

Mini-Knife Tip #3

Keeping the Forward Hand Still in a Fight

by Keith Pascal

Lance from Canada wants to know why I recommend not keeping the hand moving as a basic rule in a knife fight.

He refers to an old Black Belt article where Jerry Poteet, an original Bruce Lee student, keeps the hand moving in the context of the hammer principle.

I would have to see the article, to see how the continuous motion is being used. I have a feeling that he's talking about the natural motion involved in executing the hammer principle and not constant motion throughout the fight. But again, I would need to see the reference.

Let's talk about waving the knife in front of you in a fight.

I didn't say you couldn't. Never say never. You have to think about the why of the hand movement. Don't just slice the air with no purpose.

I am suggesting you have a good reason:

- * You are imposing rhythm on the encounter
- * You are matching rhythm of you attacker's motion before you interrupt the rhythm

* You are misdirecting — pay attention to the flashy moving knife while I throw this handful of change in your face with my other hand

* You are testing, without committing, for a specific reaction

I am sure there are a bunch of other reasons too.

Yes, you can move your blade ... IF you have a purpose.

Just being flashy and trying to scare or confuse your opponent doesn't "cut it." Or, actually, YOU'LL be the one to get cut.

Know why you are moving, before you move. And for heaven's sake, don't wave it wildly back and forth, without purpose, while in range of your attacker's knife.

