

Hand-Forged Samurai-Inspired Knife Launches on Kickstarter to Preserve 600-Year Japanese Craft Tradition

WATO brings Sakai's legendary blade-making heritage into modern kitchens while supporting the future of artisan craftsmanship



Mizuho, Tokyo Mar 26, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - A new Kickstarter campaign is bringing centuries-old Japanese craftsmanship into the spotlight with the launch of WATO, a hand-forged kitchen knife inspired by the precision and legacy of samurai-era blades.

Developed in collaboration with master artisans from Sakai, Japan, widely recognized as the historic center of Japanese knife-making, WATO represents a fusion of heritage and modern culinary performance. Each blade is individually handcrafted using traditional forging techniques passed down through generations.

But beyond its functionality, the project carries a deeper purpose.

As Japan's traditional blacksmithing industry faces decline due to an aging workforce and lack of successors, WATO aims to help preserve this cultural heritage by connecting global audiences directly with skilled artisans.

"We didn't just want to create another knife," the creators explain. "We wanted to honor a legacy and

ensure that this level of craftsmanship continues to exist for future generations.”

The knife features a carefully balanced design, premium materials, and a distinctive hand-forged structure that emphasizes precision, durability, and control. Unlike mass-produced alternatives, WATO is being offered in limited quantities, reinforcing its authenticity and artisanal value.

The campaign has already begun attracting attention from culinary professionals and high-end hospitality spaces, highlighting its appeal beyond home kitchens.

The WATO Kickstarter campaign is now live. Early supporters can access exclusive pricing and limited handcrafted pieces at:

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/actress-nine/watothe-hand-forged-samurai-knife-that-reimagines-the-rela>

About Actress Nine:

Actress Nine is a creator-driven brand focused on developing design-led products that bridge traditional craftsmanship and modern innovation. By collaborating with skilled artisans globally, the brand seeks to preserve heritage techniques while introducing them to contemporary audiences through meaningful, high-quality creations.



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