

# Shimenawa Rope



No matter which is the actual origin, they are undoubtedly thought to be the boundary between the sacred and the profane, used to ward off diseases and evils. When you see it around a tree a rock or the neck of a Shadow Warrior, that means it is a **Yorishiro** -- an object capable of attracting spirits called Kami. Never cut down such a tree, or challenge a Shadow Warrior in which is believed to be inhabited by spirits, because it's thought to bring the misfortune or Death. This also explains why a Shimenawa is used in Sumo Wrestling to denote the highest rank of sumo because Japanese people believe that the **Yokozuna**-- the highest rank of sumo is a living Yorishiro inhabited by a spirit.

## 6/ TEKKOU GAUNTLET

The Tekkou Gauntlets are made from a tough and durable Twill fabric primarily to keep as much of the arms and hands covered to avoid detection at night. They are also used as a sleeve or under garment to be worn with the Tactical Gauntlets for additional protection and comfort when tying the Gauntlets to the forearm.

## 7/ SHINENAWA ROPE

The shimenawa is a special rope tied around or across an object or space to denote its sanctity or purity. "Shime" means hold or embrace, and "nawa" means rope. It is believed that this twisted rope keeps the impurity away from the kami's place, and is also a protect against evil spirits. Dark arts warriors and shadow warriors can all be identified by this rope, as it is worn around the neck for practical and spiritual protection. The dark arts warriors drape the shemagh scarf over their heads then anchor into position by using the Shimenawa Rope. Shadow warriors use this to banish evil spirits, identification as a Shadow Warrior to others, and to neck restrain challengers or prisoners during the shadow trial if required.

## 8/ TACTICAL SHIN GUARDS

The Tactical Shin Guards are worn over the top of the Kyahan shin wraps and will protect the shin bone and sub-tissues against excessive damage caused by either a glancing blow from katana or fall.

### 8b/ How to wear

You are lacing up the Tactical Shin Guards almost the same way as you would lace up a shoe or boot in a crisscross fashion from bottom to top before placing each guard to your legs. It is easier this way to avoid trying to hold each guard in position with one hand whilst lacing the cord through each eyelet with the other hand, as all you would need to do if pre-laced would be to slide each leg into the Gauntlet like a sock before finishing off the final knot. Once you have one tactical shin guard in place you should have two cords coming through the top eyelets right and left hand side. Holding one in each and pull to secure, then cross each cord over at the rear of the leg above the top of the calf muscle below the knee, then bring the outer cord around the front and passing it through the eyelet at the top of the Tactical Shin Guard and finish by tying an overhand knot followed by a bow at the top inner portion of the Tibia bone at the inside of each leg. ( Remember that it is important to crossing the cord securely at the top of the Calf Muscle to keep the Guard in place during normal practices ).