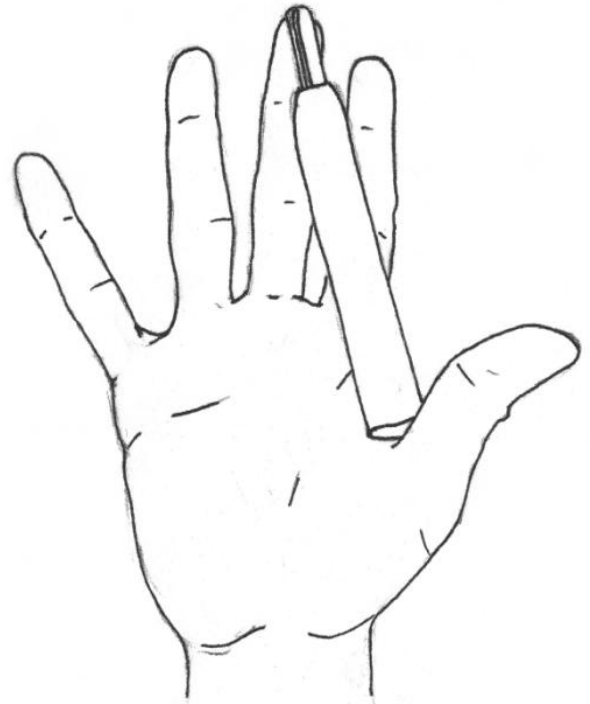


How to Cut Down the Handles of Japanese Tools

1. Place the tip of the blade at the tip of your middle finger and angle the tool toward the web between your first finger and thumb (see illustration). This will become the new length of the tool.
2. Measuring down from the tip of the blade, mark this point on the handle. **If in doubt, cut the handle long; you can always shorten it.**
3. Cut the handle at this mark. The wood is soft, so a small saw like a hack saw will do the job.
4. Sand the rough edges smooth with coarse and then fine sand paper.



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