

INTERNATIONAL KARATE +

INTRODUCTION

INTERNATIONAL KARATE + TM is a development of the original IK game, the main extra feature being that there are three fighting men on the screen at once (and five in PAUSE mode!)

There are 17 different moves that can be made, all controlled by the joystick, and with practice all these moves can be executed smoothly in a flowing fight sequence without the man' pausing momentarily in the standing stance The joystick system is simple enough for players to learn quickly, but after some experience of how the moves behave, much more sophisticated control can be achieved

Opponents can be hit in the head, chest, stomach, shins and feet from in front or behind, although an attacker receives only half the score for attacking from behind

The game gets progressively harder until about Level 25, and players are awarded one of six belt colours depending on their score

The computer-controlled men adopt a variety of play strategies For example, they may fight each other, not the human they may not fight, just avoid attacks both may fight the human, not bothering to dodge attacks' and so on All behaviour varies in "viciousness" as the game gets more advanced

An animated judge appears at the end of each 30-second round to instruct the players and announce the rankings If a human player is in third place, he is out of the game So long as a human can stay first or second, he stays in the match

Every 3rd round there is a bonus round, where the player has to use a small hand-held shield to deflect balls bouncing towards him from all angles.

OPTION SELECTION

FIRE, Joystick port 2	If in demo mode start a one-player game
FIRE, Joystick port 1	If in demo mode start a two-player game
F1	One player against two computer men
F3	Two players against one computer man (These controls work at all times, and so can be used to quit the current match)
F5	Turn music on or off
F7	Turn sound effects on or off
SHIFT and 1/2/3/4/5	Vary speed of play (1 is fast, 3 normal. 5 slow)
RUN/STOP	Pause mode (during fight round only Press RUN/STOP a second time to continue the fight)
*	Change the colours of the reflected sunset

GAME DISPLAY

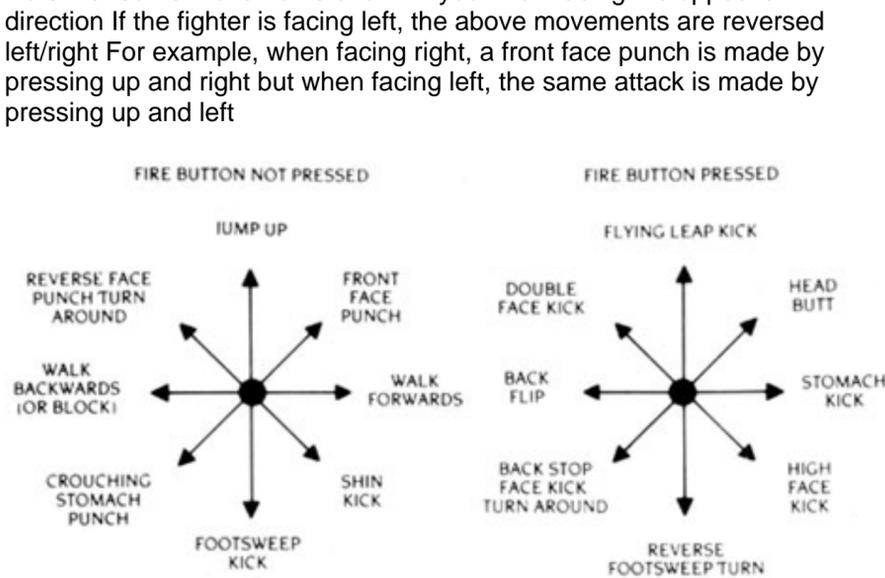
The score and game information is displayed at the top of the screen, and comprises three sets of combat points and accumulative score displays. Human-controlled fighters are indicated by a coloured fist to the right of the fighters score The white-jacketed fighter is controlled by Joystick Port 2, while in two-player games, the red-jacketed fighter is controlled by Joystick Port 1

MOVEMENT CONTROLS

The game may only be controlled using joysticks It is recommended that sticks with a firm tactile feel (such as the original Atari ones) are used — large, wobbly sticks are not as manageable since they move too far and provide less feedback when their switches have closed Auto-fire joysticks are useless

Each of the eight joystick positions selects a type of move, and pressing the button gives a further eight. In special cases a further defensive move is available, as detailed later. For a man facing right, the joystick controls the character's movements as follows

Note that some movements end with your man facing the opposite direction If the fighter is facing left, the above movements are reversed left/right For example, when facing right, a front face punch is made by pressing up and right but when facing left, the same attack is made by pressing up and left



HOLDING AND CANCELLING A MOVE

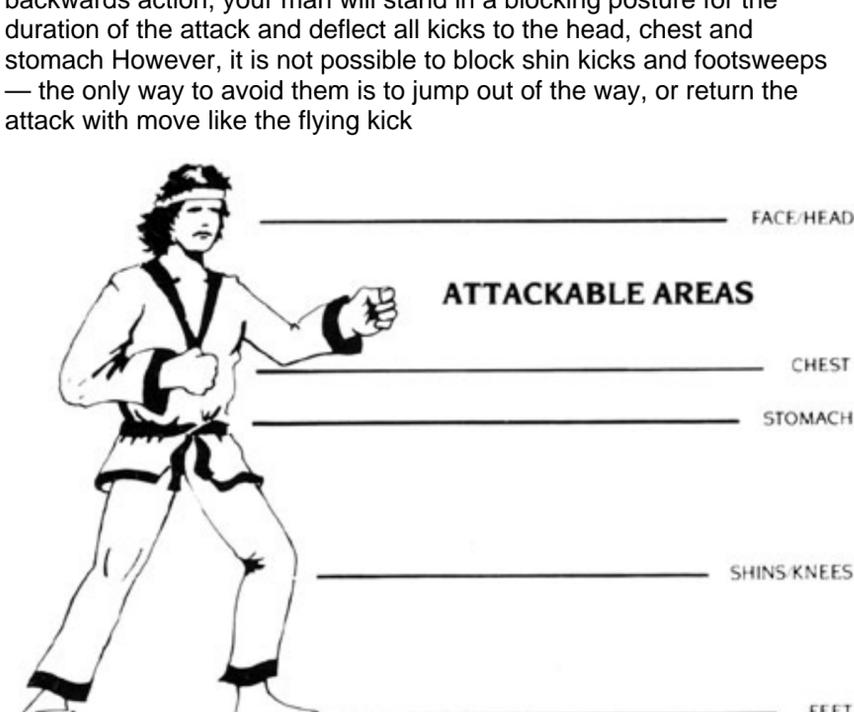
When making an attacking move you must hold the joystick in position until your man has made the attack Releasing the joystick any sooner will cause your man to return to the standing stance If the selection 15 retained then the stance is held until the joystick is released or another move selected However the actual hitting action is only effective on the initial movement — after all seasoned opponents are unlikely to run onto your fist!

SEQUENCES OF MOVES

It is possible to make moves in quick succession without the fighter first pausing in the standing stance, thus allowing a smooth, free-flying sequence This is done by selecting the first move, holding it until the attack has occurred, then quickly selecting the next move before the man returns to the standing position This will allow such actions as a Series of back flips across the screen select back flip wait for move to commence, then select it again and again for Dance-free motion)

BLOCKING MOVE

A blocking move is also available for defensive purposes If you are being attacked at close range from in front, and you select the "walk backwards action, your man will stand in a blocking posture for the duration of the attack and deflect all kicks to the head, chest and stomach However, it is not possible to block shin kicks and footsweeps — the only way to avoid them is to jump out of the way, or return the attack with move like the flying kick



GAME OBJECT

A match consists of a sequence of two fight rounds and a bonus round In the one-player game, there are two computer-controlled opponents The match ends when the human comes third in a fight round The two-player game starts with two humans fighting each other and one computer-controlled opponent A player who comes last in a fight round goes out of the game, leaving one player against two computer men as in the one-player game

The object is to fight on for as long as possible As the score builds up, you are awarded one of six belt colours, the highest being the black belt At the end of the match, you have the chance of entering your initials, score and belt colour in the Hall of Fame

SCORING

During a fight round, if a man successfully hits an opponent while facing him he get two combat points' (displayed as coloured discs) and a numerical score Attacking from behind earns one combat point and half the score A fight round lasts either for 30 seconds or until one of the fighters gains six combat points In the latter case, the player who scored the six points is awarded a time bonus of 100 points for each second left in the round

At the end of each fight round the judge decides who is first second and third (or equal), initially on the basis of the combat points, and then, in the case of a tie, on the numerical score obtained during that round (NOT the accumulated score)

When a player is hit he falls down and is momentarily dazed, as shown by the stars above his head When these disappear he has a few seconds to wait or make an instant move Otherwise, after a short waiting period he is forced to stand up anyway

The length of time a fighter is knocked out depends on the type of blow, and as the game speeds up the wait allowed decreases — but you can't get hit until you are actually up and fighting again

SCORING		
MOVE	FRONTAL HIT	HIT FROM BEHIND
Front Face Punch	800	400
Shin Kick	400	200
Footsweep	400	200
Crouching Stomach Punch	400	200
Reverse Face Punch	800	400
Flying Kick	800	400
Head Butt	1000	500
Stomach Kick	200	100
Face Kick	800	400
Reverse Footsweep	400	200
Back-step Face Kick	800	400
Double Face Kick	1000	1000

BONUS ROUND

If a player stays in for two consecutive fight rounds, he is able to go through a bonus stage Here, you are shown holding a small shield, with which you must deflect the balls that come bouncing towards you At which one you must only have the ability to deflect otherwise the round would be impossible! (You may also duck under some of the high balls

As the game gets more difficult, the maximum speed of the balls increases There are also flashing balls whose speed height alternates For each deflection you score 100 points, and if you survive all the balls you get a 5000 point score bonus Since there may be up to 60 balls. Highly skilled players can add over 10,000 points to their score in a single bonus round and get to black belt status more quickly

HALL OF FAME

At the end of the match, players whose accumulative score is high enough are given the opportunity to add their initials, score and belt colour to the Hall of Fame Up to three initials are permitted for each one move the joystick left or right to select the required letter, then press the fire button to enter the letter