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Acknowledgement

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Thanks goes to Frank Barca for his assistance in the photography, dialogue and text...



Throughout the world there are several methods of Okinawan kobudo being practiced. Amongst the most popular of these powerful & modern traditions are the Yabiku-Taira and Matayoshi methods.

Given the name Yamaneryu by Chinen Masami (1898-1976,) the grandson of Chinen Sanda, the term is actually brings together three separate Chinese ideograms:

- 1. "Yama," meaning "mountain;"
- 2. "Ne," meaning "foundation or root;" and
- 3. "Ryu," meaning, "stream." The term was simply intended to describe the locale in Shuri's Samukawa village from whence Chinen's tradition came.

It utilises natural mechanics and natural momentum developed through the movements.

It may be apparent that there is a significant difference between modern kobudo and that of Oshiro-ha Yamaneryu. A simple explanation tells us that such differences came about largely due to kobudo unfolding alongside modern karate. In the same way that old-school Okinawan karate conformed to the powerful forces of Japanese-ness, so too was modern kobudo similarly influenced. Introduced to the mainland of pre-war Japan during an era of radical military escalation the original practice & purpose of karate & kobudo took on characteristics uniquely Japanese and have, for the most part, remained that way (McCarthy)

One method, however, untouched by this modern phenomenon was the tiny village-style of the Chinen clan. While the actual evolution of Yamaneryu bojutsu remains the subject of intense curiosity we do know that the origins of this unique clan-style can be traced back through Chinen Pechin (c. 1846-1928) (McCarthy).

At the centre of these principles, is the need to ensure that the hands are held close together as they grip the Bo during spins, swings and strikes. This aids in the utilisation of the body with the movements of the Bo. Such use of the body, close grip, full movement spinning, swinging and striking, provides power through each movement, as well as control.

The exercises are an important aspect that must be practiced regularly and religiously, in order to develop fluidity, control, balance, power and dexterity.

Once the individual exercises have been practiced, it is imperative that the drills be practiced. There are numerous that one could work on. The variety of drill should only be limited by your imagination and creativity.

The contents of this document in no way replace the necessity for actual instruction. It merely intended to provide some references and a starting point for students and instructors in the study and practice of Bojutsu.

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Yamaneryu Bojutsu

YAMANERYU BOJUTSU

BASIC POSTURES (KAMAI's)



1. "Yoi" Ready Stance



2. "Chudan Kamai" Centre (middle) Level Position



5. "Waki kamai" Rear low level kamai



7. "Chudan Kamai" Centre (middle) Level Position



3. "Gedan Kamai" Lower Level Position



6. "Hasso Kamai" Half Draw Position

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4. "Jodan Kamai" Upper Level Position

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8. "No Rei" Salutation



9. Sliding Hands.



10. Hands Together



11. Finish in the "Yoi" Position

PRELIMINARY EXERCISES

The following describes and demonstrates some basic exercises in the use and handling of the Bo. These exercises are intended to warm the body up and allow for the development of fundamental handling and control techniques.

All practice of the Bo should be preceded by these basic exercises. The basic movements will be seen in other areas of practice and therefore should be regarded as essential.

Exercise 1. Wrist roll

Hold the Bo with both hands in the centre, alternate rolling the wrists and at the same time rolling the Bo. Imaging that there is a rope and a stone attached to the centre of the Bo, you are winding the stone up the to the top of the Bo. Roll the wrists one way for a count of 20, then roll them the other way for the same count.



1. Roll your right wrist up and left wrist down



2. Continue rolling the bo between your hands as if you were winding a rope around it.



3. Repeat of No.1. Do this one way for a count of 20, then roll the other way for a count of 20

Exercise 2. Vertical hand slide with Bo on the ground. (child prays on a lotus leaf)

Practice commences with the Bo held vertically in front of you. One hand high, the other low. Open both hands simultaneously and slide them in opposite directions. The palms of the hand remain in contact with the Bo at *all times*. At the completion of the movement the hands have now alternated their positions on the Bo. Remember, be sure to slide the hands never releasing your grip at any time.



Starting point.
Left hand up – right hand down. The bottom of the Bo is on the ground.

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2. Slide your hands in opposite directions. The left hand slides down, the right hand slides up. This picture shows the half way position. There is no pause at this point! Make sure that the hands stay in contact with the Bo at all times.

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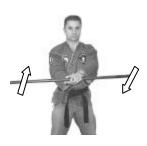
3. The hands continue to slide in the changed direction, ending up with the left hand now being below the right hand. Both hands are in continual motion throughout the exercise. This routine is repeated up to a count of 20.

Exercise 3. Vertical hand slide with Bo off the ground.

The above exercise is repeated with the Bo now off the ground. The hands will need to slide at a slightly faster rate, remember to maintain contact with the Bo at all times. The idea is to ensure that the Bo does not fall. This exercise develops hand changing maneuvers when using the Bo in Kata or other associated practices, that is changing the hands from left to right side forward depending on the strike that is being executed or from which direction the strike is heading. Repeat the above with the Bo off the ground up to a count of 20.

Exercise 4. Horizontal hand slide

The horizontal hand slide follows the same principles as the vertical hand slide exercise. The Bo is held horizontally and the hands slide in opposite directions and back again. The hands will alternate from one being on top to now being on the bottom of the Bo as the slide continues past the mid point. This movement will cause the Bo to spin one way, then spin back the other way on the return of the hands to the original position. This exercise further develops the individuals' dexterity in the handling of the Bo.



1. Starting point.



2. Turn the hands and the Bo as shown above and begin to slide the hands apart.



3. Finishing point with right & left hands out and apart controlling the Bo. Notice that the left hand is on the bottom and the right hand on top.



4. As you now slide the hands back in towards the centre, the hands begin to turn over as does the Bo at the same time.



5. The hands have continued to move past the centre and are now moving back towards the ends of the Bo in equal thirds.



6. Finishing spot with the hands on each end. You will notice that the left hand is on top & the right hand on the bottom. Repeat for a count of 20.

The above exercise can then be repeated in cycles, that is turning the hands and Bo one way then back to the original point as one movement. Repeat for a count of 20.

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Exercise 5. Two hand slide

This exercise involves starting with the Bo extended to one side, both hands holding the Bo with the palms down. The hand at the end of the Bo pushes the Bo to the other side through a loose grip of the other hand. This movement is repeated for the other hand and side. This takes some practice to ensure that you have control of the Bo at all times, even though the grip will be loose at times. The ability to loosen and tighten the grip at the appropriate times is an essential skill that must be mastered.



1. Starting point. Bo extended to the left



2. Raising the hands, extend the left hand along the Bo. Begin to push the Bo across to your right.



3. Allow the Bo to move through the right hand and extend past to your right side. The ending position will be with opposite end of the Bo extended to the other side.



4. Repeating No.2, raise the hands, extend the right hand along the Bo. Begin to push the Bo across to your left.



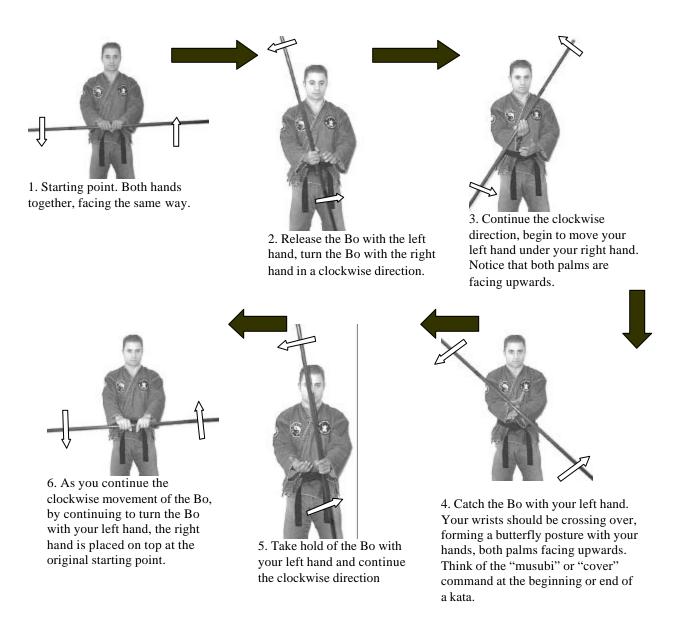
5. Again allow the Bo to slide and move across the left hand and right side. This exercise is repeated for a count of 20.

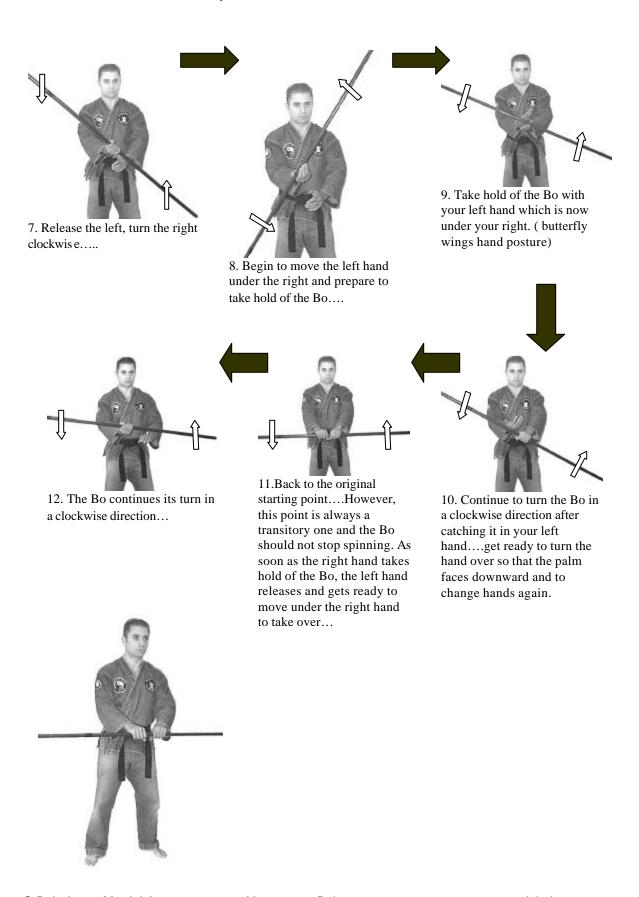
The above exercise can then be repeated in cycles, that is sliding the Bo left to right and right to left as one count. Repeat for a count of 20.

Exercise 6. Standing Spin

This exercise involves spinning the Bo in a clockwise direction continuously in front of you. The principle that one should consider is that once the Bo moves in one direction, it stays moving in that direction. From this, other techniques extend and evolve. The practice makes use of the natural laws of physics and movement.

N.B. Please note that the Bo must travel in a clockwise direction. The photographs are taken from the practitioners viewpoint.



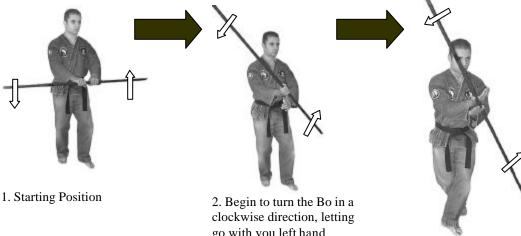


Exercise 7. Right side "body" turn

This exercise is aimed at developing your ability to keep the Bo moving in a certain direction while your body is moving / changing direction.

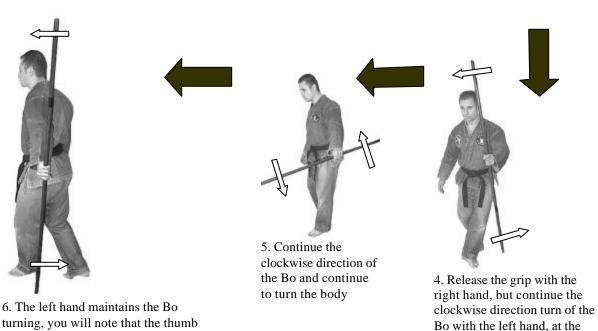
The exercise entails spinning the Bo in the clockwise direction, then turning your body around towards the right hand side in a complete circle. The Bo actually stay stationary in its original plane, even though the exercise gives the impression that the Bo is turning around your body.

It is important to note the particular foot movement in this exercise.



clockwise direction, letting go with you left hand momentarily, then turning the hands so that the palms will face up eventually, and begin to step across with your left foot.

3. Continue to take hold of the Bo in your left hand, stepping across your body with your left foot. At the same time swing the Bo in a clock wise direction. The grip of the should be taken close to the centre of the Bo.



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ground

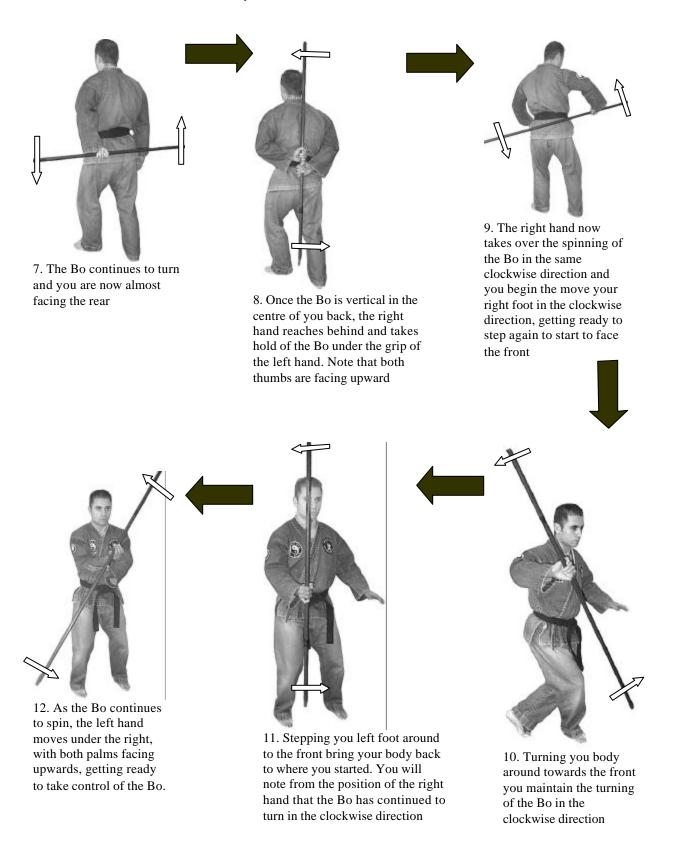
of the left hand is facing down to the

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same time turning your body

more towards the rear.

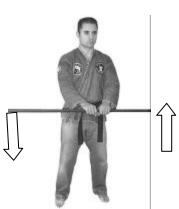




13. The left hand has taken control of the Bo and maintained the direction of the spin.



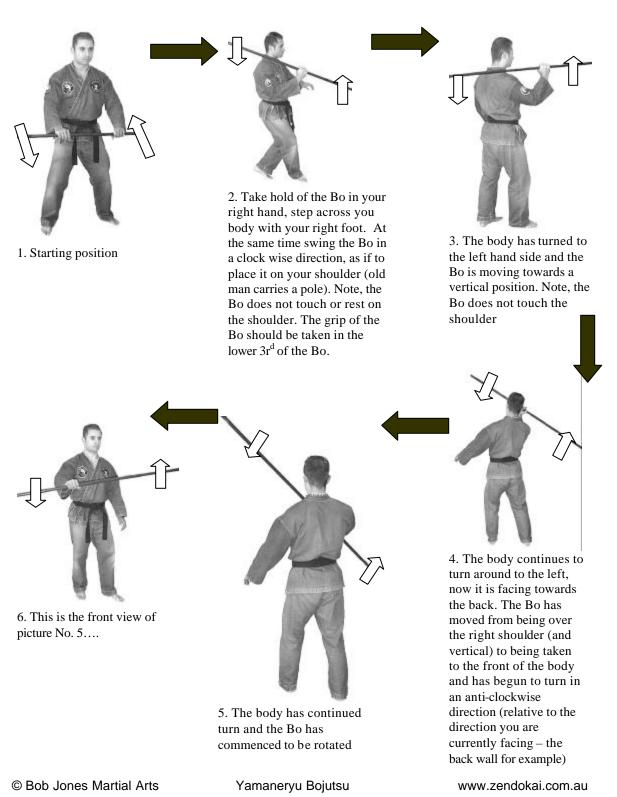
14. The spinning of the Bo continues and the right hand is getting ready to take grip of the Bo again.



15. The right hand takes hold of the Bo, close to the left hand and you arrive at the starting position. This whole exercise should be repeated several times.

Exercise 8. Left side "body" turn

This exercise is complimentary to the previous (Right side body turn). Here you turn the body to the left in a full circle, ending up where you started. It again develops momentum, maneuverability, dexterity and coordination, footwork and grip control of the Bo.



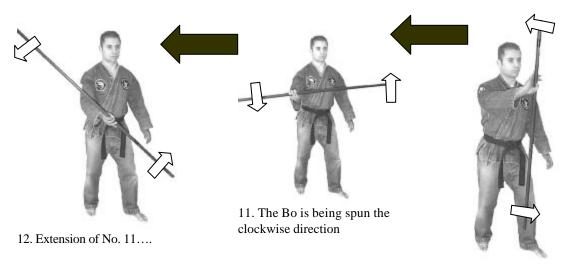


7. Continue to step across to the left with the right foot. The Bo is going to be "tucked" under the armpit in a vertical position preparing for the down swing in the next movement. The right arm will be brought downward, forcing the back and bottom end of the Bo to tuck under the arm as shown in the next picture..

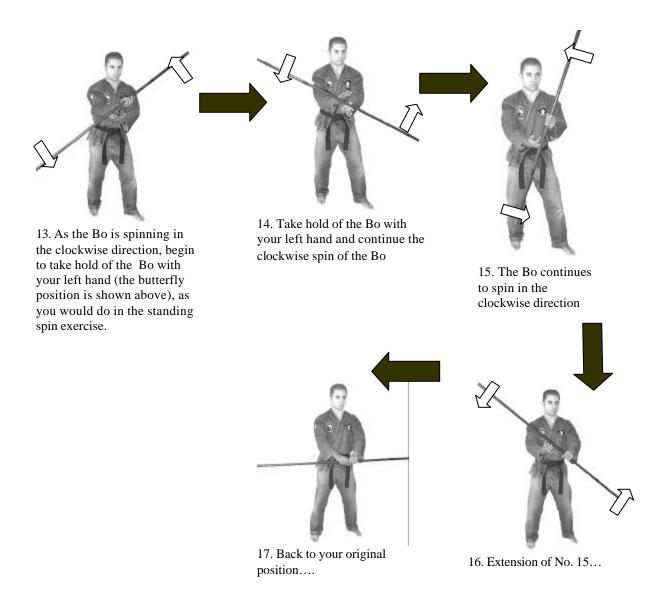
8. You have continued to move in a left direction, now facing where you started. As you can see the Bo is tucked in under the arm pit, with the right hand down. This position is often seen in the use of the nunchaku, where one end is tucked under the arm.

9. Move you right arm in front of your body, allowing the tucked end of the Bo to drop forward and down in a *vertical* plane. Make sure you cut right across the toes with the Bo.





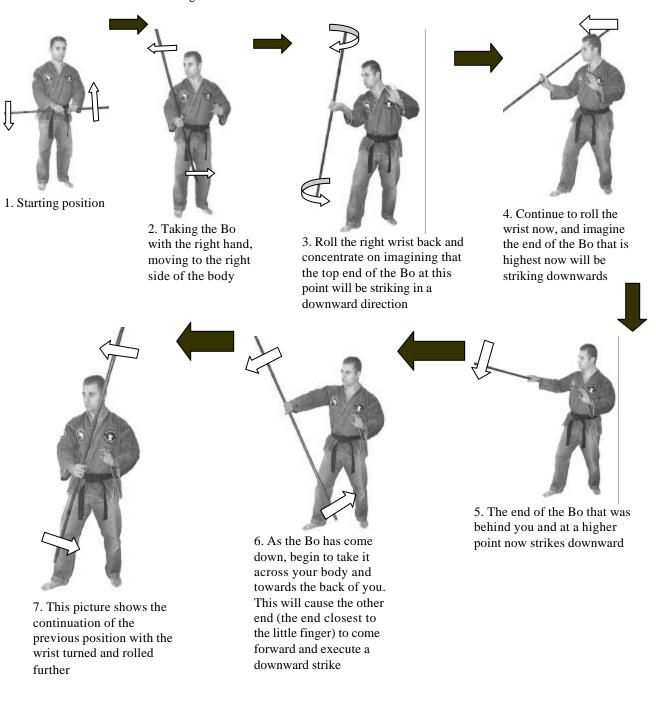
10. Having straightened the body and facing your original direction, the Bo has been brought forward and vertical and is in transition to be spun in original clockwise direction.



Exercise 9. Right Side Figure 8

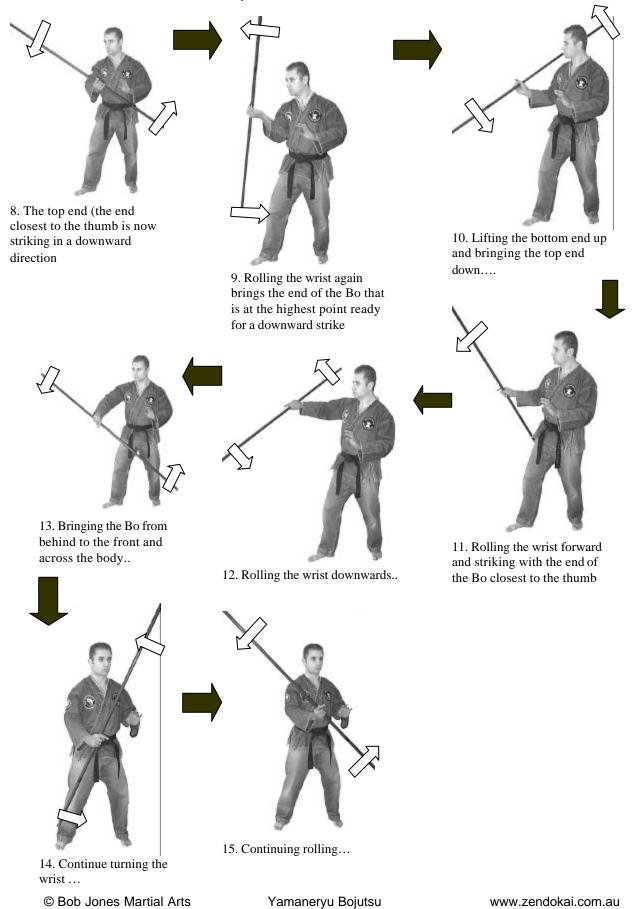
This exercise begins from the front standing spin position and breaks off with the right hand taking the Bo to the right side of the body and performing a figure 8 movement.

The movement of the Bo remains constant with the momentum already created, from the standing spin for example. That is, the direction of the movement of the Bo does *not* change. With the right side figure 8 remember that the Bo is striking in a *downward direction*.

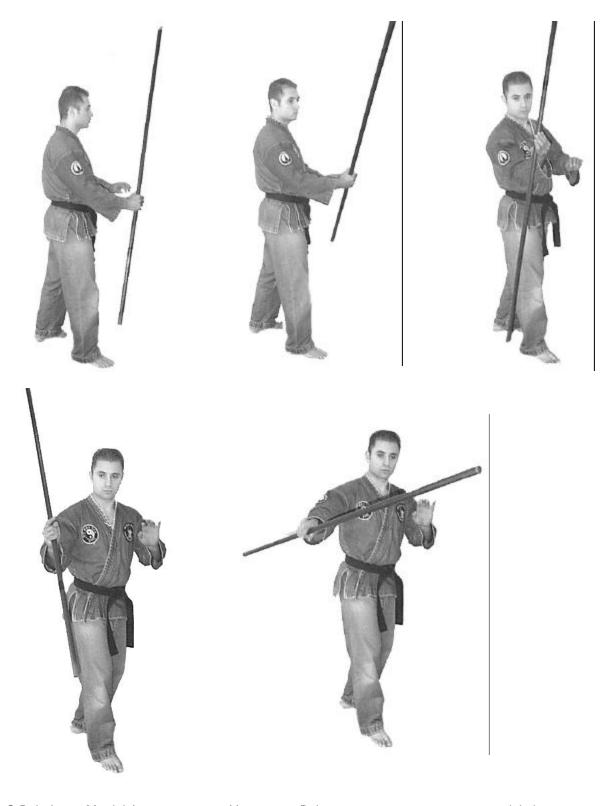


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Side views of the figure 8 movement....



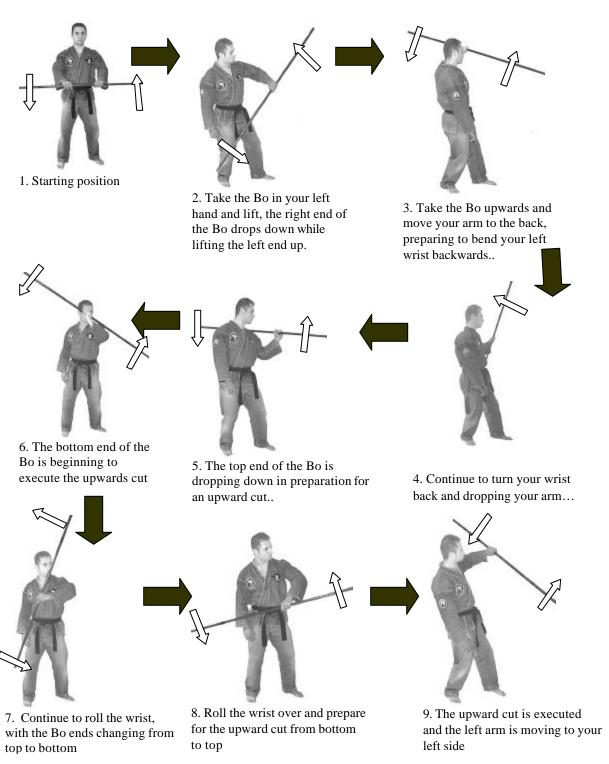
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Exercise 10. Left Side Figure 8

The left side figure 8 assumes the same principles as the right side figure 8. Use any momentum already established ie. as if from a standing spin movement. With the left side figure 8, the Bo is fundamentally striking in an *upward direction*, that is imagine you are cutting in an upward direction with the Bo.

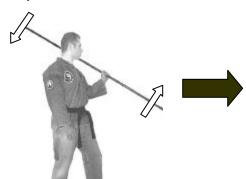


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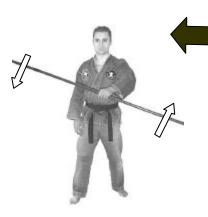
10. Having executed the upward cut, the wrist is starting to roll backwards, restarted the sequence



11. Continue to roll the wrist, bringing the top end of the Bo downwards



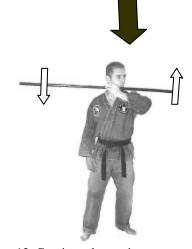
12. Having dropped the end of the Bo down. Commence the upward cut ...



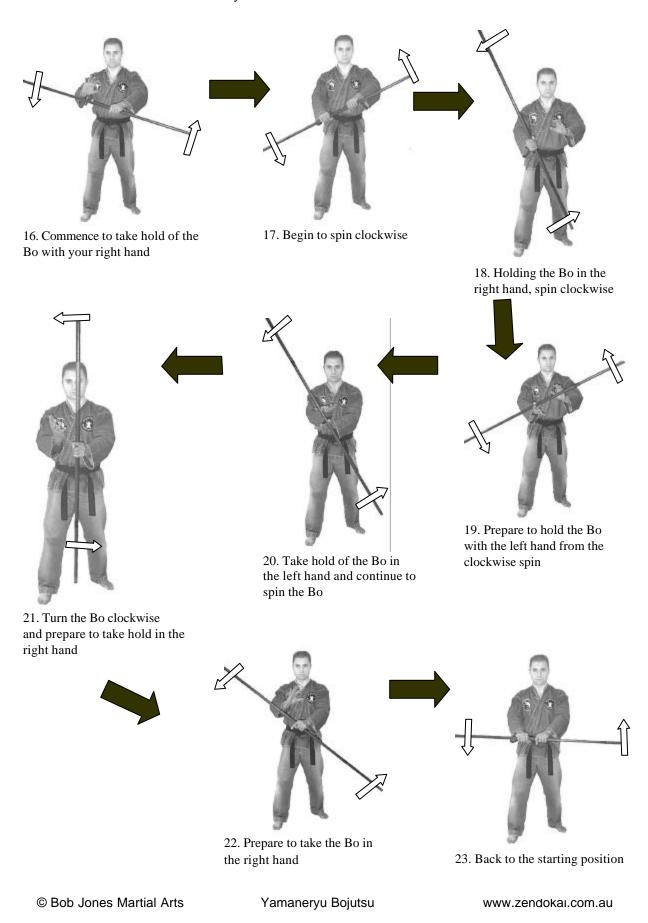
15. Bring the Bo to the front and begin to commence your standard standing spin



14. Continue to move the Bo and rolling the wrist

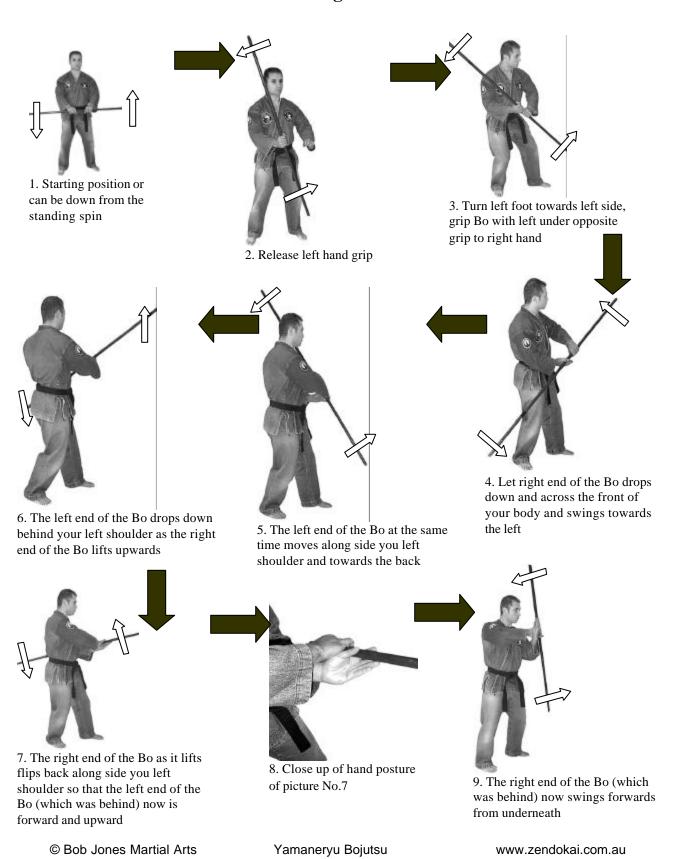


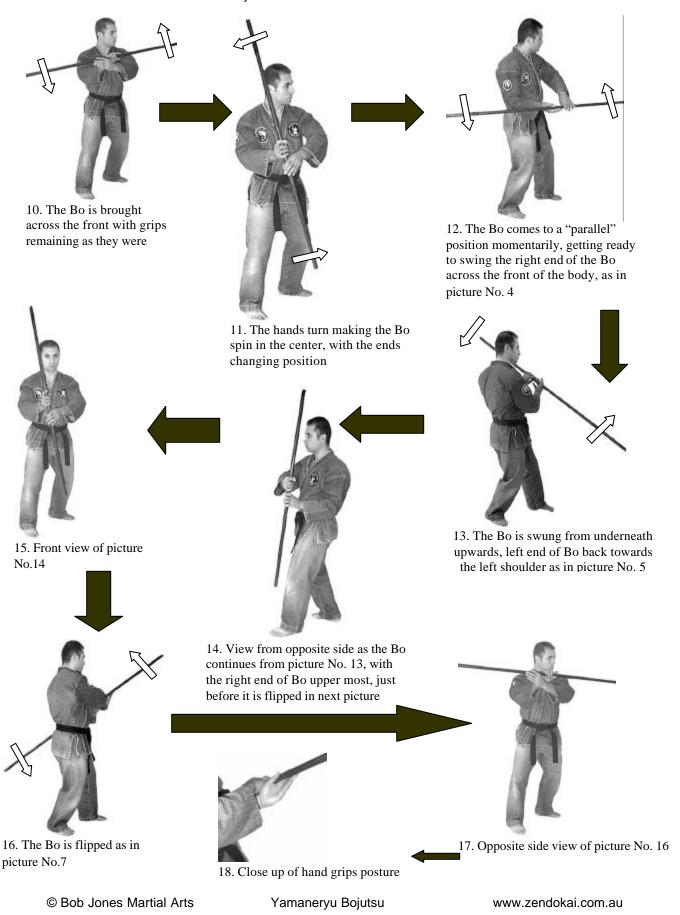
13. Continue the cutting motion

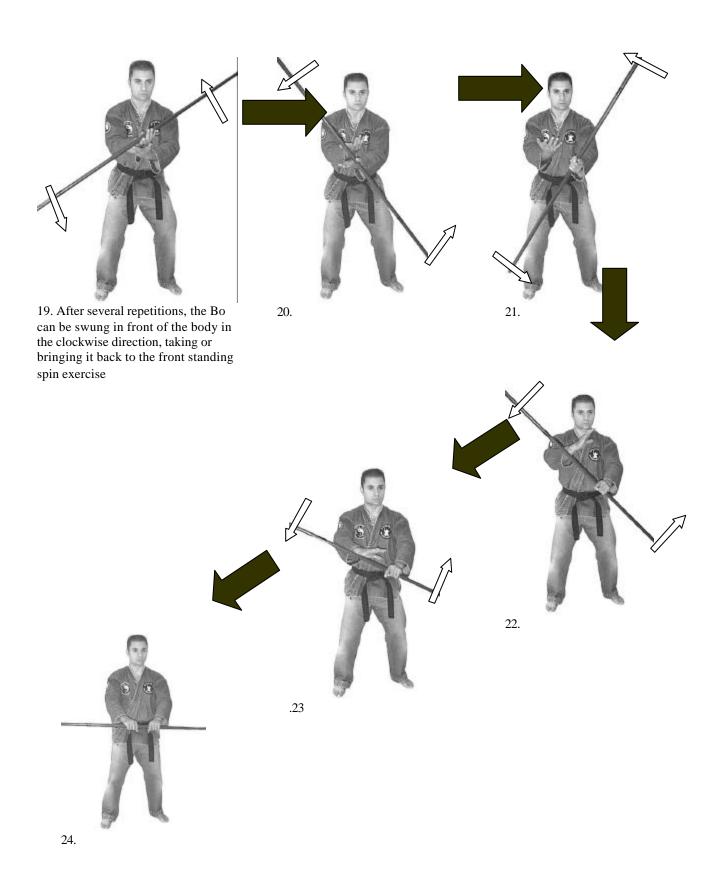


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Exercise 11. Left Side 2 Handed Figure 8



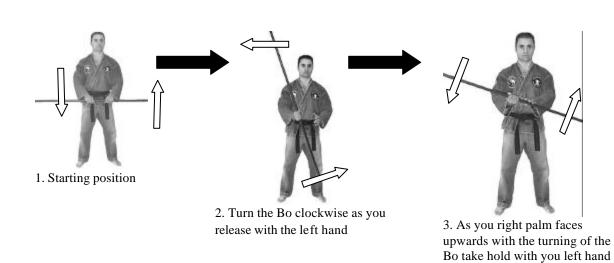


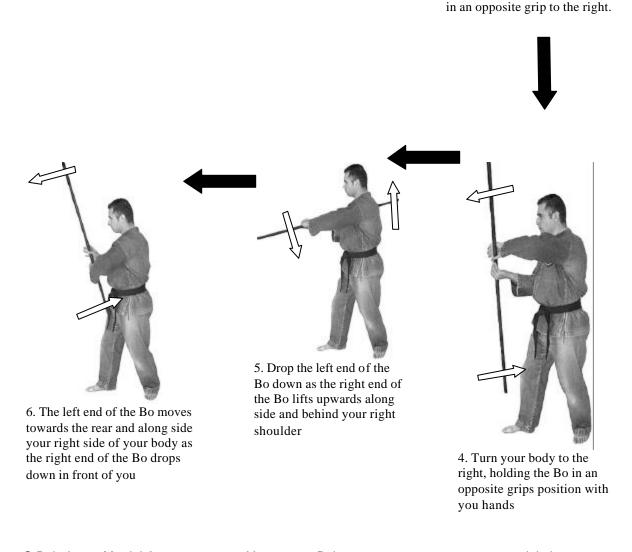


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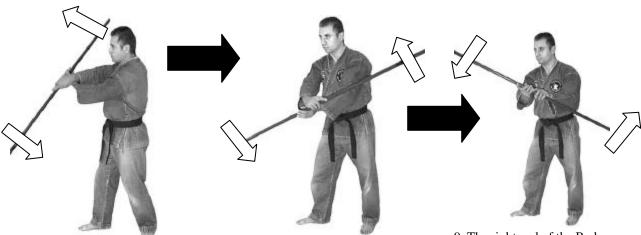
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Exercise 12. Right Side 2 Handed Figure 8





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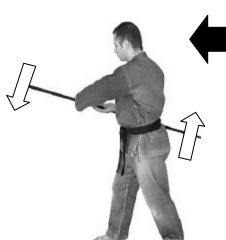
7. The left end of the Bo now has come right to the top and the right end is going to be brought across your body to be raised

8. The right end of the Bo has moved across the front of your body and has been lifted up along side the left shoulder, with the right end of the Bo dropping down and across the body as well

9. The right end of the Bo has now swung across the front of the body from top moving downwards, at the same time the left end is swinging upwards from across your body up along side and towards your left shoulder



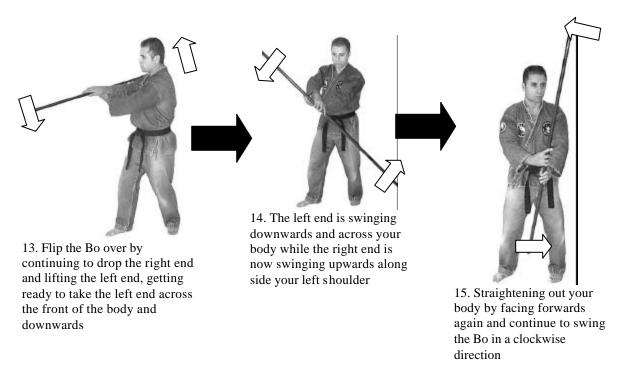
12. The right end swings forwards from behind your right shoulder while the left end swings downwards to go behind the right side

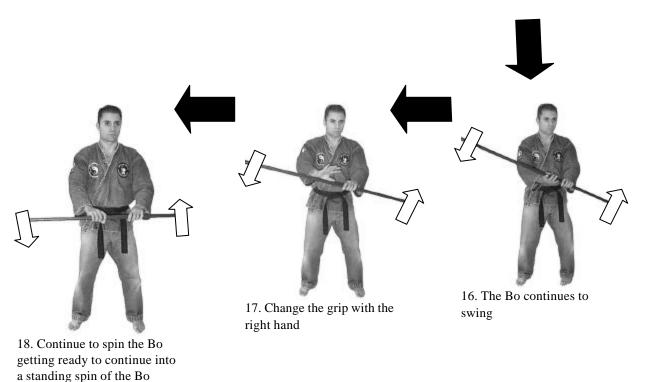


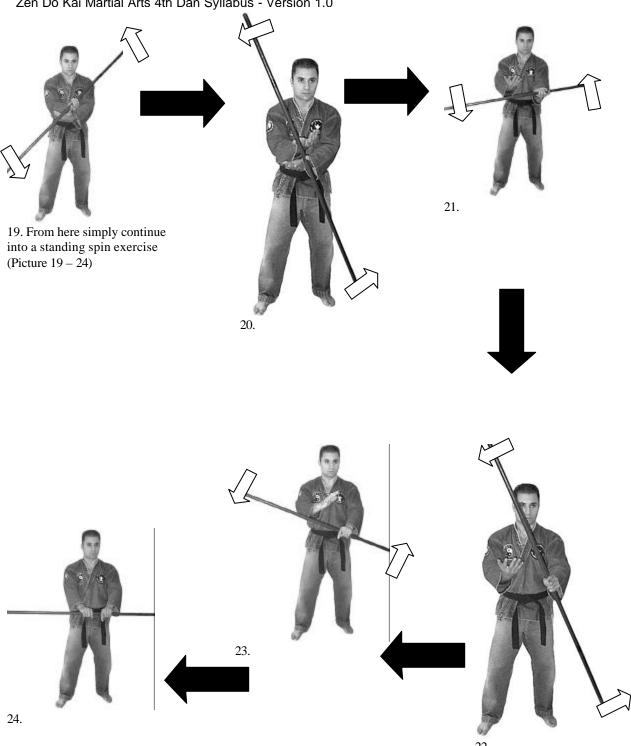
11. The left end has swung across your body and the right end is swinging upwards along your side



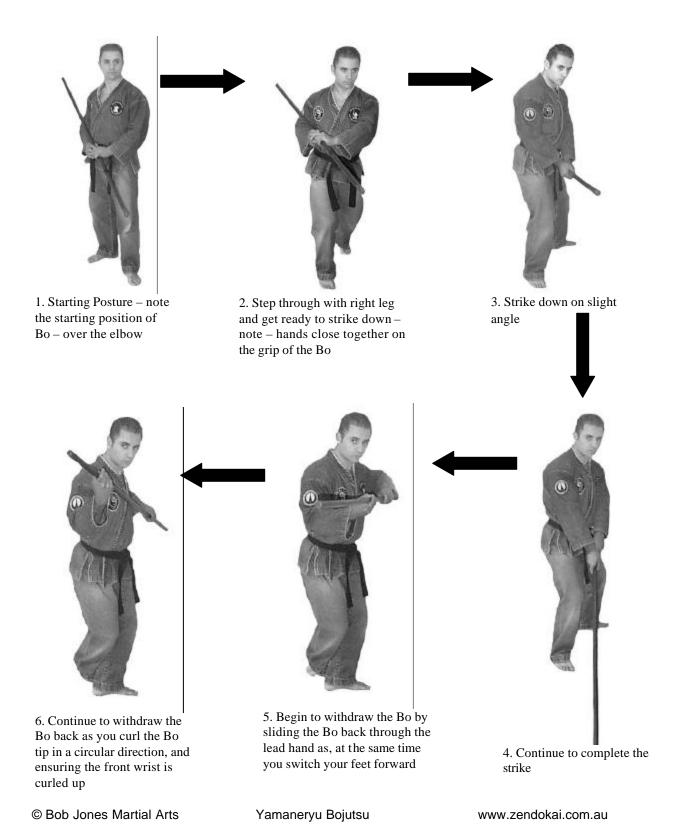
10. The left end of the Bo once it has reached the top along side the left shoulder now swings forwards across your body and downwards, while the right end of the Bo begins to swing under and along you right side

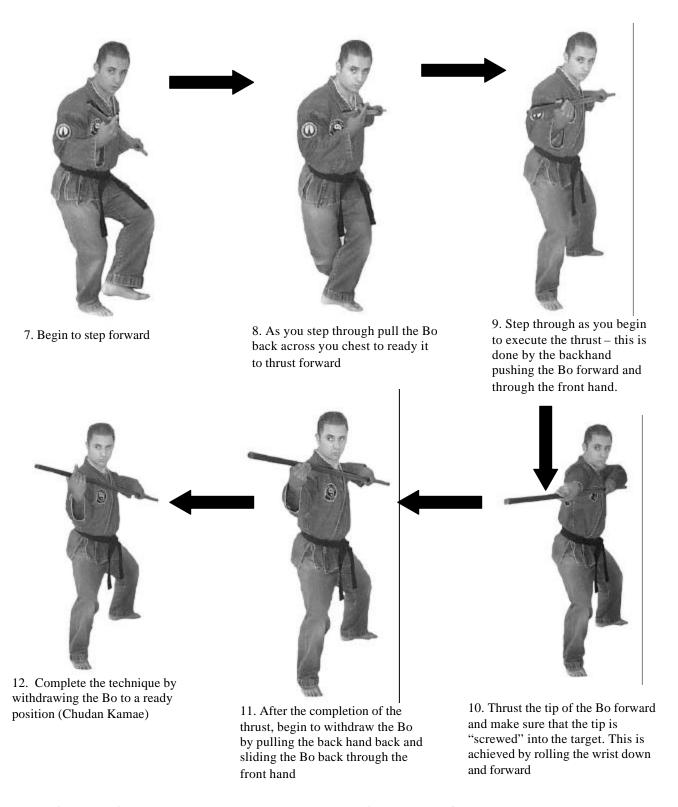






Exercise 13. Basic Drill No. 1 Strike – Withdraw- Thrust - Kamae



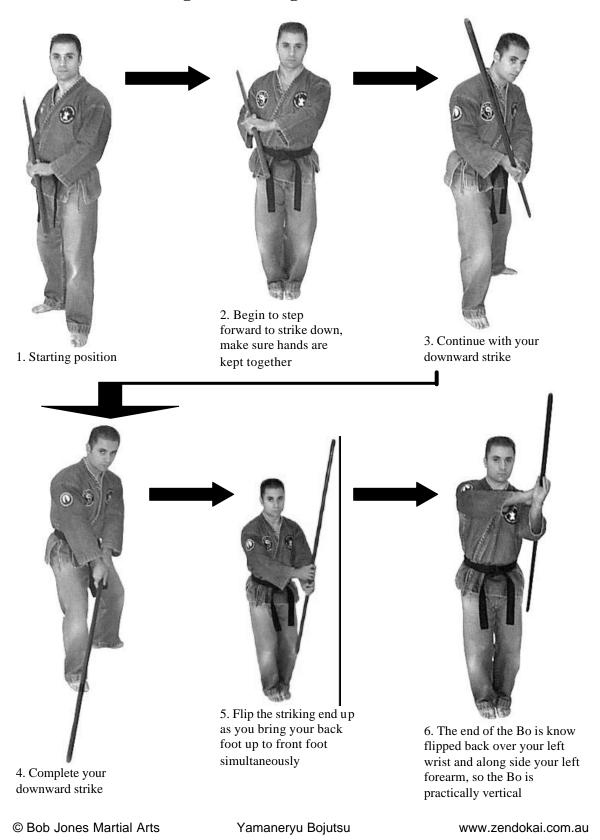


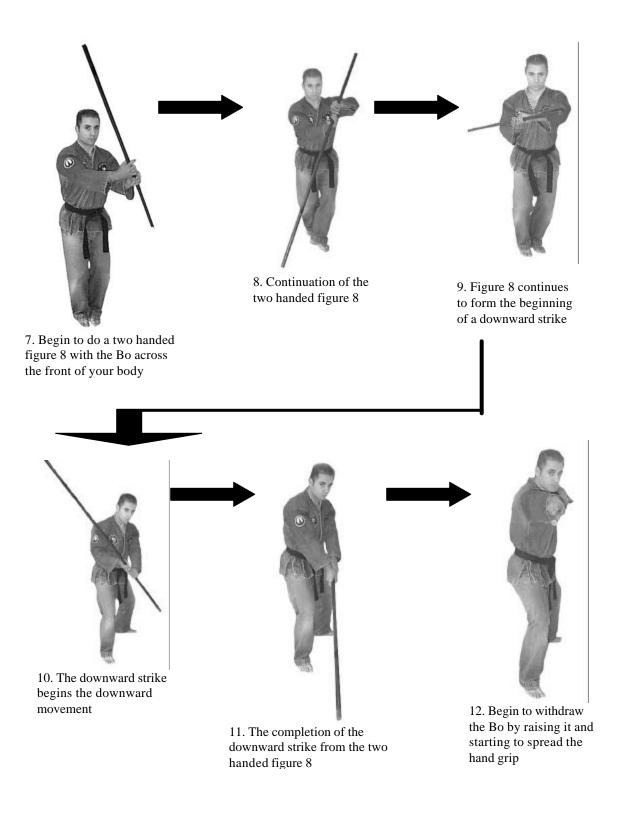
This exercise should be repeated several times over for rhythm, balance and flow.

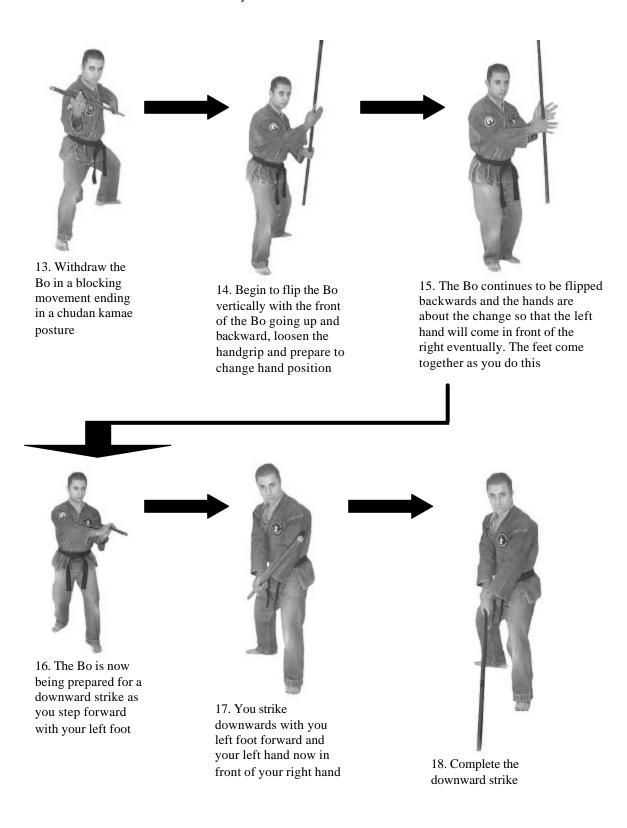
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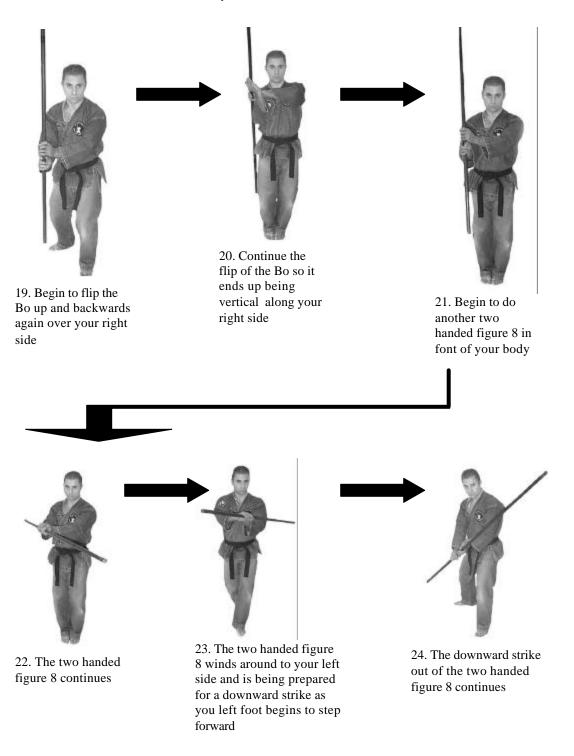
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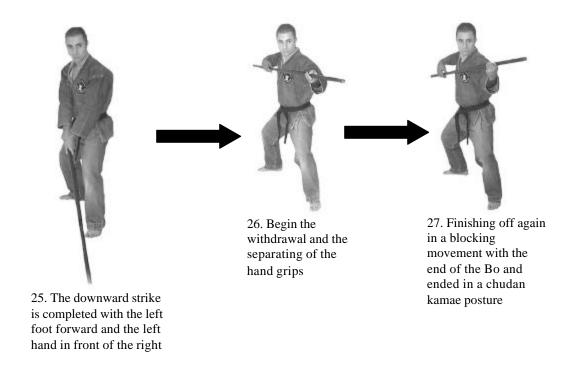
Exercise 14. Basic Drill No. 2 Downward strike - figure 8 - change over strike





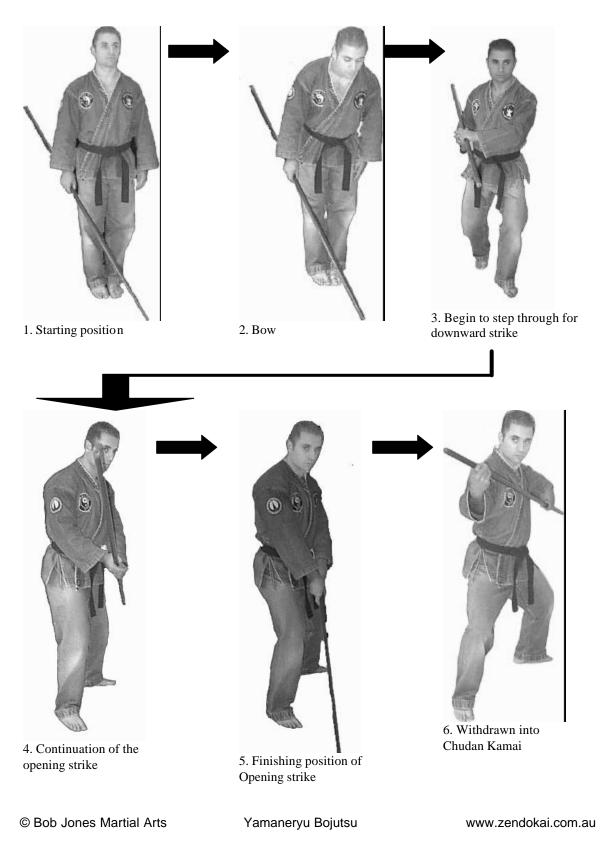


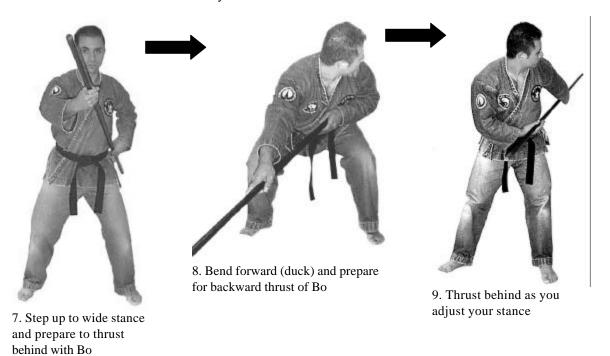


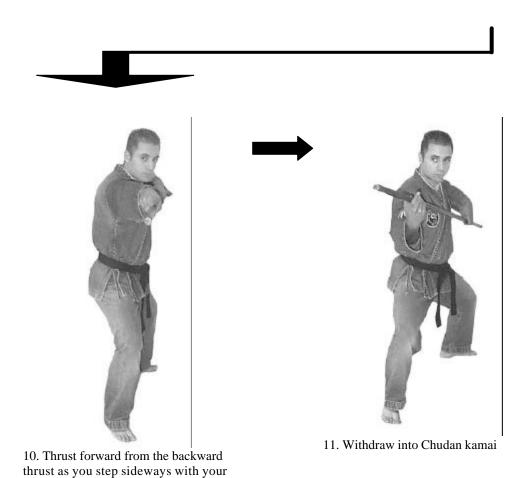


This exercise should be repeated several times for balance, rhythm, flow and control. Incorporating hip movement with the flips, figure 8's and strikes will greatly add to the power of the movements.

Shujino Kon Form



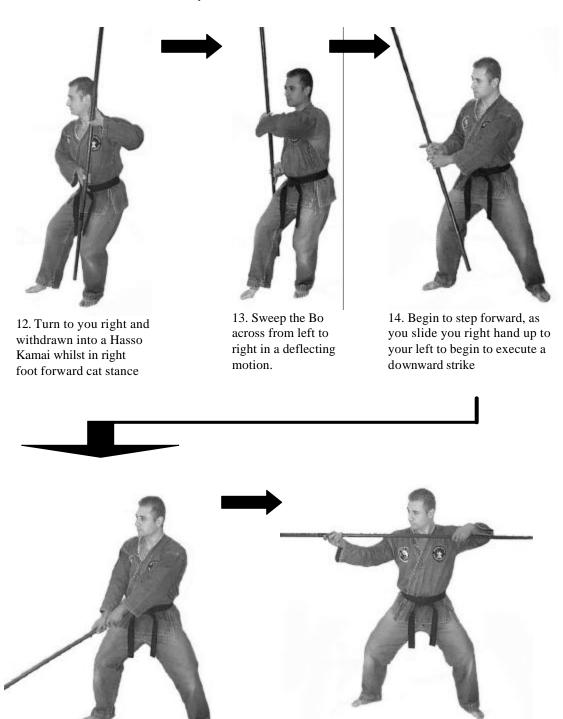




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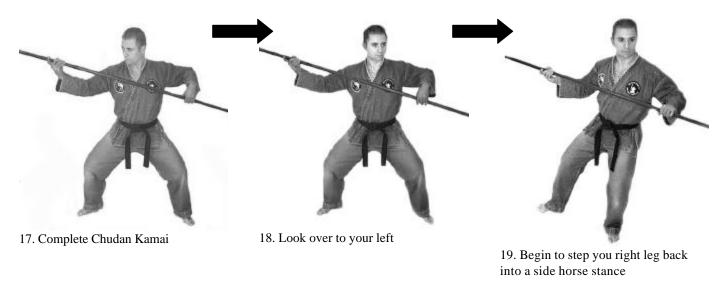
right foot (not shown here)

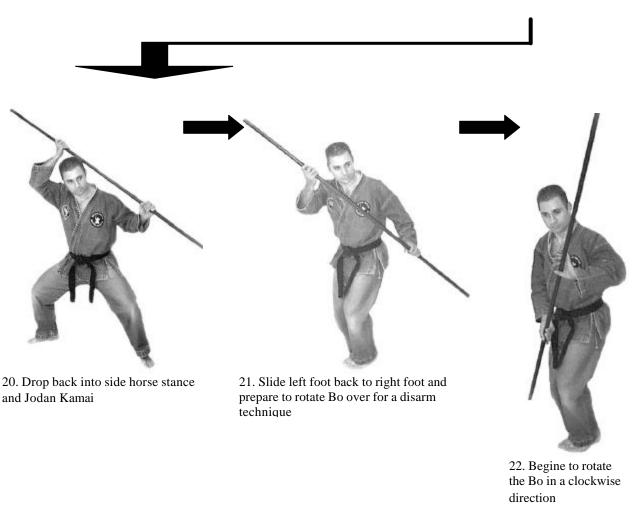
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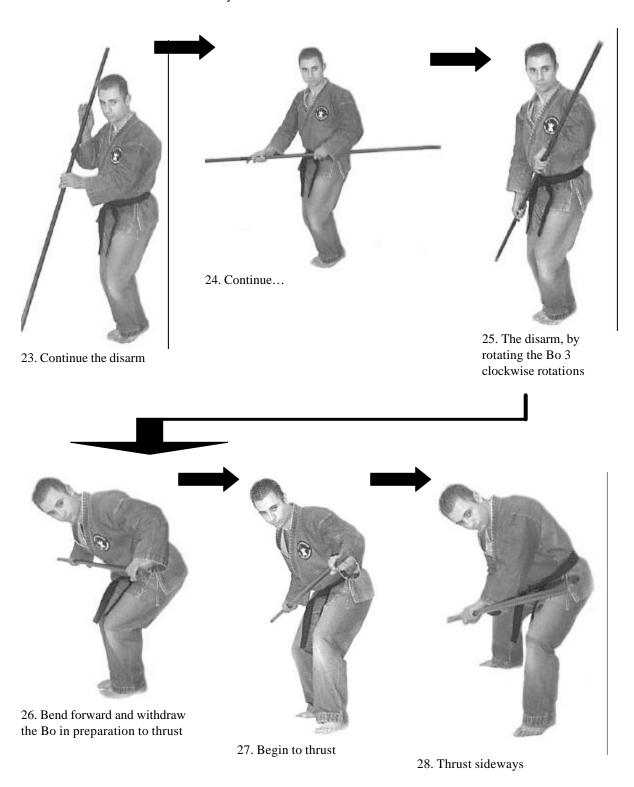


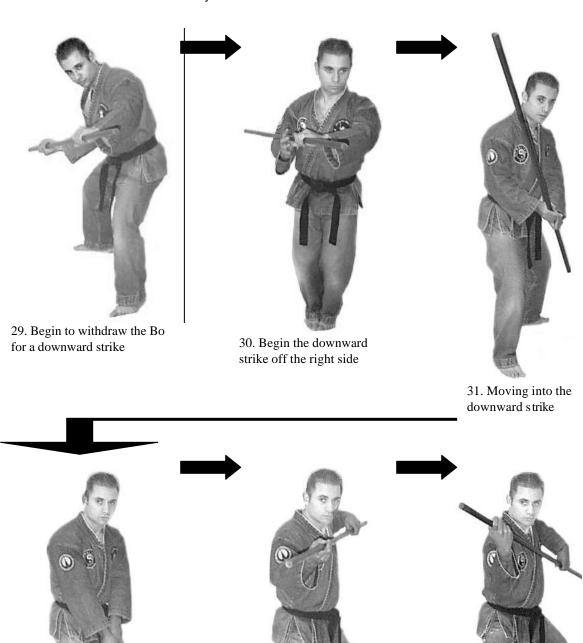
15. Strike downward...

16. Begin to withdraw into Chudan Kamai



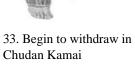






32. Strike downwards © Bob Jones Martial Arts

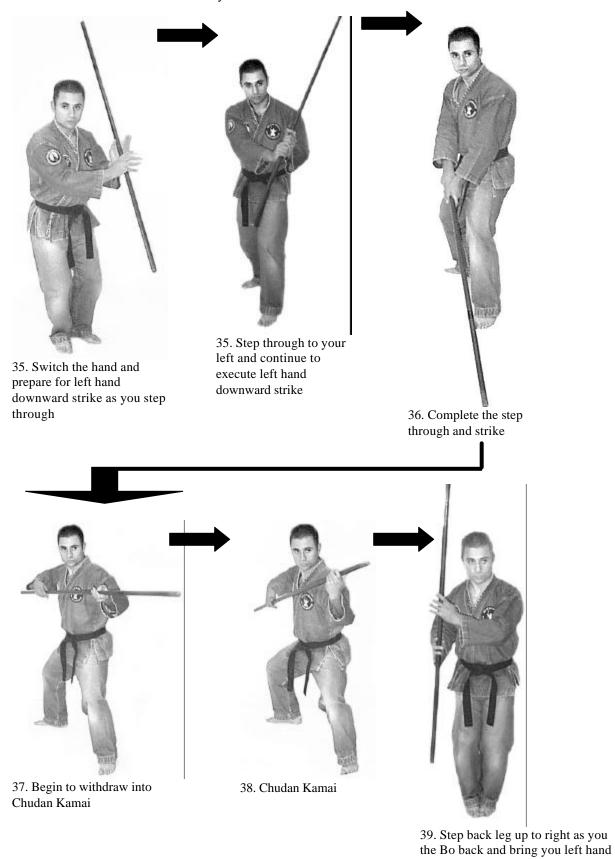






34. Chudan Kamai

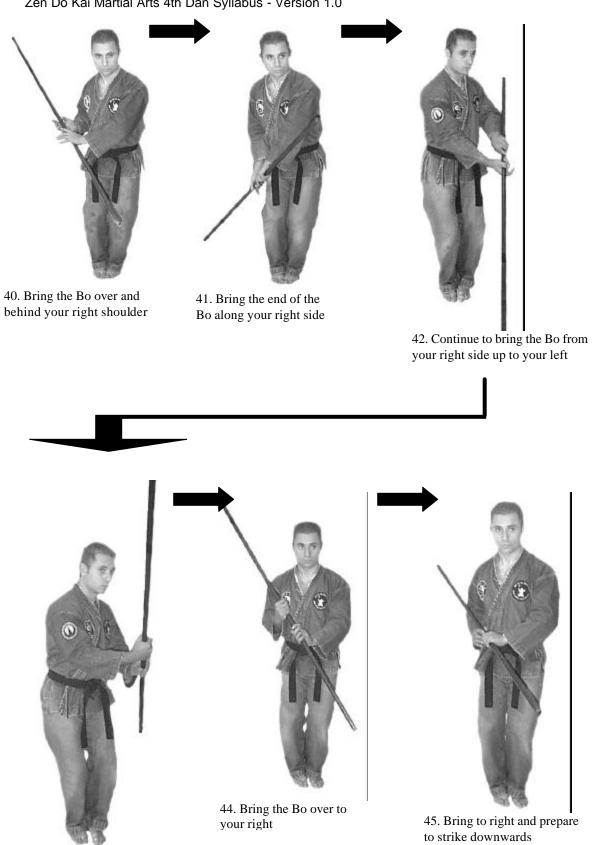
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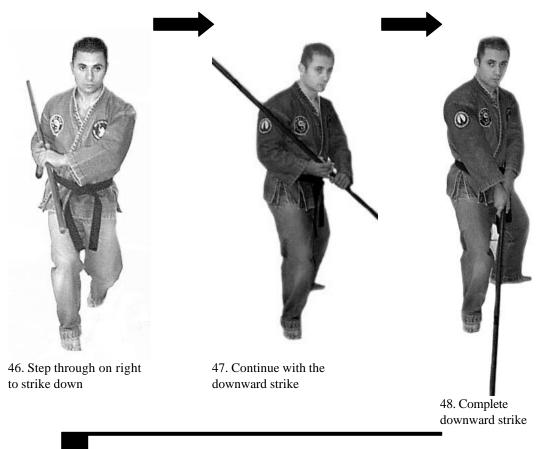
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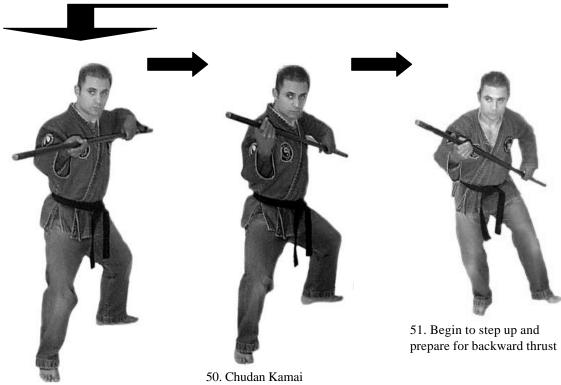
back to your right hand



43. Raise the Bo

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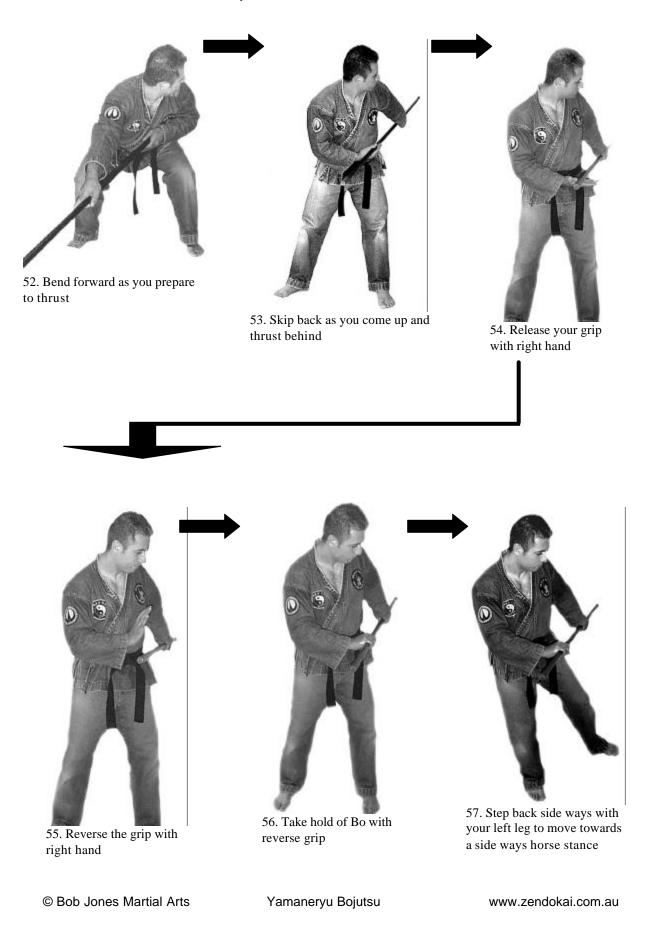
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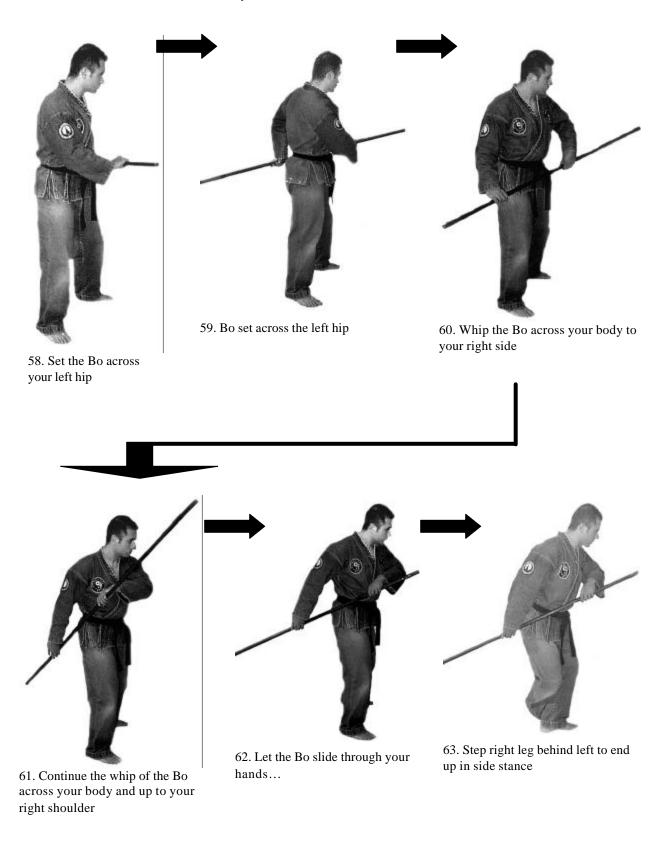
49. Begin to with draw in

Chudan kamai

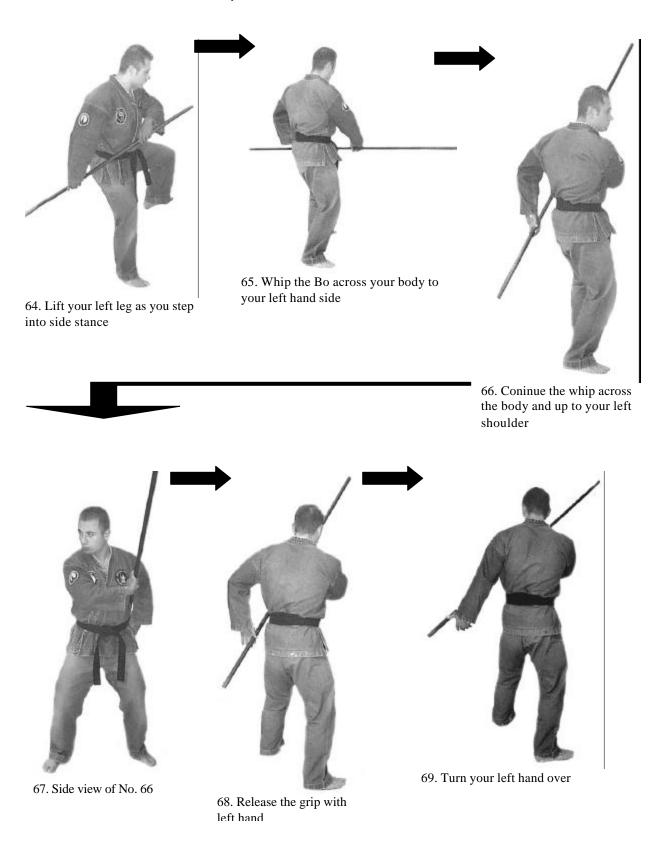
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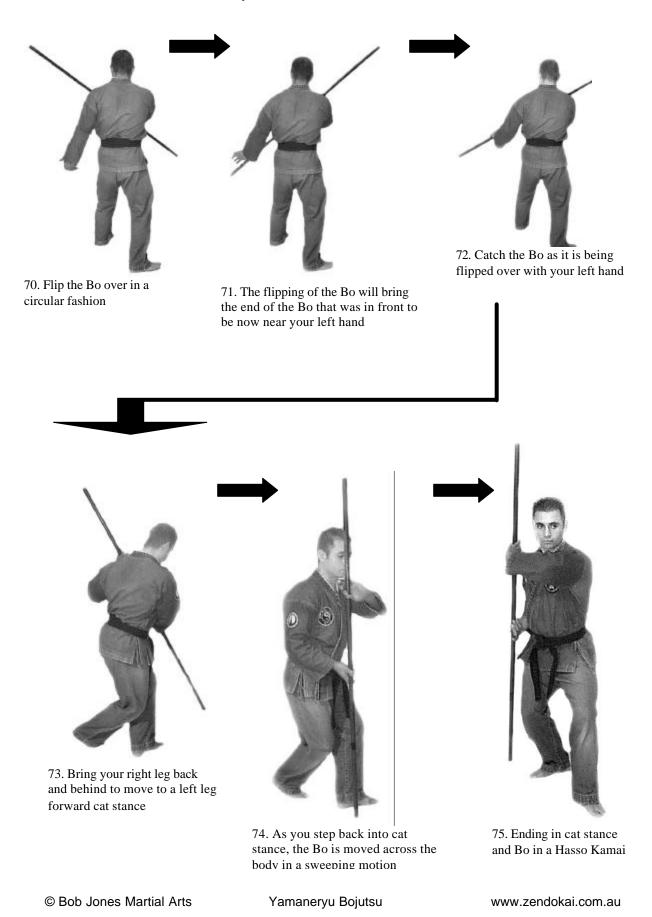


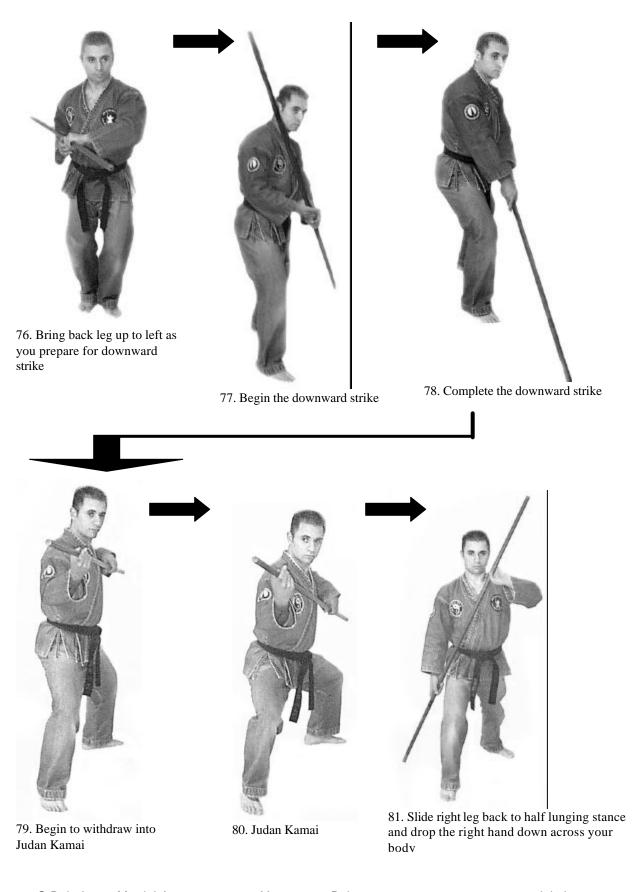


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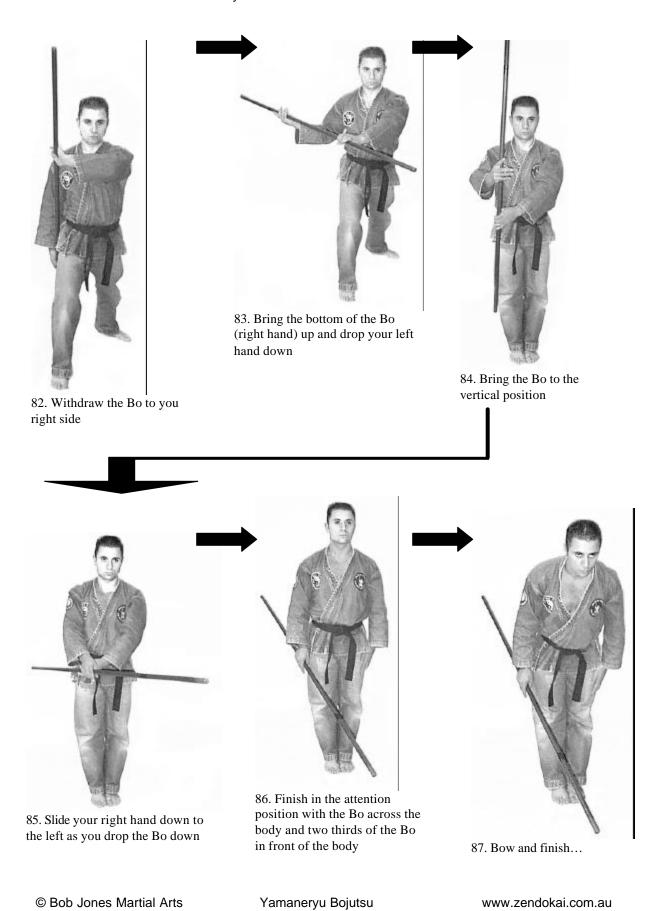


Yamaneryu Bojutsu





Yamaneryu Bojutsu



Other Drills, Exercises & Kata

Once the fundaments of handling and moving the Bo are attained, the amount of drills and exercises that can be performed and practiced are limited to one's imagination.

There are two man partner drills as well as Basic Kata associated with the system. To examples of such Kata are:

Shujino Kon

Koryuno Kon

It is beyond the scope of this document to table photographic explanation of the second of these Kata unfortunately.

Nevertheless, there is excellent video material titled

"Koryu Uchinadai Kobudo Yamaneryu Bojutsu" available for all the exercises described in this document as well as other drills, two man drills, exercises and Kata from the:

"Ryukyu Karatejutsu Kokusai Kenkyukai" Website at:

http://www.society.webcentral.com.au/

