

# Shields and Shield Tactics Primer

For the demonstration in Charlottesville in August, the Detroit Right Wings will all be utilizing shields as a defense against Antifa that will inevitably show up to harass us. Other groups have used shields in the past, but unless used in an organized manner, they are very ineffective. As a group, we will be employing shield wall tactics that have been tested by riot control police, and SCA and HBA fighters alike. The objective of this primer is to get everyone that is interested in joining the DRW on the same page, so that we may present a squared away force to counter whatever our enemies may throw at us during the demonstration.

In the coming month, we will be distributing an instructional video of our training to supplement this primer, but you are advised to begin instructing your various group members on the basics presented here.

Obviously to function in a shield wall, you will need a shield. We are going to be using tower shields. Smaller round shields should **NOT** be placed in the front line of a shield wall. While they are more maneuverable than tower shields, they do not provide the same level of protection. In a shield wall, your shield will almost never be moving, it will mainly be a static object protecting you from projectiles. Since it won't be moving much, proper sizing is important. The DRW will be building our own shields. It is not recommended that you purchase a riot shield off the internet. They are flimsy and won't provide the same amount of protection as something you build yourself.

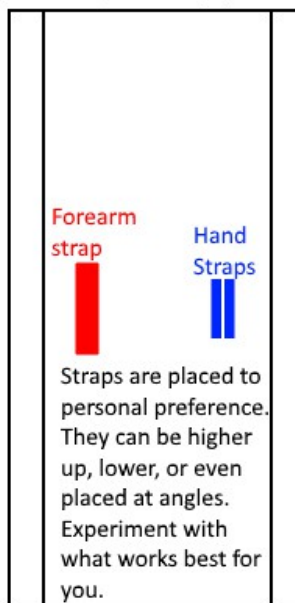
## Shield Construction:

We're using 1/2" birch plywood. While it doesn't seem like it would stop much, keep in mind that the wooden shields that the Romans used were only 8mm thick, and Viking shields were only 7mm thick, getting thinner the further away from the center it was. I recommend purchasing a sheet of 2'x4' plywood from Home Depot, as it will fit most people with some minor adjustments.



It's important to keep in mind that shields are built to each person. No one shield is going to fit everybody. It's also important that the shield covers the areas shown above and are the proper size. You won't bitch about them being too heavy once you see how effective they are.

2' x 4' x 1/2" birch plywood (as an example)

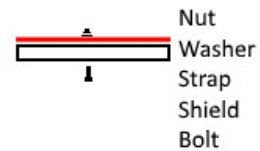


3" strips of plywood along side for reinforcement

Straps should be made out of a durable fabric, rope, or leather.

When making the handstraps, you can go with one, but two allows for a stronger grip, giving more control over the shield.

Straps should be fastened with bolts and washers.



Another thing you can do to reinforce the shield is to get a heavy duty fabric, and glue it taugth onto the front once the rest is complete. It won't make it invincible, but it will extend the life of your shield and make it slightly more durable.

Once your shield is made, you will need to get used to holding it, and get used to the weight. You should be able to hold the shield in front of you so that the bottom is not resting on your knee. Get used to a proper stance:

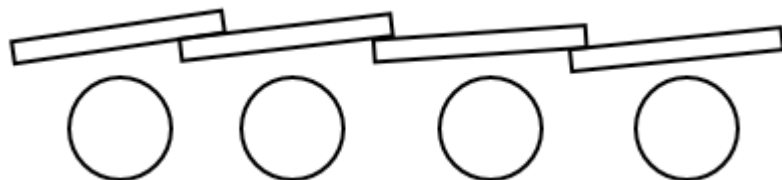
Hold your shield in front of you, about 10"-12" away from your chest. It should be square with your body, so that it covers everything from your knee to your shoulders. You should not rest your chin on or behind the shield. Your right hand should be out, with whatever is in your hand (flag pole, stick, bludgeon, etc.) placed parallel with the top edge of your shield so that you can block anything should it come towards your face. Most of your movement for blocking will come from your elbow and your wrist, so work on your forearm strength.

Your feet should be shoulder width apart, with one foot front, and one foot to the back. The easiest way to get proper footing is to stand shoulder width apart, take one step forward with your **LEFT** foot, and squat slightly. Most of your weight should be on your rear foot unless you are bracing. We'll talk about that later, but for now make sure your weight is on your rear foot. This will ensure that you can move your forward foot out of the way if something is swung at it without losing balance and falling over.

Your spot in a shield wall:

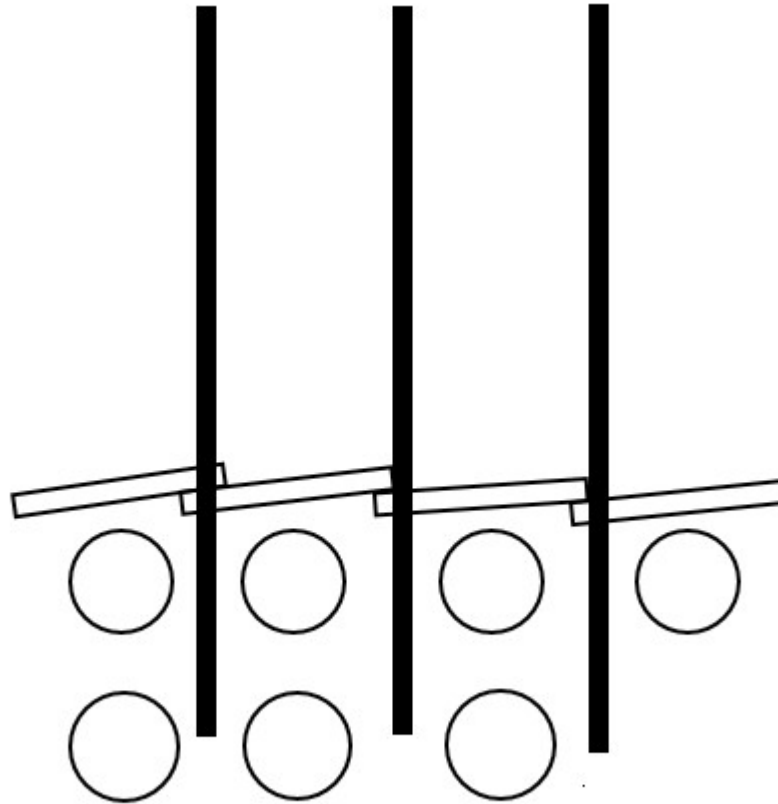
Little about your stance is changed once you are placed in a wall. However, everyone's placement is key to the integrity of the wall. There should be at least two lines of people: the front line is made up of tower shields forming the wall, the second line will be those with polearms (8ft flagpoles). Those in the front line exist only to form a wall. They are purely a defensive component. If the front line is the defensive component of a shield wall, the second line is the offensive component. They make up the teeth of a shield wall. That's why they have the longer weapons.

Those in the front line should be pressed shoulder to shoulder, keeping it tight and making sure there are no gaps between them and those next to them. Shields should overlap, so that your shield is overlapping in front of the person to your right's, and the person to your left's is overlapping in front of yours.



Generally, you want larger people either placed in the center of the front line, or in the second line, as most of the strength for bracing comes from the second line.

Those in the second line should stand directly behind those in the front, with their polearms placed in between the person in front of them and the person to their right.



The second line is meant to deter anyone who tries to get close to the wall. When advancing, they push people away from the wall as the group advances.

Ideally, there would be 4 or 5 lines of people with shields, so that the front line can be consistently refreshed and people can get breaks when needed.

There is going to be a lot more information coming out along with a video that group leaders will be sent going over everything in more detail. Again, this is just a basic primer. This is meant to teach you fundamentals so you can begin going over them with your group. By the time the video is released, you will at least know what you are doing. By the time we get to Charlottesville we will hopefully have enough time to practice as a

solid group. We can discuss this in the discord as well between now and the demonstration.