

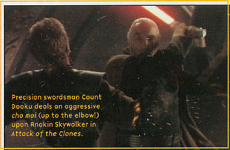
THE MARKS OF CONTACT

All Jedi Forms involve the same “marks of contact,” target objectives organized as categories of damage lightsaber-wielders can inflict upon their opponents. In the names of these marks, the language of the earliest Jedi sages has come down unaltered to us today. The ancient traditional marks of contact help focus a Jedi’s attacks and defenses on a few clear categories rather than diffusing awareness across an infinite number of possibilities. Most of the marks of contact can be seen in *Attack of the Clones*, and this pattern appears throughout the *Star Wars* saga.

Damage or Destroy Weapon

sun djem [ˈsun jəm]

Sun djem (disarming) was a goal of early Form I masters, since destroying an opponent’s lightsaber could win victory without causing injury—always a Jedi aspiration. However, the advances of Form II soon made *sun djem* nearly impossible, since combatants trained studiously against having their weapons taken or damaged.



Precision swordsman Count Dooku deals an aggressive *cho mai* (up to the elbow) upon Anakin Skywalker in *Attack of the Clones*.

Wound

shiiim [ˈshe-ēm]

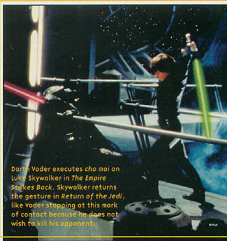
Any kind of wound with the edge of the lightsaber blade is *shiiim*. An inconclusive mark of contact, *shiiim* is considered inferior to other marks that decisively end a battle. Its appearance thus expresses struggle with a powerful opponent.

Stab

shiak [ˈshe-ack]

Jedi tradition considers *shiak* (stabbing) an honorable method of inflicting serious injury

since it causes the least visible injury to the opponent’s body. *Shiak* can thus express Jedi respect for an opponent and the living Force even as it delivers a fatal blow.



Darth Vader executes *cho mai* on Luke Skywalker in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Skywalker returns the gesture in *Return of the Jedi*, like Vader stopping at this mark of contact because he does not wish to kill his opponent.

Cut off Weapon Hand

cho mai [ˈcho my]

Cho mai instantly ends an opponent’s ability to use a weapon but does not kill, making *cho mai* a preferred Jedi move. The precision of cutting off only a hand is considered the mark of a superior lightsaber master.



Obi-Wan Kenobi is so well trained to deliver *cho sun* when ambushed that we see him do it in a *New Hope* and in *Attack of the Clones*.

Obi-Wan Kenobi suffers *shiiim* to his arm and *shiak* to his leg by Count Dooku in *Attack of the Clones*.