

Successive Parries

Successive Parries – two or more parries taken immediately after one another to defend against compound attacks (or even against simple attacks by disengage or counter-disengage if the first parry is ill-chosen).

Let us consider successive parries starting in *sixte*. One could to a *counter-sixte* and if that fails to find the opponent's blade, followed by an immediate *parry quarte*. Again, starting in *sixte*, one could to a *counter-sixte*, followed by an immediate *parry prime*. There are endless combinations, including a double *counter-sixte*, *counter-sixte-octave*, etc. Perhaps best to use *counter-parries* first as they find the opponent's blade earlier, followed by a deeper lightning fast simple parry (*counter-sixte/quarte* or *counter-sixte/prime*) if blade not found.

Technique

- With the defender in *sixte*, the attacker attacks the open high with a *counter-disengage* attack.
- The defender attempts to parry *counter-sixte*, and failing, parries with an accelerated *parry quarte*.
- The hand remains forward for the second parry.
- The attacking blade is found and collected between the rim and forte stopping in a neat *quarte*.
- *Riposte* to open line.
- ❖ Practice 1: Start with attacker executing a simple attack by *counter-disengage*, met with a *counter-sixte/quarte* then *counter-sixte prime*.
- ❖ Practice 2: Attacker now with compound attack – by *feint/disengage*; *feint/counter-disengage*; *one-two*; *doublé*.

Contraction Parry

Contraction Parry – a parry that travels to the opposite line while counter-parrying in the opposite direction. Sometimes termed a 'disruptive' or 'spoiling' parry.

So, starting in *sixte*, the contraction parry ends in *quarte*, having done a counter-parry counter-clockwise (both right-handed fencers). Used in similar circumstances to successive parries but now as one continuous action (so not, as required in successive parries, needing feedback that first parry did not find blade).

Technique

- With the defender in *sixte*, the attacker attacks the open high.
- The defender moves to *quarte* while circling the point anti-clockwise.
- The attacking blade is collected between the rim and forte and transported to *quarte*.
- Stop in a neat *quarte* and *riposte*.

- ❖ Practice 1: Start with attacker executing a simple attack by counter-disengage, met with a contraction parry of counter-sixte/quarte then counter-sixte prime.
- ❖ Practice 2: Attacker now with compound attack – by feint/disengage; feint/counter-disengage; one-two; doublé.

Opposition Parry

Opposition Parry – a parry that opposes the attacking action at the end of a prise-de-fer by collecting the attacking foible between rim and forte and closing the line.

An envelopment in sixte is opposed to sixte. Riposte with opposition, either direct if open, or on feeling pressure, with disengage. A bind from quarte to octave is opposed to octave.

Technique

- As the attacking blade attempts to hit from an envelopment in sixte, the defender raises her point (in sixte) to collect the blade between rim and forte.
- Timing is key, as beginning too early alerts the opponent and opens target for a thrust with disengage.
- Riposte with opposition – either direct to open line or with disengage if opponent is closing the line (felt by pressure on blade).
- ❖ Practice 1: Start, as above, with defender in sixte.

Ceding Parry

Ceding Parry – a parry that uses the opponent's force as she attempts to hit from a prise-de-fer by diverting the blades into another line whilst simultaneously closing that line defensively.

An envelopment in sixte is ceded to prime before riposte with opposition and a bind from quarte to octave is ceded to quarte (both same handed).

Technique

- From an envelopment in sixte, as the attacking blade attempts to hit, the defender allows the start of the action but then about half-way through or even later, forms a prime party.
- Timing is key, as beginning too early alerts the opponent who can attack in a different line.
- Riposte with opposition – either direct to open line or with disengage if opponent is closing the line (felt by pressure on blade).
- ❖ Practice 1: Start, as above, from an envelopment in sixte.

Note: All ripostes should be with opposition where possible. A detached riposte leaves one open to the remise (maybe single to opponent or, at best, twin lights). Hence teach sentiment du fer on the riposte, to choose direct or by disengage.