

Hapkido Brisbane

Personal growth through Gradings.

Belt colours are associated with the level of one's skill in Hapkido. Students move from one rank to another by testing with their teacher. Tests focus on everything that the student learned up to their last test, plus everything new the instructor has been teaching them since, ensuring the student is constantly building on his/her skill set. When a student passes, they move on to the next rank

A lot of emphasis has been placed on "Black Belts". Students progress through the ranks and ultimately achieve a black belt...the highest rank achievable by a student. If the student wishes, they can begin to progress through the teaching ranks known as "Dan's". Once you reach your 4th Dan you are considered a teacher. My schools will have their black belt students, who have not yet achieved their 4th Dan, assist in teaching classes so that they gain experience (much like a student teacher).

Where did the idea come from?

There are many theories why we use belts as a ranking system and where the concept of using belts came from.

The Belt Getting Dirty Theory

One theory, known as "the belt getting dirty" can be considered as a martial arts folklore. When new students started their training they were given the rank of white belt, signifying a birth or beginning. Students were not allowed to wash their belts, therefore the belt would "get dirty" the more they practiced. In time the belt would become black, signifying the amount of time the student spent practicing and typically their level of skill.

Attaining a black belt or a similar ranking does not signify the end of your training, rather the beginning. It shows the maturity of a student.

The colour of the belts used is by no means merely some random selection of colours to distinguish the different ranks. Each belt colour has a meaning symbolizing advancement and increased awareness.

The colour belt system is not just a representation of rank advancement, it is also an acknowledgement of individual personal growth. Such advancement signifies not only growth within the dojang (training hall), but that of positive character and growth outside of the dojang.

The interpretation of the belt colours, which follows, is but one of many possible meanings. For example, the colour blue could represent the water, as opposed to the sky, which the plant receives in order to continue to grow.

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White signifies a birth, or beginning, of a seed. A white belt student is a beginner searching for knowledge of the Art.

Yellow signifies the first beam of sunlight which shines upon the seed giving it new strength with the beginning of new life. A yellow belt student is given his/her first ray of knowledge, opening his mind, from an instructor.

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 his/her body and mind continue to grow and develop.

Red signifies the red-hot heat of the Sun as the plant continues growing toward it. A red belt student is higher in rank, he/she acquires more detailed knowledge and, just as the plant grows slowly toward the sun, so the red belt student learns to be more cautious as his/her knowledge and physical abilities increase.

Black signifies the darkness beyond the Sun. A black belt seeks new knowledge of the Art. As he/she begins to teach others, he/she begins planting new seeds, his/her 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.

Grading: Colour Belt, **\$70** per person (sorry, family discount does NOT apply)