

Diagram #2. In this case, X3 or the center man in the back line has possession of the ball when a pressing defense attacks, endeavoring to force the players back to or across the division line. Diagram #2 shows X4 cutting toward X3 and calling for the ball. This is a decoy play, but it clears the passing lane for X1 to come forward and receive a diagonal pass from X3. X4 now continues on across and down the court to screen X2's opponent. X3 passes the ball to X1, who comes forward, receives the ball, dribbles on a short swing, and hook passes the ball to X2 coming toward the free throw circle. X2 now dribbles on into the basket for a lay-up, while X1 goes in for rebound work, as does X4. X3 and X5 go forward and equalize the defensive-offensive situation. This works from both sides.

Diagram #3. In Diagram #3 it must now be borne in mind that X now represents the offensive team which was just previously the defensive aggregation before taking the ball off the backboard. ☐ now represents the razzle-dazzle pressing team which is taking their opponents all over the floor. X4 has just recovered the ball from a rebound off the backboard and has broken sharply to his own right but is menaced by an opponent who sticks his man. At the same time, all other ☐ defensive men are gluing their opponents. To free X4, who has possession of the ball, X5 cuts diagonally across the free throw lane and calls for the ball.

The mistake commonly made by the offensive forwards, X1 and X2, is that they break down for their own basket. In such situation this is a mistake. X1 starts for his own basket but cuts out toward his own sideline and comes back toward his own defensive basket. When X5 cuts across his free throw lane he is following the same procedure that X4 did in Diagram #2. This clears the path for the returning X1 and now X4 hook passes the ball across the court where it is received by X1. X2 cuts diagonally toward X3, and this permits X3 to screen his opponent off by cutting behind and off the hips of X2 when