

Japanese Pull Saws (Dozuki and Kataba)

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Hand Tools



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Japanese pull saws cut on the pull stroke with ultra-thin hardened blades, producing fine kerfs with no set and razor-clean edges. Dozuki saws have a rigid back for precise joinery cuts; kataba blades are backless for general cutting.

Key Features

- Pull-stroke cutting action
- Ultra-thin kerf blades
- Impulse-hardened teeth
- Dozuki (backed) and kataba (backless)
- Replaceable blades in many models

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Cut dovetails, tenons and fine joinery
- Trim veneers and mitres cleanly
- General precise woodcutting
- Cutting without sanding edges

Safe Operation

1. Mark the cut line precisely
2. Start with light pull strokes at the heel
3. Pull long, steady strokes - no push
4. Follow the line with the blade angle
5. Let the teeth cut without forcing

SAFETY NOTES

- Teeth are extremely sharp - handle carefully
- Never use power on a pull saw
- Keep fingers clear of the blade path
- Store with the blade guarded
- Do not use on nails or metal

Maintenance & Consumables

- Clean the blade with a soft cloth
- Oil the blade lightly
- Replace dull or bent blades
- Store in the saw case
- Protect the teeth from knocks

Specification & Buying Notes

A dozuki for joinery and a kataba for general cuts cover most work. Impulse-hardened blades stay sharp without setting. Buy spare blades when available for the model.