

# Bunkan Sokutai

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The Bunkan Sokutai is the formal court outfit of the medieval courtier. It consists primarily of the formal over-robe known as the Hoeki-no-ho, various under-garments, and a collection of formal accessories. Her Ladyship Hara Kikumatsu and I constructed an approximation of this outfit for me to wear as elevation garb. The components of the outfit are:

- Hoeki-no-ho over-robe of black silk brocade. This version for summer is unlined. It has a two-panel body, closed sides, large open sleeves, and a horizontal panel called a “ran” around the bottom hem that creates the “arisaki” wings at the sides.
- Shitagasane middle layer of “suo” color silk with a diamond pattern woven into it. This version of the shitagasane has an attached “kyo” tail that trails behind the wearer or can be hung over the elbow.
- A white kosode of lightweight linen. There should really be at least two more layers between the kosode and shitagsane, but they were elided due to the heat of the day. The “okatabira” over the kosode, and “akome” over the okatabira would add more colors, fill out the hoeki more, and greatly increase the formal appearance of the outfit.
- Below the waist, I wore “sashinuki” style long hakama made from a lightweight orange silk brocade with linen “monpe” as undergarments. These should really be “uenohakama” silk lined hakama pants with red “oguchi” undergarments.
- For footwear, I wore burgundy linen “tabi” foot coverings and formal-style “zori” sandals. These should really have been “shitozu” foot coverings and “asagutsu” formal slippers.
- As accessories, I wore a “sekitai” leather belt with stone placques, an imitation “hirao” ceremonial belt of machine-embroidered ramie fabric, and an antique real “kanmuri” hat. I carried a wooden “shaku” ceremonial baton, and placed folded paper in the overlaps of the hoeki. I could not construct a reasonable “gyotai” fish box to hang from my belt as a symbol of my nobility, and chose to not wear a sword as swords not customary in SCA courts.



I hope to complete this outfit piece by piece as time goes on. I would love to be able to lend the more difficult to acquire parts of this outfit to those who need them for their own ceremonies, and be able to present myself completely properly if such formality is ever required of me again. I have already acquired a reproduction “tachi” ceremonial sword.

# Bunkan Sokutai Examples



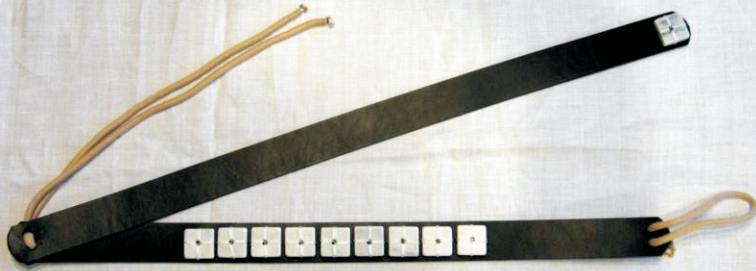
shaku



hirao



sekitai



kanmuri



sashinuki





hoeki-no-ho front



hoeki-no-ho back

shitagasane



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