

Samurai C-330-LH and GC-330-LH saws

Woodland warriors give 'hai' marks to a pair of Samurai saws, by **Johnny Morris**

Whoosh! A neatly cut branch from my catalpa tree whizzed past my ear and crashed to the ground just as I was about to straighten the ladder for the start of the pruning action. 'Sorry!' shouted my friend Topo from up on high. 'This thing is super speedy.'

I was testing out two Samurai style saws and I had enlisted my good friend Raden Topo Wresniwiro to try them while giving my Indian bean tree a much-needed trim. As well as being a trained gardener, Topo is a film actor who is usually cast as the mysterious Asian villain or a wise kung fu master. The Japanese tools certainly suited his oriental style. As he pulled the curved saw from its scabbard, his transformation into suburban Samurai warrior was complete.

It turns out that Topo could get through the unwanted branches in double quick time because of the saw's special 'impulse hardened' teeth. In layman's language this means that the teeth are toughened with intense localised heat that leaves the carbon steel of the rest of the blade very flexible. Allegedly this technique, together with an efficient geometrical design, means that the blade remains sharp three times longer than conventional saws. Samurai Saws are made by Kanazawa, a family firm that has been producing arborist tools since the 1900 and is based in Miki City, an area of Japan that has been mastering metal work since 1600. Plenty of time to perfect their products, then.

Topo found the sturdy (plastic) scabbard useful in protecting himself against the sharp teeth as he clambered in the catalpa. There was only one tricky moment when his belt loop slipped round and he found himself returning his saw to a scabbard swinging right between his legs. Resisting hara-kiri jokes, I closed my eyes and hoped the steely blade had found a safe home.

He liked the pistol grip of the rubber handle and preferred the greater flexibility and lighter feel of the GC-330 over the more solid C-330. (Surely the makers could come up with less robotic labels for these distinguished tools? Even bookcases have

names these days.)

With the super sharp tools we whizzed through the pruning job and Topo was set to leave early. 'Just one thing,' I suggested as he headed for the door, 'Best put the tool away in your bag, Topo.' Wearing a Samurai pull saw on your belt to the local pub is probably not a good idea.

Fact box:

Samurai saws are manufactured from SK-5 high carbon steel.

Samurai GC-330-LH comes in two lengths, 270mm (£31.99) and 300mm (£35.99). The saw features a precision ground blade with even taper from the teeth to the back of the blade, meaning teeth do not need to be set. The thinner cut promotes faster cutting. Replacement blades available (£21.99 and £23.99 respectively).

Samurai C-330-LH (£31.99) features set teeth and thicker blade, making it an efficient heavy-duty saw. Replacement blades available (£17.99).

Both scabbards feature flexible, detachable belt loop.

All prices include VAT and postage/packaging.

■ www.samuraisaws.co.uk, 07505042382
■ www.videoproductionar.com

Topo Wresniwiro is currently appearing as Master Hamir in the new Marvel blockbuster *Dr Strange* and in gardens throughout southeast London. raden.topo@gmail.com

