



1a

NORTH →

Daisan Aiki Kengi Handout by Doug Wedell

Daisan Aiki Kengi was created by *Seidokan* founder, Rod Kobayashi Sensei, as a series of sword movements designed to help us develop **a)** a fundamental understanding of sword-on-sword encounters (*ken-ken awase*), **b)** dynamic directional changes, and **c)** *ki* flow and centeredness. One difficulty in learning the movements is that they do not follow a simple directional pattern (as *daisan aikijogi* does), but rather they are dictated more by an understanding of openings attackers might target. It is important to study these movements well and make them a part of oneself, as this is part of the legacy Kobayashi Sensei has left us. To help with directions, I will use compass points to designate the direction of movement (north is to the right, south to the left, east in the foreground and west in the background). Note that after most movements, you should slide the trailing foot close to the front foot. Maintain calmness and *ki* flow throughout.



1b



1c



1d

1. Shomenuchi: Begin from *seigan no kamae* facing north and envision an attacker with sword down providing a *shomenuchi* opening. Slide forward with right foot and strike at the forehead.



2a



2b



2c

2. Migi Zenpozuki: Given the attacker stepped back and raised his sword, the opening is now at the throat. Turn the blade to the left and slide forward with the right foot aiming the thrust at the throat.



3a



3b



3c



3d



4a



4b



4c



5a



5b



5c

3. Migi Yokomenuchi: Assume the attacker stepped back and kept his sword raised, providing an opening at the right side of his head. Step forward with the left foot and strike *yokomenuchi*.

4. Koho Shomenuchi: Assume that you have dispatched the first attacker and a new attacker is coming up from behind with sword down. Turn 180° to your right to face south, step forward with your right foot and strike at the forehead.

5. Hidari Zenpozuki: Assume that the attacker stepped back and raised his sword providing an opening at the throat. Step forward with the left foot, turn the blade to the right, and thrust at the target.



6a



6b



6c

6. Hidari Kesagake: Assume the attacker stepped back and kept his sword raised, providing an opening at the left side. Step forward with your right foot and strike at the left shoulder across to the right hip.



7a



7b



7c

7. Shomenuchi Hidarigawashi: Assume the last strike was a finishing blow. A new attacker is coming at you with a *shomenuchi* strike from the southeast direction. Slide with your left foot to your left to avoid the strike, draw your right foot in front and check the attacker by pointing *kissaki* at the throat. The *kissaki* draws a "U" in this movement.



8a



8b



8c

8. Migi Kesagake: After the *shomenuchi* cut, the attacker is open on his right side. Step forward with the left foot and strike from the right shoulder across to the left hip, *kesagiri*. After finishing this cut, bounce up and turn to your right (west) to face the next attacker.



8d



9a



9b



9c

9. Migi Tenkan Shomenuchi: Assume the last strike was a finishing blow and a new attacker is coming at you from the west. As you complete the *kesagiri*, bounce up turning to your right and raise your sword to *jodan no kamae*, drawing your left foot behind your right. At this point, step forward with your right foot and strike at the forehead.



10a



10b



10c

10. Hidari Yokomen Osae: Assume the last strike was a finishing blow and a new attacker is coming at you *hidari yokomenuchi* from the southwest. Pivot on your right foot as you turn to your left, drawing the left foot behind and pointing the *kissaki* at the throat to check the attack (blade to the left).



11a



11b



11c



11d

11. Nodo Ichimonji: Now step forward (southwest) with the left foot, turning your hips to the right to create a reversal of the sword blade from left to right, cutting across the throat with the *kissaki* moving in a small curl-like motion. Continue turning to your right to face east.



12a



12b



12c

12. Migi Tenkan Shomenuchi: Assume the last strike was a finishing blow and an attacker is coming from the east. Turn to your right, drawing your right foot around in front of you to face east. Step forward with your right foot and strike *shomenuchi*.



13a



13b



13c

13. Migi Do-uchi: Assuming you finished the last attacker, there is now an attacker coming from the southeast to strike *shomenuchi*. Take a deep step across the attacker with your left foot in the southeast direction and strike the right torso.



14a



14b



14c

14. Hidari Do-uchi: Assuming the attacker stepped back, continue your defense by stepping forward to the southeast with your right foot, turning your hips to strike the left torso.



14d



15a



15b



15c

15. Choyaku Hidari Yokomenuchi: After finishing that attacker, you sense an attacker coming from the opposite direction. Immediately look to the northwest direction and then take a large step in that direction with your right foot, striking at the left side of attacker's head.



16a



16b



16c

16. Migi Yokomenuchi: Assume the attacker stepped back and checked your attack by point at the throat. Step forward with the left foot and strike at the right side of the attacker's head.



17a



17b



17c

17. Hidari Zenpozuki: Assume the attacker stepped back and raised his sword to *jodan no kamae*. Slide forward with the left foot and thrust at the attacker's throat.



18a



18b



18c

18. Nukikaeshi: Having finished the attacker, slide back to withdraw your sword, and then swing it 180° the right with blade facing right to check any attacks from the southeast.



19a



19b



19c

19. Hidari Shomengawashi: Assume a *shomenuchi* attack is coming from the northeast. Slide your left foot northwest and draw your right foot in front as you swing your *kissaki* in a loop to face northeast with *kissaki* at the attacker's throat.



20a



20b



20c

20. Migi Yokomenuchi: Step forward to the northeast with your left foot and strike the right side of the attacker's head.



21a



21b



21c



21d



21e



21f

21. Tobikomi Hidari Yokomenuchi Tenkan:

Assume the attacker stepped back. Leap forward (northeast) and strike the left side of the head, then turn to face the southwest direction.



22a



22b



22c

22. Shomenuchi Migikawashi:

Assume a new attacker is striking *shomenuchi* from the southeast. Slide to your right and draw the *kissaki* in a "U" to check at the throat facing south.



23a



23b



23c



23d

23. Migi Kesagake: Step forward to the south with your left foot to strike the attacker's right shoulder across to left hip.

24. Hidari Kesagake: Since the attacker stepped back, step forward with your right foot to strike the left shoulder to the hip.



24a



24b



24c



24d



25b



25c



25d



25e

25. Hidari Tenkan Tsubamegaeshi: After this finishing blow, bounce up as you turn to your left to face north. Slide to your right, letting the reversal of your hips lead the *kissaki* in a reverse “S” motion cutting across the torso. Maintain good balance with feet uncrossed when you complete this final movement.

Concluding Remarks: Kengi #3 is a wonderful gift to us from Seidokan’s founder, Roderick Kobayashi, Sensei. It is challenging and yet rewarding. Once you have learned the basic sequences, then you will be ready to train sincerely and work on making each movement in line with the principles of Aikido. Greater detail of explanation is available for this and other Kengi in the Aikido Institute of America publication, Aiki Kengi Aiki Jogi, by Roderick Kobayashi.