

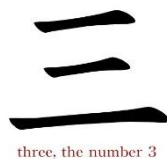
System of Rank

The promotional scale is divided in to 19 ranks, 10 grades (Kups) and 9 degrees (Dans).

The Kups begin with the 10th grade, the lowest, and ends at 1st grade. Degrees begin with the first degree and end with the ultimate, 9th Degree.

There is significance in the numbering system. With degrees, the number 9 is not only the highest one among single digit numbers, but also is the number 3, multiplied by 3.

In the Orient, 3 is the most esteemed of all the numbers. The Chinese character representing 3 is written,



three, the number 3

The upper line symbolises the heaven; the middle line, mortals; and the bottom line, earth.

It was believed that the individual who was successful in promoting his country, fellow man, and God, and able to reach an accord with all three, would aspire to become King, which was written thusly:



The Chinese character for '3' and 'King' are nearly synonymous. When the number 3 is multiplied by itself, the equation is 9, the highest of the high; therefore, 9th Degree is the highest of the high-ranking belts.

Taking the use of the number 3 one step further, the nine degrees are further divided into three distinct classes.

1st – 3rd Dan – the novice stages of black belt

4th – 6th Dan – enters the expert class

7th – 9th Dan – Tae Kwon do Masters – the elite who fully understand the particulars of Tae Kwon do.

It is worth noting that within the TAGB, you are classed as a Master from 6th – 8th Dan and a Grand Master at 9th Dan.