

Fencing Tactical Wheel
and
Development of Strategy

Development of Strategy and Tactics

- Need to know terminology
- Need to be able to recognize actions of your opponent
- Need to remember what has happened in the bout (your actions and your opponent's actions)
- Good to watch and analyze opponents before fencing them
- Look for patterns in your opponents' actions as well as your own
- Tactical wheel is best applied to “conventional” weapons (foil/sabre) and does not specify timing and distance

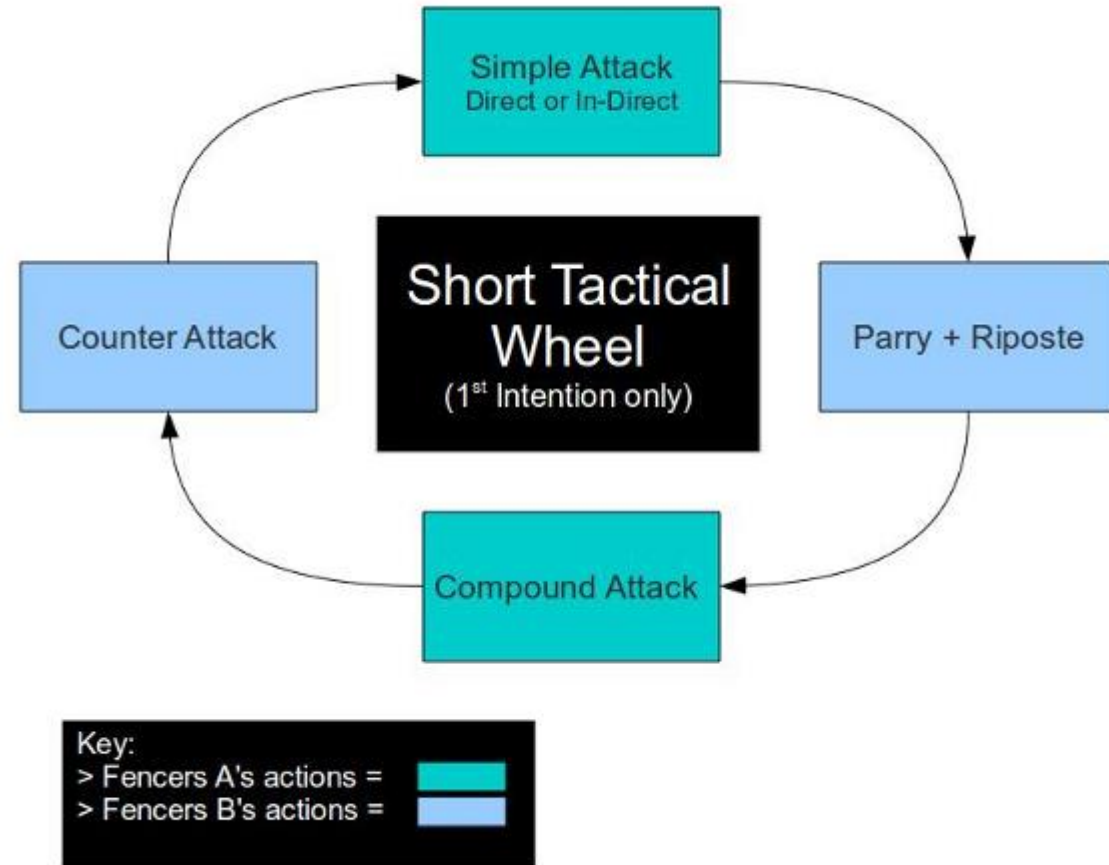
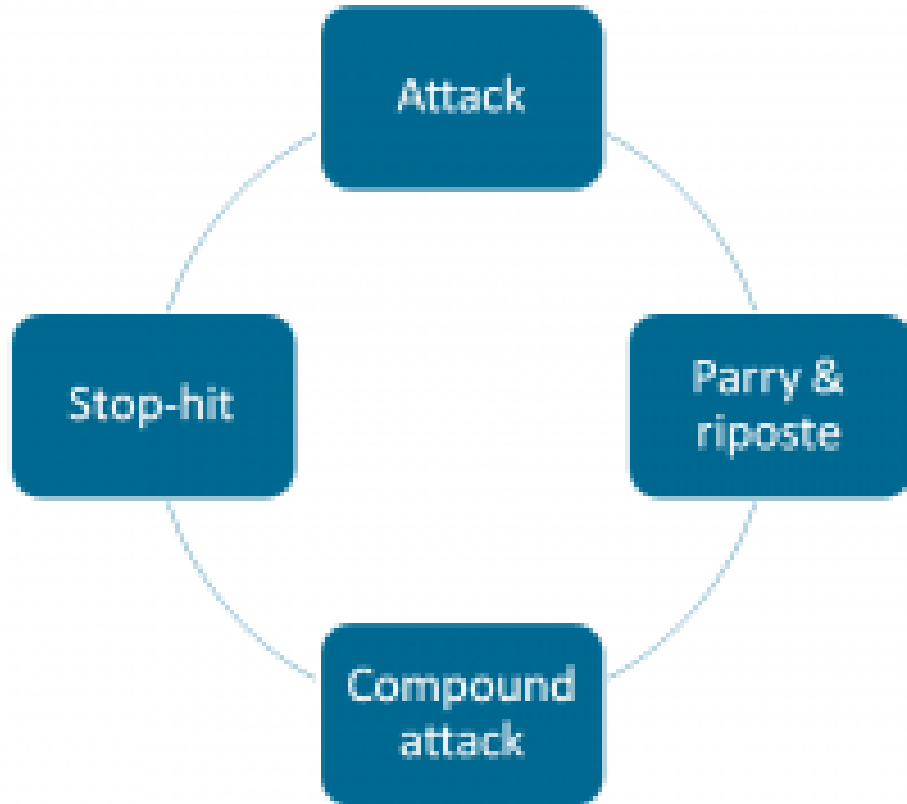
Terminology

- **Simple Attack:** an attack done in one motion with one or less changes of line
 - **Tempo:** the time it takes to do a simple action
- **Compound Attack:** an attack with two or more changes of line
- **Parry:** defensive action made with the weapon to prevent an offensive action from arriving
 - **Riposte:** an offensive action after parrying opponent's attack
 - **Counter-Riposte:** an offensive action after parrying an opponent's riposte or counter-riposte
- **Counterattack:** an offensive action into the opponent's offense
- **Countertime:** an action against the opponent's counterattack
- **Feint-in-Tempo:** an action into an opponent's countertime

Observe Your Opponent

- Is your opponent right- or left-handed?
- Are they using a French grip or pistol grip?
- Does their uniform look new 😊?
- Was your opponent's offensive action simple (direct or indirect) or compound?
- Which line did your opponent's offensive action finish?
- What kind of parry did your opponent use (lateral, counter, semi-circular)?
- Was it a counterattack (stop)?

Short Tactical Wheel



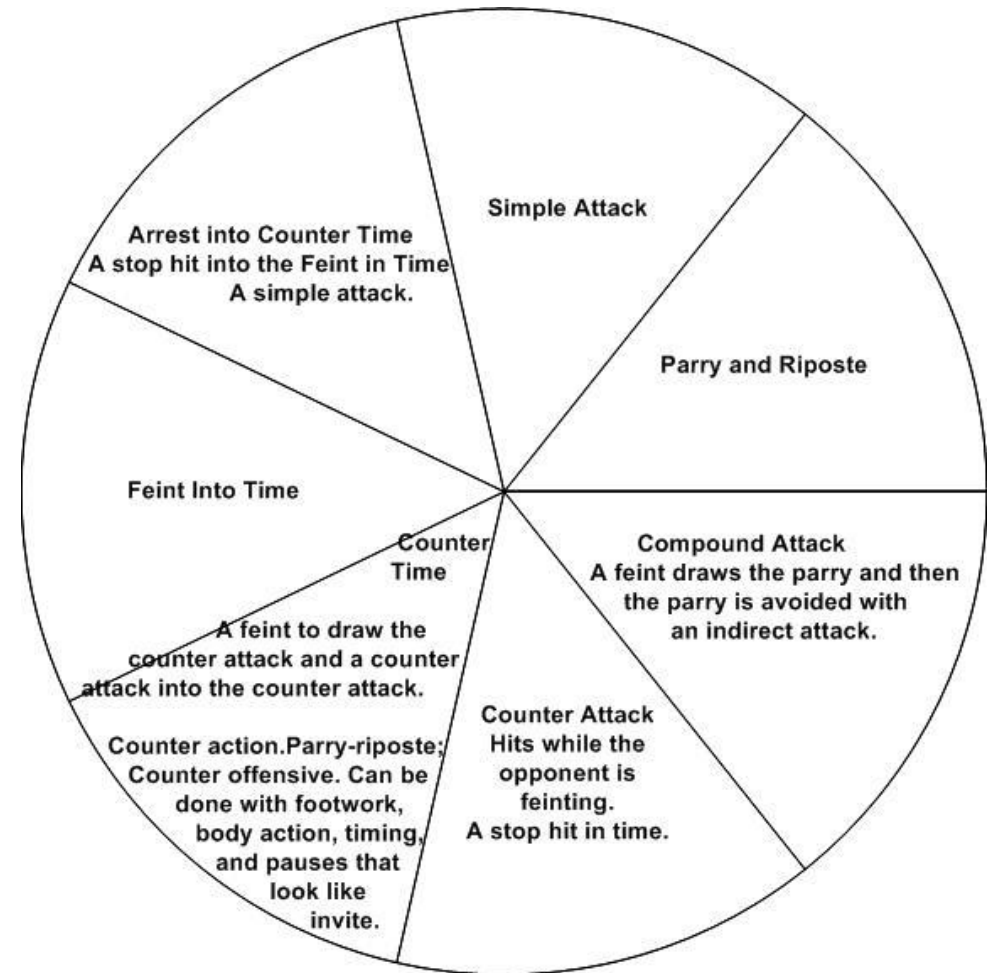
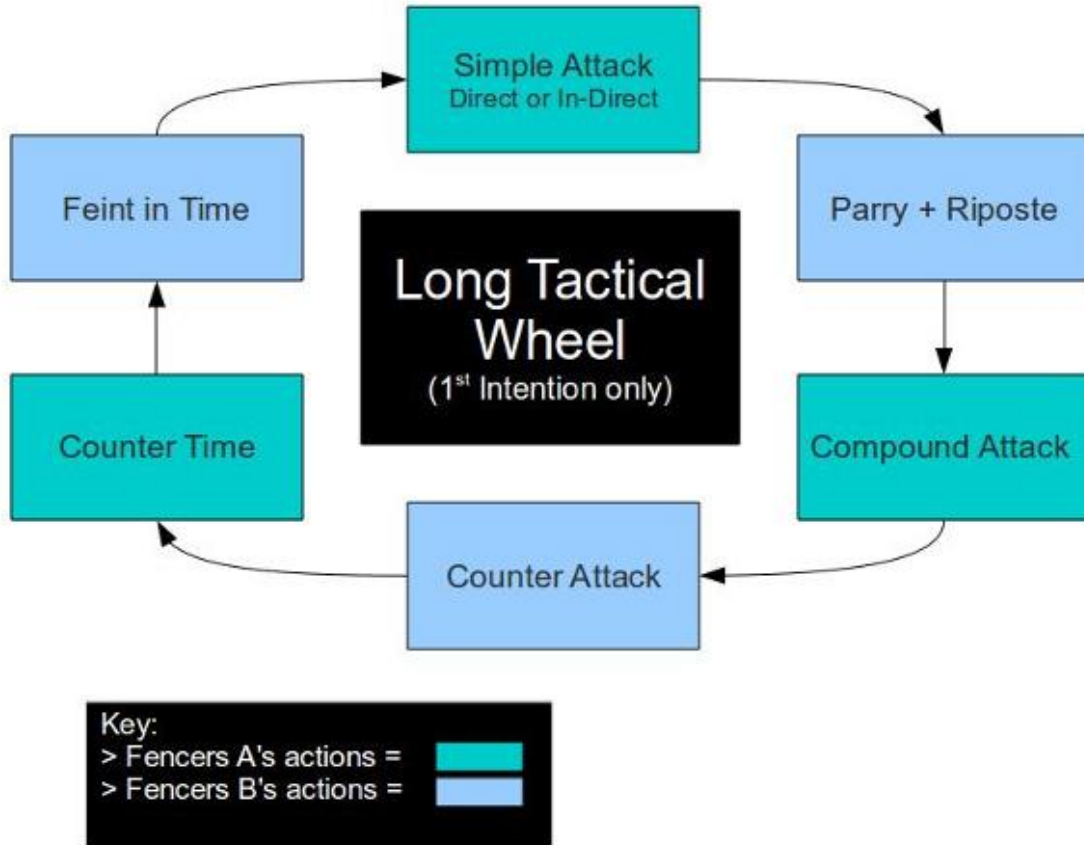
Video Showing Tactical Wheel



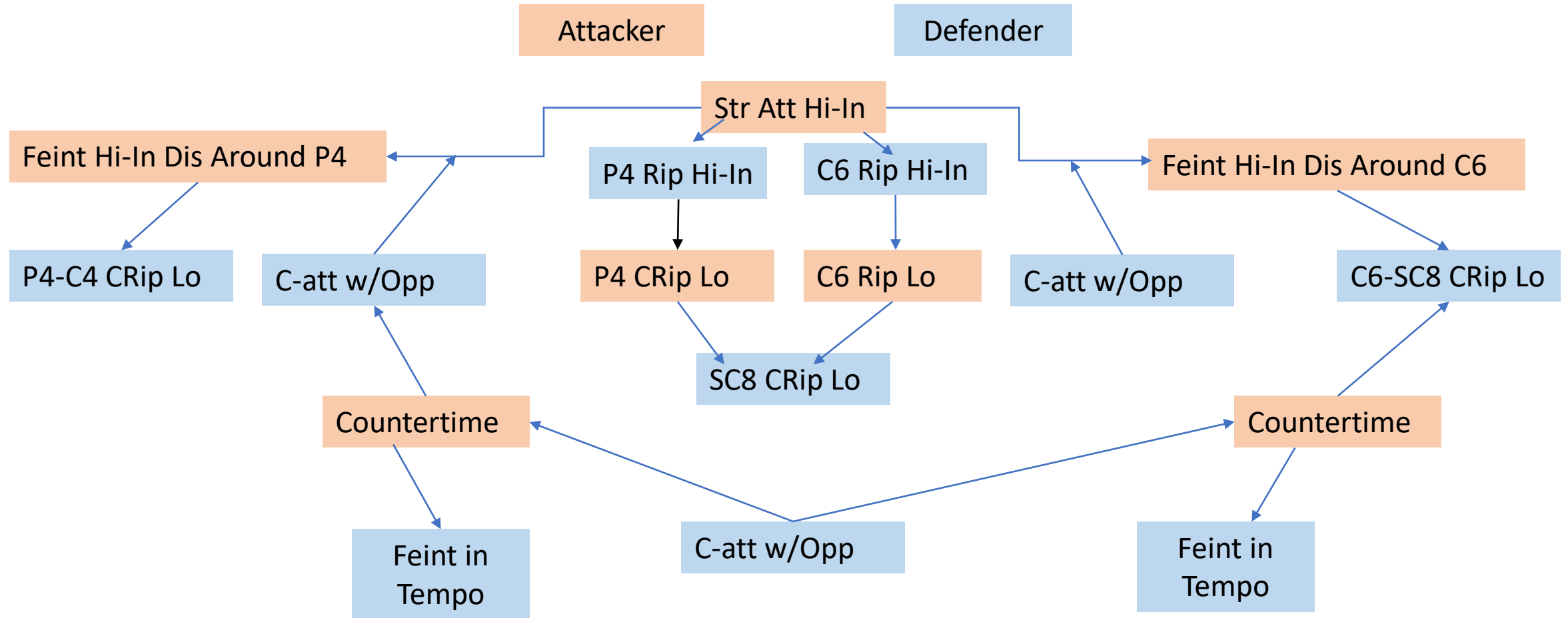
COUNTER-RIPOSTE

ACTION PHRASE TERMINOLOGY THAT IGNORES TACTICAL INTENTION - RIPOSTE
AGAINST PARRY-RIPOSTE

Long Tactical Wheel



Flow Chart Tactical Representation Example



What can you do against this (in foil)?

(examples only, there are other possibilities)

- Straight attack to high inside
 1. Parry 4 & riposte straight, with or without prise de fer
 2. Parry 4 & riposte by disengage, with or without prise de fer
 3. Parry 4 & riposte by feint straight disengage (around their 4, 6 or *)
 4. Parry 4 & riposte by prise de fer
 5. Parry 6 & riposte as in Parry 4 (1-4, above)
 6. Parry 8 & riposte, with or without prise de fer, disengage or feint
 7. Counterattack with opposition
 8. Counterattack with deceive
 9. Attack on preparation
 10. Retreat
 11. Retreat, then attack on their return to guard (direct or indirect)
 12. More possibilities...

Fencing is Fun

- The infinite (almost) possible actions, offensive and defensive, is what makes fencing fun!
- It is a challenge to think strategically on strip during a bout
- It takes experience and practice (years!) to learn
- Practice analyzing what techniques are being used by watching other bouts from the sideline
- When at club practice, ask your clubmate what technique they just used to score on you
- You can “fence” with someone just vocally, saying what move you are doing and the target

Discussion & Questions

The End