

KNIFE ON KNIFE FIGHTING Review

Let me state right from the start that between viewing this three DVD series twice and practicing each of the forty one techniques several times I spent well over eighteen hours of time in order to give the “Knife on Knife Fighting” system a fair review. I make no claim to have “mastered” it by any means, and to do so, one would need to spend many more hours of concentrated time to competently demonstrate each of the techniques flawlessly from instinctive muscle memory. This is true of any system of defense and the knife is no different. One’s background and learning curve plays an important role in just how quickly this will be done.

If one is looking to become a “Street ZORO” through this knife fighting series they will be very disappointed. There are no “flashy” techniques! The only “flash” will be the enemy’s life leaving their body in less than a span of ten seconds start to finish. I kid you not!

The knife is an awesome weapon! If carried for self defense, it is absolutely no different than carrying a loaded handgun. You better be willing to use it and use it with deadly force just as you would be with the handgun – and you had better be prepared to deal with the literal mess left in the aftermath of its use. Listen, if attacked with a knife your enemy is more than prepared (anger, desperation) or mentally impaired, and has no qualms about making you bleed to death or taking your head off at the shoulders and placing it their freezer for a trophy.

The first DVD in this series covers a wealth of information in terms of history, targets, anatomy of the blade, anatomy of the body as well as legal issues. A very interesting part of the DVD was the background of Master Brusso that was being brought out by the person conducting somewhat of an informal interview. I’m a student of body language as well as having a lengthy background in interviewing techniques from a counseling and investigative standpoint. The interview and questioning brought out the technical training and personal history of Master Brusso very well. What I observed as well as “heard” without actually being verbally stated by Master Brusso was this..... (my observation) *he is a humble man (could have easily bragged about his exploits – did not!) who has been highly trained and was part of a very elite military unit who used these knife techniques he teaches. When he talks about anatomy and what will happen to that anatomy and just*

how long it will take to neutralize an adversary after they have had a knife used on them is borne out from personal experience – no guess work or theory! I have no doubt he is a man with many heroic stories and was required to take more than one life (many) to protect his and/or that of his fellow soldiers. He is a Warrior without ever needing to say he is!

In the first DVD Master Brusso states that the series covers advanced knife fighting concepts. Let me touch on this a bit --- anyone can learn this “Knife on Knife Fighting” system. If one is looking to learn the very basic fundamentals of stances and different ways to hold a knife you are not going to get a specific lesson on each of those topics. But, you will get a lesson on stances, movement and proper holding of the knife throughout the entire series – these are discussed in each of the techniques demonstrated. So, if one is coming with very little to perhaps no background in knife on knife fighting you will still, with practice, be able to learn everything presented. Every student should become a “miner” – digging for those gems that are in every technique demonstrated by your Sensei!

Master Brusso presents this as an “All weather knife fighting” system. And so it is, as he discusses getting around clothing while discussing targets. With Master Brusso’s background as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) his thorough discussion on the “Five Target Areas” and the medical aspects is superior to any presentation I have ever viewed. He makes it quite clear that the system “focuses on targets” and “target opportunity” – not just a “slashing and hacking” method of knife fighting.

If you want to learn the “Anatomy of the Blade” you will be more than prepared to make an informed decision on what to look for. I really liked Master Brusso’s comment that the “choice of a blade is personal.” I agree! There are a whole lot of opinions out there about what makes the best knife. You know what? It’s not going to be good day if I get my throat cut with a two dollar knock off pocket knife or a five hundred dollar fixed blade. I’m dead either way brother! No one is going to be looking any more of or less of a corpse in the morgue – no sign above the head saying “Too bad, this one got his throat cut by a two dollar flea market knife!” The wife isn’t going to be asking the Medical Examiner – “Hey Doc! Do you and the COPS know if he was taken out with my nail-file or with the bowie knife I bought yesterday?” Well, not unless she’s the one who cut your throat anyway!

DVD's two and three cover the forty one tactical techniques and are instructed entirely by Master Brusso. I have practiced several knife on knife fighting systems and have been ranked and certified in a couple of them. I knew the system was a good one based upon what I had observed in the few clips on the website – however, I had no idea that I was about to see one of the most formidable knife fighting systems available to those willing to learn it.

First, the filming of the series was first class. I have never observed in any other martial arts DVD as many angles shown or special technical filming techniques used -- unparalleled, and no doubt costly to produce.

As mentioned, most of the techniques that Master Brusso teaches are meant to simply neutralize (kill) your adversary. However, Master Brusso “opened the door” for non-lethality techniques and demonstrates several of them in the series. All the techniques demonstrated are in close and with little to no exaggerated movement. I'd call them “stealth”.

All techniques are done half speed, slow motion and then dissected movement by movement. The student will never lack in understanding of the mechanics of how the technique flows. If one learns the few standard blocks the system employs they will find that they will have little trouble learning the secondary techniques – advanced knife fighting it is, but yet very simple in concepts. This is what makes it so very different than other systems that I have studied.

The techniques combine trapping, snapping arms as well knife throwing (in close). Other very unique techniques were “Hidden Attacks” (*Hidden knife positions – this may be the best non-threatening stance and surprise attack one could ever use in my opinion*), “Beat and ½” technique, “Push Off” and Double Push Off” technique. And to top it off there are some very deadly techniques instructed for “Stalled Out” positions.

People can and do put all sorts of catchy marketing phrases on their DVD case covers and I'm always suspicious. Master Brusso's has his cover stating “*The Ultimate Guide*” and “*Taught to the elite around the world! Now in this unique series you will learn how to save your life.*” These are some very big statements to make and there are only a few in the world that can back these up. I believe Master Brusso is one of the few. I believe it is not only “The Ultimate Guide” it is “Definitive Guide to Surviving a Knife on Knife

Attack”. And if you learn these techniques you WILL dramatically increase your chances of surviving a knife on knife attack. You will be among the “elite” as there are few that know these techniques.