

Slicing Checks and Blocks

by
Keith Pascal



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And you should do a lot of your own research too.

Remember, often secondary cuts, in the eyes of the law, constitute an attack. By responding to an attack with a cut of your own, you could be moving out of the realm of *self defense*.

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Knife Bonus

Slicing Checks and Blocks

Do you know why it's dangerous to block with your hand, wrist or arm in a knife fight? (Photo 1)



The title of this bonus ebook clues you in to a very real danger. If you block an attack, whatever you use to block the thrust or slice, could get cut. The attacker could withdraw the blade as soon as contact with the arm is felt. Slice. (Photo 2)



A slight pull-back with the knife, and teh guy on the left could lose thumb, hand, or even his ...watch. (Photo 3)



To some, pull back on the check hand is a sneaky maneuver. But guess what! It works.

So, how can you use the idea of cutting a blocking hand? If you cut the blocking hand, doesn't that mean you are the attacker?

Not necessarily.

If You're Not Attacking, When Do You Use This Move?

Think of this move as your "out" if anyone blocks your counterattack.

If you have already practiced some of the exercises in **10 Days to Better Knife Fighting**, then you know the feeling of the Slash and Thrust drills.

Your partner attacks you. Stop the blade with your knife. Check with your other hand as you slice, and stab or slice in as a second counter to the check with your blade.
(Photos 4,5, and 6)



Everything is going as it should, except ... your partner blocks your thrust. Bam — you immediately draw your blade back across the blocking hand, wrist or arm.

This is a great tactic, if used correctly. We'll deal with a few important considerations in the following exercises....

Bad Technique, On Purpose

If both you and your partner are efficient Slash and Thrusters, then you may never get a chance to slice a block or a check. Why?

Well, first of all, if you both perform the drill correctly, then your initial check is always with the blade of the knife. Slicing across the knife may look good in the action movies, but it won't end the fight in a real encounter. (Photo 7)



The second reason you may never reach the point of cutting a block is that both of your secondary checks might not allow the back slice. The check might so smoothly replace the knife check, that you don't realize there exists a new opportunity to cut.

Also, angles change -- you could pull back your knife, only to find that your opponent's wrist is no longer there. (Photo 8)



If it's so hard to get this move in, why are we practicing it?

Remember, I said *if* you are performing the Slash and Thrust drill correctly? Well, most people don't know the drill, and many who do know it, don't know this variation.

So, *yes* it's worth practicing. To make the exercise work, let's create an error ... or two.

Blocking With the Hand

Have your partner stab at you. Stop the thrust with your blade, and then counter with your own stab.

At this point, your partner would normally stop the thrust of your blade with his or her own blade. Instead, have your partner block with the hand, wrist, or arm. (Photo 9)



As soon as you feel the block, pull your practice knife back, and try to slice whatever blocked your thrust.

Continue this as a drill. Your partner always blocks with an arm, while you play the traditional Slash and Thrust —with the addition of the extra slice across some skin.

Try the routine slowly at first. You'll be able to make it work — even with the extra movement of the Slash.

Be sure to give your partner equal time — you don't want him or her lose the good habit of checking with the knife blade.

Dragging the Check Hand

The other point in the exercise where you could slash the check hand is after your partner performs the knife check and then replaces pressure with his or her hand. He begins by responding to your stab with a blade stop/slice on your wrist.(Photos 10)



As he replace the knife with his check hand, you pull your knife back a little, slicing his hand. (Photo 11)



If you perform the sequence with the proper timing , your partner won't have the opportunity to slice your check and, or vice versa. It doesn't stay there long.

So, for the purpose of the exercise, one of you should maintain pressure with your hand. Leave the check hand there long enough, and with enough pressure, so your partner can slice back against the empty hand or arm.

Remember, this is only an exercise. In real life, don't give the other person the opportunity.

The Blocking Game

Would you like to make the exercise easier to practice. let's take it back to its basic form. This may give you a better idea of exactly what were dealing with.

Stand in front of your partner in a neutral position. Stand far enough apart thwat you have to reach in for the stab. These guys are standing too lclose. One should take a step back, first.(Photo 12)

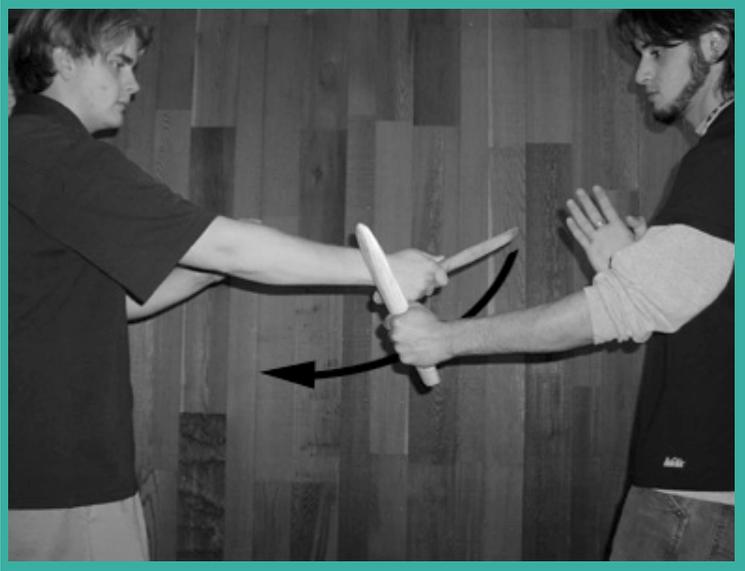


Stab at your partner with your practice blade. (Photo 13)



Have your partner try to check before your blade scores.

As soon as you feel the check, pull your knife back three or four inches. Try to slice any skin you can reach the inside of the wrist would be nice. (Photo 14)



As previously discussed in **10 Days to Better Knife Fighting**, you may have to twist your blade a little, in order to slice with the cutting edge.

Make a game out of it.

How fast can you stab in? Make it a challenging distance for both of you. Be fair. Don't start too close.

Can you stab in before your partner can check?

And now, drum roll, please can you slice the block with your knife, before your partner recoils from the block?

It gets harder for you too slice, as your partner starts to anticipate and make the blocks shorter and shorter.

(Hmmm)

Both Sides of The Coin

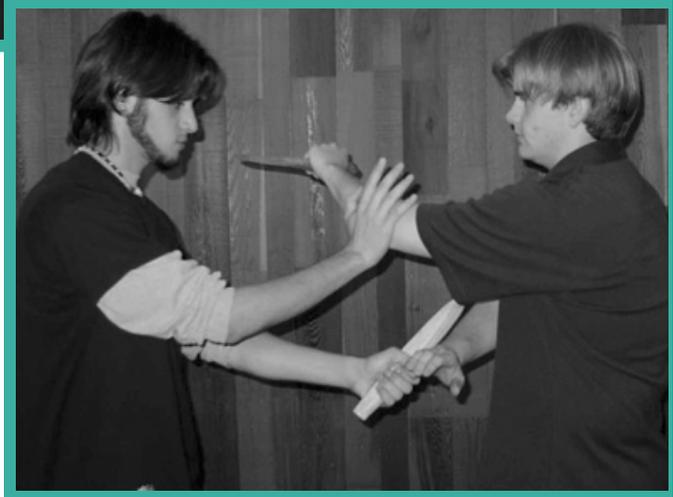
I hope you are considering both sides of the coin with this tactic. By now, you should be asking yourself, "How long is a reasonable amount of time for me to check my opponent's hand without my own hand getting sliced?"

That's a great question.

It shows you that this ebook offers a double benefit. Not only do you learn a tactic for slicing your opponent's block or check, but you may teach yourself how to avoid having your own check hand cut.

It's time to go back to square one. Practice the Basic Slash and Thrust. Perform the exercise slowly. And I do mean s-l-o-w-l-y.

You check with your knife. As you slice with the knife on that check, check with your other hand. The purpose of the check is to prevent you from getting a knife in the face. (Photos 15 and 16)



So, your check replaces the pressure of the knife. Your check shouldn't have to be there long. Why?

Because by now, the knife has found its next target — the other hand.

Remember, you can always check back to the same arm — this is another way to keep the knife out of your face.

For ways to keep the knife moving with continuous hits, and a method to continue slicing the same arm, see The Figure Eight Pattern in 10 Days to Better Knife Fighting.



Conclusion

Try adding this slice technique for awhile. You'll feel as though, pardon the pun, you have an extra edge in your repertoire.

Also, consider using the marker technique from 10 Days to Better Knife Fighting. A little chalk or make-up on the wrist or inner arm, could convince you to change the way you check with your secondary hand.

If you have difficulties with the timing of your check hand, write me. I'll try to offer a suggestion or two.

Keith Pascal

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If you stay honest, I'll continue writing practical martial arts information.

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