

## New York Historical Fencing Association Cutting Curriculum

Based on five rank system from beginner to teaching level (novice, senior novice, scholar, free scholar, provost).

### Standards

**Note:** these are grading criteria, not absolute pass fail standards. Lower ranks and difficult cuts have more tolerance.

1. Consistency of angles –angles always 45 degrees.
2. Aim – use as little of the mat as possible. Advanced cutting patterns will not be possible with bad aim. Cuts that strike a pre-existing cut are failures.



3. Flatness – the plane of the cut should be flat when looked at from the point of view of the cutter. A tilt in any direction indicates uneven hands—pushing or pulling with one hand—which means hilt leading tip. Tip should always lead. Exceptions made for Zwerchhau, Schielhau and Krumphau.



4. Straight cuts – no scalloping or other deviations from a straight line. This indicates inconsistent edge alignment.



5. Concentration of force – the severed piece should fall cleanly, not pop off or fly forward or backward, which would indicate that force was not aligned with the trajectory of the sword. Exception made for Zwerchhau, Krumphau from Schrankhut and mittlehau.



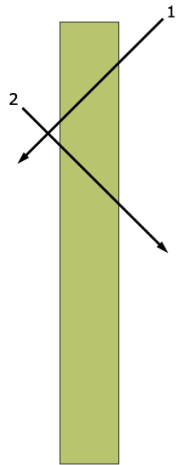
6. Composure – student should approach the target and withdraw with intent, should not react to mistakes (just do over and keep going) and must leave the testing area gracefully when instructed to do so by the judges.
7. Tolerance – one do-over per mat (two mats for every test mat pictured).

## Rank 1 (Novice to Senior Novice)

These cutting patterns are practiced in preparation for the Senior Novice rank, which denotes basic competence. A devoted student should reach this rank within one year. All novice cuts are done without stepping. Cutting without stepping is more difficult and builds awareness of hip movement. Watch that the student cuts from the hip and not with the arms. **All cuts must be performed on a single mat as depicted.**

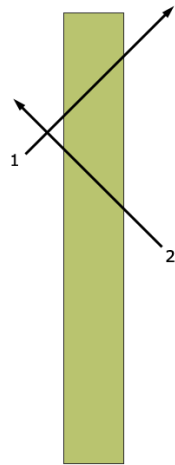
### Training Curriculum

Cutting Pattern 1:



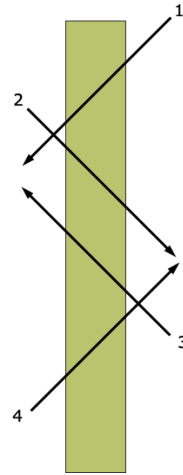
Long edge Zornhau

Cutting Pattern 2:



Long edge Unterhau

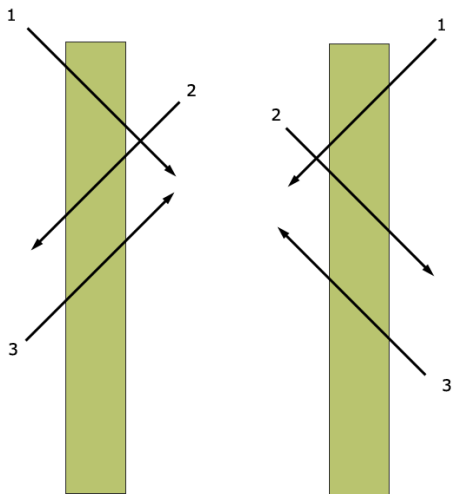
Cutting Pattern 3:



Long edge Zornhau and Unterhau

Pause between each strike, don't rush, each cut ends in appropriate place, stops, then transitions for next cut.

### Test



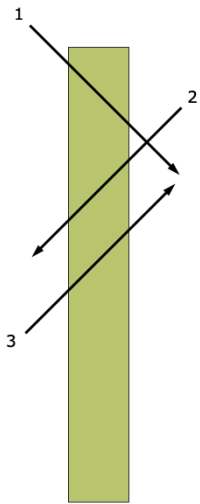
Long edge Zornhau and Unterhau

## Rank 2 (Senior Novice to Scholar )

These cutting patterns are practiced in preparation for the Scholar rank, which denotes a solid understanding of the material and well developed skill. A devoted student should reach this rank within two years after reaching Novice (3 years total). All scholar cuts are done with a step with varied timings. **All cuts must be performed on a single mat as depicted.**

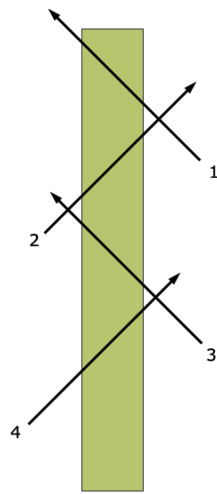
### Training Curriculum

Cutting Pattern 1:



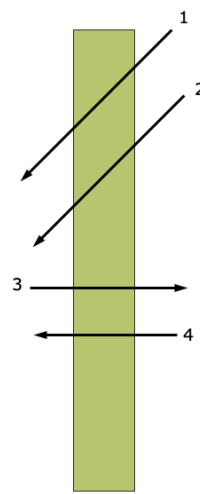
1. Right Krumphau from VT, 2. Zornhau
3. left Krumphau from Schrankhut

Cutting Pattern 2:



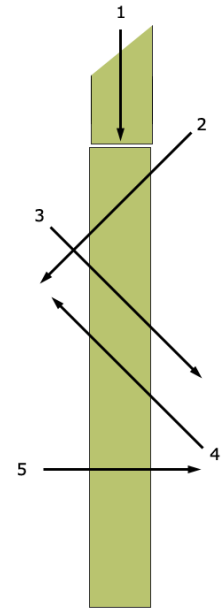
- Krumphau  
from Schrankhut

Cutting Pattern 3:



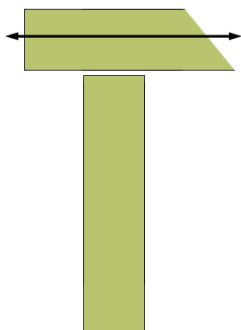
- 1 & 2 Schielhau,  
3&4 Mittlehau

Cutting Pattern 4:



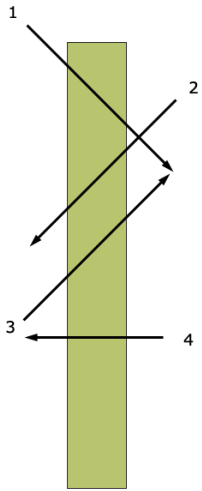
1. Scheitelhau, 2. Zornhau
3. Krumphau 4. Unterhau
5. Mittlehau

Cutting Pattern 5:

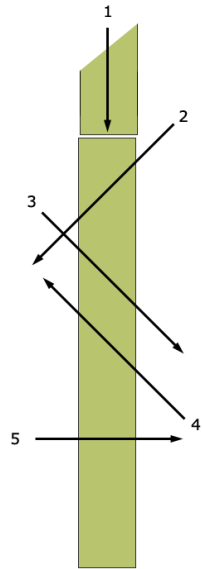


- Mittlehau, practice both sides

## Test



1. right Krumphau from Vom Tag, 2. Schielhau,
3. left Krumphau from Schrankhut, 4. Mittlehau



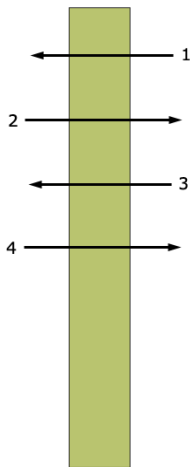
1. Scheitelhau, 2. Schielhau, 3. right Krumphau,
4. right Krumphau from Schrankhut, 5. Mittlehau

## Rank 3 (Scholar to Free Scholar )

These cutting patterns are practiced in preparation for the Free Scholar rank, which denotes an advanced understanding of the material, superior skill and ability to teach. A devoted student should reach this rank within two years after reaching Senior Novice (5 years total). At this level, all cutting patterns are tested. **All cuts must be performed on a single mat as depicted.**

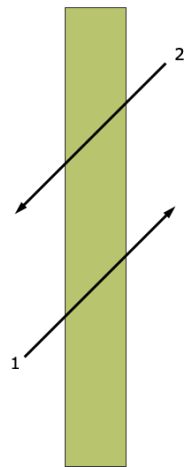
### Training Curriculum & Test

Cutting Pattern 1:



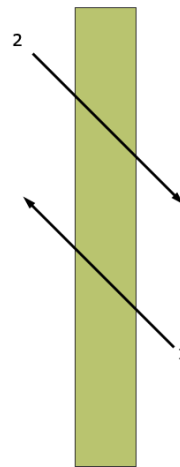
Zwerchhau

Cutting Pattern 2:



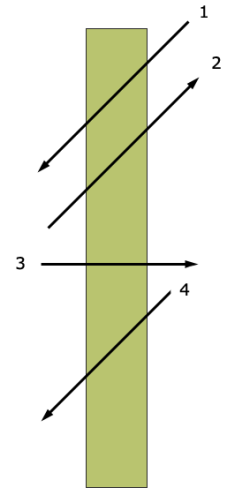
Double cut\*, Unterhau and Zornhau

Cutting Pattern 3:



Double cut\*, Unterhau and Zornhau,

Cutting Pattern 4:



1. Zornhau,  
2. Short Edge Unterhau,  
3. Zwerchhau, 4. Zornhau  
3 seconds max

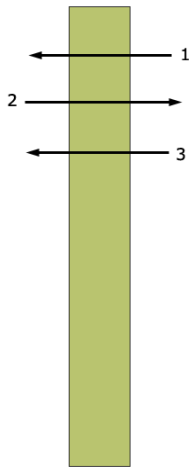
\* Double cut severs mat on the bottom and severs top half before it falls or while it is falling.

## Rank 4 (Free Scholar to Provost )

These cutting patterns are practiced in preparation for the Provost rank, which denotes the highest level of understanding and skill. At this level, all cutting patterns are tested. **All cuts must be performed on a single mat as depicted.**

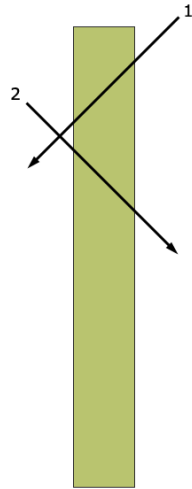
### Training Curriculum & Test

Cutting Pattern 1:



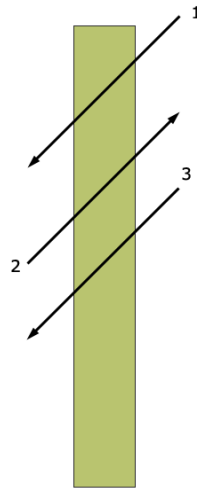
Triple Zwerchhau, 1.5 seconds max

Cutting Pattern 2:



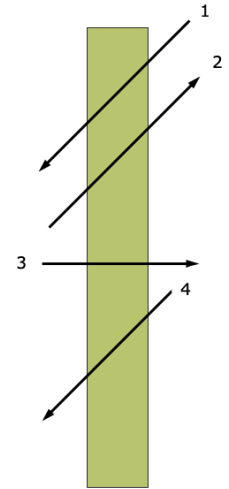
Half cuts\*: Zornhau

Cutting Pattern 3:



Lightning cut, Zornhau,  
Unterhau, Zornhau, .75 seconds max

Cutting Pattern 4:



1. Zornhau,  
2. Short Edge Unterhau,  
3. Zwerchhau, 4. Zornhau  
1.75 seconds max

\*For a successful half cut, point must stop at chest level (4 inch bounce permitted).