

Krav Maga / Kapap

General Notes

Gun Disarms

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Grabbing the gun or grabbing the wrist

In Krav we have several variations for disarming pistols and short arms. Sometimes we may choose to grab the gun and other times we may choose to grab the wrist/hand. Regardless of which we are grabbing we must always think about the attackers ability to retain the weapon. At a most basic level even a unskilled attacker will attempt to 'snatch' the weapon back, a more skilled attacker may even apply techniques such as wrist releases, supporting grabs and circular movement to retain the weapon. Simply to say we are faster than our attacker is not an option!

Generally speaking when we grab the gun, in order to make retention more difficult we apply a simultaneous strike. Whilst in the perfect world the strike could 'knock-out' the attacker its true intention is to break their mind-set so as to momentarily distract them from applying a retaining technique. At the same time we also attempt to 'destroy' the attackers hold on the weapon by applying a turning action. Pistols and small arms are designed to be held by their grip and not by the frame/slide and as such if we allow the attacker to continue to have their hold on the weapon as it is designed then they will always have the strength of grip over ours and as such be far more capable of snatching it back. The other main advantage to grabbing the firearm is should the firearm be discharged, then by grabbing the gun we prevent the cycle/action from completing and a mechanical stoppage is performed jamming it.

In cases where we are unable to grab the firearm or where we feel a distracting strike has no value or is unlikely to land effectively then we may choose to grab the attackers controlling wrist. Firstly we must ensure we grab both the wrist and the hand to make it more difficult for the attacker to simply point the weapon at us again by bending their wrist. From there we have two priorities of equal importance 1) To prevent retention 2) To get the weapon. The first is achieved by taking the attackers 'point of balance' as it is much harder for a person to 'snatch' something backwards when at that precise moment an opposite force is being applied against them. The second is that we must secure/take/jam the weapon. As we are no longer grabbing the weapon directly we must ensure that our second hand, rather than applying a 'distracting strike' secures the weapon as quick as (generally 1 and a half rhythm) and disarms it or at the very least performs a mechanical fault on it to prevent it from continued firing. As with all firearms techniques the priority is to GET the weapon and not to fight the attacker with multiple strikes so simply "jumping" and securing the attackers arm whilst trying to beat them to death with knees and head-butts etc is not a workable solution.

Other commonalties between the two options also include use of verbal distractions, negotiating if needed to get into a suitable position from which a technique can be performed, correct body positioning such as trying to get the hands closer to the weapon. Once into the chosen technique ensure you step off the line of fire or outside the field of fire and never return to it. Full commitment to the chosen technique once you commence it is a priority. Regardless of whatever happens continue to its conclusion. Expect the gun to fire and even to get shot as it is better to get shot in the arm than it is in the head by doing nothing!

9 steps to consider before and after applying a gun disarming technique.

Pre-conflict

- 1) Threat Assessment (Do you need to disarm? Can you escape safely? Do you comply with the attacker? Are there multiple attackers? etc)
- 2) Attacker Assessment (Does the attacker appear to be trained (retention) or nervous, twitchy, are you able to get close enough etc)
- 3) Location awareness (Are there 3rd parties or innocents in same location likely to be hit by stray gunfire)
- 4) Surroundings (Type of construction, bullets may ricochet or penetrate studded walls/glass etc)
- 5) Weapon (Type of weapon, characteristics, field of fire v line of fire etc)
- 6) Mechanism (State of weapon, loaded, unloaded, safeties, ready to fire etc)
- 7) Technique selection and application (based on all of the above)

Post conflict

- 8) check for injuries to self and 3rd parties)
- 9) Luck