

Kenpo Philosophy



The Flame

* The colors that form the circle and the flame itself represent: White for *Beginners*, Brown for *Advanced*, Black for *Expert* and Red for *Master*.

* The three points of the Flame represent the three states of learning: Primitive (The students is learning the techniques and getting their body used to different movements.), Mechanical (Though the student is more proficient and used to the movements, there are still some techniques that require improvement) and Spontaneous (The student is able to move comfortably without delay and their techniques are sharp and fast.)

* The Circle represents the shape of the world, that encircles and controls the Flame. It also symbolizes friendship and brotherhood. Also the circle can represent Life, as a continuous and ever evolving cycle.

* 'If the Flame burns in all the Martial Arts, it will shine every year" It's beauty can be compared to Kenpo... gentle and useful, yet deadly when touched.



The Universal Pattern

* The Universal Pattern of straight and circled lines, represent the way that the human body can move. It was developed by Grand Master Ed Parker.

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* The Kenpo Crest as it is known was created by Dick Tercell in 1960.

* The Tiger: Represents earthly strength derived from the early stages of learning. This is the stage where the individual is more impressed with their own physical prowess.

* The Dragon: Represents spiritual strength which comes with seasoning. This mental attitude is attained during the individuals later years of training. It is placed above earthly strength (as seen on the crest) since the individual at this stage has learned to develop humility and self restraint. It's the intelligence that commands earthly strength.

The attitude of the Dragon is the ultimate goal of Kenpo. Armed with this attitude, an individual will not be afraid of the opponent but of what he can do to the opponent. Thus, he/she walks away from an unwarranted conflict confident that they could have been the victor.

* The Circle: It depicts life itself, a continuous cycle where there is no beginning nor end. It represents the bond of friendship that should continuously exist among martial artist of all disciplines.

* The Circle Dividing Lines: Represent the original eighteen hand movements, which are the directions in which the hand can travel. They are also the angles from which an opponent or you can attack or defend. They form the patten in which the foot can travel.

* The Colors: Represent proficiency, achievement and authority.

The circle is gray because it is symbolic of the brain, since it has always been referred to as gray matter.

The white background is significant of the many beginners who form the base of the Art.

Yellow and Orange represent the first level of proficiency, the dangerous mechanical stage in learning where the student is more impressed with the physical and thinks he knows all of the answers.

Brown, the color of the tiger's eyes, represents the advanced students though not in great number. Also at this level the student becomes more observant. His eyes, like that of the tiger, are keen, ever so watchful and critical, always looking up to the higher levels of proficiency, striving for perfection, preparing for the day he bares the level of an expert. This level of expert proficiency is represented by the color Black.

Red is that of professorship over and above Black but, as indicated by the colors of the dragon, there are still traces of White in the dragon's eyeball, Yellow or Orange on the dragon's fins, brown in the iris of the eyeball, and Black in the pupils of the eyeball. This is to remind the Professor that even he should always be so humble and be able to go back to any level, whatever it might be, and perform the things that he expects of others at these levels so as never to demand too much of his students.

* The Oriental Writing: Is a reminder of the originators of our Art: the Chinese. It is in respect to them but not that we serve them. The lettering to the right means Kenpo Karate, Law of the Fist and the Empty Hand, which is the art we practice. To the left it means Spirit of the Dragon and the Tiger, a constant reminder that we want to attain the spiritual level and that the physical level is only a vehicle we use to reach the higher level.

* The Shape of the Crest: The top of the crest is like a roof which gives shelter to all who are under it. The sides are curved conversely because like the roof of a Chinese home it is to send evil back to where it came from, whenever it tries to descend. The bottom forms the shape of an axe that represents the executioner, it also represents the protection Kenpo offers to its students.

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The 25 concepts of Hawaiian Kenpo Karate: The following list of concepts, are words that every Hawaiian Kenpo Karate student will try to achieve on their road to Black Belt. The student, will also comprehend that many of the concepts are and can be used in their everyday life (At home, school, work and their social life's).

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|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1) Base | 6) Dedication | 11) Execution | 16) Kia | 21) Speed |
| 2) Breathing | 7) Didactic | 12) Expression | 17) Memory | 22) Spirit |
| 3) Concentration | 8) Discipline | 13) Flexibility | 18) Participation | 23) Stance |
| 4) Control | 9) Don't be Nervous | 14) Form | 19) Physical condition | 24) Strength |
| 5) Coordination | 10) Equilibrium | 15) Interest | 20) Rhythm | 25) Teamwork |



Grand Master Bill Ryusaki's patch

- * Plum flower: Represents Durability; for being able to grow in the harshest environments.
- * The Bamboo: Represents the Purity and Flexibility of our art.
- * The Pine Tree: Represents the strength of our art. Also, the Pine Tree in most drawings of the logo, is clearly shown as three distinctive trees. Each tree represents the three powers that humans possess... Physical, Mental and Breathing.
- * The Rising Sun: A tribute to the Eastern Sun (Asia) where our art originated from.
- * The Shape of the Crest: The top of the crest is like a roof which gives shelter to all who are under it. The sides are curved conversely because like the roof of a Chinese home it is to send evil back to where it came from, whenever it tries to descend.
- * Grand Master Bill Ryusaki: Represents the founder of our art... Hawaiian Kenpo Karate.
- * Ryu-Dojo: Was the name that GM Bill Ryusaki used to christen his first school in 1962, which he dedicated to his father Torazo Ryusaki.