

how to practice parrying elden ring

How to practice parrying in Elden Ring is a crucial aspect of mastering combat and enhancing your survivability in the game. Parrying allows players to deflect enemy attacks and deliver devastating counterattacks, making it an essential skill for those who wish to overcome the numerous challenging foes and bosses scattered throughout the Lands Between. In this article, we will explore the mechanics of parrying, the best strategies to practice, and tips to enhance your skills, ensuring you can become a parrying master in Elden Ring.

Understanding the Mechanics of Parrying

What is Parrying?

Parrying in Elden Ring is a defensive maneuver that involves timing your block to deflect an enemy's attack. When executed correctly, it temporarily stuns the enemy, allowing you to follow up with a powerful counterattack. Unlike blocking, which reduces incoming damage, parrying can negate damage entirely and grant you an opening to strike back.

Parry Timing

The most critical aspect of parrying is timing. Each enemy type has a unique attack speed and animation, making it essential to learn their tells. Here are some tips to understand parry timing:

1. **Observe Enemy Movements:** Spend time watching how enemies attack. Notice the wind-up before their strikes, as this is when you should be preparing to parry.
2. **Listen for Audio Cues:** Many enemies emit sounds before they attack. Pay attention to these audio cues to improve your reaction time.
3. **Practice with Weaker Enemies First:** Start practicing parries on weaker foes to get a feel for the timing without the risk of dying repeatedly.

How to Execute a Parry

To perform a parry in Elden Ring, follow these steps:

1. **Equip a Parrying Shield or Weapon:** Some shields and weapons have a parry ability. Equip one that suits your playstyle.
2. **Position Yourself:** Stand close enough to the enemy to ensure you can reach them with your parry.
3. **Press the Parry Button:** When you see the enemy attack, press the parry button just before their strike lands. This is usually the L2 button on PlayStation or LT on Xbox controllers.
4. **Follow Up with an Attack:** If successful, the enemy will be staggered. Immediately follow up with a strong attack to maximize damage.

Choosing the Right Equipment for Parrying

Best Shields for Parrying

Selecting the right shield is crucial for mastering parrying. Here are some of the best shields that offer effective parrying capabilities:

- Buckler: Known for its fast parry window, making it ideal for beginners.
- Rondex Shield: Offers a good balance between weight and parry speed.
- Finger Seal: While primarily a casting tool, it can also be used to parry, offering versatility.

Weapons with Parry Capabilities

Certain weapons have built-in parry mechanics. Consider using:

- Swords (e.g., Estoc): These typically have a quick attack speed and a reliable parry.
- Dagger: A great choice for fast-paced combat and easy parrying.
- Curved Swords: These offer a unique blend of speed and reach, allowing for effective parrying.

Setting Up Practice Scenarios

Finding Practice Dummies

In Elden Ring, you can find various enemies that serve as excellent practice dummies. Here are a few locations to consider:

- Tutorial Area: The initial area has several basic enemies that can help you practice without severe consequences.
- Low-Level Zones: Areas like Limgrave and Weeping Peninsula have weaker foes that provide a low-risk environment for practicing parries.
- Training with Friends: If you have friends playing Elden Ring, consider organizing duels where you can practice parrying against each other.

Using NPC Invaders for Practice

If you're looking for a more challenging practice experience, consider engaging NPC invaders. These enemies often have a range of attacks and can help refine your parrying skills. Look for:

- Irina of Caelid: She can be found in Caelid and offers a mix of melee and ranged attacks.
- The Duelist NPCs: These characters often replicate player behavior and can provide a good parrying challenge.

Utilizing the Training Grounds

Join a Covenant or Guild

Joining a covenant or guild can provide access to dedicated training grounds where you can practice parrying against tougher enemies. These areas often feature stronger foes that can help you improve your timing and execution.

1. Covenant of the Blade: Focuses on melee combat and offers unique training opportunities.
2. The Order of the Parry: Specializes in parrying techniques, providing training partners and resources.

Timed Challenges

Create your own timed challenges to measure your parrying effectiveness. Track how many successful parries you can achieve within a set time frame, such as:

- 10 Minutes of Practice: See how many successful parries you can achieve in this time.
- 5 Back-to-Back Enemies: Attempt to parry against five enemies in a row without healing.

Tips for Improving Your Parrying Skills

Stay Calm Under Pressure

One of the most significant challenges in mastering parrying is maintaining composure during intense encounters. Here are some strategies to help you stay calm:

- Breathe Deeply: Take deep breaths before engaging in combat to keep your nerves steady.
- Focus on the Enemy: Concentrate on the enemy's movements rather than worrying about your health or surroundings.

Analyze Your Mistakes

After each encounter, take a moment to reflect on your performance. Ask yourself:

- What was the moment I missed the parry?
- Could I have recognized the attack pattern sooner?
- Was I too eager to attack after a successful parry?

By analyzing your performance, you can identify areas for improvement.

Integrating Parrying into Your Combat Strategy

Combining Parrying with Other Techniques

While parrying is essential, integrating it with other combat techniques can enhance your overall effectiveness. Consider:

- Dodging: Use dodging in conjunction with parrying to create openings.
- Blocking: If parrying feels too risky, use blocking to mitigate damage while you practice.
- Counterattacks: Develop a rhythm of parrying followed by quick counterattacks to maximize damage and pressure on your enemies.

Adapt to Different Enemy Types

Each enemy type has distinct attack patterns. Here are some tips for adapting to various foes:

- Fast Enemies: Focus on quick reflexes and anticipate their swift attacks.
- Heavy Attackers: These enemies often have longer wind-ups. Use this time to prepare your parry.
- Ranged Attackers: Consider using a shield that allows you to parry ranged attacks effectively, or close the gap quickly to engage them in melee.

Conclusion

Mastering how to practice parrying in Elden Ring is a journey that requires patience, observation, and a commitment to refining your skills. Through understanding the mechanics, choosing the right equipment, and creating effective practice scenarios, you can enhance your ability to parry and significantly improve your combat prowess. Remember, practice makes perfect, and the more you engage with the game and its mechanics, the better you will become. With dedication and perseverance, you will find yourself taking on even the toughest foes with confidence, dodging blows and delivering devastating counterattacks in the beautiful yet perilous world of Elden Ring.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is parrying in Elden Ring and why is it important?

Parrying in Elden Ring is a defensive maneuver that allows players to deflect an enemy's attack and create an opportunity for a critical counterattack. It's important because mastering this technique can significantly increase your survivability and damage output during battles.

How can I identify which attacks can be parried in Elden Ring?

You can identify parryable attacks by observing the enemy's movements. Generally, most melee attacks can be parried, but heavy attacks and certain special moves may not be parryable. Look for a visual cue, such as the enemy winding up for a strike.

What is the best timing for a successful parry in Elden Ring?

The best timing for a parry is just before the enemy's attack connects with your character. This requires practice, but a good rule of thumb is to press the parry button when you see the enemy's weapon or hand moving towards you.

Are there any specific weapons or shields that enhance parrying in Elden Ring?

Yes, certain shields and weapons have unique parry animations or increased effectiveness. For instance, small shields typically allow for quicker parries, while some weapons have skills that improve your parrying capabilities.

How can I practice parrying without risking too much damage?

You can practice parrying in Elden Ring by engaging with weaker enemies or in areas with lower stakes. You can also use the training dummies in your hub area or summon a friend for cooperative play to practice timing without serious repercussions.

What are some tips for beginners trying to learn how to parry?

Beginners should focus on observing enemy patterns, using lighter weapons or shields for easier parries, and practicing in a safe environment. Start with slower enemies to build confidence before moving on to faster opponents.

How does the game's difficulty affect parrying mechanics in Elden Ring?

While the mechanics of parrying remain the same across difficulties, higher difficulty levels often feature faster and more unpredictable attacks from enemies. This requires better timing and more practice to successfully parry and counterattack.

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