

This article was written by my good friend and Harimau Berantai teacher Maha Guru Jak Othman. It focuses on kapak kecil, a weapon used in the Java Berantai silat style. Although the Minangkabau Harimau silat system does not traditionally use this weapon within its teachings, the knowledge Guru Jak shares in his writings is of great worth to any *pesilat* (silat player) no matter what the fighting style.

A pesilat should be able to adapt their art to use any weapon. The *kapak kecil* is a very effective fighting tool in mid and close range - the handle is used in trapping and striking, whilst the blades for hacking and punching your opponent. Using your

langkah

(footwork) and

kelekan

(body angling) to avoid attacks from your opponent helps utilize the

kapak

to its full effect, targeting the ribs, chest, neck and head.

Read and learn as knowledge never decreases when shared.

—Pendekar Scott McQuaid



Kapak Kecil

By Guru Jak Othman

While the world is still amazed by the effectiveness of the *kerambit*, there are many more silat weapons still unknown to the rest of the world. I would like to introduce you to a cute little tool, but deadly in the hands of a silat expert. This little one is called

kapak kecil

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kapak

literally means axe and

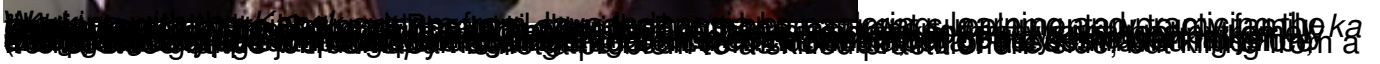
kecil

is small or mini.

The axe has been a tool of farming and combat for thousands of years. Since man knew how to put wood and stone together, the axe was born. The early Malay models are called '*beliung*'.

Anywhere around the world, the axe started as a farming tool. Later it gets bigger, heavier and sharper as it progress towards becoming a weapon of destruction.

The art of the axe fighting progressed and evolved along the evolution of its shape and size of becoming a feared long and mid range weapon. Certainly, a choice for big and strong warriors, they were the axe men that terrorized the world in many battles throughout the centuries before the arrival of firearms.





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