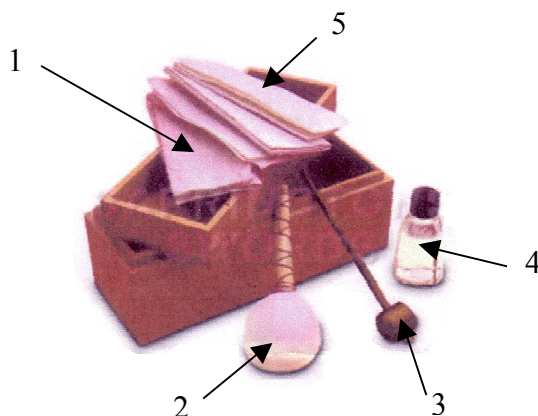## Sword Cleaning

After training time should be put aside for the checking and cleaning of the sword. This will enable the practitioner to maintain the Katana (sword) in good repair. In order to do this the student needs to have at hand the appropriate cleaning tools. A set can be seen below and if required can be obtained through the school.

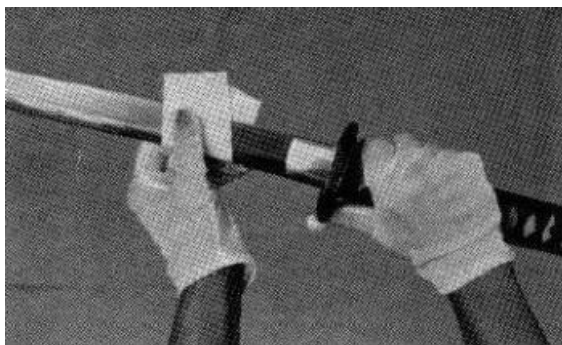Contents of the Cleaning Kit
Cotton Oiling Cloth
Powder Ball
Brass Hammer
Blade Oil
Rice Paper

Unsheathe the blade by pushing the guard away and then gently pulling sword way from the scabbard using both hands in opposite directions. Lay the scabbard and sword down on the floor ready to be cleaned. Using the rice paper (or a soft lint free cloth) remove the old oil from the previous cleaning. This is done by holding the edge away from you and working very carefully to avoid injury (See Fig. 1 below).

Fig.1 Removing Old Oil From the Blade.
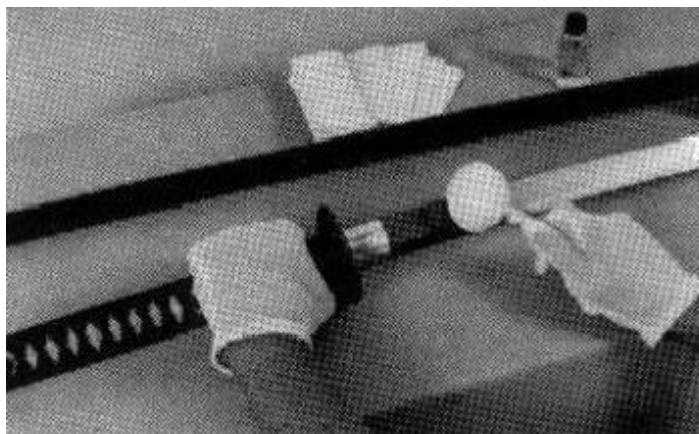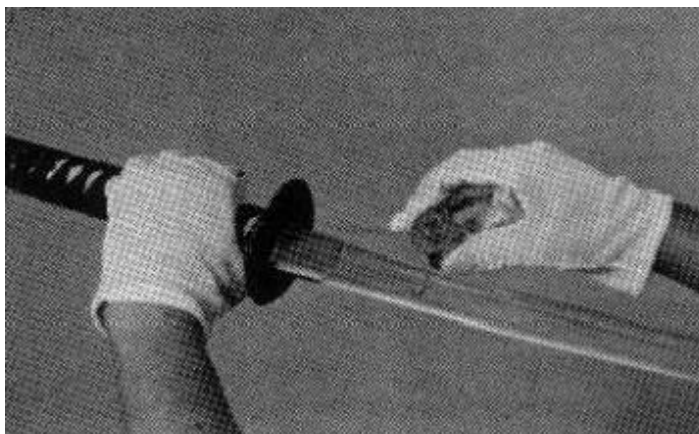

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Now carefully tap the powder ball against the blade, see Fog 2 below, dusting the blade very lightly with the powder. Note that when using the ball for the first time you may need to tap the ball against the blade a number of times to "start" the powder flow through the fabric of the ball. Then use a clean piece of rice paper (or cotton cloth) to polish the blade and thus removing any moisture. Repeat this on the other side of the blade.

Fig.2 Dusting the Blade.

Finally apply a few drops of oil (Fig. 3), either along the blade on each side, or onto another piece of rice paper, and wipe evenly over the blade. Carefully, without touching the blade, re-sheath back into the scabbard.

Fig.3 Applying Blade Oil.

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The scabbard of the Katana is normally finished in many coats of lacquer. To preserve this it only needs to be wiped occasionally with a very soft cloth.

By following these instructions above it should prevent corrosion of the steel, which can occur from moisture and oils from the skin. Maintenance should be carried out every 3 months, after training or any time the blade has been touched.

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