



Timing a Compound Attack, relative to the action(s) of a Defender – Part 2

Teaching a Compound attack (e.g. a disengage-disengage) – individual instruction

The coach needs to decide in advance whether to portray a fencer who:

- readily reacts (attempts to parry) to a feint
- parries late
- parries very late, that is at the last possible moment

Pupil's objective is to hit with a compound attack, without the need on any footwork

Starting from a position of trust, that is:

- Avoid bombarding the pupil with words, use actions to explain the problem/conditions
- show the problem/conditions (3 or 4 time) under which the pupil is expected to hit
- ask the pupil to observe and tell them what is expected of them

Coach and pupil at riposting distance where the pupil must straight their arm to hit

Pupil on guard in sixte (right-handed), quarte (left-handed)

Coach on guard in octave

The problem/condition

Coach attempt to engage the pupil blade in quarte

Pupil on the attempted engagement, deceives the coaches blade (first disengage), arms remains bent, point threatens the target

Coach parries sixte

Note each time the coach parries they must take the same parry, at the same time and at the same speed

the pupil is not expect to deceive the coaches parry, but experience the speed, direction and timing of the parry

The solution

Having experienced the above, the pupil should be urged to deceive the coach's parry (second disengage) and hit. Again avoid lengthy explanations and let them try. There will be those who can do it and those who will need help and guidance.

Next Progression

Pupil's objective is to step forwards hitting with a compound attack, i.e. completing two disengages and hitting in the time it takes to step forward

Having required the pupil to come on guard, the coach sets the distance required for the pupil to step forward

Pupil's objective is to lunge hitting with a compound attack, i.e. completing two disengages and hitting in the time it takes to lunge

Having required the pupil to come on guard, the coach sets the distance required for the pupil to lunge (i.e. 1½ steps away)

Alternative Method to the above where the pupil initiates the action

If the starting positions for the above are changed to

Pupil on guard in octave

Coach on guard in quarte

Then the pupil can be asked to attempt the hit in the open high. Once the pupil has experienced being parried, they can then be asked to deceive the coach's parry and hit

Coaching a Compound attack (e.g. a disengage-disengage) – individual instruction

Developing Speed of Action

Pupil's object, is to hit before the compound attack can be parried

Coach sets the distance for a compound attack to be delivered with a step.

Pupil on guard in octave

Coach on guard in quarte

Pupil attempts to hit in the open high.

Coach parries sixte

Once the pupil has experienced being parried, they can then be asked to deceive the coach's parry and hit. The coach's parry should not vary, that is, it should be the same parry each time, and executed at the same time and with the same speed.

Repeat the above

Coach attempts to parry the pupil's compound attack and on occasion does so (e.g. using circular sixte)

Pupil is required to accelerate the final action of the compound attack in order to hit

The above can later be extended such that the pupil is required to lunge with the compound attack

Developing the Timing of a Compound Attack

1 On an opponent's (the coach's) preparation

Pupil's objective is to attack at the right time

Coach sets the distance for a compound attack to be delivered with a step.

Pupil on guard in octave

Coach on guard in octave

Coach moves from octave to sixte, then back to octave

Pupil no reaction

Coach moves from octave to sixte and then to quarte

Or

Moves from octave to quarte

Pupil hits the a compound attack (i.e. disengage-disengage, deceiving a lateral parry of sixte)

The above can later be extended such that the pupil is required to lunge with the compound attack

2 Pupil initiates and hits with a compound attack

Pupil's objective is cause the opponent to parry by changing the pace of the feint and to accelerate the final action, thus hitting with a disengage-disengage

Coach sets the distance for a compound attack to be delivered with a step.

Pupil on guard in octave

Coach on guard in quarte

Pupil step forward and threaten to hit in the high (delivered slowly, with no intention of hitting)

Coach takes a precautionary half-parry of quarte

Pupil step forward and threaten to hit in the high (feint - delivered quickly)

Coach takes a quick and full-parry of sixte

Pupil completes the compound attack by deceiving the parry of sixte

The above can later be extended such that the pupil is required to lunge with the compound attack

Developing Choice Reaction

Pupil's objective is to hit with a compound attack following a preparation and relative to the actions of the defender

Coach sets the distance, which requires the pupil to step forward twice in order to hit

Pupil on guard in octave

Coach on guard in octave

Pupil step forward

Coach on the pupil's step forward, adopts sixte

Pupil feint into the opening

Coach attempts to parry quarte

Pupil hits with a disengage

OR

Coach on the pupil's step forward, adopts quarte

Pupil feint into the opening

Coach attempts to parry sixte

Pupil hits with a disengage

OR

Coach on the pupil's step forward, remains in octave

Pupil steps back, returning to the start position and tries again

Developing Choice Reaction – “Open Eyes”

Pupil's objective is to lunge hitting with a compound attack, starting with a feint, but not knowing how the defender will react

Coach sets the distance, which requires the pupil to lunge (i.e. 1½ steps away)

Pupil on guard in octave

Coach on guard in sixte

Pupil lunge, feinting into the open line

Coach responds to the feint by attempting to parry circular-sixte

Pupil completes the compound attack by deceiving (counter-disengage) the circular-parry

OR

Coach responds to the feint by attempting to parry quarte (or octave)

Pupil completes the compound attack by deceiving (disengage) the parry