INTRODUCING THE “TACTICAL” PEN AS PERSONAL DEFENSE WEAPON

ABSTRACT
This quick-read instruction manual will show you how to take this basic writing implement and turn it into a devastating weapon for personal defense. Learn Why the Tactical Pen is not just your average stationary modification tool, but an innocuous weapon capable of breaking bones and dropping even the largest of would-be attackers.

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INTRODUCING THE “TACTICAL” PEN AS PERSONAL DEFENSE WEAPON

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Is the pen mightier than the sword? This phrase has been echoed both in literature by novelist and playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839, in his historical play Cardinal Richelieu; and in modern pop culture as a catch phrase. The phrase is generally used as a military proverb referring to the terms of the power of administrative over physical force against an adversary. However; the reality might never have been more true than it is in today’s society. With the constant controversy of the fate of the second amendment and progressive left leaning; knee jerk reactions by federal and local governments pertaining to which personal carry items may be deemed as illegal; the common pen provides a great low signature implement that can double as a highly effective weapon for self-defense.

The benefits of carrying a common everyday pen as a weapon are numerous. The pen is small and highly portable. They are innocuous as a weapon; meaning that they are generally non-threatening by appearance. They are a permissible weapon. Permissible meaning that, there isn’t hardly anywhere that you aren’t allowed to carry a pen. One of the biggest benefits of carrying a pen as a personal defense tool is that it is permitted for carry by the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA). That means that you are allowed to carry it on all forms of public transportation. In fact, they also provide an opportunity of “Plausible deniability” in the event of a use of force incident. The fact of the matter is that they are simply utilities.

ENTER THE “TACTICAL” PEN

Tactical Pens as they are deemed today are the product of two other items; the kubotan, a self-defense weapon invented by martial arts master “Sōke” Takayuki in the late 1960’s, and the
standard aluminum pen. Police have been using these as weapons for several decades. Eventually the use of the Kubotan had dwindled down due to many law enforcement officers realizing that the aluminum cased pen can perform many of the self-defense functions as the Kubotan; plus, it functioned as a duty pen for writing citations and reports. They provided the needed structural fortification required to deliver powerful strikes and to initiate leverage for joint locks and manipulations. The standard plastic or rubber cased pen simply cannot handle the same forces without bending or snapping altogether. The natural progression and evolution of things eventually led to companies manufacturing the “Tactical” Pen.

Unlike the it’s predecessors; the tactical pen was designed for fighting. Tactical pens are more robust than the standard aluminum cased pen. They are designed with the foresight of the user being able to execute joint locks and manipulations by using the pen as a lever bar. They are designed to withstand the forces generated by full power strikes with the tip, end and the cap. The tactical pen is a hybrid creation with all the benefits of the heavy-duty aluminum cased pen and the Kubotan. They are just as innocuous as the standard plastic pen except they are far more effective and lethal if necessary for the purposes of self-defense. Tactical Pens are like the Spartans of administrative implements.

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO USE A TACTICAL PEN AS A WEAPON

To summarize when it is okay to use a “Tactical Pen”; the correct answer is ANYTIME! Since these multi-purpose tools are not classified as weapons and are in fact actual writing implements, you may feel free to carry and or use it as your favorite writing implement any time you wish. However; without going into a dissertation on the laws and requirements for use of lethal or
deadly force which I might add is state by state varied subject matter, I would like to give an overview of when it may be legally acceptable to use as a weapon. It can be summarized with Ability, Opportunity and Intent Equals Jeopardy. This means if you feel at any time that you are out classed, outsized, outnumbered or are at some other physical disadvantage which would result in either you or someone else around you becoming seriously injured or killed as a result of said disadvantage, then you are permitted to use deadly force in proportion to the threat. Proportionate meaning enough force to nullify, neutralize and overcome the threat in order to escape. I will caveat this brief summary of the use of deadly force by recommending that in the event you are forced to use deadly force and it is prior to the end of civilized society (I.E. The Zombie Apocalypse); once you escape the threat and get to safety, that you call the authorities immediately. Again please be familiar with your state’s statute on deadly force.

EVERYDAY CARRY AND TRANSPORT OF YOUR TACTICAL PEN

The great thing about the “Tactical Pen” is that it’s just a pen. It’s a writing implement, plain and simple. Many professionals carry pens every day as part of their daily personal carry equipment. It is expressly for this very reason that one may carry a tactical pen with them at all times without creating curiosity or providing any indicator of it being used as a weapon. This section will cover 3 simple and basic everyday carry positions to keep your “Tactical” pen ready for deployment.

The Shirt Pocket – Just like Poindexter and his pocket protector carrying your pen in the breast pocket of your shirt is a great “in your face” non-threatening way to keep this special tool ready to go at all times.
The Shirt Lapel – Generally located on the gig line or button line of the shirt, center of the body adjacent to the clavicle, tucked inside the shirt. Again this is so obvious and normal that it doesn’t cause any sort of alarm to anyone thinking that you might be carrying a personal defense weapon there.

Pants pocket – Just like many today carry tactical folders, this is a great place to carry your pen. If one is accustomed to the 4-point draw from the holster with a pistol or drawing their tactical folder from this spot; then this will be natural. The cons of this is that it appears a lot like a tactical knife. This may be seen as a target indicator to security professionals and bring you unwanted attention.
For Transport Through Security Checkpoints at Court Houses and Airports or Other Forms of Public Transportation – This is not an issue. Carry it in a brief case or back pack. Take it off your body, place it in the personal items basket at search checkpoints and remember it’s a PEN!

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO USE IT AS A WEAPON

The Tactical Pen is made up of essentially three parts; the end, the shaft and the tip. The Tactical Pen could best be likened to a stiletto dagger when it comes to striking. Damage is best inflicted by the tip versus the end. This is because the tip provides greater penetration than the end. Due to manufacturing specifications and differences this may not always be the case, as some pens also pointed ends. The pointed ends are excellent for penetrating pressure points. However; the Tactical Pen also has many strengths as a control weapon by using the “shaft” as a lever to apply torque and manipulation of joints and pressure points. The end; even flat ended pens can also be used as a weapon to inflict blunt force trauma.

There are various grips for holding the Tactical Pen as a weapon. Generally speaking, although this weapon can be wielded similarly to a knife, it has different capabilities. For example; in most cases I recommend that one wield a knife using a saber grip. This is because of the mobility that the grip provides the operator as well as the fact that the saber grip maximizes the
functionality and versatility of the blade. Unlike the average knife and more like the aforementioned stiletto, the Tactical Pen is best applied using a hammer grip. The hammer grip provides the most amount of control, versatility and functionality for the weapon.

Here are the preferred grips which may be used:

Ice-Pick Grip/ (Pick Grip)

This grip provides the operator the greatest amount of stability and control and is ideal for shanking and thrusting type attacks if the tip is on the thumb side of the hand. If one wishes to emphasize the use of blunt force trauma producing “Hammer Strikes” with the end of the pen they make sure that the end is on the pinky side of the fist. It can also be used to penetrate pressure point cavities and to puncture the skin for downward stabbing when the tip is on the pinky side of the fist. This grip provides the greatest amount of control and versatility for the weapon.

Saber Grip

This is the least desirable position to use. This is due to the stability and anatomical wrist position. The anatomical position of the wrist just cannot handle the amounts of force that the Ice-Pick grip can without the operator losing their grip of the weapon or risking the easy disarm of the weapon. One of the
reasons for this is because the saber grip utilizes the thumb as a guide and the break in unity between the thumb and the rest of the fist cause a weakened stability and does not allow the wrist and forearm to lock.

If the direction of force was being exerted on the blade as is the example of an edged weapon this would be a beneficial grip. However, due to the position of the thumb and wrist combined with the exertion of force being maximized at the tip, this grip is less than ideal. Like any other grip, the thumb is the weakest part of the grip as a whole.

THE TACTICAL PEN AUGMENTS YOUR EMPTY HAND TECHNIQUES

The pen alone may be a weapon however; its use is maximized when one has an already developed empty hand skill set. Each hand has a responsibility. The one wielding the pen is used to deliver sharp focused strikes and to initiate immobilizing joint locks. The other hand, provides support and assistance by checking, striking, grabbing and applying pressure and leverage to joint lock techniques. The key to effective use of the Tactical Pen as a Self Defense implement is the ability to use both hands. That being stated, the simpler the better. Use of gross motor skills is not only more efficient, but essential. Basic empty hand techniques such as open handed slaps, simple batting and closed hand hammer-fist strikes are all that’s needed. They aren’t overly technical, they are easy to learn and remember and the best part is that they don’t require thinking. They come naturally to most people.

One must understand what the purpose of “Checking” is. Checking is the term which has been given to any technique that nullifies an attack, posts for distance or traps/ grabs in order to initiate control. Something as simple as batting away an incoming
attack, shoving the attacker back to create distance, clearing the attacker’s guard to set up an offensive attack or a simple grab are all forms of checking.

**Batting an attack** - This requires timing and practice but it’s simple to understand. An attacker initiates an attack and one simply uses an open hand or closed fist to bat the attack away in the direction of one’s choosing. It is recommended to bat the strike down versus away. The reason for this is to redirect the attack away from its intended target, cause its momentum to wain and in some cases even cause the enemy’s body to move in a direction in which momentum is on your side. For instance, a downward bat of an incoming attack redirects the enemy’s incoming energy off centerline and also causes him to root his energy momentarily. The downward rooting of his energy causes the head to move forward, slightly beyond the hips and in turn causes him to become decentralized. This is the perfect opening for a strike to any of the high percentage, highly vulnerable areas of attack covered later in this publication. Although this is not the only method for checking it is one of the most basic to get you started.
Clearing techniques – These methods are used specially to redirect or misdirect an enemy in order to set them up for a trapping technique, to avoid an incoming offensive move, to set them up for your own offensive move or to clear the way for an escape. These are best applied by controlling leverage and pivot points on the body and manipulating them in a manner which augments your intent the most. Some basic leverage and pivot control points are; the head, the neck, shoulders, above the elbows, the hips and the knees.

Trapping Techniques – These techniques inhibit your enemy’s movement and prohibit him from gaining operational momentum. Two basic traps are the wrist grab and the Whizzer technique.

The Wrist Grab – Seize the attacker’s wrist and either trap it against his own body with pressure or pull it close to you in order to prepare for follow-on offensive grappling technique.
The Whizzer Lock – This old school wrestling technique is great for controlling both the attacker’s limb and his center of gravity. This lock is a great transition lock to prepare for a variety of takedowns to include the hip throw and chin lift takedowns.

Striking Techniques – In general there are almost as many striking techniques as there are people to use them. In the spirit of keeping things simple, we will cover very basic techniques including the distractionary slap, the forearm drop strike, the hammer fist and the knife hand strike.

Distractionary Slap – This is not your sister’s mambipambi school girl slap. This open handed strike is delivered like a Mike Tyson style hook punch. Directed at the side of the face, the ear, behind the ear or side of the neck; it’s very difficult to miss. It’s easy to execute and has high pay off. This gross motor technique implements kinetic linking to deliver a devastating strike whose whole purpose is
to disorient, stun and psychologically denigrate the attacker. With the thumb bent, fingers together, slight bent and adjoined, the striking arm stays slightly crooked and is delivered with momentum starting from the toes and balls of the feet moving into the legs through the hips, into the core and ultimately down the striking appendage and through the target. The key is to not blow the target’s head away but to snap it back, causing the Coup-Counter-Coup affect. This results in disorientation, stun, knock out and even concussion.

The Forearm Drop Strike – Is similar to a hammer- fist strike except instead of using the fist; the forearm is the striking surface. This technique is best applied to the Brachial Plexus (Covered later in this publication)

The Hammer Fist Strike – This closed fist strike can be delivered from any number of angles and the energy is directed to the bottom of the fist or the meaty portion of the hand. Generally speaking the thumb is oriented away from the strike. This can be delivered by wielding one’s fist in
a circular motion or by snapping at the elbow. It is most powerful in a circular swinging motion. The targets are anywhere one can effectively engage. This is a berserker style technique.

The Knife Hand Strike – This strike is an open hand strike generally directed at soft tissue areas such as the inner arms legs and the neck. The hand is open, fingers together and slightly bent and the thumb also slightly bent.

Inside Chop Prep  

Inside Chop
UNDERSTANDING ANGLES OF ATTACK

I like the Tactical Pen as a weapon because it only requires gross motor function. It’s literally so easy a caveman could do it. As a professional Mixed Martial Artist of a wrestling background I am partial to the methodology known as “Ground and Pound”. It’s a technique that doesn’t necessarily require lots of skill and is absolutely brutal. You simply hold the opponent down and smash them with a series of hammer strikes anywhere on the body. And although this is a bit oversimplified its very close to the truth. So what does that have to do with “Tactical” pen attacks? Simple; you can use a series of extremely powerful berserker hammer strikes and gouges to decimate your attacker. Here are some simple attacks.

Downward Angled “X” attacks – These are angled attacks which can be delivered with a great amount of force from high or low, inside or outside angles.
Straight Downward Swing – Either utilizing the entire arm or snapping at the elbow this is a vertical attack

Cross Body Swings (These swings can be used bi-directionally to maximize the attack) – From either the left or right these wide swings are great to use as a clearing strike.

Circular downward swings (These are extremely tricky to stop and work great to go around your enemy’s guard) – Coming from sharp oblique inside and outside angles; these downward “C” strikes are hard to see and stop.
Upward Thrusting / Striking (The “Prison Shank”) – With the tactical pen these are best delivered to soft tissue such as the groin and testicles.
**Straight Thrust / Lunge** – Best directed toward the sternum these strikes can easily drop an attacker and take their breath away.

![Image of a person performing a straight thrust/lunge](image1.jpg)

**Using Torque on the Wrist** – This wrist trap and lock can give one a great deal of leverage to control an attacker and drag them to the ground. The leverage is applied to the top of the wrist with the shaft of the pen used as a locking bar.

![Image of a person using torque on the wrist](image2.jpg)

**Using torque on the wrist** – Here the wrist is trapped and locked using the bottom of the wrist as a locking bar.
It’s easy to remember attack patterns if you simply apply the X, T, C, 8, Centerline analogy. X attacks are diagonally directed, T are horizontal and laterally directed attacks, C attacks are circularly directed angular attacks, 8 attacks are figure 8 patterned attacks and anything that is centerline is just a straight attack. Years ago, I was introduced to this concept by Martial Arts Master David Sgro when I served in the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg North Carolina. Since then I have adopted this concept into my own combatives program.

ATTACK POINTS
Here is where to apply the KISS rule (Keep It Simple Stupid). The bottom line to remember here is “If a man can’t see he can’t fight, if a man can’t breathe he can’t fight and if a man can’t stand / move he cannot fight.” This analogy was stolen from the Karate Kid believe it or not. The menacing sensei and former Green Beret “John Kreese” would make his villainous protégé’ repeat this mantra while striking various training apparatus’ and stationary objects which were to be simulated likenesses of Mr. Myagi’s student “Daniel – San” portrayed by Ralph Machio. So what targets are we talking about?

• Eyes
• Throat/ Neck
• Diaphragm
• Groin
• Hands
• Joints – Wrists, Elbows, Knees

DEADLY FORCE AREAS
These are targets that may be redundant to some of the previously mentioned targets but will absolutely cause serious bodily injury or death to the intended subject.

• Eyes
• Temple
• Ear Canal
• Cerebellum
• Spine
• Trachea
• Jugular/ Carotid
• Subclavian Artery
• Axillary
• Brachial Artery
• Diaphragm
• Femoral

PRESSUREPOINTS
Generally speaking pressure points are fairly unreliable. One of the biggest reasons pressure points are so unreliable is due to the fact that nerve attacks using the empty hand, just doesn’t carry enough penetration to truly affect the nerves. This is not always the case with the use of a tactical pen. The tactical pen allows for a great deal of force to be focused into a pin-point or (Pen-point) as one may suggest. The concentrated force means penetration. Penetration means a more effective nerve attack. Although the use of pain compliance and pressure points is relative and
subjective based on a variety of factors to include, genetics, body mass, musculature, physical, mental and psychological condition and whether or not the target subject is under the influence of a foreign substance; the techniques have a far greater affect when using a tactical pen to apply them.

Here are some of the most basic (High Percentage) Pressure points:

1. **Temple / Zygomatico Temporal** – This is commonly known as the Temple. This location may be affected by manual stimulation using a protruding knuckle, thumb or other sharp object such as a tactical pen. It is extremely sensitive to blunt force and is best applied using a palm strike, cupped hand slap, elbow strike or orthodox punch. Either the tip or end of a tactical pen will make this nerve attack devastating. Affects are known to range from dizziness, decentralization, Sharp intense pain to unconsciousness and even death. This is a high percentage Nerve attack / pressure point and can be effectively struck at a number of angles.
2. Maxillary – Located just below the Mandibular angle (Mandibular nerve) in the crevasse between the cheek and jaw bone, this is a high percentage nerve attack / pressure point. Sharp or bony parts of the body are ideal for string this area. Elbow Strikes, Phoenix Eye Punches, Orthodox punches and even palm strikes are excellent weapons for striking this area. Common effects are Sharp intense pain, Dizziness and decentralization, nausea, head ache and even unconsciousness. Again, striking this target with either end of the tactical pen will be devastating.

Maxillary

3. Mastoid Process – The Mastoid is the sharp bone located approximately an inch behind the ear at the base of the skull. This is a high percentage point and is best applied by striking. Open Palm strikes are preferred as are elbow strikes. Orthodox Punches are high risk strikes and may result in a broken appendage. However; the hard aluminum impact points of the tactical pen make this target far more
practical. The Auricular branch of the Vagus nerve is adjacent to this location. A strike to this area can result in effects ranging from dizziness, unconsciousness, nausea and even death. The Vagus Nerve is also known as the wandering nerve and has cervical effects on the tongue, throat and heart to mention a few. A strike is best applied at a 90-degree angle or an inward and rearward angle causing the nerve to hit against the conical mastoid process bone.

4. The Mandibular Angle - The Mandibular Angle is accessible underneath the ridge of the Jaw bone and is best applied by using a sharp surface such as a knuckle or a strike versus manual pressure. However; the penetration and leverage that one can get using a tactical pen make this a far more effective pressure point using pressure alone.
5. The Philtrum area – This pressure Point is accessible just beneath the nose and above the upper lip. The best application is by striking, however manual pressure is also very effective against a majority of people. Subjects respond differently to manual stimulation of this nerve by either inward, upward or downward pressure. This is a high percentage pressure point and generally the response is watering of the eyes and blurred vision or headache
6. **The Brachial Plexus** – This is a very High Percentage Pressure Point. It is accessible bilaterally on each side of the neck and runs just below the Trapezius and above the clavicle. The root nerve itself is a large nerve bundle with several branches and actually runs under the clavicle/collar bone. This bundle of nerves is best applied by striking. In Mixed Martial Arts and Thai Boxing knockouts are often achieved by striking this with a punch, forearm drop smash or kick. The typical result of striking this can range from intense electric shock like pain running from the shoulder up into the neck and side of the head to slight disorientation to a buckling of the knees, complete loss of balance or in some cases unconsciousness.

7. **The Brachial Plexus Tie-In** – This is generally a low percentage pressure point because it is very difficult to access based on location and the anatomical body type of varying subjects. Typically subjects that are heavily built
or muscually built in the shoulder and upper chest area are less responsive to this point. This point is best applied if struck with a sharp striking surface such as a tactical pen uniquely provides. Inverted fist punches work well as do palm strikes with the fingers pointing outward from the body. Elbow strikes also work well. The anatomical location of this point is best used for striking as a means to pivot the body. Since the Brachial Tie in is so close to the shoulder this is best used as a pivot point versus a pressure point.

8. **The Radial Nerve** – The Radial Nerve is a high percentage pressure point that runs downward along the long axis of the forearm thumb side. This point is best applied by striking however it may be applied with manual pressure. To best apply this pressure point; strike or apply direct pressure directly on top of the forearm “Radial” bone (Thumb side) of the forearm. Typical response is either a loosening or contracting of the hand muscles, a sharp electrical pulsing sensation followed by a slightly delayed and deep burning sensation.

9. **The Ulnar Nerve** – The Ulnar Nerve is located “Pinky” side on the forearms and runs downward along the long axis of the appendage. The nerve extends as high as the upper arm
and is the nerve that is the basis for the term “Funny bone”. The “Funny bone” is the sensation of tingling, pinching or burning that occurs just above the elbow when the elbow is struck. This is also referred to as the Ulnar Nerve entrapment at the elbow. Like the Radial and Median nerve when attacked on the forearm the lower the location of attack, the more intense the pain. This nerve is easiest attacked below the elbow with a direct strike at a 90-degree angle. A knife edge attack, hammer fist attack or an attack using the sharp point of the “Ulna forearm bone” are most successfully used to attack the Ulnar nerve. It is important to follow through with the strike causing maximum penetration. A delayed sharp intense pain followed by an intense burning sensation that radiates downward toward the hand is the typical response to a strike to the Ulnar Nerve. Temporary paralysis of the appendage as well as numbness of the arm and hand may occur when struck. This is considered a high percentage attack and is excellent for dislodging an article from the hand of a would-be attacker. Ulnar Nerve
10. **The Median Nerve**

– The Median Nerve is centrally located on the forearms and runs downward along the long axis of the appendage. Like the Radial and Median nerve when attacked on the forearm the lower the location of attack, the more intense the pain. This nerve is easiest attacked below the elbow joint with a direct strike at a 90-degree angle. A knife edge attack, hammer fist attack or an attack using the sharp point of the “Ulna forearm bone” are most successfully used to attack the Median nerve. It is important to follow through with the strike causing maximum penetration. A delayed sharp intense pain followed by an intense burning sensation that radiates downward toward the hand is the typical response to a strike to the Median Nerve. Temporary paralysis of the appendage as well as numbness of the arm and hand may occur when struck. This is considered a high percentage attack and is excellent for dislodging an article from the hand of a would-be attacker.

11. **The Jugular Knot/ Notch** – This target is located centerline of the neck and throat area. It is a noticeable dip on the center of the clavicular line. It is found at the superior border of the manubrium of the sternum, between the clavicular notches. This area provides passage for the
internal jugular vein, glossopharyngeal, vagus, and accessory nerves. When struck or manipulated causes extreme discomfort and choking sensation due to direct pressure and blockage to the wind pipe. Although to the unsuspecting this attack area is effective on nearly everyone, it is a very small area with limited access. This target is best affected by penetrating the finger tips into the “notch” and driving in with downward force. Most effective when using four fingers to strike in with a “Spear hand” style attack then curling the fingers in around the bone and driving in and down with downward force. The use of a sharp hardened object such as a tactical pen make this attack lethal. This method is best used as a surprise attack and not used during a full on frontal assault. Because of the defender’s ease of defending such a small target. It is considered a high percentage technique based on the effectiveness when applied. The difficulty in actually executing a successful attack here is also high which makes this a moderate percentage attack area with high pay off.

12. The Supra Scapular – The Suprascapular is located as the pro word implies (Above) the Scapula along the long head or lower portion of the Trapezius muscle which run bilaterally down the Thorax portion of the spine. This is a high
percentage pressure point / Nerve attack. This area is best applied using a downward strike with a hammer fist type strike or an elbow strike. A downward strike here causes a jolt of pressure to the Supra scapular nerve which entwines around the area between the C5 and C6 vertebrae. The effects of a strike here range from an immediate sharp intense pain which radiates upward to the base of the skull, followed by a burning sensation, to decentralization, a buckling of the knees and in some cases unconsciousness. (Caution) this area is closely adjacent to the spinal column and blunt force to the spine may cause paralysis

13. The Common Peroneal – This is a high percentage pressure point in that it works on a high percentage of the populous. This pressure point is accessible along the trouser seam of the outer thigh bilaterally. It is best applied by using a strike such as a knee strike to the outer thigh or a kick to the outer thigh using the shin bone. A low-line strike delivered with a tactical pen can be far more powerful than any kick. The effects of this point may range from sharp pulsating pain that runs down the leg to instant numbness of
the appendage. The knee may buckle or the person struck may completely collapse.

Other High Percentage Pain inducing targets include the fingers and hands.

**JOINT LOCKS**

The Tactical Pen provides the user with not only the advantage of a sharp, hardened penetrating striking surface, but also great leverage for various locking techniques. Here are a few simple techniques off some very common attacks.

**Same Side Lapel Grab (Push or Pull) –**
1. Immediately place the “Shaft” over the top of the grabbing appendage wrist. The shaft is ran laterally going across the top of the wrist. This can be achieved using any grip on the pen itself.

2. Using the thumbs of both hands to complete the lock then roll your wrists down and inward as if manipulating the throttle on a motorcycle. This applies torque to the joint.

3. Using your legs change levels by dropping slightly causing the attacker’s balanced to become decentralized.

4. Staying close to the attacker, keeping his hand and wrist trapped against your body and keep your elbows in; pivot toward the attacker so that you cause his/ her arm to extend outward and you are parallel to the attacker.
5. Without crossing feet take advantage of the attacker’s decentralization by dragging them out; causing them to go to the ground.

**Cross Grab (Push or Pull) –**

1. Immediately place the “Shaft” over the top of the grabbing appendage wrist. The shaft is ran laterally going across the top of the wrist. This can be achieved using any grip on the pen itself.

2. Using the thumbs of both hands to complete the lock then roll your wrists down and inward as if manipulating the throttle on a motorcycle. This applies torque to the joint.

3. Using your legs change levels by dropping slightly causing the attacker’s balanced to become decentralized.
4. Staying close to the attacker, keeping his hand and wrist trapped against your body and keep your elbows in; pivot toward the attacker so that you cause his/her arm to extend outward and you are parallel to the attacker.

5. Without crossing feet take advantage of the attacker’s decentralization by dragging them out; causing them to go to the ground.

**Same Side Wrist Grab (Push or Pull) –**

1. Immediately bring both of your hands to your chest and place the “Shaft” over the top of the grabbing appendage wrist. The shaft is ran laterally going across the top of the wrist. This can be achieved using any grip on the pen itself.
2. Using the thumbs of both hands to complete the lock then roll your wrists down and inward as if manipulating the throttle on a motorcycle. This applies torque to the joint.

3. Using your legs change levels by dropping slightly causing the attacker’s balanced to become decentralized.

4. Staying close to the attacker, keeping his hand and wrist trapped against your body and keep your elbows in; pivot toward the attacker so that you cause his/ her arm to extend outward and you are parallel to the attacker.

5. Without crossing feet take advantage of the attacker’s decentralization by dragging them out; causing them to go to the ground.

Cross Wrist Grab (Push or Pull) –

1. Immediately bring both of your hands to your chest and place “Shaft” over the top of the grabbing appendage wrist. The shaft is ran laterally going
across the top of the wrist. This can be achieved using any grip on the pen itself.

2. Using the thumbs of both hands to complete the lock then roll your wrists down and inward as if manipulating the throttle on a motorcycle. This applies torque to the joint.

3. Using your legs change levels by dropping slightly causing the attacker’s balance to become decentralized.

4. Staying close to the attacker, keeping his hand and wrist trapped against your body and keep your elbows in; pivot toward the attacker so that you cause his/ her arm to extend outward and you are parallel to the attacker.
5. Without crossing feet take advantage of the attacker’s decentralization by dragging them out; causing them to go to the ground.

The tactical pen is a great low profile self-defense instrument. This tool is extremely versatile and is simple to use. Like any other piece of equipment; the more skills that you already have the better you will be able to use it. However, unlike most weapons for self-defense the Tactical Pen does not require a special “Practice” or “Training” model to use for training. One can simply train with the Tactical Pen itself. This publication is not the end-all, be-all encyclopedia of techniques or methodologies for the transportation and implementation of the Tactical Pen. It was designed to be a basic user manual to define a set of principles for which many of the techniques for this tool can be based on.

**TACTICAL PEN TRIVIA**

**Q.** “Can a person penetrate the human skull with a Tactical Pen?”

**A.** Yes

“The human skull is capable of withstanding forces of anywhere from 15 – 36 pounds per square inch of pressure before cracking. The average human being with the aid of an apparatus such as a knife, ice pick or screwdriver or tactical pen can exert well over that amount of pressure. The real factor being whether or not the person wielding the weapon can deliver a blow that is focused and well-aimed enough to deliver a direct hit.”

**Q.** “How effective is stabbing someone in the skull with a Tactical Pen?”

**A.** Varies
“There are so many factors to determining whether an attack to the skull with a Tactical Pen is an effective attack. Assuming that the term effective refers to a one strike “stopping blow”, I would say no. The fact of the matter is that there have been numerous documented cases of people who have been shanked in the skull who suffered little to no ability hampering effects. The answer to this question revolves around several factors:

1. Was the attack a direct impact?
2. How deep was the penetration?
3. What part of the skull/ brain was affected?

The brain has various areas that control various functions of the body from speech to motor function and breathing. Using a risk versus reward model would bring one to the conclusion that the odds of a strike to the skull, even with penetration to an area which controls survival functions is relatively small in comparison to attacking a more vulnerable high percentage area such as the base of the skull and cerebellum.”

Q. “How much force is required to penetrate the membrane of human skin with a tactical pen?”

A. Much like the question of how much force is required to penetrate the human skull, the answer to this question also varies. Sadly, the scientific answer may lead many to much more confusion over the matter. However; we will attempt to broach this subject in a manner as simple as possible. Basing the answer to this question on a forensic study that was conducted in the UK, “Quantification of forces required for stabbing with screwdrivers and other blunter instruments”; conducted in 2010, published online in April
2011 and then again as part of the International Journal of Legal Medicine in 2012 we will cover the factors involved.

Some of the key variable factors that dictate penetration are:

1. The Angle of attack
2. The diameter of the tip
3. The amount of force generated expressed as (N) as a coefficient
4. Skin Elasticity
5. Skeletal Structure Beneath the impacted area
6. Age and health of the subject impacted

Again, this is a difficult concept for some to wrap their head around since many relate to force as PSI, Foot Pounds and or Inch Pounds. However; let’s say that the golden standard for dermal penetration is the damage that can be delivered with a sharp knife. A sharp knife can penetrate the dermis with as little force as 12 N. However, a blunt knife may require as much force as 35 N. On the other end of the spectrum a Philips tipped screwdriver can penetrate the skin with as much as 100 N or greater. A Slotted (Flat tip) screwdriver requires as little as 10 and high as 30 N. All of this data lays the groundwork for what we will establish as the amount of force required for a pen to penetrate the flesh. In this study the amount of force required for a pen to penetrate the dermis ranges from 31 – 44 N.
Q. “What are the techniques used that one can apply pain compliance with a tactical pen?”

A. Pressure, Thrusting, Rolling and grinding

Q. “Is it legal to use a Tactical Pen for self-defense?”

A. Yes – **However; one must be able to justify the use of force via explanation of Ability, Opportunity and Intent and the level of jeopardy that they were facing.**