



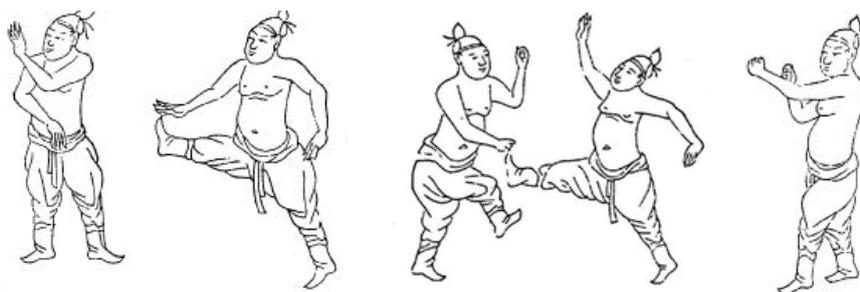
History of the Hyung

Despite what most have been taught or heard there is no doubt that the Tang Soo Do & Shotokan lineage of traditional hyungs/kata comes through the Chuan Fa of China and the original Naha-te, Shuri-te and Tomari-te styles of Okinwawa.

Gichin Funakoshi renamed all the forms in his Shotokan to create a new 'Japanese' martial art, finally outgrowing the Okinawan heritage, and giving them "good" sounding Japanese names. Ji'in, Jitte and Jion were the only forms not changed due to their connection to Buddhism.

In the Tang Soo Do system we still call most hyungs by their original Chinese names whereas some are the Korean pronunciation of the forms.

Following are the standard hyung of the Tang Soo Do curriculum. Any additional hyung are unique to each federation/association and are selected and taught by the president or Grandmaster's discretion.





Pyung Ahn / Pinan / Heian

Calm, peaceful, to protect

Anko Itosu

The Pyung Ahn hyung originated in Okinawa and were adapted by Anko Itosu from 2 older hyung, Kong Sang Koon & Jaenam, into 5 forms suitable for teaching karate to young students.

Originally Pyung Ahn Cho Dan & E Dan were in reverse order.

平安



Bassai / Passai / Pal-Sek

Penetrate the Fortress / Cobra Snake

Sokon Matsumura

This form has been used and practiced in many cultures, including China, Ryūkyū, Japan and Korea. The origins of this form are obscure, however there are several theories as to its history. Some researchers believe the Bassai form is related to Chinese Leopard and Lion boxing forms.

It is however accepted that the form came back with Sokon Matsumura and instructors of his generation. Matsumura brought his style of Bassai back from China while Oyadomari Kokan of Tomari-te style had his style taught to him by a Chinese living in the Tomari villiage at the time (possibly Anan).

Itosu also took the versions he learned from both masters and created his Bassai Sho with some more specific ideas of his own.

拔塞



Naihanchi / Chul-gi / Nae-bo-jin / Tekki

Inwards leg / Internal divided conflict / Iron Horse

Sokon Matsumura

Sokon Matsumura created both Naihanchi Shodan and Nidan from a form called Naifanchi that he got from a Chinese Master. Some believe either Itosu or Choki Motobu made Naihanchi Sandan. Naihanchi Sandan is not a Matsumura form, passed down through other Shorin lines.

The oldest known reference to Naihanchi are in the books of Motobu Choki. He states the form was imported from China, but is no longer practiced there.

内 韩 志



Jindo / Chinto / Gankaku / Am-Hak

Fighter to the east / Crane on rock

Sokon Matsumura

According to legend it is named after a stranded Chinese sailor (or pirate), sometimes referred to as Chinto, whose ship crashed on the Okinawan coast. To survive, Chinto kept stealing from the crops of the local people. Matsumura, a Karate master and chief bodyguard to the Ryukyuan king, was sent to defeat Chinto. In the ensuing fight, however, Matsumura found himself equally matched by the stranger, and consequently sought to learn his techniques.

Upon Chinto's return to China, Matsumura formulated a form to ensure Chinto's methods were recorded and passed on to future generations.

It is often said that Chintō should be performed while facing eastwards.

进退



Kong Sang Koon / Kanku / Kusanku

Viewing the sky / Eagle in flight

Kanga Sakugawa

Kusanku was a Chinese martial artist who lived during the 18th century and learned the art of Ch'uan Fa in China from a Shaolin monk. Around 1756 Kusanku was sent to Ryukyu as an ambassador of the Qing Dynasty.

Sakugawa spent six years training with Kusanku and began to spread what he learned to Ryukyu in 1762.

After Kusanku's death (around 1762), Sakugawa developed and named the 'Kusanku' form in honor of his teacher.

公相君



Rohai / No Pae

Vision of a white crane

Sokon Matsumura

The original creator of Rohai is unknown but it was likely passed down by Sokon Matsumura who learned it in Tomari, then created his own version suggested by the fact that it was known as 'Matsumura Rohai'.

Anko Itosu created a set of 3 Rohai form with the techniques being derived from the much longer version, Matsumura Rohai.

Gichin Funakoshi, founder of Shotokan, then redeveloped and renamed Rohai as Meikyo, which is a combination of all three Itosu Rohai form, containing elements of each.

鷺牌



Seisan / Hangetsu / Ban-Wol

'13' / Crescent moon

Unknown

Seisan is thought to be one of the oldest form, being spread among the Okinawan Karate schools. Throughout the 1800s the Meiji Restoration was taking hold and karate on Okinawa was developing into three nebulous, sometimes interweaving prongs: Shuri-te, Naha-te, and Tomari-te.

It is believed Seisan derives from Yong Chun White Crane Boxing from Fujian Province in Southern China, where the form is known as 'Four Gate Hands'.

There are also theories that Sokon Matsumura learnt it in China from Master Iwah.

拾叁



Wanshu / Empi / Yon-Bi

Wang's form / Excellent wrist / Flying Swallow

Unknown

The name Wanshū in Mandarin means "Excellent Wrist" and refers to a typical technique of this form. The other way of writing the name of this form means "Wang's Series (or Form)" and refers to the name of the Chinese diplomat, Wang Ji (1621 – 1689).

Wang Ji was a martial artist and legend has it that he had the habit of throwing and jumping on his adversaries and because of this dynamic form of combat this form resembles a swallow in flight.

The form was either a creation of Wang's, or composed by his students and named in tribute to him.

汪楫



Ship Soo / Jitte / Jutte

Temple hands / 10 hands

Unknown

Jitte, previously known as Jutte, means ten hands or ten techniques and implies that once mastered one is effective as ten men. Ji is the abbreviation of the Buddhist word 'JIHI' meaning compassion or benevolence hence why Jitte has also been referred to as temple hands.

Thought to be a form from Tomari-te although the form is also known to have been practiced by Shuri-te. The salutation at the start and finish of the form suggests Chinese origins and, like Jion, may have been practiced at the Jion-Je temple.

拾手



O Ship Sa Bo / Gojushiho / Hotaku / Uesheishi

54 steps of Black Tiger

Sokon Matsumura

O Ship Sa Bo was developed by Sokon Matsumura and named it as "Uesheishi" under the fluency of Chinese Chuan Fa.

O Ship Sa Bo movement is quite similar with Aikido grappling technique in terms of flowing knife hand or vertical knife hand block which is not merely interpreted as a block, but a throw.

Due to its difficulty, this form is often reserved for advanced students, usually for those who are 6th degree black belts and above.

伍拾肆



Jion / Ja-Eun

Temple form / Mercy

Unknown

The origins of Jion are uncertain but it is believed to be connected with the Jion-Je temple in China, where it is known that the practice of martial arts was encouraged, a theory strengthened by the salutation at the start and finish of the form.

As with the other forms, Jitte and Ji'in, Ji is the abbreviation of the Buddhist word 'JIHI' meaning compassion or benevolence, further showing a relationship to these 3 forms coming from the Jion-Je temple in china.

慈恩



Tae Guk Kwon / Meikyo

Supreme Ultimate Fist / Polishing mirror

Gichin Funakoshi

Gichin Funakoshi redeveloped and renamed the form to Meikyo, meaning bright or polished mirror, which is a hyung based on Anko Itosu's 3 versions of Rohai.

Bright / polished mirror refers to continuous rhythm in technique, stability & accuracy using agile motions of turning from attacks. It is a form of self-reflection and introspection, sometimes even being interpreted as meaning "Mirror to the Soul."

As students mature, they must continually reflect on their technique, searching inward for change and improvement.

明鏡



Akan Kwon / Wankan / Okan

King's Crown / Emperor's Crown

Kōsaku Matsumora

Not much is known about the history of the form Wankan but it is believed to originate through Matsumora of the Tomari-te in Okinawa. It is often considered an advanced form, despite its brevity.

Wankan gets its name from the form's first four moves, which are supposed to form the shape of a crown. Some historians claim Wankan was handed down by the Okinawan royal family, thereby getting its name.

Previously known as Shiofu, Hito, Okan and is also known as Matsukaze (pine tree wind) in some schools of karate.

王冠



Sorim Jang Kwon / Shaolin Chang Quan

Shaolin Long Fist / Temple long fist

Unknown

Sorim Jang Kwon is 1 of only a few Tang Soo Do hyung that doesn't come through the Chinese-Okinwan lineage but directly from the Chinese-Korean lineage, through Hwang Kee of the Moo Duk Kwan.

The creator and history of the hyung are unknown and there are many varying versions depending on the lineage of the individual masters.

少林长拳