

**Inverted half guard:** Going to the *inverted half guard* (or inverted half mount if you are on top) is a good method for passing guard. It is often used by the top player as an early defense to the under-hook counters from the last two spreads. If you know how to defend the pass from the bottom, however, you can take advantage of a weakness of the position.

Note that the inverted half guard requires that your opponent control your inside shoulder with a lapel grip. Stop the grip and you can foil the position.

**The pass develops:** Here is a cursory look at how we get to the inverted half guard from White's perspective, but only to the point where we get to the inverted position.



From the half guard with Blue's head wrapped up, White needs to fish out Blue's lapel and then pass it to his right hand using his left hand under Blue's shoulder. White's right arm stays wrapped around Blue's head during the process. Blue could short circuit the move by stopping White from getting these lapel grips.



The players are in the inverted half guard position. Blue cannot wait; he needs to get to work repositioning his legs so as to control White's inside (right) leg. The first thing Blue does is to put the sole of his left foot on White's Achilles' tendon.



Now Blue puts the sole of his right foot in front of White's shin. He is, for the moment, controlling both sides of White's leg with his feet. Blue elevates White's leg.



Here is the tricky part. Blue takes his right foot off and quickly circles his instep under White's leg. Blue passes control of White's Achilles from the sole of Blue's left foot to the instep of his right. Blue needs to make pressure so as to keep White's leg straight, or close to it.

Here are a couple more looks at the technique. Note that in these sequences Blue is making the switch with his feet before White's hips ever get to the mat. Usually it will be more like the sequence above where first White's hips come to the mat and then

Blue controls the leg, switches his feet, elevates, etc.... In either scenario, beware of the top player trying to hop back over to a normal half-guard to defend your counter.





White tightens the lapel grip. The idea is to use it to keep Blue from lifting his right shoulder and turning on top of White.



White swings his outside (left) leg up and over the top of both of Blue's legs.



White wants his right hip on the mat. Then he wants to open up space between his hips and Blue's and then hold Blue's right knee with his left hand.

See also, *Passing the Guard, Ch. 5.*



Blue cannot let White's kneecap point down. If it does White will curl his leg back and be rid of the hook. Blue continues to elevate White's right leg. His left foot can now drop to the mat, allowing him to push off its side for more power to lift White's leg. Blue lifts the leg up and back across White's centerline.



Blue wants his hips close to White's and White wants the opposite. If necessary, Blue will follow White's hips by sliding his bottom leg closer to White's butt, making sure to keep White's leg up so that White cannot turn into Blue.



Blue pulls himself up on top of White. As his hips turn toward the mat he no longer needs to elevate White's leg. Blue goes chest to chest in side control.

