

MEYER DAGGER PLAYS

Version 2

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“In sum, grappling is extremely important with the dagger, and grips are executed not only with one hand but also with both hands.”

Methods of parrying

1. With dagger hand [236]
 - a. Hanging dagger (inside)
 - b. Hanging dagger (outside)
 - c. Horizontal dagger (sometimes with blade along forearm, sometimes with the blade held out from the forearm)
 - d. Strike away with the pommel
 2. With L hand
 - a. Straight hand (little finger toward elbow)
 - b. Reverse hand (thumb toward elbow)
 - c. Striking away
 3. Meyer often advises to “parry strongly.”
- a. R foot forward
 - b. Thrust over A’s hand (hanging dagger) from inside, pinch wrist, pull to your R.
 - c. Strike his face with pommel
 - d. Withdraw to L shoulder and stab from L
 - i. If he blocks the strike go up and around the head and strike from the right.
 - ii. Finish with thrust from above at his face.

The guards

1. High guard [235] — dagger up before your face
 2. Cross guard — hold hands crosswise with the R over the L, the dagger lying on your arm. [237]
 3. Low guard [236] — R foot forward, dagger by your L thigh so that the point stands toward your opponent’s face
 4. Middle guard [236] — hold the dagger to the side at the level of your belt or else straight before you
2. Thrust from above [3.2r.1]
 - a. R foot forward
 - b. Defender thrusts over A’s arm (hanging dagger) inside, turning counter-clockwise
 - c. Pinch A’s hand between dagger and forearm
 - d. Pull A’s hand to the R
 - e. Bring your dagger to L shoulder and thrust at his face over his right arm.
 - f. Then thrust to his chest from your R
 3. Thrust from above [3.2r.1]
 - a. Parry from your R against inside of his wrist (hanging dagger), strongly
 - b. Force his arm downward to your L
 - c. Stab from your L to his face from outside and over his right arm

Thrust from above

1. Thrust from above [3.lr.1]

- diagonally
- d. Summary:
 - i. Hanging dagger inside, push to L
 - ii. Strike from L over his arm at his face
 4. Perform both the preceding against a thrust to your right side as well. 235
 5. You can also overreach from the high guard if he thrusts at you from either L or R and misses.
 6. Thrust from above [3.2v.1]
 - a. Lie in low guard
 - b. Step to L
 - c. Hanging dagger outside, force his arm down
 - d. Pommel to his face then thrust at his face
 7. Thrust from above [3.2v.2]
 - a. Lie in low guard
 - b. Horizontal dagger
 - c. Force his hand to our L from inside
 - d. Thrust to face
 8. Thrust from above [3.3r.1]
 - a. Stand in high guard with L hand before chest
 - b. Reverse hand parry with L, twist away to L
 - c. Strike his elbow
 9. Thrust from above [3.3r.2]
 - a. Reverse hand parry with L, push his hand up and back.
 - b. Apply upper key (shiho)
 - i. Stepping through with R leg
 10. Thrust from above [3.3r.3]
 - a. Lie in low guard w/ dagger in horizontal position “on your right arm”
 - b. Horizontal dagger parry with R, springing under his thrust
 - c. Seize his elbow with L hand, push away
 - d. Attack targets of opportunity
 11. Thrust from above [3.4r.1]
 - a. Lie in cross guard
 - b. Parry with crossed hands, seize arm w/ L reverse hand, springing under thrust
 - c. Twist “rapidly and forcefully away from you”
 - d. At same time, strike at him from above, slashing through with dagger, then afterwards across through his face and arm after he has wrenched his arm away.
 12. Thrust from above [3.4r.2]
 - a. Lie in cross guard
 - b. Parry with crossed hands, seize arm w/ L reverse hand
 - c. Bring your pommel up between his hands and strike from above
 13. Thrust from above [3.4v1]
 - a. Parry with crossed hands in horizontal dagger¹, L over R
 - b. Seize dagger with reverse L hand. “Break it out of his grasp up toward his right shoulder.”
 - c. Bring R hand well outside over his right so that if you cannot take

¹ Meyer says “your horizontal dagger lying along your arm”

- dagger, you can do back-heel
14. Thrust from above [3.4v.2]
 - a. Crossed hands parry, R over L
 - b. Seize with L reverse hand
 - c. Strike under his arm at ribs
 - d. Pull back under your L arm and thrust from below at his R arm
 15. Thrust from above [3.4v.3]
 - a. Hanging dagger outside parry (thrusting over his arm)
 - b. Pinch his arm
 - c. Turn clockwise, pull his R arm down
 - d. Pressing arm lock
 16. Thrust from above [3.5v.1]
 - a. Hanging dagger outside parry
 - b. Step behind his R leg with your L
 - c. Grasp his L shoulder, and irimi takedown (over the leg)
 17. Thrust from above [3.5v.2]
 - a. L straight grip parry; twist his hand in an arc down toward your right
 - b. Grip blade and disarm
 18. Thrust from above [3.6r.3]
 - a. Cover with L hand (unclear whether in reverse or straight)
 - b. Step with R foot toward him
 - c. Wrench with pommel outside over his R arm strongly down toward your right, releasing with your L hand
 - d. Thrust to face with back step
 19. Thrust from above [3.7r.1]
 - a. Go up with horizontal dagger lying on your arm; push up against his blow
 - b. Follow with L hand; push up
 - c. Hold of his R arm with your L
 - d. Thrust at his face from above
 20. Thrust from above [3.8v.1]
 - a. Crossed hands cover R over L
 - b. Grip hard with L reverse hand, twist up and away
 - c. Step your R leg behind his R
 - d. Fall with your R hand on his throat and throw him (back-heel)
 21. Any thrust to throat [3.8v.4]
 - a. Standing L foot forward, L hand on chest
 - b. Catch with L reverse hand, parrying strongly
 - c. With R hand reach through underneath and behind his elbow around his R arm
 - d. Step in front with R leg
 - e. Turn self around and throw, seoi-tai-otoshi (short hip)
 22. Thrust from above [3.r.1]
 - a. Arm wrap to overbind w/ L hand
 - b. Grasp his elbow with your R hand and lift, break arm
 23. Thrust from above [3.9v.2]
 - a. Parry strongly with L reverse hand from your chest, remain high and strong in the parrying
 - b. Execute upper ligadura (shiho)
 - c. Note that when he is in this position, you can take his dagger with your L hand
 24. Thrust from above [3.9v.3]
 - a. Parry with R hand

- b. As soon as you have parried, go right around over his arm so that your L hand comes to your chest
 - c. Press his elbow to your chest (waki gatame?)
25. Thrust from above [3.9v.4]
- a. You are unarmed
 - b. Parry strongly with R reverse hand
 - c. Pressing arm lock
26. Thrust from above [3.10v.1]
- a. You are unarmed
 - b. L reverse hand, catch his hand behind wrist
 - c. Step through with R foot.
 - d. Bring R arm under his and break his arm in crook of your R arm
27. Thrust from above [3.11r.2]
- a. L arm overbinds to locked wing
- Thrust from below**
1. Thrust from below [3.4r.3]
- a. Parry with horizontal dagger, seize his arm with your L hand
 - b. Pommel strike face
 - c. Thrust from R inside to his face
 - d. Finish with cross thrusts
2. Thrust from below [3.5v.2]
- a. L straight grip parry
 - b. Disarm
3. Thrust from below [3.8r.1]
- a. Parry thrust with your dagger on his hand
 - b. As you parry, grip with L hand by the wrist
 - c. Jerk his arm to your chest with both hands
 - d. Swing quickly to your R, break arm
4. Thrust from below [3.8r.2]
- a. Parry thrust with your dagger on his hand
 - b. As you parry, grip with L hand by the wrist
 - c. Jerk his arm away from him, upward and to your right side
 - d. Break his arm over your L shoulder
 - e. Counter [3.8r.3]:
 - i. Turn and jerk your elbow upward and send it over his head around his neck onto right shoulder
 - ii. Grip his throat with your L hand
 - iii. Set R foot on back of his knee
 - iv. Pull him on his back
5. Thrust from below [3.8v.2]
- a. A grabs with L hand at right side of your collar while thrusting
 - b. Grasp his L hand with your R
 - c. Reach over top of his L elbow with your L hand and pull strongly, break arm
6. Thrust from below [3.8v.3]
- a. A grabs the right side of your collar
 - b. Parry his thrust with L hand
 - c. Push his L and from your chest with your R such that thumb is underneath
 - d. Go to his throat with R hand under neck
 - e. L hand pulls knee, throw over your R knee

Miscellaneous

1. Any attack [3.7r.2]
 - a. Seize his dagger hand
 - b. Jerk his arm outward
 - c. Put his arm upon the back of your neck, stepping behind his R leg with your R
 - d. Seize between his legs
 - e. Break his arm over your neck or throw him
2. Arm seizure counter
 - a. If he grabs your R hand, strike upward on his elbow with your L or fall outside over his arm
3. General precept [3.11r3]
 - a. Always thrust over his arm to force it down
 - b. Then attack your openings
4. General precept [3.12r.2]
 - a. If he thrusts at your face from above, use boxer's weave to duck under and to the side.
5. General precept[3.12v.1]
 - a. If you thrust diagonally from above and he goes against the thrust, pulled and go underneath his arm and attack the other side.
6. General precept [p 243]
 - a. Use both hands together to support each other
 - b. L hand strikes out or catches, then attack quickly to any opening
 - c. If you parry with the R hand which holds the dagger, bring the L hand to help it
7. General precept [3.12v.2]
 - a. Attack high; it is a fake. Pull the

blow and attack the other side

8. Preempting the draw
 - a. “When you have to deal with someone who has a dagger about which you are worried, then fall on his nearest hand with the same hand, that is with your right on his right, his left with your left; with whichever hand you grip him, jerk his hand toward it. If he then draws his dagger with the other hand, then grasp with your other hand outside over the same arm that you have pulled to you, and grasp the other arm by the bicep, as shown by the figure <3.10v> on the [left] in Image D. Thus he cannot thrust at you, even if he has drawn his dagger with that hand; you can thus cast him, or undertake another counter.”
 - i. Grasping the biceps of the dagger hand is a response to the **collar grab**.
 - (1) See figures on the L in Image D.

Attacks

1. First attack [3.6v.1]
 - a. From high guard with R foot forward
 - b. Thrust from your R at his L
 - c. As you thrust through turn dagger quickly and make a low thrust up through his arm; end at R shoulder
 - d. Repeat
 - i. High R
 - ii. Low L
 - iii. High R
 - iv. High L

2. Second attack [3.6v.2]
 - a. "cross thrusts"
 - b. High R, may be a fake, or if parried then . . .
 - c. Go under his arm and come out with a high thrust L over his right arm (wrenching through well down to your R)
 - d. Press his R arm with L hand if possible
3. Third attack [3.9r.4]
 - a. Middle thrust, pull it
 - b. Go through with pommel leading
 - c. Go to neck with R hand
 - d. Step with R leg behind his L
 - e. Grip inside his L leg with L hand
 - f. Cast over your R leg
 - g. Counter [241]:
 - i. If he tries this on you, catch his R hand with your R and apply pressing arm
4. Fourth attack [3.10r.1]
 - a. Hold dagger in middle guard
 - b. Middle thrust through from R under his arm to low guard
 - c. If he counter-thrusts, take it out with the pommel
 - d. Thrust long from your L over his R arm to his face
5. Fifth attack [3.13r.1]
 - a. In forward grip, thrust high at his face
 - b. When he goes to counter, thrust low
 - c. Can also thrust low, then high

"When you have come this close together, then step between his legs with your left foot; with this, release your left hand from the sword, and turn your back a bit toward him; meanwhile, send your left hand (which you have released from the sword) through under the arms and grip outside over his left arm; and send your right hand, along with the sword (unless you cast it away from you), outside over his right arm, to grip your left hand over his arms. Press his hands together on your left shoulder; meanwhile, step with your left foot in front of his feet; with this, swing yourself to your right side, and in the swing, bend forward and down, and cast him down before you." (pg 108 1.63r.1)