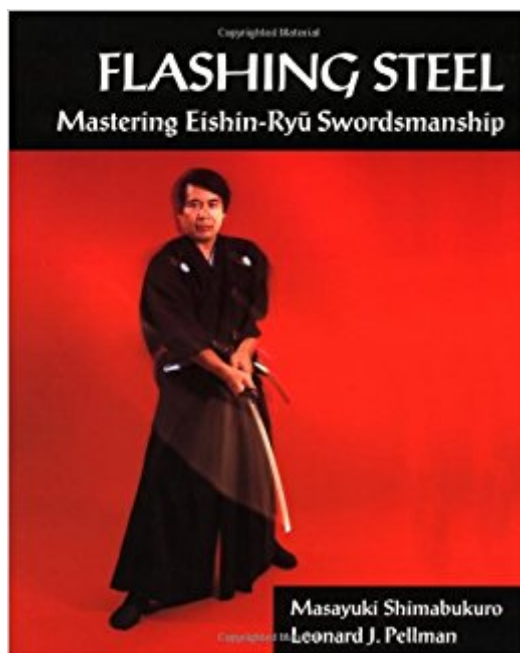


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Flashing Steel: Mastering Eishin-Ryu Swordsmanship



Synopsis

This book is much more than an introductory guide to Muso Jikiden Eishin-Ryu Iaijutsu. It manages to emphasize a melding of the Eastern philosophy and the technique of the art, in a marvelously eloquent yet concise manner. Flashing Steel describes and pictures forty-two kata (formal training patterns) which govern this system, with ten partner exercises applying iaido principles in realistic attack and defense systems. These kata are also widely practiced by students of kendo, aikido, and other martial arts which use swordsmanship.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"At last! The martial arts have long awaited a book on genuine Iaijutsu. It could only have been done properly through a Japanese-American collaboration like this. Master Shimabukuro, with his unparalleled expertise and classical training, and Mr. Pellman, who has translated this unique philosophy into understandable Western terms. Flashing Steel will be a true milestone of the art." — Alfonso Gomez, Martial Arts Director, University of California, San Diego, CA

First let me start by saying this is a fantastic book as the other reviewers have said. With that said the 2nd Edition is that much better. I own both editions. Where the first edition might have 4 photos of a series, the 2nd edition has 16 to 20. This means that you can see what the intermediate positions look like. The first edition is ~270 pages while the second edition is ~335. Also, the second edition is physically larger. Even if you already own the first edition I would recommend the second edition. Also, I would recommend [Samurai Swordsmanship Vol. 1: Basic Sword Program](#) by

Masayuki Shimabukuro's book as the author demonstrates what he describes in the book. The DVD does not match up perfectly with the book but is great for actually seeing and hearing how things are done. Also, it will help with your pronunciation.

I was definitely pleased with the whole structure of this book. One other I bought at the same time (see my other review) seemed very "heavy" handed and "should" oriented....almost like a guilt trip - if you don't go to your "dojo" once a week for your dose of bruises and don't deny yourself, "you're not dedicated". THIS book, was much more Balanced in my view with a strong dose of the Philosophical and Spiritual depth behind Swordwork. Plus, the photographs of the Japanese author were GREAT along with the explanations given. If you respond to a "softer" more Spiritual approach, I recommend this book first. If you like the "disciplined" approach, check out the other one.

We used this book as a 'reference' of sorts in our dojo (seishinkan.info) for years, and it has served us well. Though our style differs from Shimabukuro's, the book retains its value, especially in the bracketing philosophical material, which is sound and easy to comprehend; making it easier for those who may have trouble coming to terms with 'eastern' ways of saying and phrasing things. All in all, definitely worthwhile, especially for those starting off on a path of Eishin Ryu style swordsmanship. Till Noever Nidan, Komei Juku Iaijutsu Author: KEAEN, SELADIENNA, CONTINUITY SLIP[...]

This was ordered for my son. He said it was very good

ok i bought this book before, but this must be a revised copy or something, it is real good and helpful to a swordsman

the book is great for anyone interested or is already into iaijutsu (the art of drawing a sword and cutting with it in a single stroke). the first 65% of the book covers the proper mindset, spirit, and attitude that is needed in pursuing bushido (the way of the warrior). this part is great, not only for people practicing in sword arts, but all martial arts in general (which i think is sorely lacking in today's schools of martial arts). the latter part of the book deals with the specific waza, or forms, that is used to teach eishin-ryu. there are plenty of pictures and descriptions of each part of the movement. it, sometimes, even goes into the history surrounding the circumstances of the waza and explains why certain movements are the way they are. i bought this book as an intro to iaijutsu,

and i was not let down in any way. a great book for those interested in studying japanese swordsmanship.

I recommend this as a reference for anyone interested in laido/laijutsu. One word of caution, though: there's many schools of laido, so some of the material presented herein will or will not apply to your particular school. However, the background and philosophy material are applicable throughout.

Let me begin by saying that I am not a seasoned iaido practitioner. In fact, I am a complete novice. Therefore, this review is not a "qualified" one; rather, it is my personal opinion. The reasons for not giving this book a 5-star rating (like nearly all the other reviewers), are the photos and descriptions of the katas. To me, these aren't very helpful. Everyone will say that it's impossible to learn iaido from a book alone. I agree. But that's no excuse for insufficient descriptions and small-resolution photographs. As a manual, Flashing Steel isn't very impressive. The introduction has some helpful explanations of concepts such as zanshin, but some of the analogies (for example, the comparison between samurai and cowboys) are rather farfetched, in my opinion. Warner & Draeger's Japanese Swordsmanship was much more helpful to me (bear in mind that this only includes descriptions of the Seitei-gata, though).

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