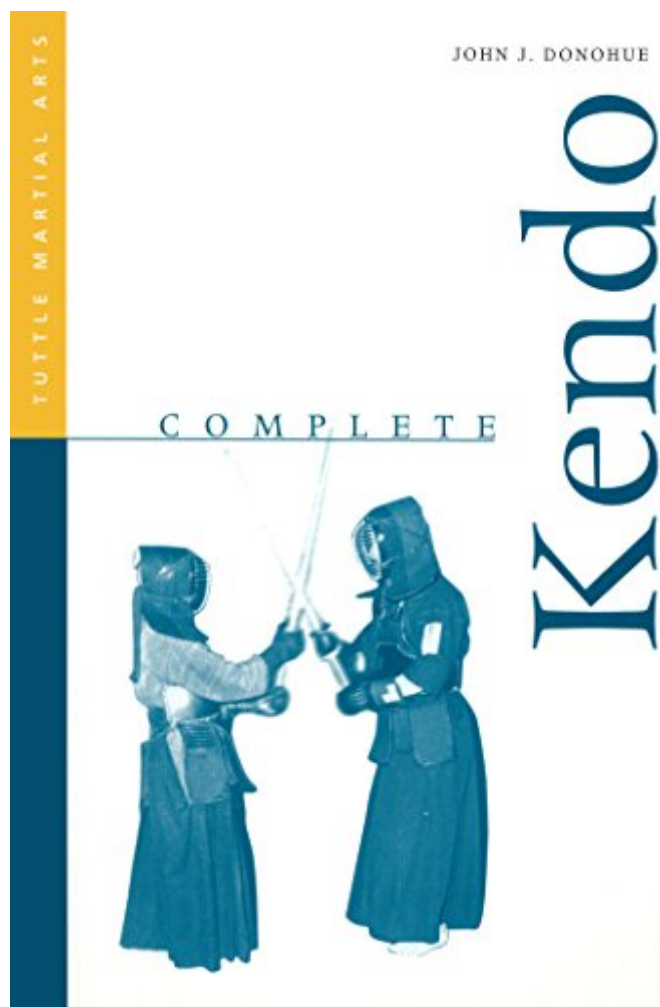


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# Complete Kendo (Complete Martial Arts)



## Synopsis

Complete Kendo is a thorough introduction to the Japanese martial way of the sword and a guided tour of the principles and philosophy upon which the art is founded. This martial arts guide covers everything from the care and handling of hakama, the pleated trousers worn by kendoka (practitioners of kendo), all in an easy conversational dialogue that is a great pleasure to read. Structured to echo the organization of the Book of Five Rings by Miyamoto Musashi, Complete Kendo is a modern version of the swordsman's primer by a martial artist skilled not only in the art of kendo but, like Musashi, in many traditional Japanese arts, and with a superb understanding of the martial tradition and culture of Japan. The author uses lessons learned from a long career of teaching martial arts and academic subjects to impart clearly and concisely the fundamentals of kendo and the martial way. With explanatory line drawings by Kathleen Sweeney illustrating significant points of discussion, a handy glossary of kendo terminology and related concepts, and an unusually helpful bibliography, Complete Kendo is an essential volume for every kendoka's personal library.

## Book Information

File Size: 2756 KB

Print Length: 194 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0804831483

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing (June 15, 1999)

Publication Date: June 15, 1999

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B017QL9QAA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,070,672 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #65

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Individual Sports > Fencing #196

in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Fencing #1443 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Training

## Customer Reviews

This book is slightly better for the beginner than the Heart of Kendo book because it presents materials in the order that most beginners would engage the sport/Way. Ie you learn etiquette, then foot motion, then how to hold a shinai, then basic exercises. The weakness of this book is it's lack of pictures or pictures that are too small or unclear. I have often found myself ignoring the pictures and simply reading the text and envisioning it in my head because the pictures were so poorly depicted. Furthermore, the pictures are numbered but there is no reference to the numbering within the text. In general I don't know why Kendo books don't do a better job at presenting technical material. For example, why are movements explained in long paragraphs rather than as enumerated lists that say: Step 1- do this.... Step 2- do this.... If they would just present, for example, the Katas (which involves the actions of 2 people) as tables with 3 columns, where column 1 is what the Uchidachi does; column 2 is what the Shidachi does; and column 3 is the representative photograph; that would make the study of technique so much easier! Comparing this book against the Heart of Kendo book, I'd recommend the Heart of Kendo book in its descriptions of technique. Complete Kendo presents the material in a more logical order for beginners. Neither books have an index which means you have to hunt thru the book to find something.

This book is an excellent companion to Kendo: The Definitive Guide (KDG). While KDG cover ALL of the technical aspects down to the last detail, this book's focus is aesthetics and beginners Kendo. It was recommended to me by one of my school's Sensei who felt it covered ideas and concepts that you would normally only hear through the spoken word: the relevance of Kata, the formal aspects of the dojo, and why there is no defence in Kendo. The author is an anthropologist in NY, and I believe it gives him a nice perspective on the aesthetics and ideas behind Kendo that you will not find in most other books, especially those translated from the east. I think beginners and advanced students will learn a lot from this book and I believe it is the perfect companion to Kendo: The Definitive Guide.

This was a great book. It is very detailed and you learn about the competitive sport of kendo as well as the contemplative side with well described explanations of the katas. With a little bit of reading between the lines one can get some great life lessons from this as well. Combat is not always done with a sword.

This book has great illustrations and explains Kendo well. Like any other book, it does not remove

or challenge the need for an instructor to help you experience the concepts they are trying to convey, but the layout of the book is good. The book seems to flow well and provide a great overview of the art itself. GOOD BOOK FOR BEGINNERS. I wish the Kendo Kata's were explained better, but combined with my memories of previous instruction, I could put it together.. It does not have some of the last Kendo Kata in there. (my favorites)

This book is great, the writer talks about Miyamoto Musashi and how he (the writer) tries to go over kendo in way similar to that of Musashi san would how he wrote the book (the book of five rings) I'm currently reading both this book and Musashi san's the book of five rings

She was having problems with a neighbor who made her feel very uncomfortable. Not sure what she got out of this book, but the neighbor is now gone, so the problem is over.

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