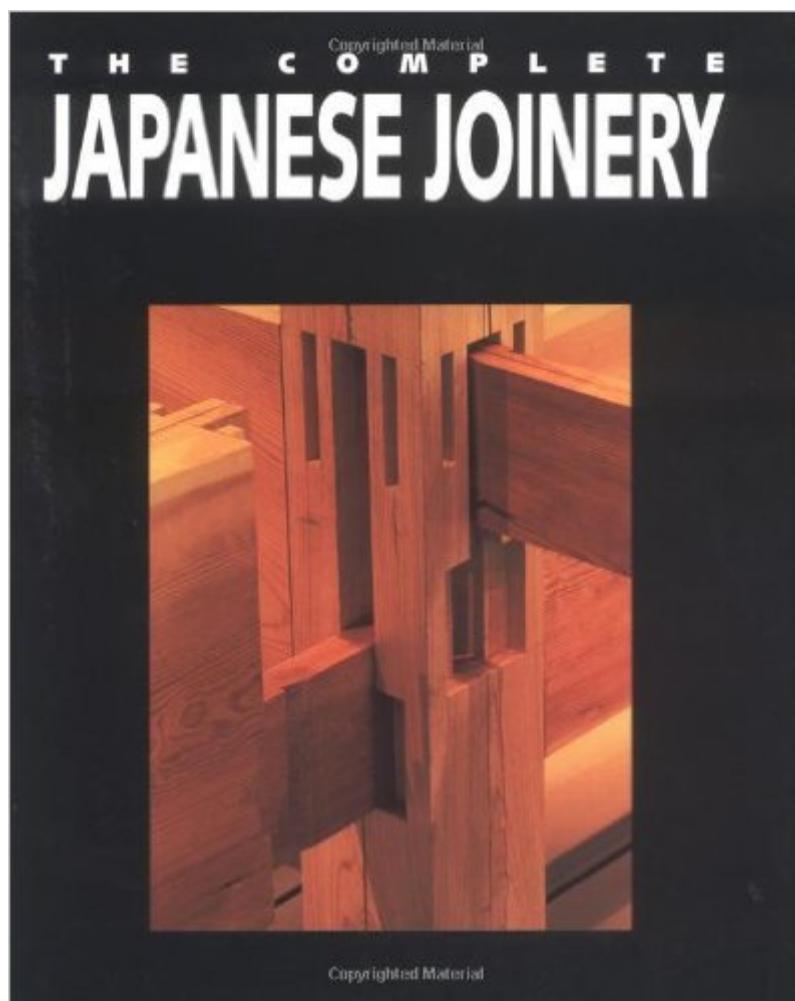


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The Complete Japanese Joinery



Synopsis

The Complete Japanese Joinery [Paperback] by Sato, Hideo; Nakahara, Yasua by Hideo Sato, Yasua Nakahara

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book, in two parts, describes the incredible wooden joints used in traditional Japanese construction. A western woodworker might consider "joinery" to be dovetails, part of finish carpentry or fine woodworking. The joints shown here are far more elaborate, and are applied to construction framing. The first half of this book describes the joints themselves. These elaborate connections aren't just a woodworker's showmanship, however. One joint may have different features that prevent side-slipping, prevent rotation, carry weight, and admit a key to keep the assembly from backing out. Another joint may connect a vertical, two aligned horizontals, and one or two more horizontals at right angles to the others. With a little practice, you may learn to read the purpose of each feature, and even create new joints for your unique needs. The second half of this book is about framing, about using those joints for walls, floors, roofs, and second stories. It shows the all-wood joints at work. It also shows the Japanese genius at work, the skill that accepts the best of other worlds and makes it their own. All-wood construction serves only ritual or conservation needs these day. The authors show how traditional joints work with many kinds of metal fasteners. Classic artisanry is not a competitor to modern technique, it's a complement. One appendix shows that this

is not a book of Western carpentry. It summarizes the religious ceremony that blesses the construction project and is "intended as a memorial for the numerous plants, various insects, and small creatures that would be destroyed during building on the property." Reading that, I felt a real sense of loss at our developers' relative carelessness. The book's line drawings are beautifully clear, but require careful reading. Whether or not you ever follow their directions, this book is a joy to view and an endless source of ideas for the woodworker.//wiredweird

I specialize in Asian, Middle Eastern and Eastern European Timber Framing. I have loved this book for over 20 years, even getting to see originals of the two books this one comes from. I often reference it to students and often reach to it to explain concepts, and that is the rub, this book has so many directional and technical errors, that a lay person, if trying to use the book as a building manual, (as the two original books were intended,) would surely become lost and confused. This has left some of my students running into the night with frustration and confusion, because there is more to what must be done than what ended up in this abridged copy of the original works.

Wonderfully detailed diagrams make up the majority of this book, with a short first section describing Japanese woodworking tools and methods. A short section also describes the basic technique for fabricating some of the simpler joints, giving a good start for someone looking to try the more difficult ones. Not exactly a beginner's guide, but certainly an inspirational reference book!

This book is really neat--definitely worth \$16. There are dozens and dozens of joints detailed but almost all of them are for framing buildings. Even so, these multitude of ideas presented can really start the creative process for furniture makers, like myself. In fact, this book provided a joint that solved a problem that I had dwelled on for months. Without this book, I never would have thought of this joint. Most of the joints described are described well. But you will need to read the material carefully because some of the joints are quite complex. A lot of the joints are described with "drafting style" drawings--a front view, side view and top view. The book could benefit from more drawings that are in perspective. The description of the use of Japanese tools is brief. In fact, if I were the publisher I'd delete "Japanese Tool Use" from the title because this book really doesn't focus much on tool use. Yeah, it's covered but there are other, more detailed texts on the topic. At times, the text is awkward. If I recall correctly, this book was translated from Japanese, which likely accounts for the awkward phrases.

When I bought it, I was looking for a manual to learn some basic about making Japanese joinery in small amateur woodworking projects. I'm not a carpenter, I'm just a hobbyist. Every page of this book is a precious pearl of a deep knowledge, surrounded by Japanese philosophy as well. If you are patient to read very carefully and then practise, you'll find a pleasant surprise: a good job made with less tiredness and a happy mind.

I'm fascinated by art and lifestyle in Japan. I bought this one in the hope of getting good information about "how to"s in joining wood in a woodwork project without using any metal parts (nails etc). For starters, all drawings are black and white so this may disappoint some of you. But are very well done and the book has a very interesting introductory section about Japanese woodworking tools that provide a lot of information and some less expected aspects of Japanese woodworking like, for example, tradition (I expected that) and an entire philosophical system (I didn't expect that). Very interesting, a lot. However, it is quite complicated to follow drawings and I sometimes felt that a better 3D rendering of the cuts should be done in order to better understand Japanese joinery techniques (which ARE very complicated). I would recommend the book in the first place as a very instructive reading (which it is) and less for actually doing something being guided by its instructional content. Anyway I'm glad I bought it because it gave me more insight into Japanese traditional woodworking.

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