

## Comparison of the 16/20 to the 24 Technique Curriculum

Forward: Lately I have seen people asking on Facebook about the comparison of the 32, 24 and the 16/20 Kenpo curriculum. When I came into Kenpo, Mr. Parker had switched to the 24-technique curriculum so I really can't comment about the 32-technique curriculum.

My name is Tommy Burks, I am sure a lot of you do not know who I am so I would like to give a brief description of why I was asked by the IKKA and the advisors to be one of two people to do this comparison letter. With the help of Mr. Jeff Dukes, who will always have my deepest appreciation, I joined the I.K.K.A. as a club member on May 1, 1986 and was given a provisional black belt which was good for one year. Being a black belt in two other systems, I was advised I would be required to test at the end of a one-year probation period for 1st Degree Black Belt in American Kenpo. I tested on May 1, 1987, one year to the date of when I joined the I.K.K.A., in front of Mr. Parker. I was able to demonstrate any of the requirements requested from Yellow Belt through 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt, which included the 48 Black Belt extensions required for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Brown Belt and 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt, plus all the sets and forms up through Form 4. I accomplished this studying on my own without an instructor, I did however have the opportunity to attend several seminars and a few classes which included a seminar by Mr. Dukes, plus had the opportunity to partner up with him during one of Mr. LaBounty's seminars and one of David Ceneceros' classes teaching Two Man Form. I paid a mat fee and attended three additional classes taught by David Ceneceros followed by attending a few seminars taught by Huk Planas during that first year of my personal training. Mr. Dukes was a true inspiration to me since I had never seen anyone in Texas who could do Kenpo and move like he did. In 1988, I went to Albuquerque, NM to attend a seminar Mr. Parker was presenting on March 26. A Black Belt friend of mine, whom I had trained with in Tae Kwon Do, had trained in Kenpo with another individual came with me to Albuquerque. He had reached his one year probation time limit to test. Dick was slightly past his one-year probation period to test which I discussed this with Mr. Parker. Mr. Parker agreed to test him on Friday night prior to the seminar if we could be there prior to the seminar. He then asked me if I knew the requirements for 2<sup>nd</sup> Black to which I replied, "Yes Sir I do". Mr. Parker then informed me that I also would be testing. After the test and the promotions, Mr. Parker informed me that I was now one of his direct students in which he also stated "I will take care of you". I did not comprehend the full meaning of those words at that time. Mr. Parker had earlier stated in an IKKA newsletter that he would be picking 12 students as personal protégés to train and help him teach American Kenpo the way he wanted it presented to students. Mr. Parker advised me at this promotion that I was included in that group. I am currently a 9<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt in the International Kenpo Karate Association (I.K.K.A.). I am an advisor for KAM4 Inc.; as well as, the I.K.K.A.. I have been asked by the I.K.K.A. to address the difference of the rearranged 16/20 technique curriculum by Mr. Brian Duffy and the official IKKA 24 Technique curriculum created by SGM Ed Parker Sr.

A lot of confusion exists throughout the American Kenpo Karate world concerning the 24-technique curriculum created by SGM Ed Parker Sr. and the rearranged 16/20-Technique curriculum by Mr. Brian Duffy. I feel this is because it has been stated or insinuate to myself and others, that Mr. Parker was going to switch over to the 16/20 curriculum. This individual also stated he had personally seen handwritten letters sent by Mr. Parker to Brian Duffy stating that he was planning on switching to the 16/20 curriculum. Last year at the KSDS Kajukembo annual event in Fort Worth, Texas (which I have been asked to teach at for the last four years), I had the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Brian Duffy the 16/20 curriculum. Mr. Duffy stated in the late 1980's he approached Mr. Parker with the 16/20 technique curriculum because he felt it took too long for students to advance to their next rank. Mr. Duffy stated that his students had complained in the past about not getting promoted as quickly as their friends who were in other systems. Mr. Duffy told me that Mr. Parker stated he would look at what Mr. Duffy had rearranged. Mr. Duffy stated that later Mr. Parker advised him that he could not use the 16/20 technique rearrangement for an adult program but would look at possibly using it as a Junior program. He also told me that Mr. Parker contacted him later and advised him he could not use the 16/20 arrangement as a Junior program. Mr. Parker spent over 30 plus years of creating and refining his system the way he wanted it, which is reflected by his 24 technique curriculum. He had recently published the 5 volumes of the Infinite Insights Into Kenpo. The 16/20 curriculum did not represent the sequences and order that Mr. Parker had established, plus how he wanted the system to be taught. Mr. Parker explains in the 5 Volumes of the Infinite Insights Into Kenpo that he came up with the concept of the Web of Knowledge to teach techniques in a specific order by categories. In Kenpo, Mr. Parker establishes "themes" for the techniques, sets, and the forms. Mr. Parker also established themes for each **belt level** in Kenpo to establish a criteria he wanted students to achieve prior to moving into the next level. This can be compared to education in the school system. This comparison could theoretically be in grade school you learn simple math, in middle school you learn algebra, in high school you learn trigonometry, and in college you learn calculus. Is it possible to learn a mixture of each in grade school? In our discussion, Mr. Duffy had stated he had used the Web of Knowledge to rearrange the curriculum and the **Themes of the Belt Levels** were not a consideration. Some will say so what, a punch is a punch, a hold is a hold, or a kick is a kick, and so on. Mr. Parker always analyzed and considered all aspects of everything he taught and discussed. For instance: Is a right front straight punch the same as a right front straight punch followed by a left roundhouse punch? Is a rear bear hug arms free, the same as a rear bear hug arms pinned with a second attacker executing a punch from the front? Is a right step through front kick the same as a right step through roundhouse kick follow by a spinning back kick? Why is the answer to these three questions all "no"! They obviously present different degrees of difficulty or other dangerous factors which requires additional knowledge and higher skill levels to properly prepare a student to be able to defend against the more sophisticated attack. I would also like to point out the fact that Mr. Parker had a weapon attack listed in Yellow Belt, but not in Orange Belt. I have heard it stated, "apparently it was an oversight on Mr. Parker's part". This was no oversight by Mr. Parker, originally Orange Belt was the beginning color belt

level in Kenpo. There was no Yellow Belt. Mr. Parker established Yellow Belt as an introductory level to give an example of what would be contained in the Kenpo system.

I have knowledge of one Black Belt instructor in California, whom I consider one of my best friends in the Kenpo world, being given a copy of the 16/20 curriculum by Mr. Parker and asked to use, evaluate, and give him feedback with his opinion of the rearrangement. There are possibly a few other instructors that Mr. Parker may have asked to look at the 16/20 curriculum as well. I personally have no knowledge of this or who those instructors are if he did. It was common for Mr. Parker, when he came up with ideas (or in the case that other people would present Mr. Parker with their ideas), he would pick an instructor or instructors to look at them and give him their feedback and opinions on the matter.

During the conversation I had with Mr. Duffy at the Kajukembo event in Fort Worth in August of this year, I stated to Mr. Duffy that I had seen on Kenponet.com were it stated there are two American Kenpo Karate curriculums, the 24 Technique curriculum created by Mr. Parker and the 16/20 Technique curriculum created by Mr. Brian Duffy. Mr. Duffy did state that he was aware of this. I asked Mr. Duffy directly “so which of the 154 ideal phase techniques, the 96 technique extensions, the sets, forms or freestyle techniques did you create?”. He responded, “none of them, I just rearranged them in a different order”. I then expressed to him the statement that he had created the curriculum was incorrect and it should have been correctly stated that he had rearranged Mr. Parker’s curriculum. Mr. Duffy agreed with me that the wording was incorrect and conveyed something that is not true. I recently have received information that was shared on a post on one of Bo Luellen’s Facebook posts in 2015, concerning the validity of the 16/20 curriculum. In this post, it states that there are no handwritten letters by Mr. Parker saying he was going to switch over to the 16/20 curriculum. I recently contacted Mr. Duffy by telephone and asked about the “so-called” handwritten letters. He told me that he had received some marked-up info back from Mr. Parker regarding the 16/20 curriculum, but could not recall handwritten letters sent to him by Mr. Parker stating he was going to switch to the 16/20 curriculum Mr. Duffy stated he would look back through his files and see if he could find such letters. Being I have never been contacted that he found these so called letters, I assume they do not exist.

In your consideration of the following statements that I will be making on Mr. Parker’s curriculum, I need to give you some insights behind them.

The last time Mr. Parker was in Texas was June 15 – 17, 1990. Mr. Parker and I had a ½ hour discussion starting at 4 AM and ending at approximately 8:30 AM on Sunday June 17, 1990. Mr. Keith Gorham had brought Mr. Parker in that weekend for a seminar. Mr. Gorham was to arrive at 8:30 AM on Sunday morning to take Mr. Parker to the airport to catch his flight back to Pasadena.

During that meeting, Mr. Parker told me that he had been working on revising the belt level training manuals and said that they contained too much information for him to be able to publish

them. Mr. Parker had decided if students had access to these revised training manuals, they would possibly feel that they wouldn't need an instructor because of the amount of information contained in them. I asked Mr. Parker if he had considered making a student manual and an instructor manual. Mr. Parker told me that no he had not thought about doing that, but he considered it an excellent idea and would consider that as an option.

On Sunday March 20, 2016 after the Luau KAM4 presented in Cosa Mesa on March 19, 2016 to honor Mr. Parker's birthday. Darlene Parker invited me and Jeff Nichols, one of my Brown Belts, to come over to her house to spend the afternoon prior to flying back to Texas on Monday. Upon arriving at Darlene's house on Sunday, Darlene showed me stacks of boxes and containers containing Mr. Parker's files. Darlene also showed me numerous plastic containers, containing old floppy disks of Mr. Parker's computer files. Darlene gave me permission to look through any of Mr. Parker's files and requested for me to help determine which of the computer discs needed to be converted to be able to use them in current day computers. After careful examination of the disks it was decided that approximately 128 of the floppy disks needed to be converted. Most of these disks contained from 3 to 6 file folders on them.

As an advisor for I.K.K.A. and KAM4 Inc., I was asked by Darlene Parker Tafua, in 2016 (who is Mr. Parkers daughter and owner of the I.K.K.A., KAM4 Inc. and all of Mr. Parker's intellectual property which includes his copyrighted material and trademarks), if I would assemble new belt level manuals for the I.K.K.A..

Upon starting the project of developing new I.K.K.A. Belt level manuals, I began going through the 128 floppy disks which had been converted. Some of these floppy disks contained multiple folders on different subjects. Going through these files, I discovered that Mr. Parker had taken my suggestion on developing a student and an instructor manual. These manuals contained a huge amount of material and information not contained in the manuals that Mr. Parker had given me in 1989. Dates on some of the files contained in these floppy disks showed Mr. Parker was working on them through the end of November 1990. Not a single file in any of the floppy disks I have examined contained any information or reference to the 16/20 curriculum.

To be able to make this comparison easy to understand, I have detailed the techniques and belt levels in the 16/20 technique rearranged curriculum to the 24-technique curriculum created and established by Mr. Parker. Many people have been misguided and led to believe they are a certain rank in the Ed Parker American Kenpo Karate system by instructors who have watered down Mr. Parker's curriculum when sadly they do not even come close to the requirements of that rank. If you have received rank per the 16/20 curriculum you can easily determine by this comparison what your rank would be in relationship to Mr. Parker's curriculum. The relationship is easy to determine I have put a letter behind the name of the technique in the 16/20 curriculum relating to the belt level and have also shown that technique in the color of the belt level it represents.

Shown below is a comparison of the 16/20 technique curriculum to Mr. Parker's 24 technique curriculum. This comparison will start at Orange Belt since Yellow Belt is the same in both curriculums. Also keep in mind that Mr. Parker established the techniques used in each belt level with the Web of Knowledge; as well as, the Themes of the Belt Level. Mr. Duffy stated to me the 16/20 curriculum techniques that he rearranged was established by using the Web of Knowledge and **did not consider the Themes of the Belt Level**. As mentioned previously, not all techniques in the Web of Knowledge contained in a certain category hold the same value in difficulty or severity of the attack. As stated previously, Orange Belt was the first belt level in the American Kenpo Karate system curriculum so it doesn't contain any weapon defenses in Mr. Parker's curriculum because he felt students at this level, had not obtained the knowledge and skill level to deal with a weapon attack. The 16/20 curriculum; however, does contain a weapon technique in Orange Belt. Mr. Parker created the Yellow Belt curriculum as an introduction into the self-defense attacks, Mr. Parker included a weapon technique to show what students would be working against in the American Kenpo Karate system, and that are the reasons there is a weapon attack in Yellow Belt level and not in Orange Belt level.

**Mr. Parker states on page 69 in Volume 5 of the Infinite Insights Into Kenpo:**

**Careful examination of each of the techniques required in each of the belt levels will reveal that the topics listed above are in the exact order that I teach the techniques to my students. While all belt levels up through up through Green Belt, in my schools and as well as other I.K.K.A. affiliates, follow the same sequence of topics, there are noticeable omissions of attacks within some of the sequences of some of the belt levels. The omission of the various attacks within the sequence may be due to the frequency of different attacks. Lower belt requirements may stress more grabs, punches, hugs, or holds since there is a greater probability of encountering these types of attacks rather than kicks. Secondly, beginners are not totally equipped to make kicking and weapon techniques work because of their limited experience.**

Mr. Parker describes in the introduction portion of his manuals, goals for the student to learn and achieve. This assists the student progressing through the system in the manner Mr. Parker thought is most beneficial for increasing knowledge and skill for the student to move into the next level of the curriculum.

At the end of each technique listed in the 16/20 curriculum I have shown in parenthesis, what belt level that technique would be at in Mr. Parker's 24 Technique curriculum (these techniques are also color coded to more easily make the comparison). This gives you an immediate feedback of how you would rank in the 24-Technique curriculum. Since a large majority of the techniques in the 16/20 do not follow the themes of the belt manuals, students are missing an important part of what Mr. Parker wanted students to develop at that stage of learning.

As shown on page 68 of Volume 5 of the Infinite Insights Into Kenpo, Mr. Parker explains how he created the Web of Knowledge and the parameters he use to do so. It states: **“The Web is prioritized according to the degree of difficulty in handling an attack”**. Mr. Parker arranged these not only in categories, but also in levels of difficulty and danger presented by the attack. A good example and point to consider is why did Mr. Parker use Checking the Storm in Yellow Belt instead of Reversing Storms. The reason is obvious, Checking the Storm requires the student to learn how to defend against a single attack, Reversing Storms requires a student to learn how to defend against a multiple attack which requires a higher level of knowledge and skill.

Mr. Parker established the 24-technique curriculum on a progressive basis to create higher levels of knowledge and skill in a specific order. This is required to establish the student being ready both mentally and physically to handle greater difficulties encountered with the increased difficulty and danger level in more sophisticated attacks. This is especially true when deadlier weapon attacks and attacks that have more than one attacker. Mr. Parker relates the American Kenpo Karate system to the American school system. You don't mix grade school material with Middle School or High School material with College Level material, instead you learn it in a progressive order. Mr. Parker included in the American Kenpo Karate system themes for the techniques, sets, forms at each of the belt levels to help students and instructors understand the aspects of what they are learning. This was meant to increase the student's knowledge, not just the skill of knowing how to do a technique, set or form. Mr. Parker also included in the Infinite Insight Into Kenpo, that he wants a student to learn to be an engineer of motion not just a mechanic of motion. By moving and teaching different techniques in the categories for the belt level other than those decided upon by Mr. Parker in his curriculum, it creates that technique not necessarily conforming to the requirement of the theme or level of difficulty of that particular belt level.

Yellow and Orange Belts are Beginner Levels. Purple through Green Belts or Intermediate Levels. The Brown Belt Levels are the Advanced Levels and take the student to a different level of skill and knowledge. 3rd and 2nd Degree Brown Belt are also designed to teach students to be more spontaneous utilizing a higher level of maneuvers to handle multiple attackers, plus the knowledge and skills needed to advance you into the Extensions of Orange, Purple, Blue and Green Belt.

Mr. Parker waited until 3rd and 2nd Degree Brown Belt to introduce students to defenses against a knife, a gun, and mass attacks. This was because of the difficulty and the danger presented by these attacks. Dealing with these more dangerous type attacks required a higher level of knowledge and skill. In the 16/20 minimized curriculum students do not get to learn how to handle these attacks until they reach 1<sup>st</sup> degree brown and 1<sup>st</sup> degree black belt. Most of us have heard the old saying “you only get one chance to make a first impression”. Defending against an attack of this type could possibly mean “you only get one chance to save yourself or others from extreme bodily injury or death”.

In reading Mr. Parker's books (especially the Infinite Insights Into Kenpo), watching his videos titled "Sophisticated Basic's Volumes 1 and 2" and videos of Mr. Parker teaching which have been posted on social media, one can readily see something that is constant. Mr. Parker wanted students of Kenpo to learn "Why" we do what we do in Kenpo in every aspect of the art and not just the "How". I have seen this being left out of the system by a lot of Kenpo instructors. If your instructor is not teaching the way Mr. Parker teaches and shows how he preferred his system to be taught, I think I would be asking "why not". You might also want to look at the chapters in the Infinite Insights Into Kenpo Volumes 1 – 5 that contain specific information that Mr. Parker wanted us to know and understand and to see if you are being taught this information. Also look at what is contained in each one of the belt levels in Volume 5 and see if you are learning all the required material for each belt level.

How would you feel to have spent four years in college and upon graduating, discover that what you learned was equal to a Junior College curriculum? A lot of students and current instructors have trained in good faith, believing that they have obtained a certain rank in the Ed Parker Kenpo Karate system. Utilizing this comparison chart, you can easily see for yourself, how you would rank in Mr. Parker's curriculum.

When I began attending American Kenpo seminars in 1986, I often heard a high-ranking instructor who trained in the early years of Mr. Parker developing his system, say that some of the things Mr. Parker evolved into was unnecessary, useless, or had no value. This included such material as the Orange, Purple, Blue and Green extensions, Striking Set #1, and Form 7. I often wonder why this extremely knowledgeable instructor never went to Mr. Parker and informed him of all these things being so worthless and question the validity of what Mr. Parker deemed to be of value.

We all should recognize and honor all the instructors for obtaining their black belts during the time period that they trained in; however, I wonder since so many of them came forward after Mr. Parker's passing wanting recognition, why did they not continue to train with Mr. Parker in his later years and when he started evolving the system. I know personally how life can sometimes throw us curve balls and get in the way of accomplishing certain things and continuing with something we started. Consider a statement I heard one of my 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belts made during a class one night to a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt. The 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt upon seeing the 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt do a technique the way that I teach the technique, asked "don't you like the way we learned that technique several years ago from a 7<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt". My 5<sup>th</sup> Degree said: "yeah, but I liked the first grade also, but I didn't want to stay there". When people state to me that they are an Ed Parker Sr. black belt, I generally say that is fantastic, "during what time period did you train with Mr. Parker and when did you take your last lesson from him. This is not trying to diminish their knowledge or skill level it just gives me a reference to what Mr. Parker was probably teaching at that time. There are several of these original Black Belts that I have met at

the Luaus honoring Mr. Parker's birthday and had a wonderful time speaking and learning from them, I have the highest respect for these men.

Mr. Parker states in his books and manuals that "Kenpo perpetually evolves". This means it didn't come to an abrupt halt at the end of each refinement period Mr. Parker took it through or for that matter when Mr. Parker passed. Mr. Parker also stated that "he learns something new every day about Kenpo". As Black Belts in Mr. Parker's system, we should be striving to do the same.

After learning the Extensions, one of my upper rank students made this statement "wow this brings the entire system together as a whole and clarifies lots of questions I previously had", I just smiled and said, yep.

I feel there must be a standard that each of us need to adhere to in the Martial Arts. The standard for myself and my students is: if you wear a rank on your belt, you have to be able to represent that rank and you must have earned it, it will not be given to you for some menial task you performed for me or others. If I state my rank represents me being that rank in a particular system, then I have to adhere to the requirements of the person who created that system. It doesn't say I get to pick and choose which portions I want to take out and leave in. It means I learn what was set up as a standard by the creator to represent a particular rank in his system. Mr. Parker had spent 36 plus years putting his curriculum together with many changes and additions to come up with a standard to adhere to be a particular rank in his system. During a conversation I had following my 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black test, I was told by Mr. Parker that most people don't get through learning the Orange Belt requirements prior to testing at the end of the probational year. I replied to Mr. Parker "I wasn't testing for Orange Belt Sir, I was testing for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Black Belt in your system of American Kenpo". Not everyone adheres to that type of a standard, as seen by a 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt accepting a 6<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt at the 1994 IKKA camp after only having learned the first three techniques of 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Brown Belt techniques from their instructor Barbara Hale on the Tuesday prior to the camp. Barbara Hale also had no knowledge that this promotion was even being considered.

It took years for Mr. Parker to advance to 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt, even though there was so many asking him to do so. Mr. Parker stated he would not accept being a 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt until he had completed creating the American Kenpo Karate System. On a KAM4 conference call in 2015 Darlene Parker asked the advisors if anyone knew why Mr. Parker waited so long to accept a 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt and one of the advisors stated this, he also stated that was the reason he could never become a 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt because he had never created anything and said I just teach another man's Art, guess what he stands amongst those wearing a 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt today. Today, we have a ridiculous number of people claiming to be 10<sup>th</sup> Degree American Kenpo Black Belts. I wonder what they have created to qualify them moving to that level. Beware of the fact that Mr. Parker did establish that there could be more than one Tenth Degree Black Belt in the American Kenpo Karate System. Mr. Parker discussed this with



those attending the 1990 Instructors Camp in Ventura, California and included that information in the instructor handbooks he provided at that camp. The last time I heard there are more than 140 people claiming the rank of 10<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt. This sure appears to be completely ridiculous to me! I will state in my own personal opinion, there is probably a small number of “men” who could possibly represent this rank. Since this is my personal opinion, I will not expound on that any further.

After the comparison list, I have included a list of the time limits that Mr. Parker provided to the instructors who attended the 1990 Instructors Camp in Ventura, California. The time list shows what Mr. Parker felt was a minimum and maximum time limit for students to achieve their next rank; however, we all know certain considerations may have to be factored into the time limits between advancement to the next level. This includes how many times and the amount of time a week a student studies, their abilities and dedication etc., but this also includes how an instructor presents the system. I personally never had a problem being able to progress students on a timetable like that which Mr. Parker shows, but as I said earlier, there are exceptions.

## **COMPARISON OF THE 16/20 TO THE 24 TECHNIQUE CURRICULUM**

### **16/20 Technique Curriculum**

#### **ORANGE BELT**

1. **CLUTCHING FEATHERS (O)**
2. **TRIGGERED SALUTE (O)**
3. **DANCE OF DEATH (O)**
4. **THRUSTING SALUTE (O)**
5. **GIFT OF DESTRUCTION (O)**
6. **LOCKING HORNS (O)**
7. **EVADING THE STORM (P)**
8. **LONE KIMONO (O)**
9. **GLANCING SALUTE (O)**
10. **FIVE SWORDS (O)**
11. **SCRAPING HOOF (O)**
12. **GRIP OF DEATH (O)**
13. **REPEATING MACE (O)**
14. **SHIELDING HAMMER (O)**
15. **STRIKING SERPENT'S HEAD (O)**
16. **CRASHING WINGS (O)**

### **24 Technique Curriculum**

#### **ORANGE BELT**

1. **CLUTCHING FEATHERS**
2. **TRIGGERED SALUTE**
3. **DANCE OF DEATH**
4. **THRUSTING SALUTE**
5. **GIFT OF DESTRUCTION**
6. **LOCKING HORNS**
7. **LONE KIMONO**
8. **GLANCING SALUTE**
9. **FIVE SWORDS**
10. **BUCKLING BRANCH**
11. **SCRAPING HOOF**
12. **GRIP OF DEATH**
13. **CROSSING TALON**
14. **REPEATING MACE**
15. **SHIELDING HAMMER**
16. **STRIKING SERPENT'S HEAD**

**Note: Mr. Parker on purpose did not put a weapons technique in Orange Belt because of the knowledge and skill level at that rank.**

## PURPLE BELT

1. TWIRLING WINGS (P)
2. SNAPPING TWIG (P)
3. LEAPING CRANE (P)
4. BUCKLING BRANCH (O)
5. CRUSHING HAMMER (P)
6. CAPTURED LEAVES (P)
7. CALMING THE STORM (P)
8. CROSSING TALON (O)

9. REVERSING MACE (O)
10. THRUSTING PRONGS (O)
11. LOCKED WING (O)
12. OBSCURE WING (O)
13. RAINING CLAW (O)
14. SPIRALING TWIG (P)
15. TWISTED TWIG (O)
16. OBSCURE SWORD (O)

## ORANGE BELT

17. LOCKED WING
18. OBSCURE WING
19. REVERSING MACE
20. THRUSTING PRONGS
21. TWISTED TWIG
22. OBSCURE SWORD
23. RAINING CLAW
24. CRASHING WINGS

## PURPLE BELT

1. TWIRLING WINGS
2. SNAPPING TWIG
3. LEAPING CRANE
4. SWINGING PENDULUM
5. CRUSHING HAMMER
6. CAPTURED LEAVES
7. EVADING THE STORM
8. CHARGING RAM

**Note: At purple belt level in the 16/20 you now know 1/3 of Mr. Parker's requirements for purple belt. Remember Yellow and Orange Belt are Beginner Levels.**

## BLUE BELT

1. TWIN KIMONO (P)
2. PARTING WINGS (P)
3. THUNDERING HAMMERS (P)
4. SWINGING PENDULUM (P)
5. SQUEEZING THE PEACH (P)
6. CIRCLING WING (P)
7. OBSTRUCTING THE STORM (P)
8. DARTING MACE (P)
9. HOOKING WINGS (P)
10. SHIELD AND SWORD (P)
11. GIFT IN RETURN (P)
12. BOW OF COMPULSION (P)
13. CHARGING RAM (P)
14. SLEEPER (P)

## PURPLE BELT

9. PARTING WINGS
10. THUNDERING HAMMERS
11. SQUEEZING THE PEACH
12. CIRCLING WING
13. CALMING THE STORM
14. DARTING MACE
15. HOOKING WINGS
16. SHIELD AND SWORD
17. GIFT IN RETURN
18. BOW OF COMPULSION
19. OBSTRUCTING THE STORM
20. TWIN KIMONO
21. SLEEPER
22. SPIRALING TWIG

15. CROSS OF DESTRUCTION (P)
16. FLIGHT TO FREEDOM (P)

23. CROSS OF DESTRUCTION
24. FLIGHT TO FREEDOM

This signifies once you are a Blue Belt in the 16/20 you have only reached a Purple Belt level in American Kenpo Karate. Purple through Green Belt in Mr. Parker's curriculum are Intermediate Levels.

### GREEN BELT

1. BEGGING HANDS (B)
2. THRUSTING WEDGE (B)
3. FLASHING WINGS (B)
4. HUGGING PENDULUM (B)
5. REPEATED DEVASTATION (B)
6. DESTRUCTIVE TWINS (B)
7. DEFYING THE STORM (B)
8. CROSSED TWIGS (B)
9. SNAKING TALON (B)
10. SHIELD AND MACE (B)
11. RETREATING PENDULUM (B)
12. TRIPPING ARROW (B)
13. WINGS OF SILK (B)
14. CONQUERING SHIELD (G)
15. ENTANGLED WING (B)
16. RAKING MACE (B)

### BLUE BELT

1. BEGGING HANDS
2. THRUSTING WEDGE
3. FLASHING WINGS
4. HUGGING PENDULUM
5. REPEATED DEVASTATION
6. ENTANGLED WING
7. DEFYING THE STORM
8. RAKING MACE
9. SNAKING TALON
10. SHIELD AND MACE
11. RETREATING PENDULUM
12. TRIPPING ARROW
13. FALLEN CROSS
14. RETURNING THE STORM
15. CROSSED TWIGS
16. TWIST OF FATE

At Green Belt level in the 16/20 you have now only learned 15 techniques of Mr. Parker's Blue Belt curriculum. Purple through Green Belt in Mr. Parker's curriculum are Intermediate Levels.

### THIRD DEGREE BROWN

1. DOMINATING CIRCLES (3<sup>RD</sup>)
2. TWIST OF FATE (B)
3. FLASHING MACE (B)
4. DETOUR FROM DOOM (G)
5. GIFT OF DESTINY (B)
6. BLINDING SACRIFICE (3<sup>RD</sup>)
7. RETURNING THE STORM (B)
8. GLANCING SPEAR (3<sup>rd</sup>)
  
9. ENCOUNTER WITH DANGER (G)

### BLUE BELT

17. FLASHING MACE
18. GIFT OF DESTINY
19. WINGS OF SILK
20. GRIPPING TALON
21. GATHERING CLOUDS
22. DESTRUCTIVE TWINS
23. BROKEN RAM
24. CIRCLING THE HORIZON

### GREEN BELT

1. OBSCURE CLAWS

10. GATHERING CLOUDS (B)
11. CIRCLE OF DOOM (G)
12. SQUATTING SACRIFICE (G)
13. FALLEN CROSS (B)
14. BRUSHING THE STORM (G)
15. DESPERATE FALCONS (3<sup>RD</sup>)
16. CIRCLING THE HORIZON (B)
17. GRIPPING TALON (B)
18. BROKEN RAM (B)
19. CIRCLING DESTUCTION(G)
20. OBSCURE CLAWS (G)

2. ENCOUNTER WITH DANGER
3. CIRCLING DESTRUCTION
4. DETOUR FROM DOOM
5. SQUATTING SACRIFICE
6. ESCAPE FROM DEATH
7. BRUSHING THE STORM
8. MENACING TWIRL
9. LEAP FROM DANGER
10. CIRCLES OF PROTECTION
11. CIRCLE OF DOOM
12. BROKEN GIFT

Those in the 16/20 technique curriculum have now finished the techniques required for Blue Belt and have learned 7 techniques of Green Belt and 4 techniques of 3<sup>rd</sup> Brown in Mr. Parker's curriculum. Remember Purple through Green Belt in Mr. Parker's curriculum are Intermediate Levels. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2nd Degree Brown Belts are an Advanced Level taking you to a higher level of knowledge and skill.

## SECOND DEGREE BROWN

1. MENACING TWIRL (G)
2. LEAP FROM DANGER (G)
3. CIRCLES OF PROTECTION (G)
4. ROTATING DESTRUCTION (3<sup>rd</sup>)
5. BROKEN GIFT (G)
6. ESCAPE FROM DEATH (G)
7. CAPTURING THE STORM (G)
8. INTERCEPTING THE RAM (G)
9. THE BACK BREAKER (G)
10. DECEPTIVE PANTHER (3<sup>rd</sup>)
11. TWIRLING SACRIFICE (G)
12. HEAVENLY ASCENT (G)

## SECOND DEGREE BROWN

13. SECURING THE STORM (G)
14. FALLING FALCON (3<sup>rd</sup>)
15. TAMING THE MACE (G)
16. DEFENSIVE CROSS (2<sup>nd</sup>)
17. CROSS OF DEATH (G)
18. KNEEL OF COMPULSION (G)
19. BOWING TO BUDDHA (2<sup>nd</sup>)
20. GLANCING WING (G)

## GREEN BELT

13. HEAVENLY ASCENT
14. CAPTURING THE STORM
15. CONQUERING SHIELD
16. TAMING THE MACE
17. TWIRLING SACRIFICE
18. CROSS OF DEATH
19. SECURING THE STORM
20. INTERCEPTING THE RAM
21. KNEEL OF COMPULSION
22. CLIPPING THE STORM
23. GLANCING WING
24. BACK BREAKER

## THIRD DEGREE BROWN

1. GLANCING SPEAR
2. THRUST INTO DARKNESS
3. CIRCLING FANS
4. ROTATING DESTRUCTION
5. FALCONS OF FORCE
6. BEAR AND RAM
7. RAINING LANCE
8. DESPERATE FALCONS

Those in the 16/20 technique curriculum, you are still 1 technique short of having completed the American Kenpo Karate technique requirement for Green Belt. If you notice you are still mostly in an Intermediate Level of training.

#### FIRST DEGREE BROWN

1. FATAL CROSS (2<sup>nd</sup>)
2. THRUST INTO DARKNESS (3<sup>RD</sup>)
3. CIRCLING FANS (3<sup>RD</sup>)
4. DANCE OF DARKNESS (2<sup>ND</sup>)
5. FALCONS OF FORCE (3<sup>RD</sup>)
6. BEAR AND THE RAM (3<sup>RD</sup>)
7. CLIPPING THE STORM (G)
8. CIRCLING WINDMILLS (2<sup>ND</sup>)
9. LEAP OF DEATH (3<sup>RD</sup>)
10. PROTECTING FANS (3<sup>RD</sup>)
11. REVERSING CIRCLES (2<sup>ND</sup>)
12. COURTING THE TIGER (3<sup>RD</sup>)
13. GATHERING OF THE SNAKES (3<sup>RD</sup>)
14. RAINING LANCE (3<sup>RD</sup>)
15. DESTRUCTIVE FANS (3<sup>RD</sup>)
16. UNFURLING CRANE (3<sup>RD</sup>)

#### THIRD DEGREE BROWN

9. LEAP OF DEATH
10. PROTECTING FANS
11. DECEPTIVE PANTHER
12. COURTING THE TIGER
13. GATHERING OF THE SNAKES
14. GLANCING LANCE
15. DOMINATING CIRCLES
16. DESTRUCTIVE FANS
17. UNFURLING CRANE
18. GRASPING EAGLES
19. PARTING OF THE SNAKES
20. THRUSTING LANCE
21. BLINDING SACRIFICE
22. SNAKES OF WISDOM
23. ENTWINED LANCE
24. FALLING FALCON

Those in the 16/20 are now 5 techniques away from being qualified to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Brown Belt in Mr. Parker's curriculum.

#### FIRST DEGREE BROWN

17. UNWINDING PENDULUM (2<sup>ND</sup>)
18. GRASPING EAGLES (3<sup>RD</sup>)
19. PARTING OF THE SNAKES (3<sup>RD</sup>)
20. GLANCING LANCE (3<sup>rd</sup>)

#### SECOND DEGREE BROWN

1. FATAL CROSS
2. TWIRLING HAMMERS
3. DEFENSIVE CROSS
4. DANCE OF DARKNESS

Those in the 16/20 you have now learned 1 knife technique of the 4 required for 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Brown Belt in Mr. Parker's system. You have also learned 4 of the 6 mass attack techniques required for 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Brown Belt in Mr. Parker's curriculum. Congratulations you have now completed your Green Belt requirements for techniques.

#### FIRST DEGREE BLACK

#### SECOND DEGREE BROWN

1. DESTRUCTIVE KNEEL (2<sup>ND</sup>)
2. ENTWINED MACES (2<sup>ND</sup>)
3. MARRIAGE OF THE RAMS (2<sup>ND</sup>)
4. RAM AND THE EAGLE (2<sup>ND</sup>)
5. ESCAPE FROM THE STORM (2<sup>ND</sup>)
6. THRUSTING LANCE (3<sup>RD</sup>)
7. CAPTURING THE ROD (2<sup>ND</sup>)
8. PRANCE OF THE TIGER (2<sup>ND</sup>)
9. FATAL DEVIATION (2<sup>ND</sup>)
10. SNAKES OF WISDOM (3<sup>RD</sup>)
11. REPRIMANDING THE BEARS (2<sup>ND</sup>)
12. CIRCLING THE STORM (2<sup>ND</sup>)
13. ENTWINED LANCE (3<sup>RD</sup>)
14. BROKEN ROD (2<sup>ND</sup>)
15. TWIRLING HAMMERS (2<sup>ND</sup>)
16. PIERCING LANCE (2<sup>ND</sup>)
17. UNFOLDING THE DARK (2<sup>ND</sup>)
18. DEFYING THE ROD (2<sup>ND</sup>)
19. ESCAPE FROM DARKNESS (2<sup>ND</sup>)
20. TWISTED ROD (2<sup>ND</sup>)

5. MARRIAGE OF THE RAMS
6. RAM AND THE EAGLE
7. ESCAPE FROM THE STORM
8. CIRCLING WINDMILLS
9. DESTRUCTIVE KNEEL
10. BOWING TO BUDDHA
11. REVERSING CIRCLES
12. REPRIMANDING THE BEARS
13. CIRCLING THE STORM
14. UNFOLDING THE DARK
15. UNWINDING PENDULUM
16. PIERCING LANCE
17. ESCAPE FROM DARKNESS
18. CAPTURING THE ROD
19. PRANCE OF THE TIGER
20. BROKEN ROD
21. ENTWINED MACES
22. DEFYING THE ROD
23. FATAL DEVIATION
24. TWISTED ROD

**Note: Those in the 16/20 technique curriculum you have now finished the technique requirements for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Brown Belt in Mr. Parker's curriculum and are qualified to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Brown Belt in the American Kenpo system. You are 48 techniques away from meeting the technique requirements for First Degree Black Belt in Mr. Parker's 24 technique curriculum.**

#### **SECOND DEGREE BLACK**

**Extensions Orange Belt 24 techniques techniques**

#### **THIRD DEGREE BLACK**

**Extensions Purple Belt 24 techniques techniques**

#### **FOURTH DEGREE BLACK**

**Extensions Blue Belt 24 techniques techniques**

#### **FIFTH DEGREE BLACK**

**Extensions Green Belt 24 techniques techniques**

#### **FIRST DEGREE BROWN**

**Extensions Orange Belt 24**

#### **FIRST DEGREE BLACK BELT**

**Extensions Purple Belt 24**

#### **SECOND DEGREE BLACK BELT**

**Extensions Blue Belt 24**

#### **THIRD DEGREE BLACK BELT**

**Extensions Green Belt 24**

You can also see a comparison that Mr. Duffy has provided on his website AKFKenpo.org of these two curriculums, which if you compare it to what I exhibit above is quite vague.

When I began attending seminars in 1986, I heard a Black Belt (who trained in the Parker system in the earlier years and were currently in the I.K.K.A.) state that a lot of the things Mr. Parker had developed in the later years for Kenpo were Overkill or not necessary. He stated that the extensions are not necessary, they are just Over Kill, you would never do that many moves on an individual. I have heard Mr. Parker on numerous occasions state “**The extensions are not Overkill, they are Overskill**”. I have personally found the extensions teach movement you never learn in the ideal phase techniques and will take you to a higher level of knowledge and skill that I personally don’t think you can achieve without learning them. As a matter of fact, you can look at pages 84 – 87 in Volume 5 of the Infinite Insights Into Kenpo where Mr. Parker documented this by saying, “the techniques in these levels extends beyond Orange, Purple, Blue and Green Belt for purposes of introducing newer concepts and principles of motion”. But if you do not know something, I guess instead of admitting it you quit learning Kenpo and after Mr. Parker started taking Kenpo to a higher knowledge and skill level, you just tell students it is not relevant or needed. Same thing with Kenpo Form 7, you tell students that Form 7 is not a legitimate Kenpo form, since you weren’t involved in developing it and never learned it.

On June 16<sup>th</sup> of 1990, Mr. Parker taught a seminar in Fort Worth, Texas. In the Black Belt class Mr. Parker taught Striking Set #1. During the meeting I had with Mr. Parker the next morning, Mr. Parker told me he had started teaching Striking Set #1 in the black belt classes because one of his high ranking black belts was telling everyone they did not need to learn the set because it has no values. I advised Mr. Parker that I had been told that previously by the individual who was saying it. Mr. Parker simply stated “if he had taken a lesson from me in the last seven years, he would know the value of a lot of things”. If you include the idea phase techniques with the extensions that gives you 250 techniques. If your curriculum does not include the 96 extensions and Form 7 (not to mention Form 8) you have been shorted approximately 40 percent of Mr. Parker’s curriculum. If you have also deleted the second sets from your curriculum then do the math and see how little of Mr. Parker’s curriculum you really know. So, if you claim to be an Ed Parker American Kenpo Black Belt, what does Mr. Parker’s curriculum at the time of his passing show your rank to be at? How does this compare to the level you think you are at?

Mr. Parker also stated he had been hearing the same individual stating that Striking Set 1 has no value, was also claiming to be the “Authority on American Kenpo”. Mr. Parker stated to me “how can he be the Authority on American Kenpo, when I created it and I learn something new about it every day”.

Over the last few years, our country has fallen to a level of acceptance of lower standards for almost everything in our daily lives. A world of entitlement has been created were many people

don't feel they have to work to accomplish or earn anything, it all should be given to them. To some the words honor, dignity, and dedication no longer have any meaning at all. There are many who claim to have been so close to Mr. Parker and honor Mr. Parker's American Kenpo Karate System, plus what he stood for and believed. These individuals have now lowered the standards for themselves and their students to something Mr. Parker would be ashamed of. Honor and Dignity have been traded for a Hall of Fame Award, being published in a book, or simply by putting a few more dollars in your pocket. Loyalty and dedication to your instructor, the Art and students for some is becoming a thing of the past. Disrespect for Mr. Parker and his Art has grown over the years by certain individuals who think they have risen to a level at or above Mr. Parker.

What I have seen over the last several years that is most concerning is the lack of so many proclaimed direct students of Mr. Parker not teaching the elements of the system that Mr. Parker stressed so heavily. Such as the concepts and principles on which the techniques were developed and are the key to making them work properly. Controlling height, width, and depth and other concepts and principles which completely changes the outcome of executing a technique and is what Mr. Parker created the system on.

In 2013 while teaching in Ireland, I was approached by the president of the association I was currently in and he suggested that I needed to change the way I teach. He stated I was wasting students time explaining the why and not just the how of a technique and stated they just want to sweat. I replied to him "if they just wanted to sweat, they should have gone to an aerobics class". I remarked that I try my best to teach like Mr. Parker wanted his black belts to teach and that is not just teach how to do a technique, but teach why and how to do the technique, forms, and sets using the concepts and principles to make it work. I also remember stating, "no I want come down to that level of teaching".

As stated previously one of the very best friends I have in my Kenpo family who truly honors and represents Mr. Parker, was presented the 16/20 material by Mr. Parker and asked to use it, evaluate it, and give feedback to Mr. Parker concerning its use. He has been extremely successful with it and creates excellent and talented Black Belts with that curriculum; however, unlike others that I have witnessed, he teaches the entire curriculum, not bits and pieces of the curriculum.

The I.K.K.A. does and will continue to uphold the curriculum standard created and established by SGM Mr. Ed Parker Sr. The I.K.K.A. will not minimize SGM Ed Parker Sr.'s curriculum or honor rank in his system not earned with the knowledge and skills used in his curriculum as the standard to represent that rank.

## **TIME AND GRADE**



| <b>APPROXIMATE TIME PER BELT</b>       | <b>TOTAL TIME IN ART</b> |
|--|--------------------------|
| TO YELLOW 2 - 4 MONTHS                 |                          |
| TO ORANGE 3 – 6 MONTHS                 |                          |
| TO PURPLE 5 – 8 MONTHS                 |                          |
| TO BLUE 6 – 10 MONTHS                  |                          |
| TO GREEN 6 – 10 MONTHS                 | 22 – 38 MONTHS           |
| TO 3 <sup>RD</sup> BROWN 6 – 10 MONTHS |                          |
| TO 2 <sup>ND</sup> BROWN 6 – 12 MONTHS |                          |
| TO 1 <sup>ST</sup> BROWN 6 – 12 MONTHS |                          |
| TO 1 <sup>ST</sup> BLACK 6 -12 MONTHS  | 46 – 48 MONTHS           |

Personally, I feel this is adequate time between different ranks. This time limits are similar to the time periods between promotions in the other two Karate systems I have Black Belts in.

I hope the information presented here helps to clarify any questions you might have concerning the so called two different American Kenpo curriculums. There is only one official curriculum, that is the one Mr. Parker created and prescribed. The I.K.K.A. stands willing to assist those who are using the 16/20 curriculum and who are willing and interested in learning Mr. Parker's official curriculum. If you think my comparison is flawed or incorrect in some way look at Volume 5 of the Infinite Insights Into Kenpo and make the comparison for yourself. Its in black and white, I just preferred to make mine in color for easier comparison.