






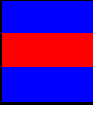





Belt Order and Symbolic Meaning

White Belt		White signifies a birth, or beginning, of a seed. A white belt student is a beginner searching for knowledge of the art.
White Belt w/Yellow Stripe		The yellow stripe signifies the first beam of sunlight which shines upon the seed. Yellow signifies the flooding of sunlight, giving the seed new strength with the beginning of new life. A yellow belt student is given their first ray of knowledge from an instructor, opening their mind.
Yellow Belt		
Yellow Belt w/Green Stripe		The green stripe signifies the growth of the seed as it sprouts from the earth. Green signifies the sprout reaching toward the sun and beginning to grow into a plant. A green belt student learns to further develop and refine their techniques.
Green Belt		
Green Belt w/Blue Stripe		Blue signifies the blue sky as the plant continues to grow toward it. A blue belt student moves up higher in rank just as the plant grows taller. The light feeds the plant so it can continue to grow. The student is fed additional knowledge of the art in order for their body and mind to continue to grow and develop.
Blue Belt		
Blue Belt w/Red Stripe		Red signifies the red-hot heat of the sun as the plant continues to grow toward it. A red belt student is higher in rank, they acquire more detailed knowledge and, just as the plant grows slowly toward the sun, so the red belt student learns to be more cautious as their knowledge and physical abilities increase.
Red Belt		
Red Belt w/Black Stripe		Black signifies the darkness beyond the sun. A black belt seeks new knowledge of the art and is no longer afraid of the dark. As they begin to teach others, they begin planting new seeds (their students), many of which will take root deep into the art, blossom and grow through the ranks in a never-ending process of self-growth, knowledge and enlightenment.
Black Belt		

Historically, there were no colored belts. A white belt was utilized, and was susceptible to staining from sweat, dirt and blood as the martial artist gained valuable experience (and knowledge). The belt was never washed, in order to preserve one's "Qi" and not wash it away. Eventually, the belt would begin to fray and would again become white, representing a student whose training had come full circle.