

Michigan Handgun Academy

The Four-Step Draw

The object of drawing your handgun successfully is to be able to hit your intended target, and assure it doesn't hit somewhere unintended. The draw stroke should be a smooth presentation that is consistent, on target and programmed into your motor skills.

Step One

You must acquire a good firm grip while the pistol is still in the holster. There is no time to re-grip later!

- The thumb disengages the thumb break
- Support hand is located on the chest. May be used to block or strike assailant. Also, keeps support hand from being swept.
- Trigger finger outside the holster and outside trigger guard

Step Two

- When the muzzle clears the holster (clears leather) the pistol is rocked forward and your wrist is locked.
- Finger outside the trigger guard
- Muzzle should be pointing forward at chest level of assailant. Referred to commonly as "Wing Guard"
- In a close in encounter you would be able to shoot from this position while protecting the assailant from taking your gun.

Step Three

- The gun hand moves in front of your torso and meets the support hand at the sternum. Both forearms are tight against the chest. The pistol should be centered on your upper body 6 inches from your chin. This is the "Low Ready" position.
- Finger outside the trigger guard
- You are in a solid two hand hold
- This position can be held for a longer period of time then and extended 45 degree ready

Step Four

- Up on target - as you press the pistol outward in a line toward the assailant.
- You begin tracking the front sight to eye level to your target
- If taking a shot, the finger is now moved to the trigger
- Front site is now indexed if time permits. If a close threat the shooter will point shoot at the assailant.

If threat is neutralized the pistol is returned to “Low Ready”

- Take a breath
- Pause
- Scan for additional threats

Don't be too fast to re-holster.

“ No one every won a gun fight being the first to re-holster”

Recover to Holster

- Keep support hand on chest
- Lower pistol muzzle downward
- Insert muzzle into the holster
- Finger of the trigger
- Your thumb of your gun hand is placed on the rear of the slide or back of the hammer
- The trigger finger is outside the trigger guard and then outside the holster
- Re-engage the thumb break or hood

The purpose of this entire draw process forms a system that can be practiced (dry fire) and can be performed under high stress and will deliver maximum accuracy potential based on hand/eye coordination and reflex memory without conscious thought.

Practice will save your life!