

# Japanese Sword Craftsmanship

## Does my blade need one or two mekugi pins?

Authentic Japanese swords were equipped with only one pin. This should be enough if the handle has been made properly (with maximum friction around the nakago).

However, should a samurai have felt that his sword handle was getting loose, he would simply have his sword repaired by the village sayashi (saya-maker) and tsukamakishi (handle wrapper).

In current times, replacing a sword handle can be a very costly job and not every city has craftsmen in this area.

For this reason it can be a good idea to have two mekugi pins. Practitioners do not always have the experience to locate, recognize and repair the problems of a sword. A second pin may just save your own or someone else's life.

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