

**Bushido-kai Kata Comparison Series
Analysis and Applications**

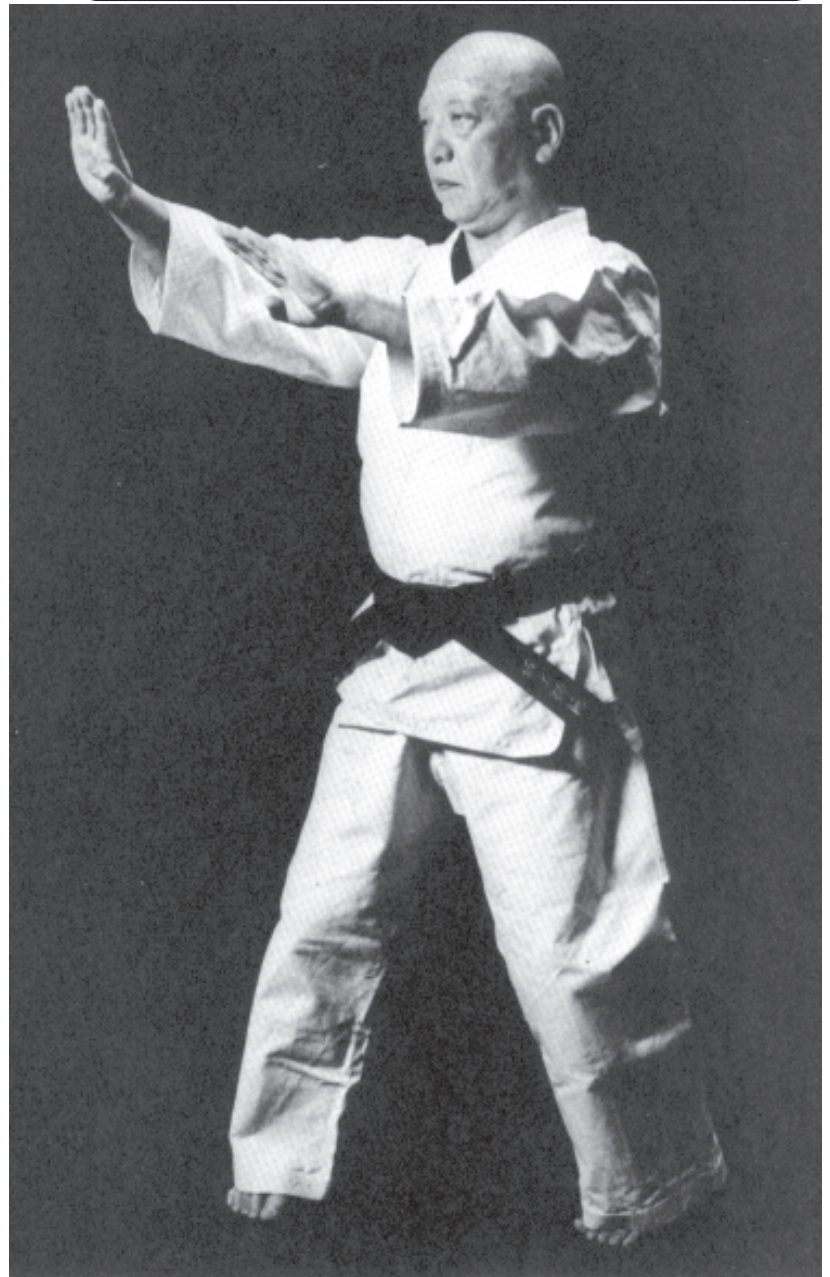
**Hangetsu & Aragaki Seisan;
Goju Seisan & Uechi Seisan**

**Seminar support materials
from Shihan Tony Annesi, Takeshin Sogo Budo**



Keinosuke ENOEDA performs
Shotokan Hangetsu

Ryusho SAKAGAMI performs Goju SEISAN



BUSHIDO-KAI SEMINARS
c/o 300 Eliot St. #369
Ashland, Mass. [01721]
usa
(508) 881-4007
www.bushido-kai.net

HANGETSU & SEISAN

Information compiled by Shihan Tony Annesi

History & Name

- The stance that is used in Hangetsu kata is called *hangetsu-dachi* or half-moon stance. It is a long, wide *sanchin* stance, often, if erroneously, referred to as an hour-glass stance.
- FUNAKOSHI Sensei changed the name from its original Seisan which means thirteen to Hangetsu which literally means “Half Moon.” The *getsu* or *gatsu* can also mean “month.”
- Half a month is 15 days, not 13, however; so, either Hangetsu adds 2 techniques to the original 13 or there is another interpretation implied.
- some argue that this kata came from an Okinawan folk dance related to moon phases.
- Rob Redmond (Shotokan World website) suggests that the 13 techniques of the Hangetsu version of Seisan are as follows: 1. Inside block; 2. Punch; 3. Pull back; 4. Two-handed one knuckle strike; 5. inside ridge hand blocks; 6. knife hand blocks downward; 7. Wrist lock; 8. Overhead vertical back fist with wide, high stepping action; 9. Front snap kick; 10. Downward block; 11. Upper rising block; 12. Crescent kick; 13. Palm heel block
- the Goju (and perhaps the Uechi) version of Seisan are related to older forms in the following Chinese systems: Dragon Boxing, Arhat Boxing, Lion Boxing
- another interpretation is that the *embusen* of the kata is like the kanji for ten (十) and three (三) overlaid on each other and viewed laterally.
- still another interpretation of the “13” name is that it refers to a numbered *kyusho* points (or set of points) that the kata attacks (McCarthy suggests Posterior midline—cervical vertebrae—GV14.)
- the “Hangetsu” version of Seisan is preserved in Shuri-te karate forms and is among the oldest kata in karate.
- Juhatsu KYODA (student of both Kanyu and Kanryu HIGASHIONNA) supposedly had 2 versions of Seisan kata but did not perform Kanryo’s because it felt it was too similar to the one preserved by Goju. *Perhaps the one he did preserve was similar to Aragaki’s ore, more likely, to Uechi’s?*

General

- the first half of Hangetsu is similar to a Goju breathing & dynamic tension kata
- the version of Aragaki Seisan we perform in this seminar is actually a recreation of Aragaki’s version of the kata from the research of Patrick McCarthy
- the Goju version of Seisan is considered an intermediate to advanced kata; the Uechi version is solidly intermediate, being the middle of three traditional kata taken from the Chinese Pangai-noon system by Kanbum UECHI
- the Aragaki and Shotokan versions have a distinct similarity while the Goju and Uechi versions have a distinct similarity—it has long been theorized that because the roots of Goju and the roots of Uechi both are in Fukien province, that their Chinese antecedents were related. Similarly, since Seisho ARAGAKI was a proto-Shorin stylist (Tomari-te) and since Funakoshi’s Hangetsu comes from Shorin kata, it would make sense that Aragaki Seisan and Shotokan Hangetsu would look similar. The two root methods also have similarities.
- Supposedly, Goju Seisan is a “hard” rather than a “soft” kata and concentrates on *atemi* (striking). *However, our Takeshin interpretation has a number of locking and throwing movements.*

Other Versions

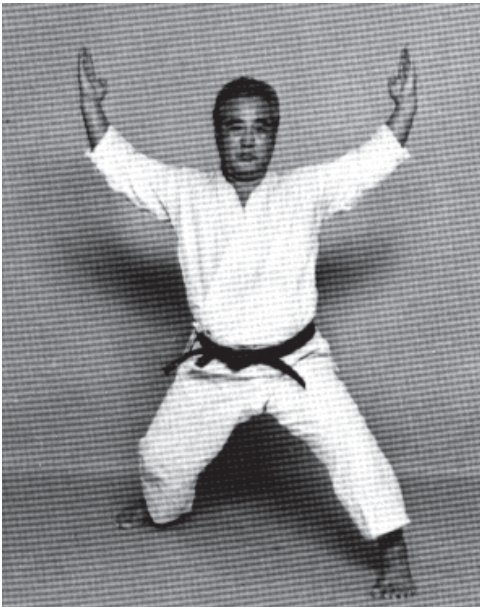
- Generally, only Shotokan practices Hangetsu; but, a version of Seisan is practiced by the majority of other styles.

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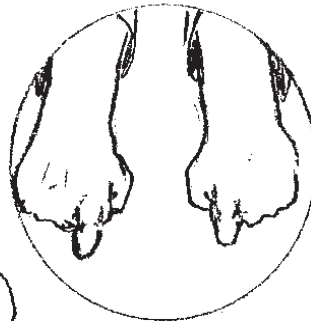
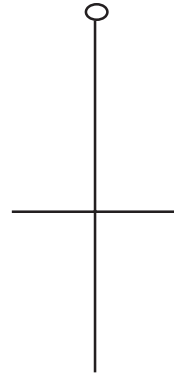
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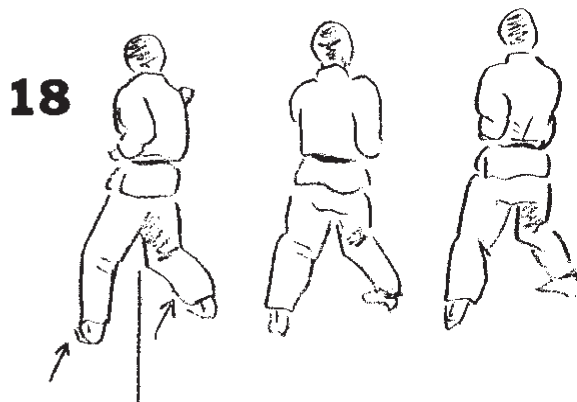
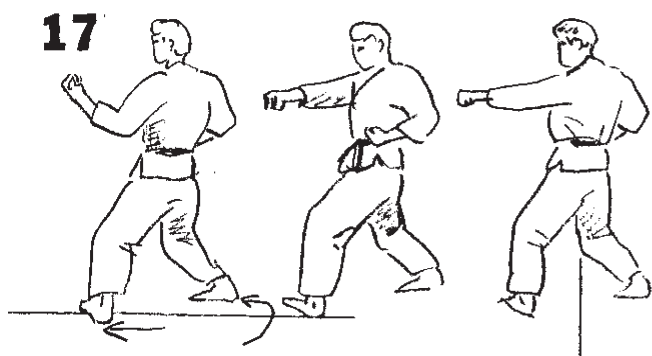
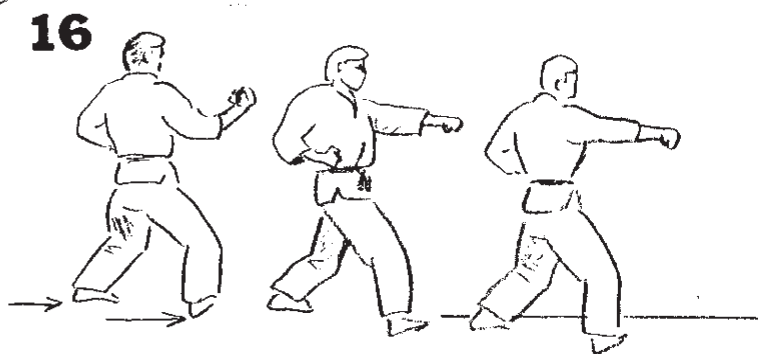
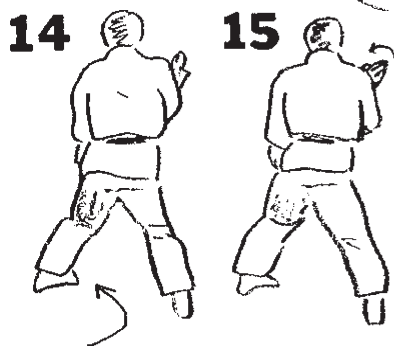
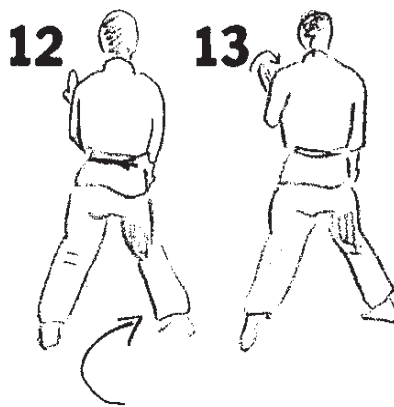
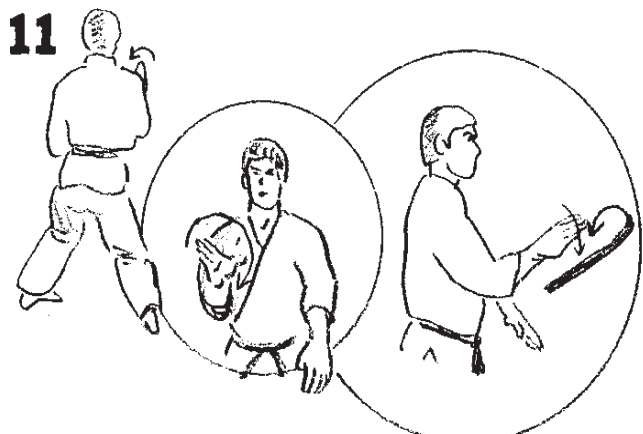
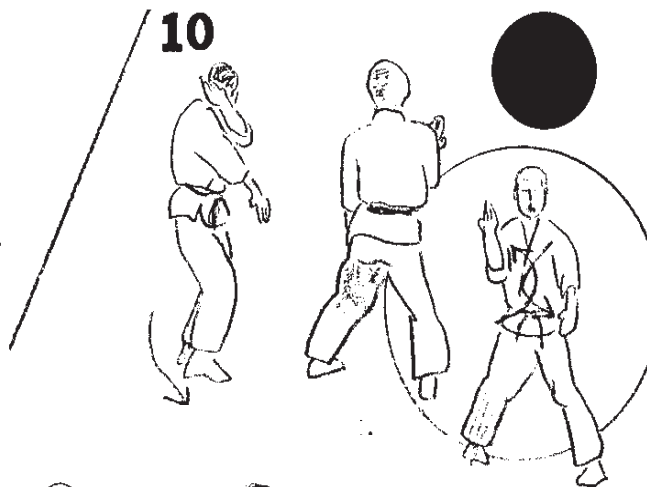
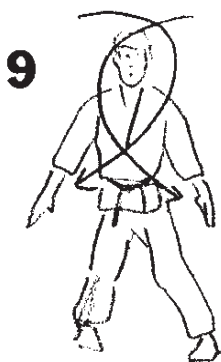
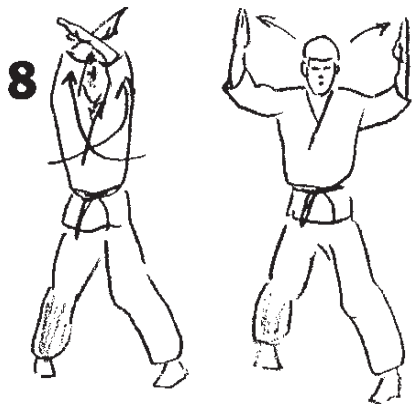
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Teiji KAZE performs Shotokan Hangetsu.

Shotokan HANGETSU





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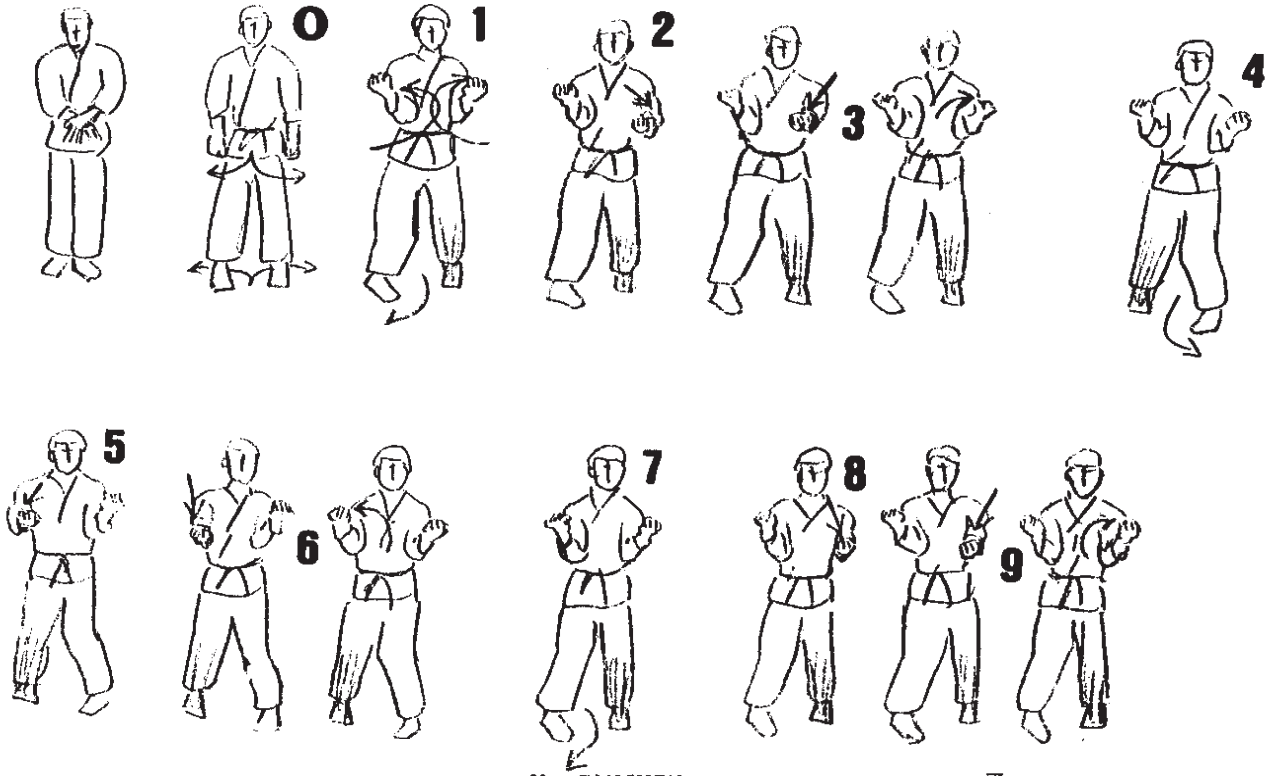
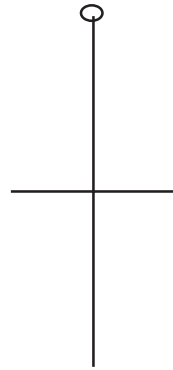
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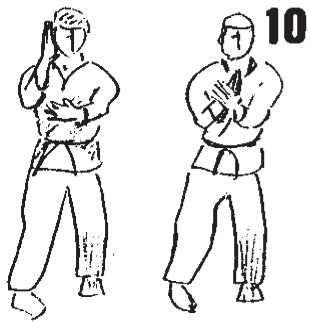


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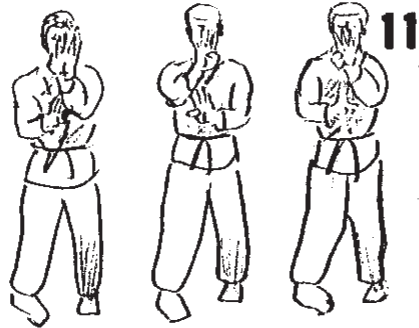
Morio HIGAONNA performs Goju Seisan.

Goju SEISAN

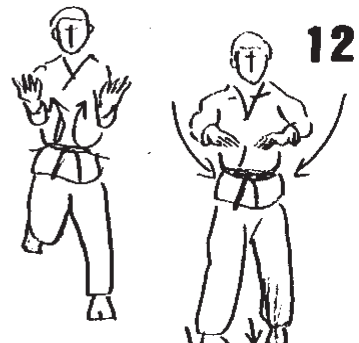




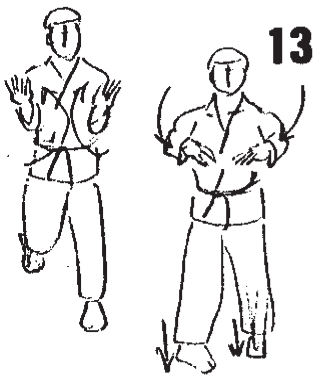
M. TATE SHIHO UCHI



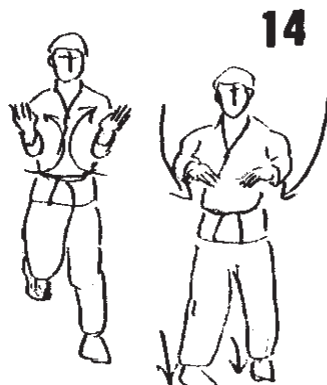
H. TEISHO AGE UCHI /



USHIRO KAKATO GERI. MOROTE



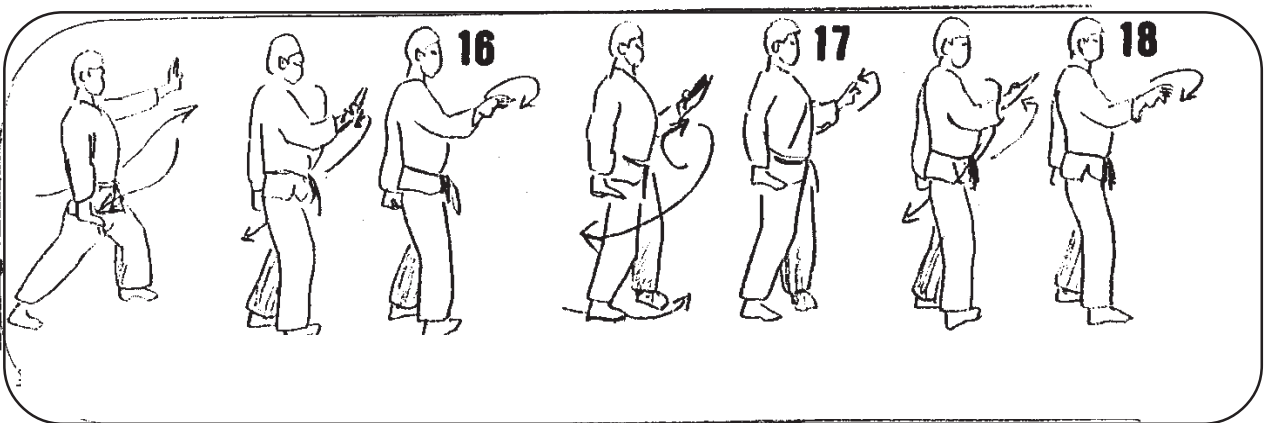
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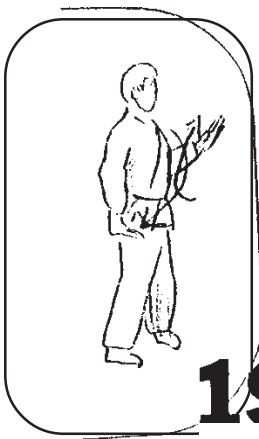
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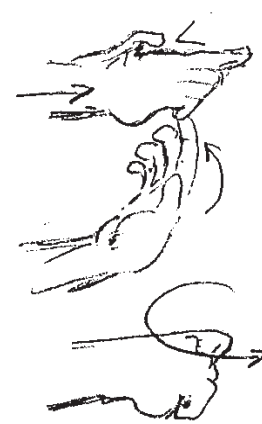
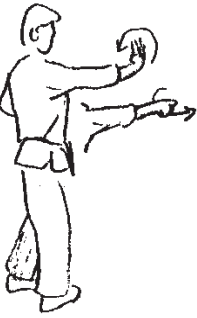
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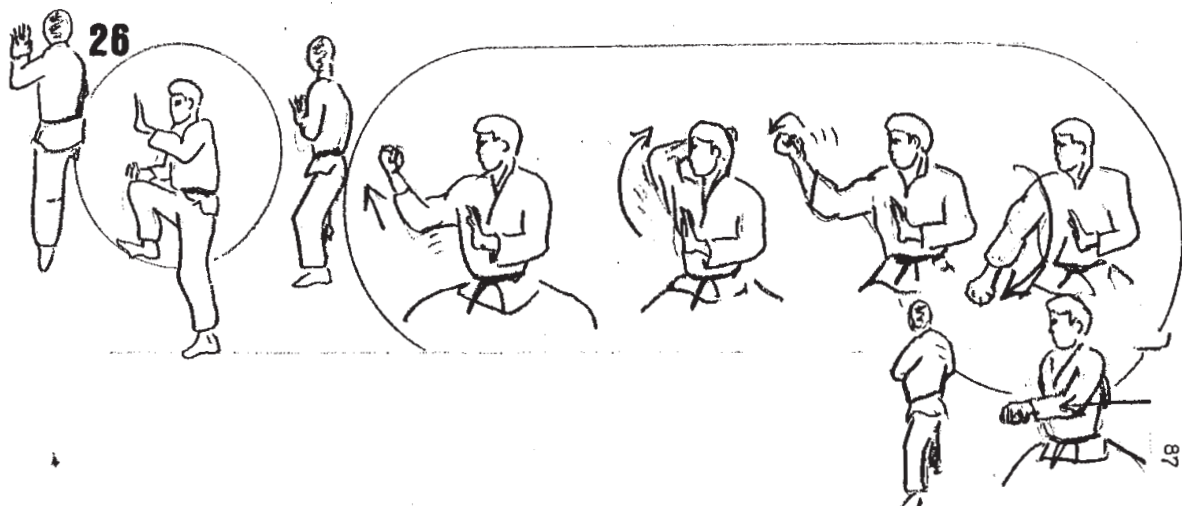
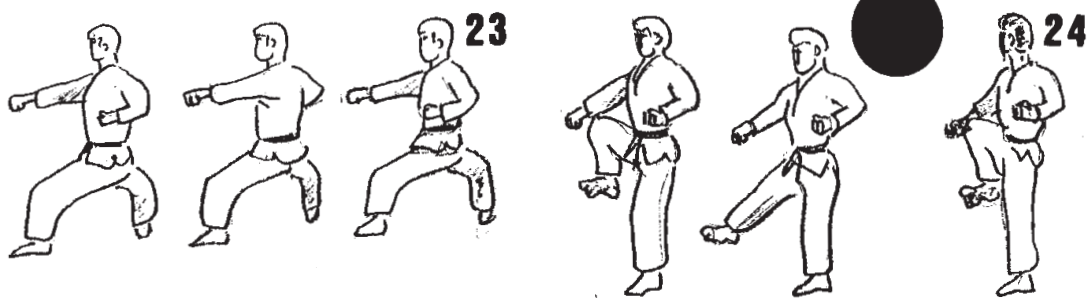
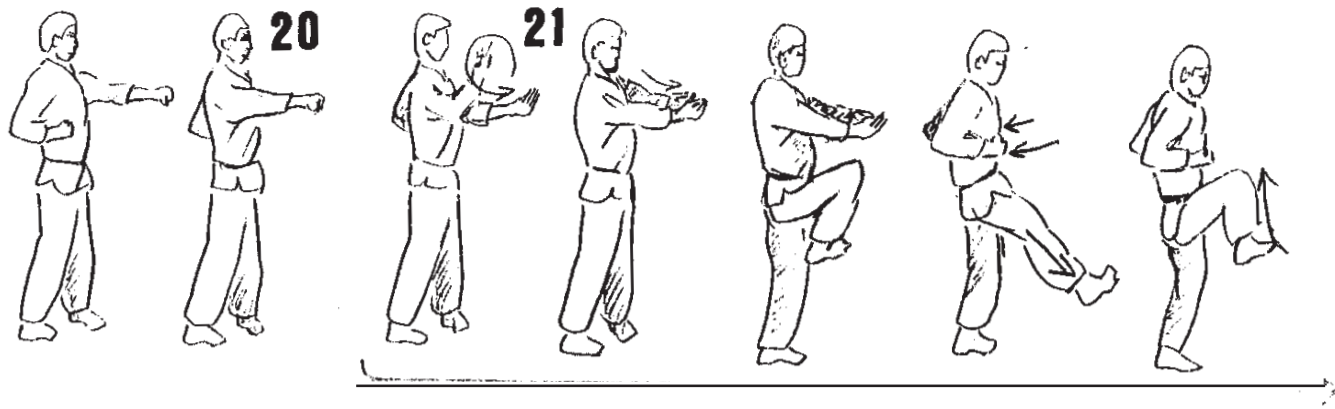
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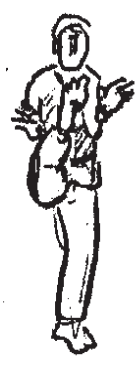
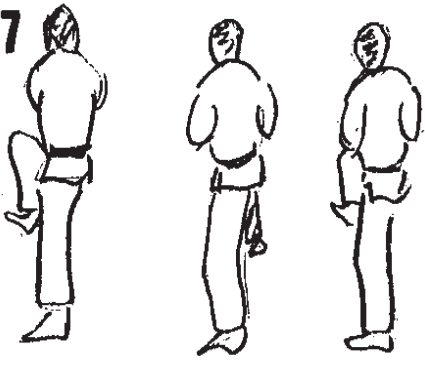


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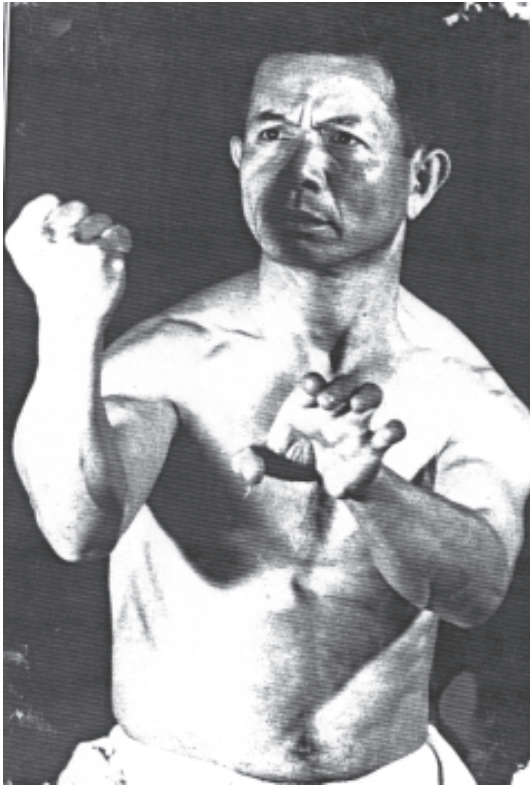
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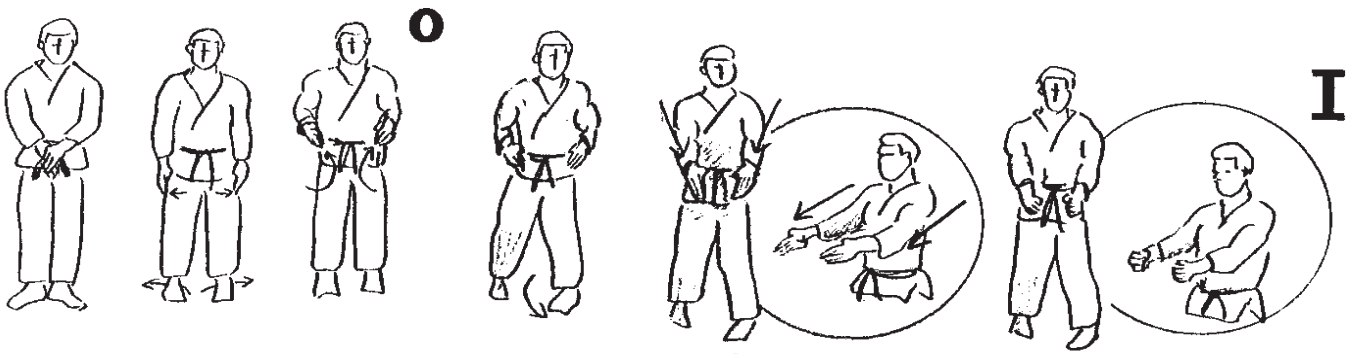
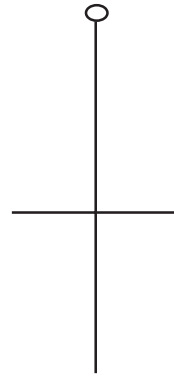


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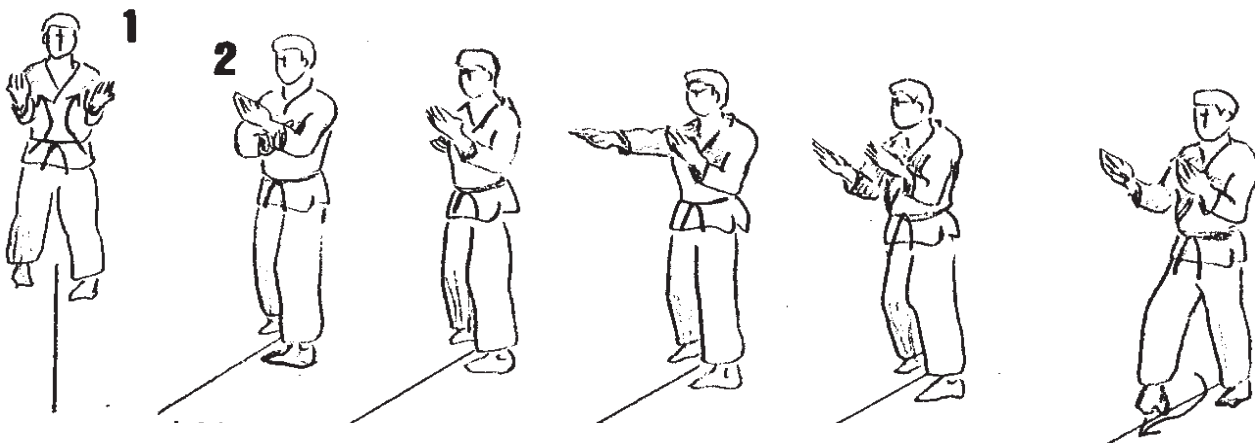


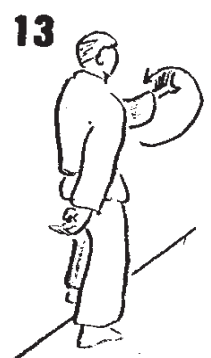
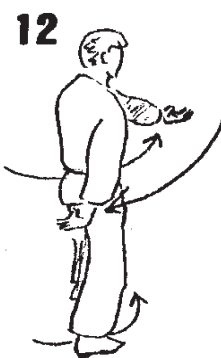
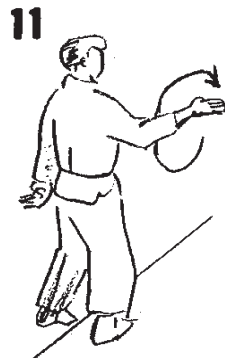
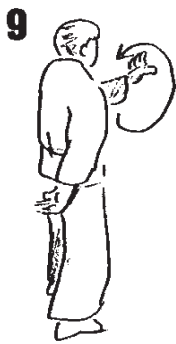
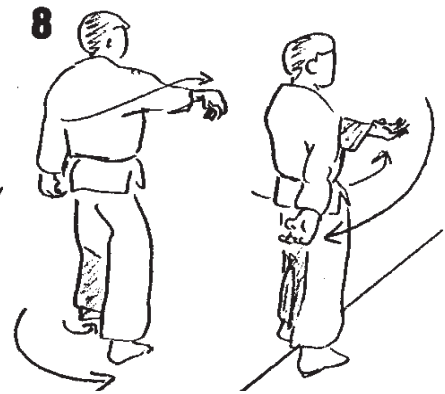
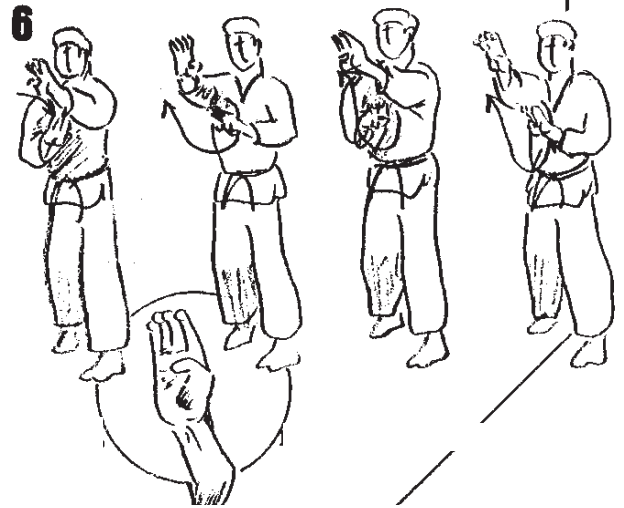
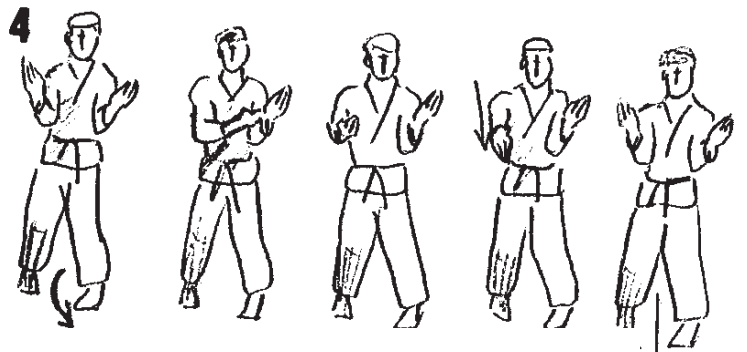
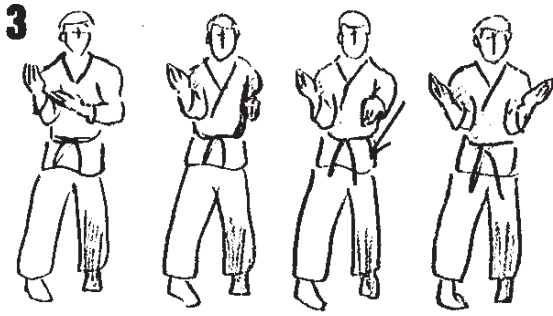
Kanei UECHI performs Uechi Seisan.

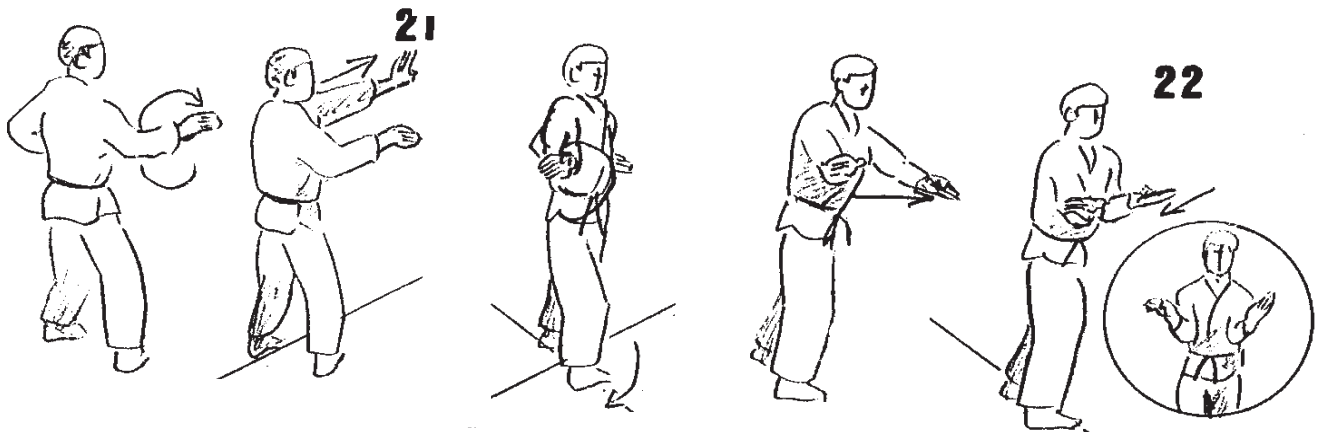
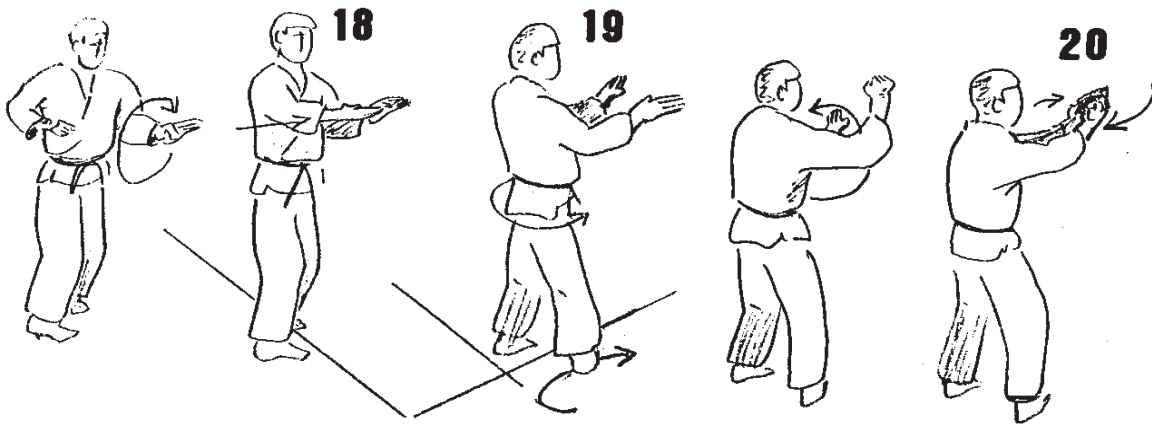
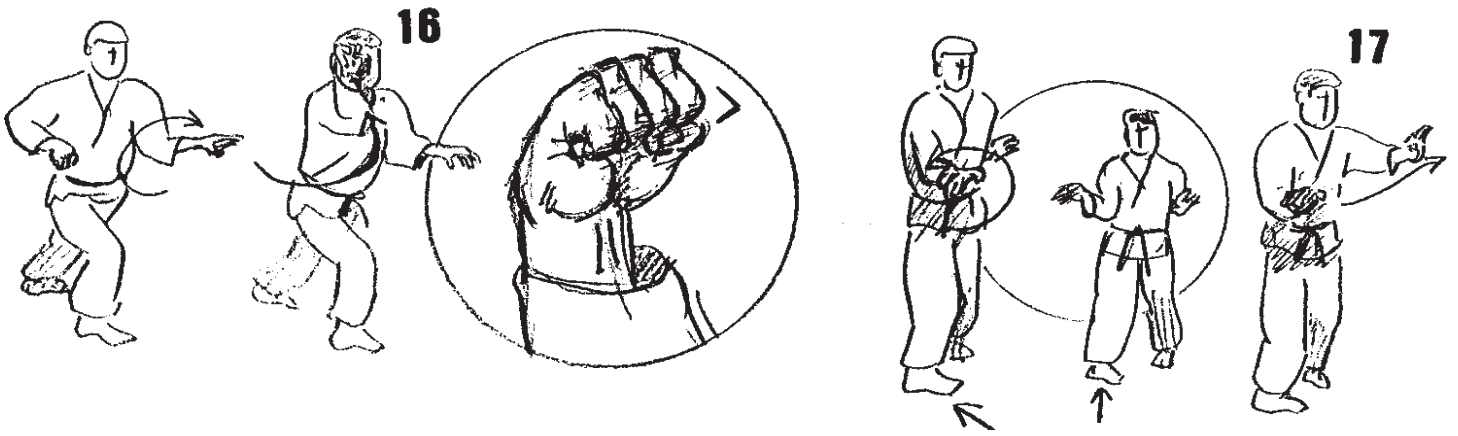
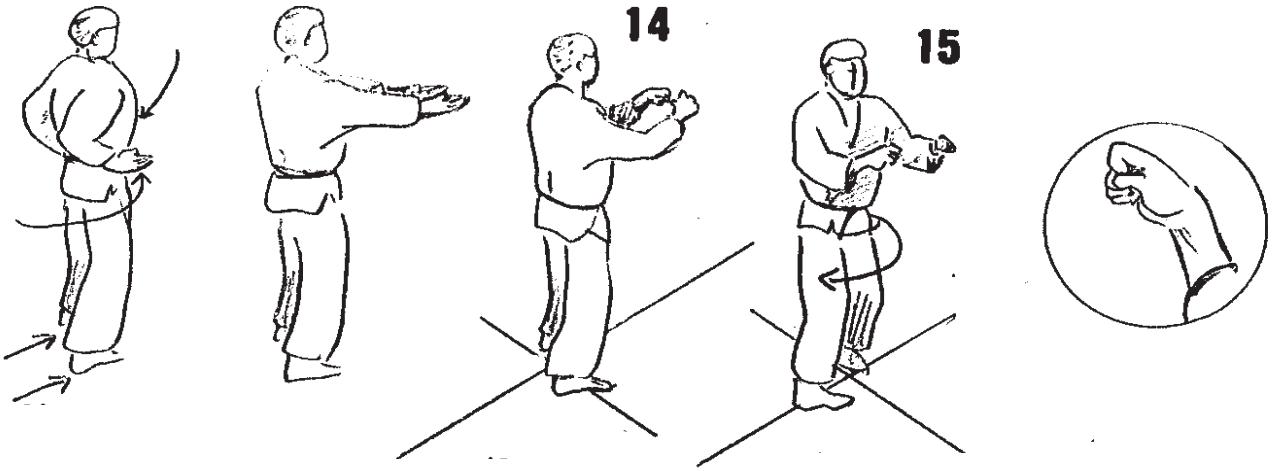
Uechi SEISAN

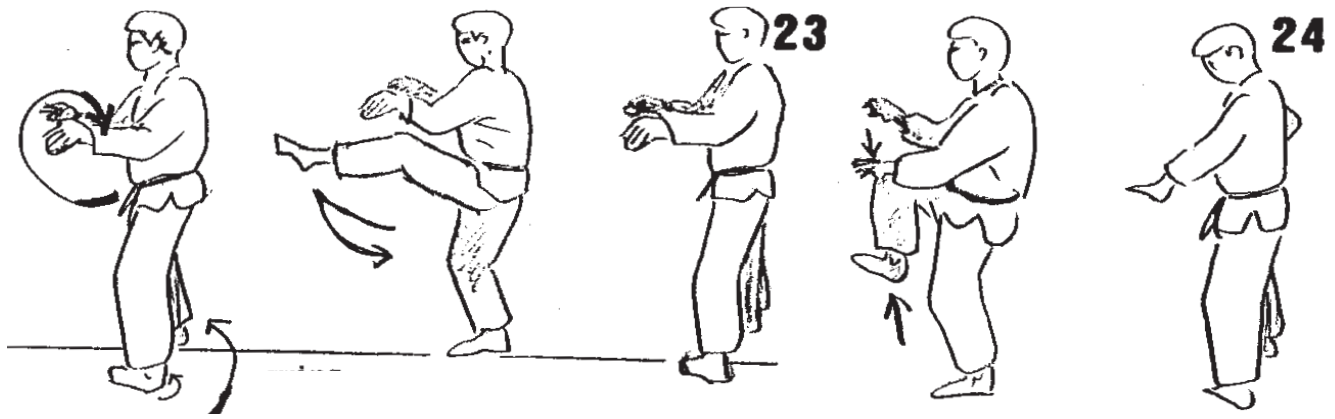


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The Kata line has been turned back to its original orientation for clarity fo viewing.

