

Midori Yama Budokai: *Hanshi's Corner*  
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***Ichi go, ichi e: One life, one meeting***

**Successive Attacks and Combinations in the Striking Movements**

The following is taken from *Karate: Beginner to Black Belt* (1967) by H(enri) D. Plee. This is one of those books to which you keep going back. Each time I read it (and I've read it many times!) I find something I didn't see (understand!) before. If you can find a copy, I highly recommend that you get one. The combinations given are from the view of general theory and not "natural weapons."

Simple Striking Attack	{(1 <sup>st</sup> ) with an advanced limb (fist or foot); it is very fast but { rather weak. {(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) with the rear fist or leg; very strong, but one can be { blocked or countered [more easily] because of the { length of the movement. {(3 <sup>rd</sup> ) with the head.
Striking Attacks with the same time (two or more times) at the same level or at different levels	{(1 <sup>st</sup> ) with the advanced limb in succession without drawing { the fist or leg back between the blows (in the latter case { the foot is not placed back on the ground after the first { blow). {(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) with the rear limb, drawing the fist back or replacing the { foot on the ground after each blow (this gives the { opponent confidence and causes him [or her] to expose { himself [or herself] to the second attack). {(3 <sup>rd</sup> ) with the head in succession.
Alternate striking attacks with two limbs (at the same level or different levels)	{(1 <sup>st</sup> ) with the upper limbs (left, right) or the lower limbs (left, { right). {(2 <sup>nd</sup> ) with an upper advanced limb followed by a lower { advanced limb. {(3 <sup>rd</sup> ) with an upper advanced limb followed by a lower rear { limb. {(4 <sup>th</sup> ) with an upper rear limb followed by a lower advanced { limb. {(5 <sup>th</sup> ) with an upper rear limb followed by an upper rear limb. {(6 <sup>th</sup> ) with a lower advanced limb followed by an upper { advanced limb. {(7 <sup>th</sup> ) with a lower advanced limb followed by an upper rear { limb. {(8 <sup>th</sup> ) with a lower rear limb followed by an upper advanced { limb.

{(9<sup>th</sup>) with a lower rear limb followed by an upper rear limb.  
 {(10<sup>th</sup>) attack with an advanced or rear limb followed by a  
 { blow with the head.

Striking attacks with two limbs at the same time.
   
{(1<sup>st</sup>) the two upper limbs in a forward direction at the same  
 { time.  
 {(2<sup>nd</sup>) the two upper limbs at the same time to the side  
 { generally in *kiba dachi*.  
 {(3<sup>rd</sup>) the two lower limbs at the same time in a forward  
 { direction (by jumping or putting the hands on the  
 { ground).  
 {(4<sup>th</sup>) the two lower limbs at the same time to the side (by  
 { jumping or putting the hands on the ground).

Striking attacks while  
 Jumping (acrobatics --  
 Sometimes risky against  
 a single opponent, but  
 very useful in serious  
 combat against several  
 opponents or to break  
 out of a circle).
   
{(1<sup>st</sup>) with the two lower limbs at the same time (see above).  
 {(2<sup>nd</sup>) with the two lower limbs alternately to the front and side  
 { (*nidan geri, yoko tobi geri*, etc.)  
 {(3<sup>rd</sup>) with the lower limbs to complete an attack with one or  
 { both hands (*sankaku tobi*, a jumping attack from three  
 { angles).  
 {(4<sup>th</sup>) a jumping attack behind a single extended limb, with the  
 { idea in mind of sacrificing yourself (*tobi zuki*), *tobi*  
 { *mae geri*, etc.); a very effective means of getting above  
 { an attack, a kick, a blow with a stick, etc., but demands a  
 { high level of skill.  
 {(5<sup>th</sup>) a plunging, jumping attack with a single limb in order to  
 { get under a normal or jumping attack against you (*ushiro*  
 { *geri, mae geri* which is rather like *tomoe nage* in judo, a  
 { blow with the shoulder against the knees, etc.).

“In fact, the complete range of combinations is an impressive one, if you take into account”

1. The number of natural weapons of the body is more than 25;
2. Each attack by an upper or lower limb can be direct (*tsuki, nukite, mae geri*, etc.), upwards (*age tsuki, keage*), descending (*tettsui, empi*, etc), hooking (*mawashi geri* and *mawashi uchi*, etc.), and every striking or penetrating (*kekomi*) movement according to the place to be attacked and the objects of research.”

### **Jeet Kune Do and Jun Fan**

Two of the major styles of Chinese Ch’uan Fa (Fist Methods) are Tai Ch’i Ch’uan and Wing Chun (Ving Tsuen). I know – there is Ba-Gua, Hsing-I etc, but the two afore-

mentioned are the two most well known. Tai Ch'i Ch'uan is popular because they took out the ch'uan and it is perceived as non-combative. Wing Chung is popular because Bruce Lee studied it and it is perceived as totally combative. How's that for Yin and Yang? Incidentally, there is a video of Lee performing the 108 Yang Tai Ch'i form in its entirety. This is even more interesting because his father studied the Wu style. I mention these specific arts, because Bruce Lee studied not only them but also all the martial arts. He could perform all forty of the *judo Gokyo no Waza* – which is more than many black belt *judo* players can do! Today many persons contend they teach (or study) the style Bruce Lee created – Jeet Kune Do. They may indeed study/teach Bruce Lee's method, which was Jeet Kune Do, but Lee himself stated that it was not a style. Jeet Kune Do (The Way of the Intercepting Fist) is a philosophy of method. The style that Lee taught was Jun Fan Gung Fu (Jun Fan was also Lee's given name; in Chinese he would be Li Jun Fan). However, Lee did not want to create a new style; he only wanted to give us a way to learn – Jeet Kune Do. ["I come not to change the law, but to fulfill it." – perhaps a touch of hubris?] Lee's students have begun using the term Jun Fan Jeet Kune Do or Bruce Lee's Way of the Intercepting Fist. Also, note that Lee used Chinese terminology for Intercepting Fist, but Japanese terminology for Way. The Way, in Chinese, would be Tao.

"I have not invented a "new style," composite, modified or otherwise that is set within distinct form as apart from "this" method or "that" method. Remember that Jeet Kune Do is merely a name used, a mirror in which to see "ourselves". . . Jeet Kune Do is not an organized institution that one can be a member of. Either you understand or you don't, and that is that. There is no mystery about my style. My movements are simple and direct. The extraordinary part of it lies in its simplicity. Every movement in Jeet Kune-Do is being so of itself. There is nothing artificial about it. I always believe that the easy way is the right way. Jeet Kune-Do is simply the direct expression of one's feelings with the minimum of movements and energy ["mimum effort and maximum benefit" Kanō] The closer to the true way of Kung Fu, the less wastage of expression there is. Finally, a Jeet Kune Do man who says Jeet Kune Do is exclusively Jeet Kune Do is simply not with it. He is still hung up on his self-closing resistance, in this case anchored down to reactionary pattern, and naturally is still bound by another modified pattern and can move [only] within its limits. He has not digested the simple fact that truth exists outside all molds; pattern and awareness is never exclusive. Again let me remind you Jeet Kune Do is just a name used, a boat to get one across, and once across it is to be discarded and not to be carried on one's back."

– Bruce Lee

### **The *Ryu-ha* of Ancient *Ninjutsu***

Most martial artists have heard of the ***Koga Ryu*** (circa 939 AD) and ***Iga Ryu*** (circa 1030 AD) in relation to *ninja* Clans. There also was the Fuma Ryu (circa 722 AD). However, there were many *ryu-ha* within these two main *ryu* in feudal Japan. Most of the clans were from the *Koga* (*Shiga* prefecture) or *Iga* (*Mie* prefecture) regions. *Takagure Ryu* was, for example, from the *Iga* region. The *Koga* and *Iga ninja* inhabited the same mountain region. They were side-by-side in southern Japan. Most of them were descendants of *yamabushi* (mountain warrior priests). Some few were *ronin*, or masterless *samurai*. Between 1040 and 1050, the Chinese general, Ikai, fled China during

the battle of Kitan and Xia, bringing *kosshijutsu* to Japan. In addition, he also brought Sun Tzu's *the Art of War*, upon which much of *ninjutsu* is based. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are some of the more prominent clans.

**Abe Ryu**, ***Akiba Ryu***, ***Akutagawa Ryu***, **Arima Ryu**, ***Asayama Ichiden Ryu***, ***Asayama Ryu***, ***Ban Ryu*** (***Nan Ban Ryu***), **Bizen Ryu**, **Byaku Ryu**, ***Echizen Ryu***, ***Fujiwara Ryu***\*, ***Fukushima Ryu***, **Fukuu Ryu**, ***Fuma Ryu***, ***Gikan Ryu***, ***Haguro Ryu***, **Hakuun Ryu**, **Hanbe Ryu**, **Hata Ryu**, **Hattori Ryu**, ***Hiryu (gumi) Ryu***, **Hisahara Ryu**, **Ibuki Ryu**, ***Ichimu Ryu***, ***Ichizen Ryu***, **Iida Ryu**, **Ise Ryu**, **Ishitani Ryu**, ***Isshu Ryu***, **Izumo Ryu**, ***Joshu Ryu***, ***Kaji Ryu***, ***Kakuryugumi Ryu***, **Kanbe Ryu**, **Kaneko Ryu**, **Kashiwabara Ryu**, **Kataoka Ryu**, ***Kawachi Yon Tengu (gumi) Ryu***, **Kazama Ryu**, **Kimata Ryu**, **Kimura Ryu**, ***Koga Ryu***, **Koshu Ryu**, ***Koyo Ryu***, **Kotani Ryu**, ***Kukishin Ryu***, ***Kumogakure Ryu***, ***Kunoichi Ryu***, ***Kuriya (Kuruya) Ryu***, **Kuriyama Ryu**, ***Kuroda Ryu***, ***Kyushin Ryu***, ***Matsumoto Ryu***, **Minamoto Ryu**, ***Mino Ryu***, **Mizuhari Ryu**, ***Mochizuki Ryu***, **Momochi Ryu**, **Mori Ryu**, ***Nagano Ryu***, ***Naiki Ryu***, **Nakagawa Ryu**, **Nanban Ryu**, **Narita Ryu**, ***Natori Ryu***, ***Negishi Ryu***, **Negoro Ryu**, ***Ninko Ryu***, **Oda Ryu**, **Ohkuni Ryu**, **Ooyama Ryu**, ***Otomo Ryu***, **Otsuka Ryu**, ***Rikuzen Ryu***, ***Rikyoku Ryu***, ***Ryusei Ryu***, **Saiga Ryu**, **Sakagami Ryu**, ***Sasaki Ryu***, ***Satsuma Ryu***, ***Saua Ryu***, **Sawada Ryu**, **Shima Ryu**, ***Shinden Tatara Ryu***, **Shindo Ryu**, ***Shinoi Ryu***, ***Shinpi Ryu***, ***Shinshu Ryu***, ***Shinto Shobu Ryu***, ***Taira Ryu***\*, ***Sugawara Fukii Ryu***, **Sugino Ryu**, **Suzuki Ryu**, ***Tachibana Hachi (gumi Tengu) Ryu***, ***Taira Ryu***\*, **Takeda Ryu**, ***Takemura Ryu***, **Takino Ryu**, ***Taki Ryu***, ***Taro Ryu***, ***Tatara Ryu***, ***Tengu Ryu***, ***Tento Happo Ryu***, **Toda Ryu**, **Togakure Ryu**, ***Tomo Ryu***, **Toyota Ryu**, **Tozawa Ryu**, ***Tsuji-Ichimuu Ryu***, ***Tsuji-Yoshimori Ryu***, **Tsutsumi Ryu**, ***Uegai Ryu***, ***Ueno Ryu***\*, ***Uesugi Ryu***, ***Yakyu Shingan Ryu***, and ***Yoshitsune Ryu***.

The *ryu* in **bold print** are families of the **Iga Ryu**; traditionally, there were 45 families. **Bold Italics** indicate families of the **Koga Ryu**, which consisted of 53 families. As the **Koga Ryu** grew, eight families became prominently strongest and led the others. These families are in ***Bold Italics and underlined***. The asterisks (\*) beside the *ryu* indicate a familial connection between the *Iga Ryu* and *Koga Ryu*.

Because the *Koga Ryu* appeared small and unimportant, they weren't considered to be a threat, unlike the *Iga Ninja*.

The *Iga ninja* were counterparts to the *Koga ninja*. The *Iga Ryu* used the opposite strategy of the *Koga Ryu*, appearing much larger than they actually were. This was a *ninja* strategy to forestall an attack. This worked against them when Oda Nobunaga attacked them a second time in 1581. Nobunaga's son, Katsuyori, was defeated in 1579, believing the *Iga ninja* were four times larger than they actually were. In 1581, Oda Nobunaga led the attack, his *samurai* outnumbering the *ninja* nearly ten to one. Against not only *samurai* but also expert marksmen, the *Iga ninja* did not have a chance – even with the help of the *Koga Ryu*.

The *Koga Ryu* did not suffer the same fate as the *Iga Ryu*, and managed to escape the sword hunts, somewhat intact.

During the period known as the Tokugawa Shogunate, the remnants of the *Iga ninja* under *Jonin / Soke* Hanzo Hattori was organized into secret police and spies. Many *ninja* clans disbanded and became laborers, entered government positions or found jobs within the *Yakuza* (Japanese Mafia).

After WWII the world was open to the *ninja*. They were free to travel and escape their own country's confines. In the 1960's a small group of *Koga ninja*, comprised of businessmen or professionals (*yakuza*, military, police), emigrated from Japan to the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

By 1985, Soke Toshitora Yamashiro, son of the former *Soke*, had quietly set up several *dojo* in Canada and sixteen small training centers in the United States. They refer to themselves as the Nine Shadows of the *Koga Ryu*.

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