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Bushido-kai Kata Comparison Series

Analysis and Applications

Gankaku and Matsumora Rohai

Ryusho
SAKAGAMI
performs

Matsumora ROHAI

Seminar support materials
from Shihan Tony Annesi Takeshin Sogo Budo

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Keinosuke ENOEDA (England) performs Shotokan Ganka

GANKAKU & Matsumora ROHAI

Additional Information compiled by Shi Anne Si

History & Name

—GANKAKU/CHINTO —

- Gankaku ("Crane of a Rock") is another name for the Chinese name of a Chinese teacher that also be translated as "Eastern Battle".) Gichin FUNAKOSHI changed the name Chinto to Gankaku.
- In Ancestors there is a form called Chentou meaning "Sinking the Head" while Chinto means "Continuously Suppress" or "Suppression to the East" or "Suppression". The first movement of Chinto is the last movement of Chentou so they may be related if not the same kata (Kinjo, 1999)
- Sokon MATSUMURA (of Shuri-te) supposedly also studied under Master Chinto who was associated with Ancestral Fist. This is why Gankaku (aka Chinto) kata contains so many crane movements.
- There are 3 methods of Chinto kata: Matsumura/Itosu style (vertical line); Matsumora style (horizontal line); Kyan style (angular line).
- The author of Gankaku and its origin date is unknown.
- It has been speculated that Daijū Zhan WGo So Ken) Ancestor Fist—this purportedly could have included forms such as Chinto, Seisai, and Jōrei (Fujiwara & Gima, 1986)
- Supposedly Kosaku MATSUMURA (of Tomari-te) also learned/taught Chinto kata with the origin of Matsumora Rohai as well

— MA TSUMORA ROHAI —

- Shotokan's Meikyo was based on the Shuri Rohai kata. Itosu was said to have based these kata on the Tomari-te kata Rohai, aka Matsumora Rohai ("Sign or Emblem of the Heron").
- Matsumura Rohai was once called Kuan Muan ("Consuming Dragons"). This kata's name is composed of two kanji. The first is crane and the second is crane (a stork). The crane is standing upon a rock but it could also be taken to simply imply a species of crane or stork.
- Although Matsumura Rohai is also called the Rohai, it also has been called Matsumura Rohai. If Itosu based his Rohai on this kata then it would have been a Shuri-te or Matsumura kata since his teacher was Sokon Matsumura. However Rohai is also associated with the T lineage and thus with Kosaku Matsumura's being included in Mabuni's Shito-ryu could mean a Tomari origin (since Shito often is the style reserved for the kata) or it could equally support the Shuri-te origin since Mabuni studied under Itosu who studied under Matsumura

General

- Ironically, crane stances are absent from the descendant kata, Meikyo, but they appear in one of its origins, Rohai Shodan, in a sweeping foot crane stance (a form of the hooked foot crane stance of Matsumora Rohai or Gankaku.) Matsumora Rohai and Gankaku use a similar hooked crane stance but with different hand movements and Matsumora Rohai uses a sweeping foot movement which could originally have been a crane stance but now is now is done simply as a sweep.
- the embusen of Matsumora Rohai is somewhat similar to Meikyo
- the embusen of Gankaku is a straight line. In forms of both kata Chinto perform the line diagonally or horizontally

Other Versions

- Generally only Shotokan practices Gankaku but many Shorin and Shito styles practice its roots
- Matsumora Rohai is practiced by other styles, notably Shito-ryu.

References:

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- MABUNI, Kenji Karate-do Kata and Applications Shitō-ryū 1995.
- McKenna, Mario, "Wianhui and Daiji, Pioneers of Okinawan Karate" Dragon Times Volume 20, 2001.
- MORRIS, Vince Aiden TRIMBLE Karate Kata and Applications Paul Pub., 1991.
- NAKA YAMA, Masatoshi Best Karate (I), Kodansha International, 1989.
- REDMOND, Rob, Shotokan Plans Website (http://www.fightingchickens.com).
- SAKAGAMI, Ryusho Karate-do Kata Japan Publications, 1978.
- SWIFT, Joe, "The Big Fifteen Original Kata of Gōjū-ryū" Dragon Times Volume 20, 2001.

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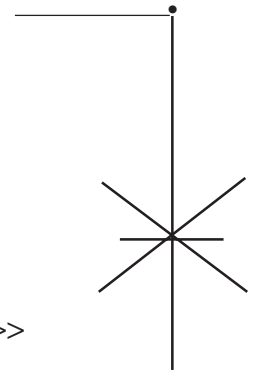
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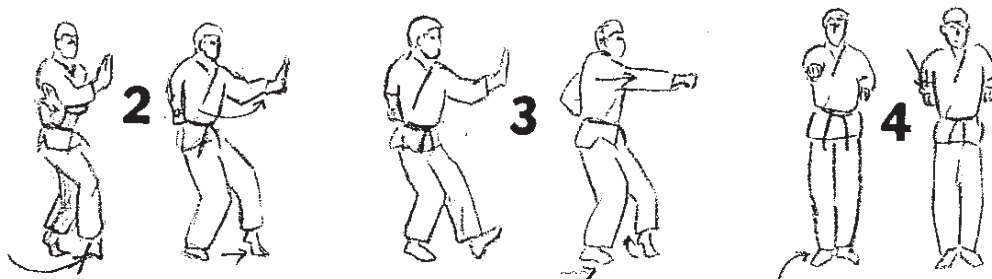
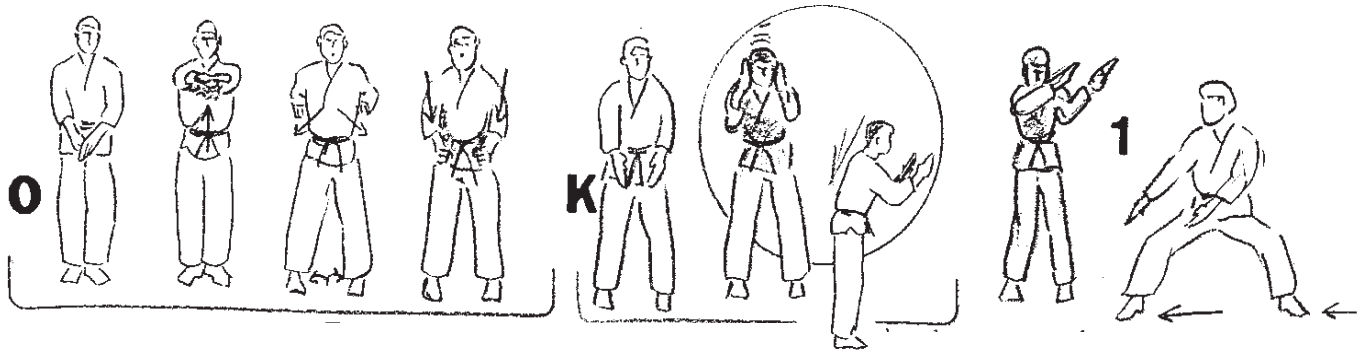
Ryusho SAKAGAMI (Itosu-kai Shito-ryu) performs Matsumora Rohai.

Matsumora-ha ROHAI (Emblem of a Heron)

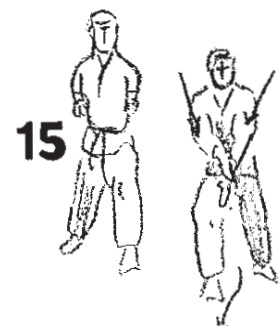
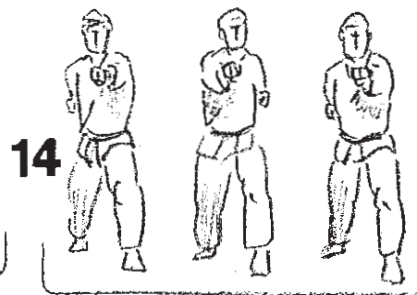
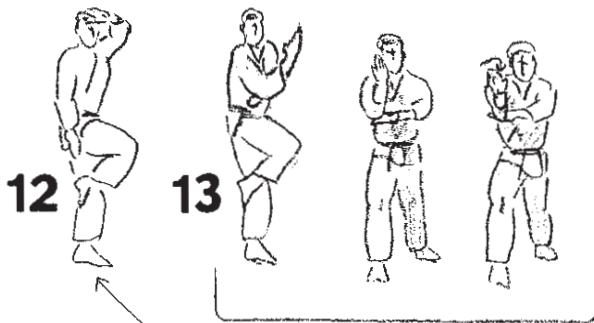
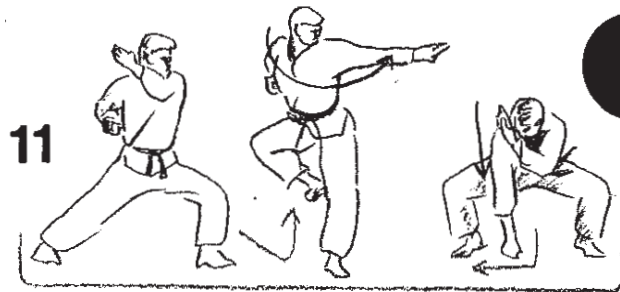
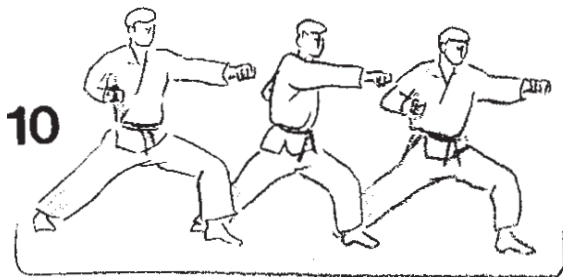
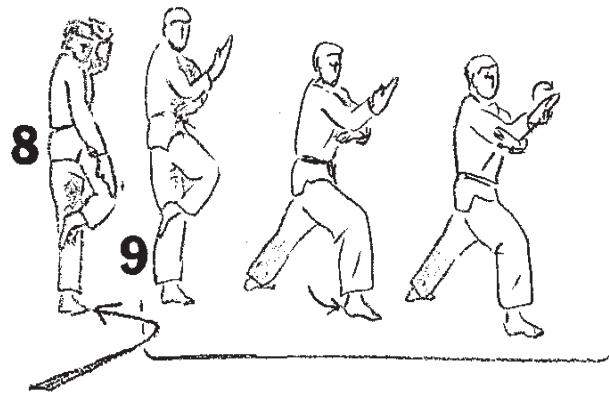
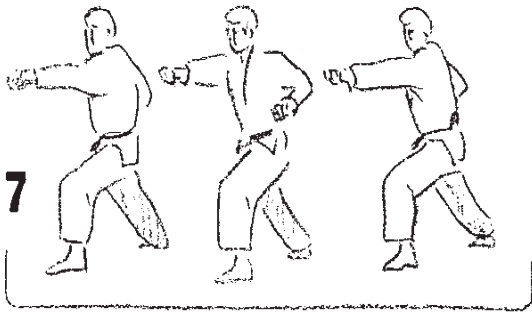
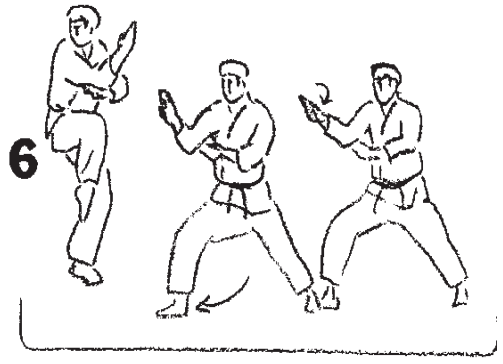
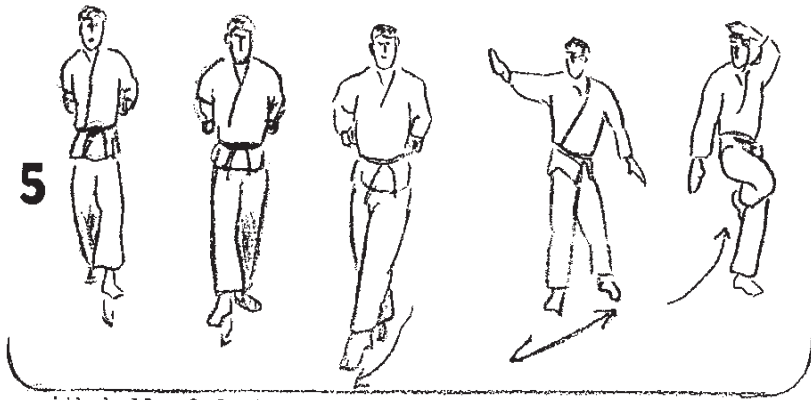
The embusen of Matsumora Rohai is similar in some regards to the embusen of Shiotokan's Meikyo.

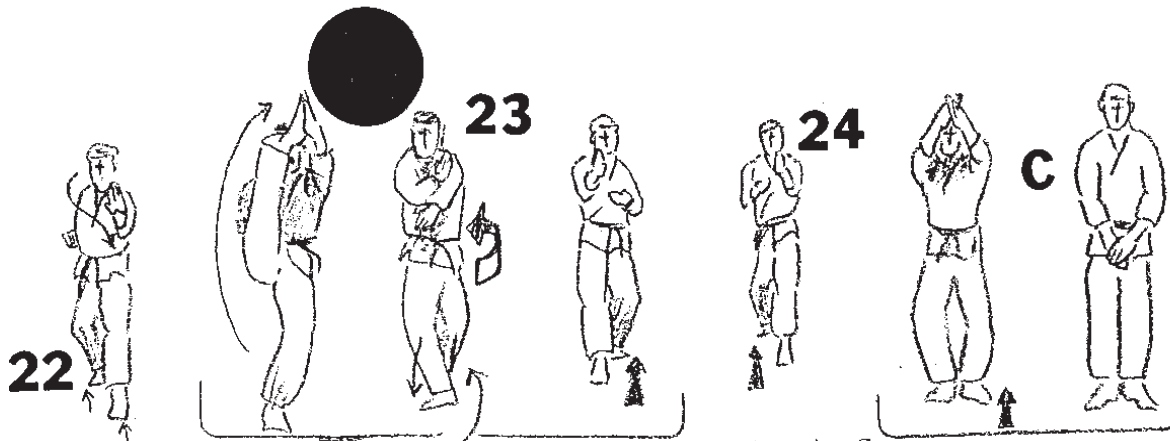
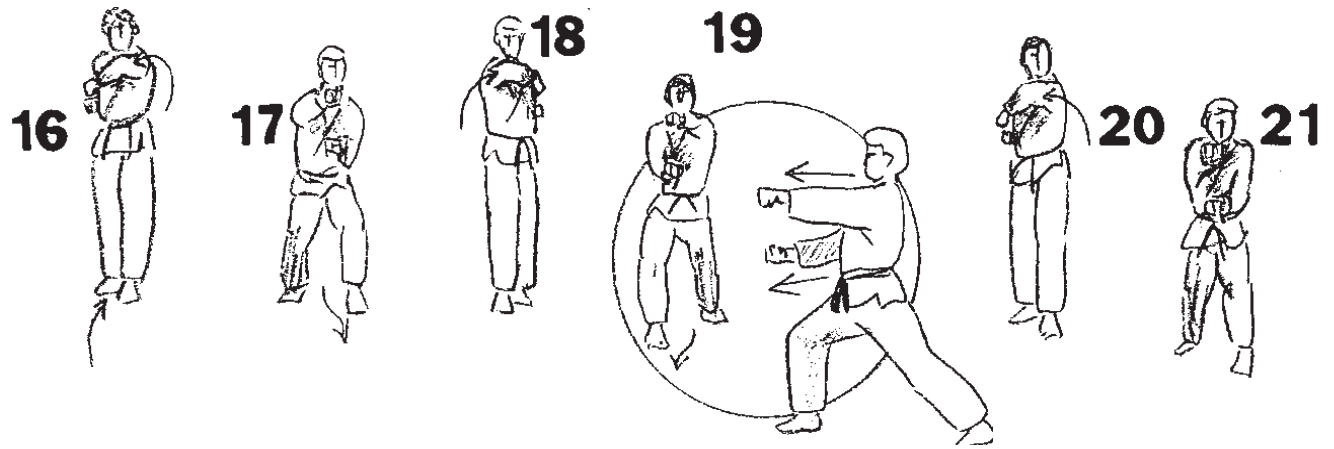


"theoretical" embusen >>>



ROHAI





NOTE:

This illustrated outline of the Rohan KARA TE DO NO SHOSAI
 (The Details of Karate) 4: VNidayTonyAnnesi
 (Available through BUSHIDO-KAI BUDOYA, this manual includes for the suggested
 bunkai, as well as in Nidan sparring and techniques.)

Illustrations Garfaku (following) come KARA TE DO NO SHOSAI
 (The Details of Karate) 5: VSandayTonyAnnesi
 (Available through BUSHIDO-KAI BUDOYA, this manual includes for the suggested
 bunkai, as well as in Sandan sparring and techniques.)

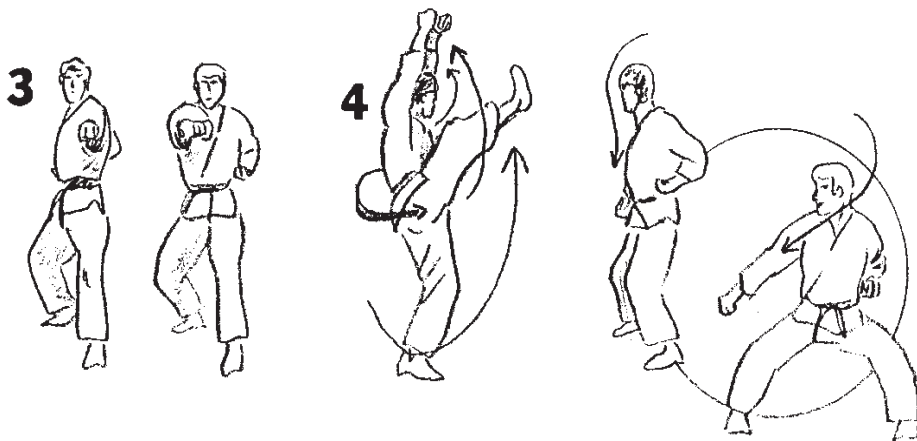
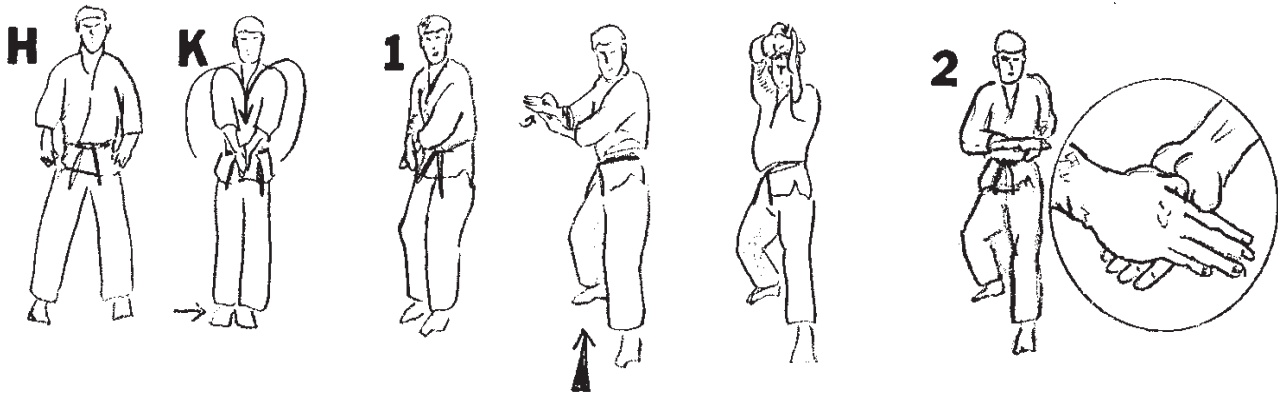
Teiji KAZE (France) performs shotokan Gankaku.



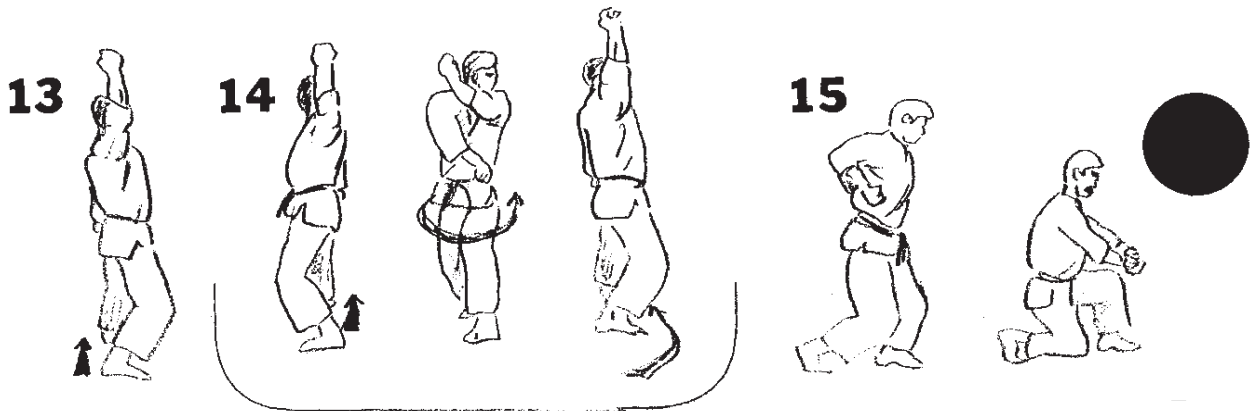
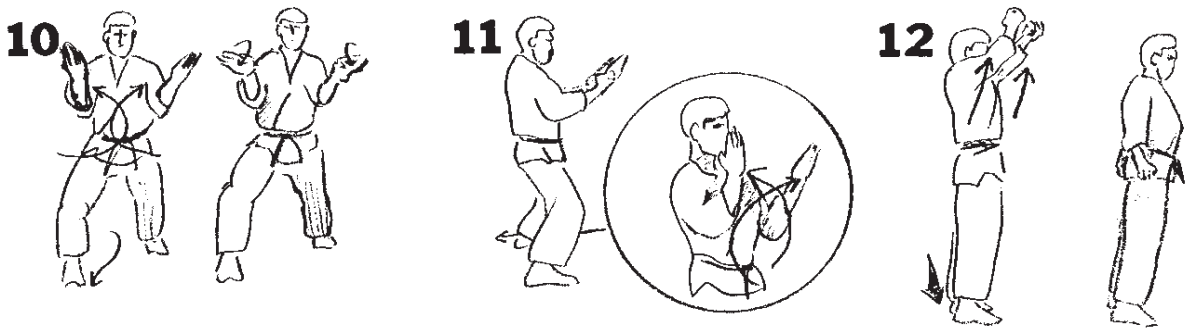
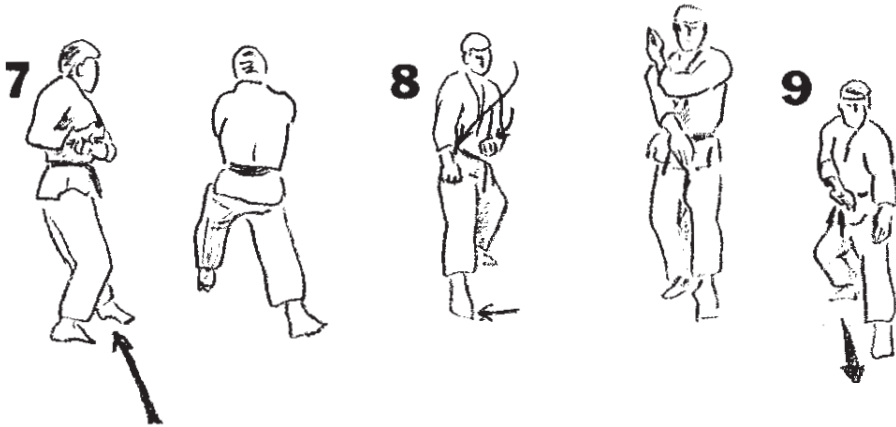
GANKAKU

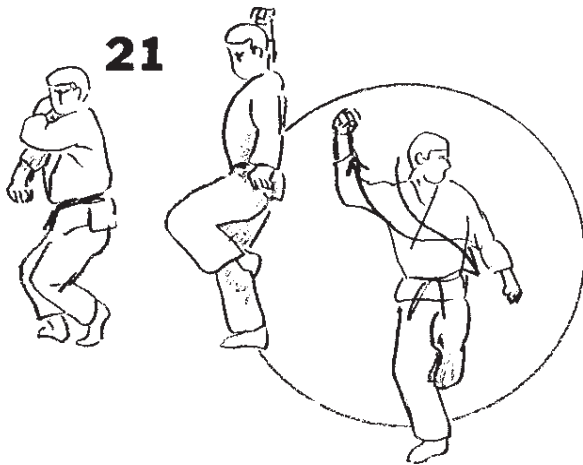
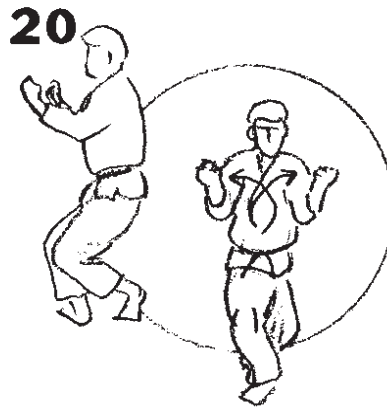
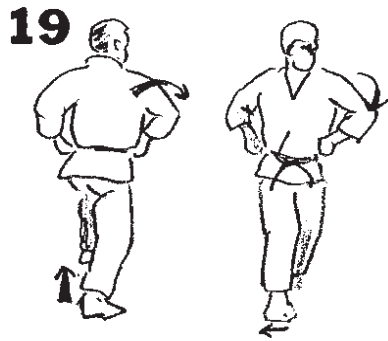
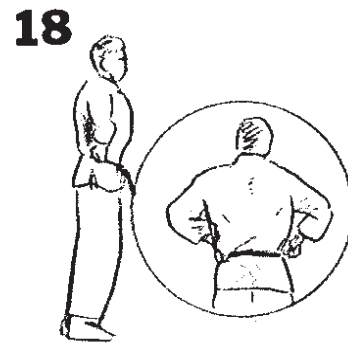
(Crane on a Rock)

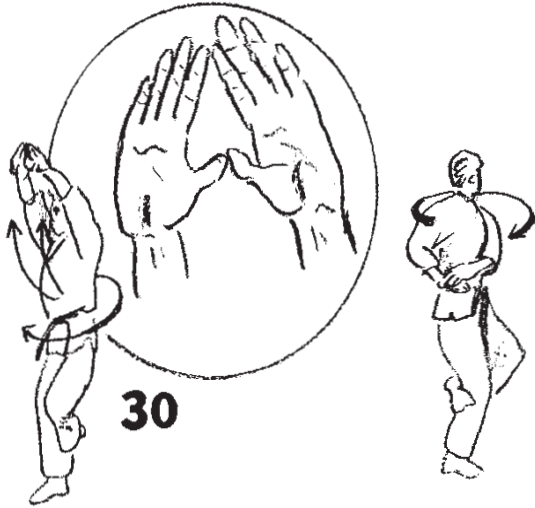
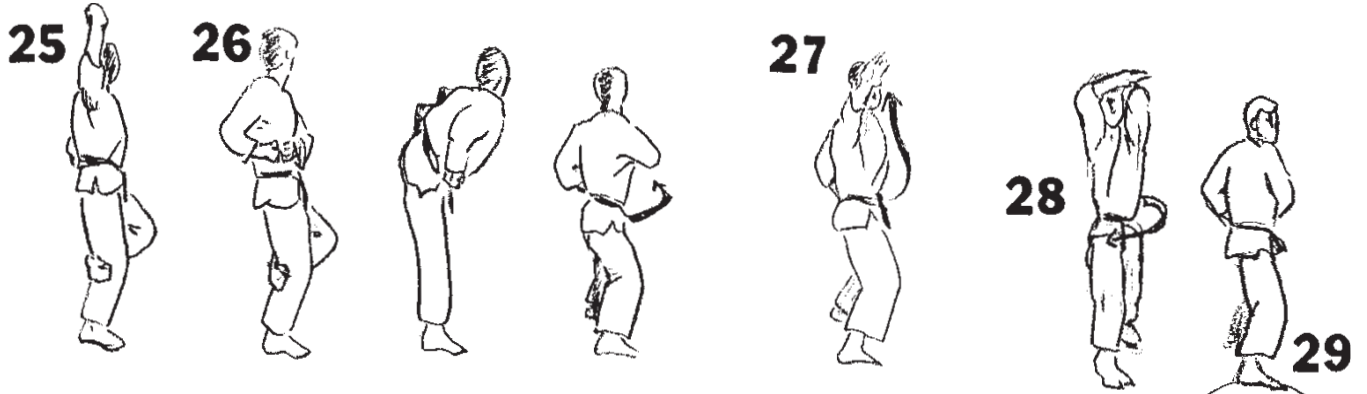
embusen >>>



GANKAKU







27 is performed slowly while
28, 29, 30 are usually performed
in rapid sequence

