



YODA

Yoda's debut scene in *Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back* is intentionally confounding for both moviegoers and the movie's protagonist Luke Skywalker. Could this wrinkled gnome actually be a mighty Jedi Master? Yoda's teachings even emphasize the value of pacifism, as he states: "Wars not make one great!"

But even Yoda will fight if he has to, as audiences discover when he finally reveals his own lightsaber in *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*. In a short but frenetic scene, Yoda trounces Count Dooku in a blur of acrobatics and a flurry of saber strikes. In *Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith*, he puts up a noble—but ultimately ill-fated—fight against Darth Sidious.

Closer examination of Yoda's lightsaber reveals both the hilt and the blade to be smaller than most, more akin to a *shoto* blade that lightsaber users sometimes wield in their non-dominant hand. Its size, of course, makes it perfectly scaled to Yoda's frame, and the Jedi Master conceals the weapon in the folds of his robe rather than hanging it conspicuously from his belt.

Black handgrips and a black sleeve surrounding the activator stand out against the silver body of the main cylinder, which bears the many scratches and scuffs accrued during Yoda's long career.

