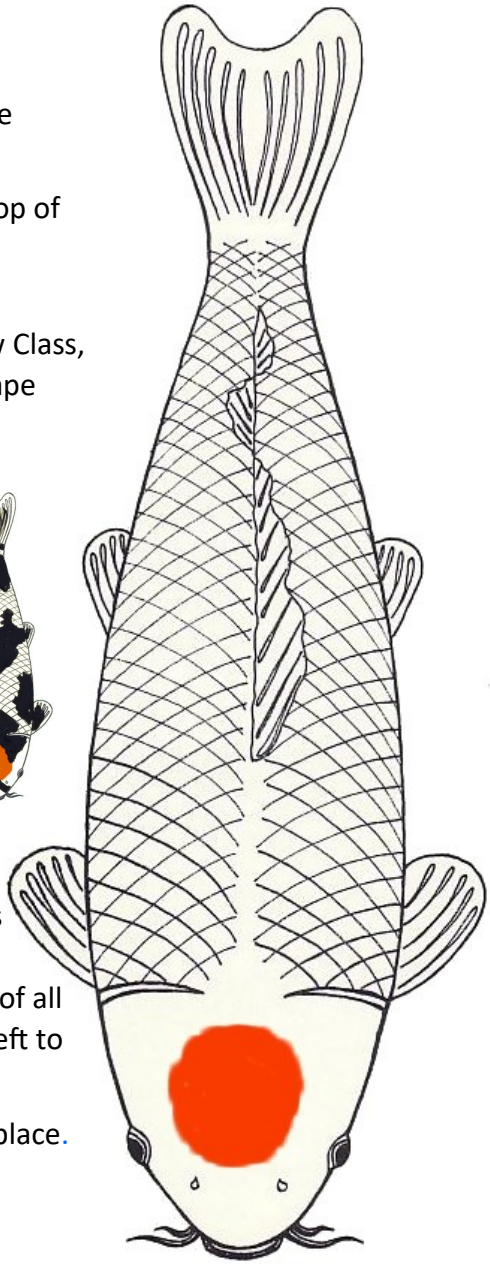
Fact sheets. Nishikigoi and Shows.

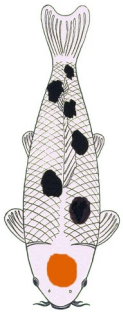
12. Tancho.



Tancho is a Show Class reserved for Go-sanke varieties where the sole beni pattern is located in the middle of the head.

Named after the Tancho Crane, a bird that has a red pattern on the top of its' head. The Tancho group are popular in Japan because of their resemblance to the national flag.

Although the "Tancho Spot" is an essential characteristic of this Show Class, it is not the most important feature. In Tancho appreciation. bodyshape and skin quality are never more important than they are here.

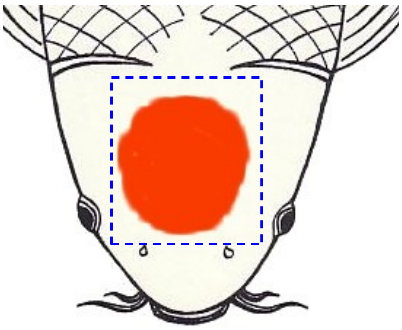


It is equally important to recognise that the " Tancho Spot" is not to be considered as part of the pattern. Pattern is only relevant in the Tancho Showa and Tancho Sanke varieities.



"Position versus the "Perfect Circle".

The Tancho Spot should ideally be located centrally within an imaginary box on the head. Between the eyes, the nostrils and the shoulder area. Next in importance is the shape. It must have symmetry. Therefore "hearts, shields, kites and squares are equally acceptable.



However the most symmetrical shape of all is the circle, it having symmetry both left to right and front to back.

But first of all—it must be in the right place.

Tancho terminology.

There is a Japanese term for the different types of head spots.

HATA TANCHO = Heart shaped.
HI NO MARU = Circle
HISHIGATA = Diamond
JUJI = Cross shaped
KAKUTAN = Square
UMEBACHI = Plum or Shield shaped.

NOTE: To demonstrate the Society's commitment to the Animal Welfare Act regarding mutilation; the BKKS JSC does not demerit Tancho patterns that stray from the head.

However, there has to be a limit. That limit is "no more than two lines of scales", Any further intrusion onto the body will be benched as Kohaku, Sanke or Showa.

Author: Christine Woolger , updated 2024.