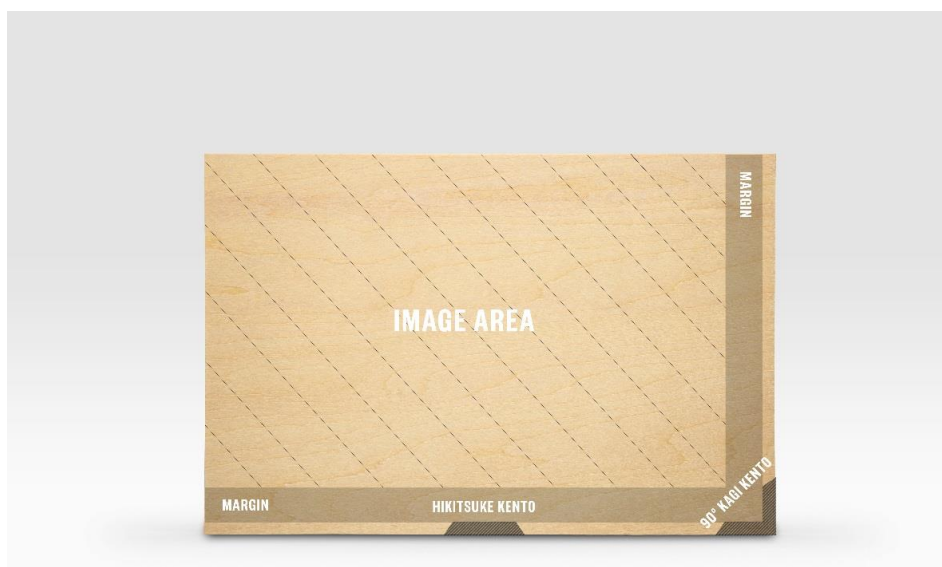


Jackson's



KENTO REGISTRATION TECHNIQUE

Kento 'registration' *Nomi* 'chisel' for the great Japanese innovation of cutting registration marks into the woodblocks. This is an ingeniously simple method invented over 200 years ago to allow for accurate registration of multiple colour blocks.

Two 'stops' are cut into the woodblock using the *kento nomi* chisel. They are used to align the paper before it is dropped down onto the inked surface. One is a 90 degree stop in the bottom right hand corner (or left corner for left handed artists) and the other is a straight sided stop along the bottom.

The kento are traditionally placed when the block is horizontally aligned or landscape format. The reason for this is that it is easier to handle the paper this way round. If the paper is dampened it can become quite floppy and so this orientation makes it more manageable.

To cut the kento first make perpendicular cuts at their inside edge, placing the chisel with the flat side away from centre of the block. Next make a slanting cut at the ends of the kento with the chisel bevel side down. You do not need to remove this wood yet. Next, working towards the outer edge of the kento with the chisel bevel side down, this waste at the kento's ends can be removed. Moving the chisel forward with a gentle swivelling action helps.

For the 90 degree kagi kento the next step will be to cut from the inside towards the kento's perpendicular edge, taking shallow layers and gradually going deeper. The chisel is held chisel side down.

For the straight Hikitsuke kento, work with the chisel lined up alongside the perpendicular inner edge, and slice alongside the hikitsuke kento to create a shallow ledge.

Thus you have two guides against which you align your paper.