



ZOOM ACTION

**Basic Setup, Game-Ready
Variations, Inbound Options
and Counters**



The Ultimate Guide To Zoom Action

The Zoom Action is one of the most efficient and adaptable offensive triggers in modern basketball. It's a three-man sequence that combines a down screen and a dribble handoff to create separation, collapse help, and produce high-value shots.

This isn't a set—it's a concept that fits seamlessly into a 5-Out motion offense. It preserves spacing, keeps your pace high, and forces defenders into quick, uncomfortable decisions on every possession.

In this guide, I'll walk you through the basic setup, why it works, game-ready variations, inbound options, and smart counters—so you can install it fast and see results. Let's dive in and break it down together!





Zoom Action

Basic Setup



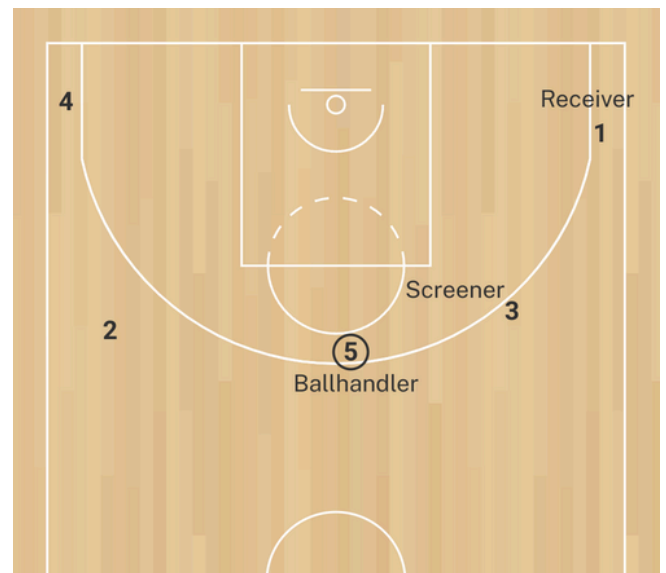
The Core of the Zoom Action

The Zoom Action is a 3-man offensive sequence and one of the cleanest entry triggers for a 5-Out motion offense.

It combines a down screen and a dribble handoff to put constant pressure on the defense and create immediate scoring options.

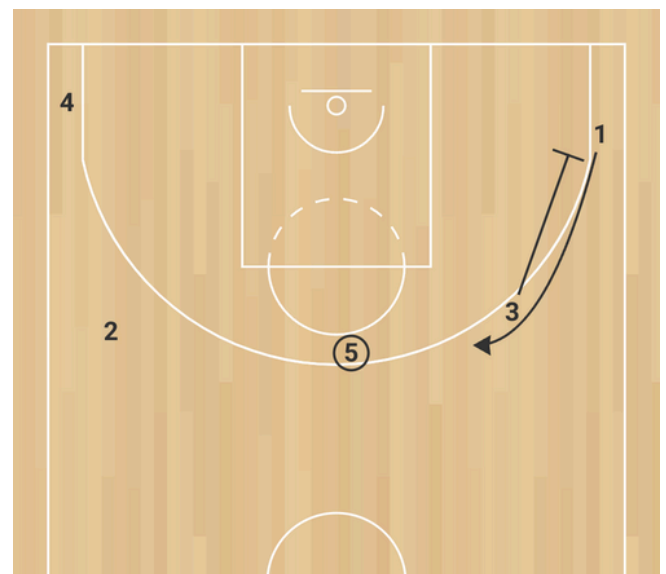
Positions

- **Ballhandler** – usually a big or strong playmaker at the slot or wing
- **Screener** – sets the down screen to free the receiver
- **Receiver** – uses the screen, cuts toward the ball, and flows right into the handoff



Sequence

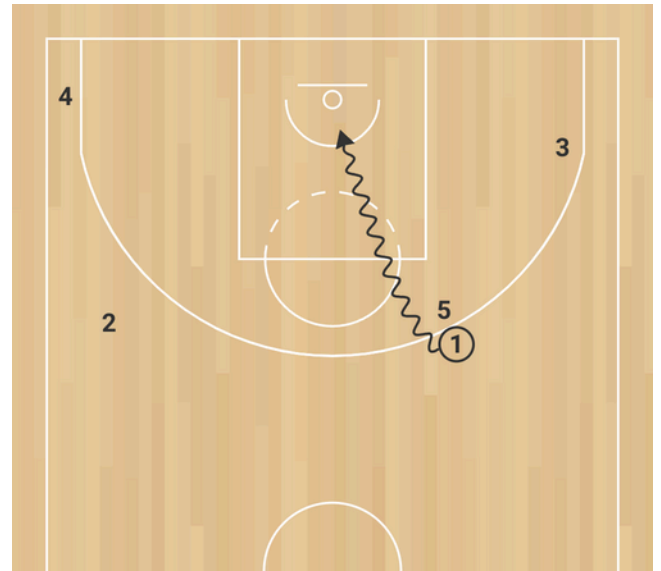
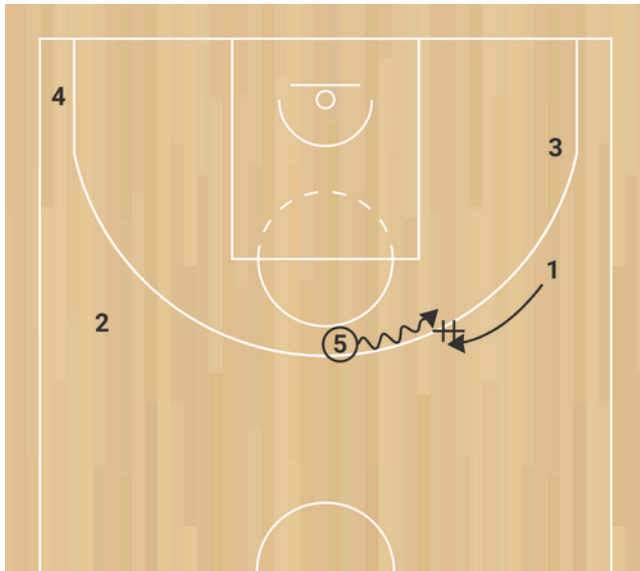
1. The screener (3) sets a down screen for the receiver (1) in the corner.
2. The receiver (1) cuts up, creating separation.
3. The ballhandler (5) dribbles toward the receiver for the handoff.
4. After the handoff, the receiver (1) attacks, while the ballhandler (5) becomes a secondary option.





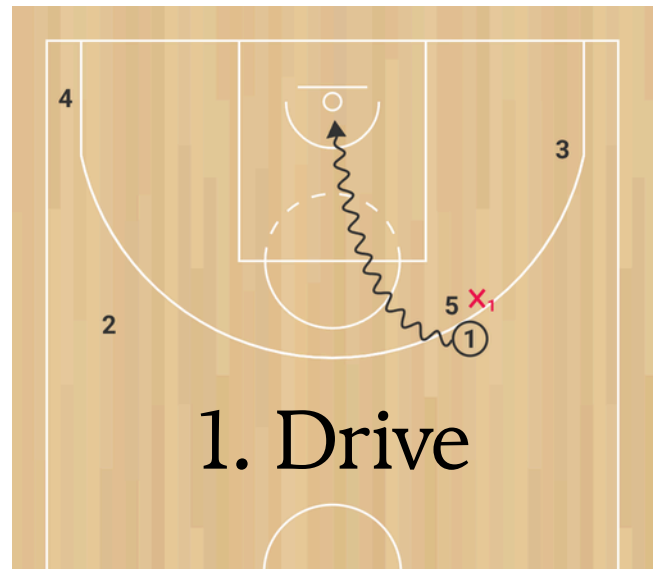
Zoom Action

Basic Setup

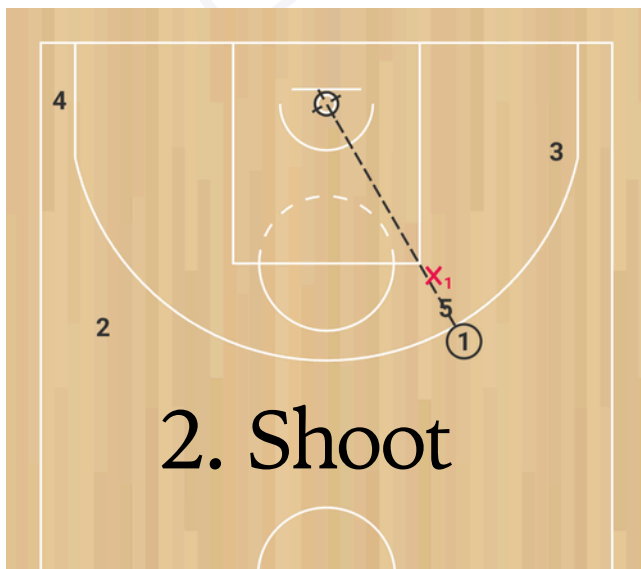


Options for the Receiver

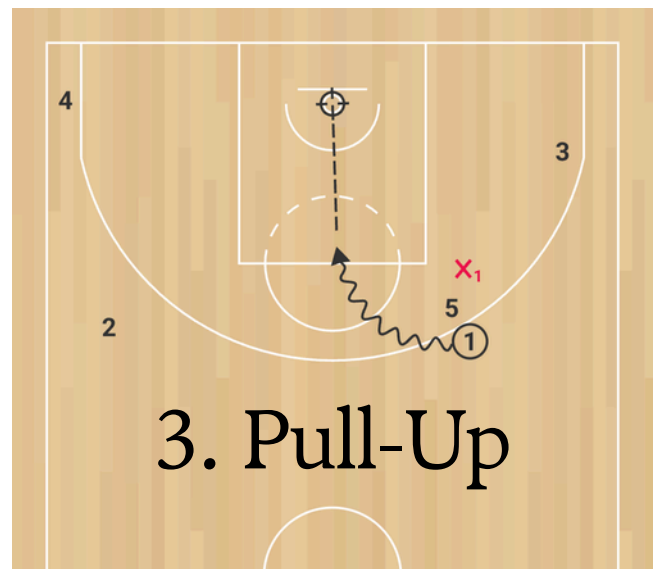
1. Drive to the rim if the defender is trailing
2. Catch-and-shoot three if the defender goes under
3. Pull-up or floater if the big stays back
4. Drive and kick to the help side or opposite wing
5. Pass to the rolling ballhandler for an easy finish



1. Drive



2. Shoot

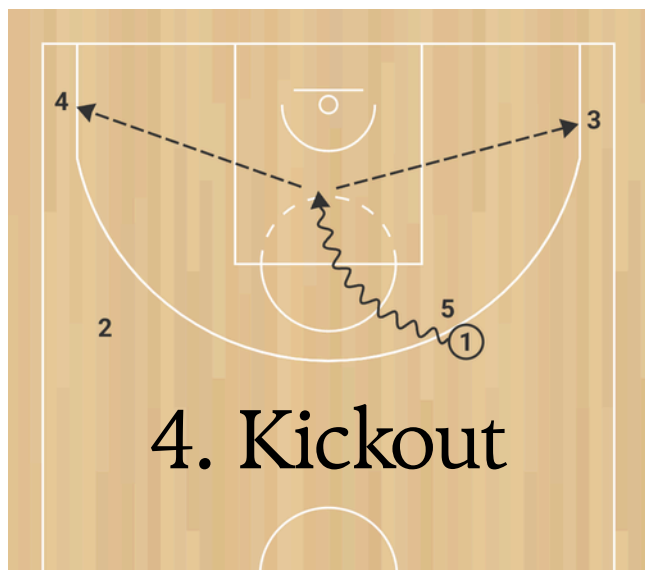


3. Pull-Up

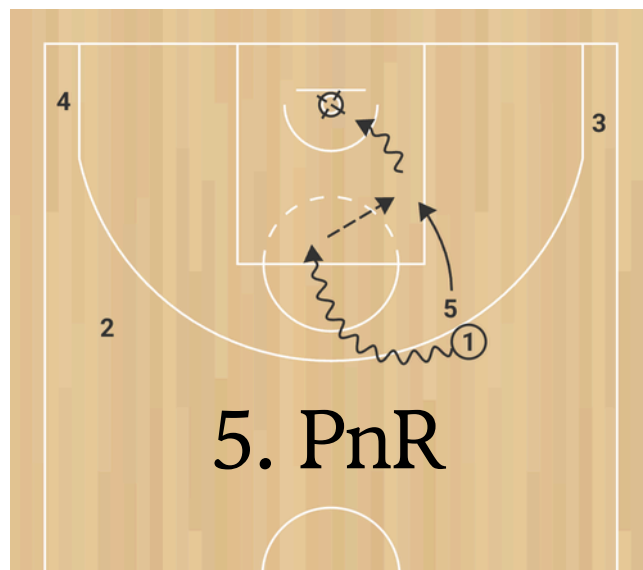


Zoom Action

Variations



4. Kickout



5. PnR

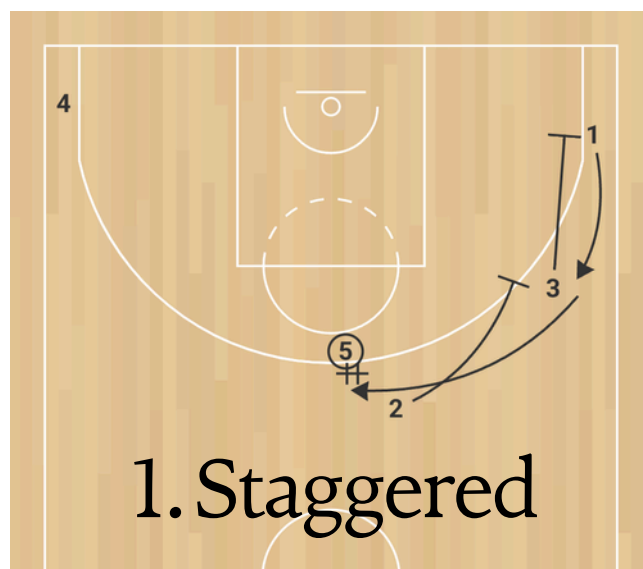
Why It Works

1. Forces defense to guard multiple actions quickly
2. Creates separation for the receiver
3. Natural spacing & driving gaps
4. Easy flow into other actions



Variations

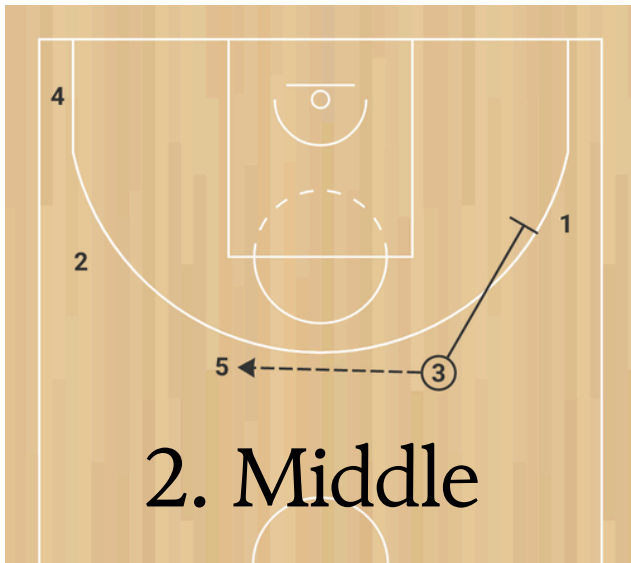
Staggered Zoom: The receiver (1) comes off two staggered down screens by (3) and (2) before flowing into the handoff.



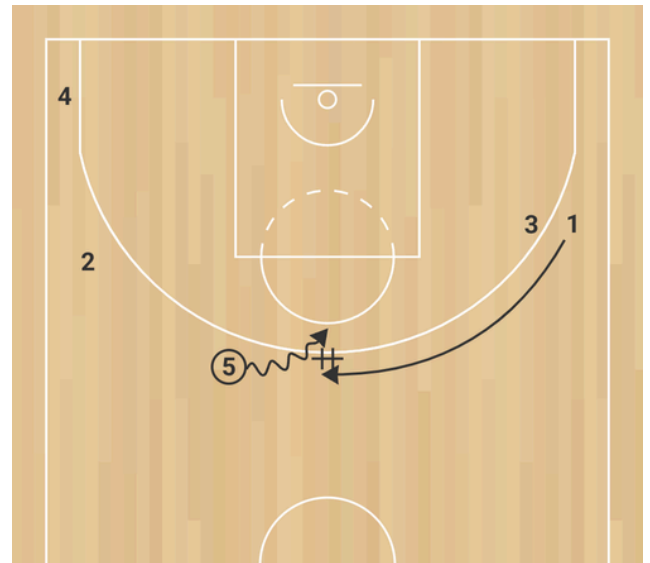
1. Staggered



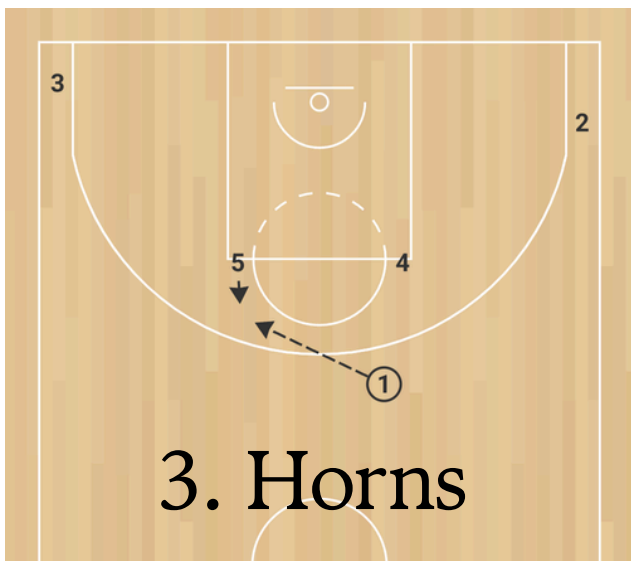
Zoom Action Variations



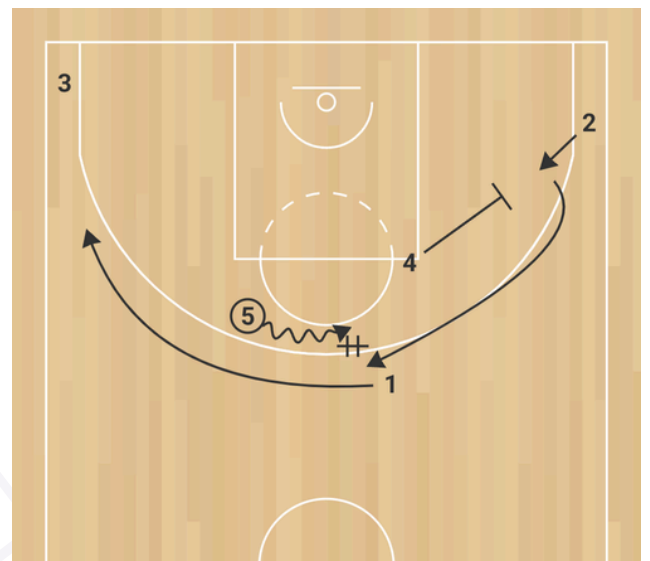
Middle Zoom: The down screen brings the receiver to the top.



The handoff happens in the middle of the floor.



Horns Zoom: From Horns, the ball enters to the elbow.



A down screen by (4) frees the receiver (2), followed by the handoff.

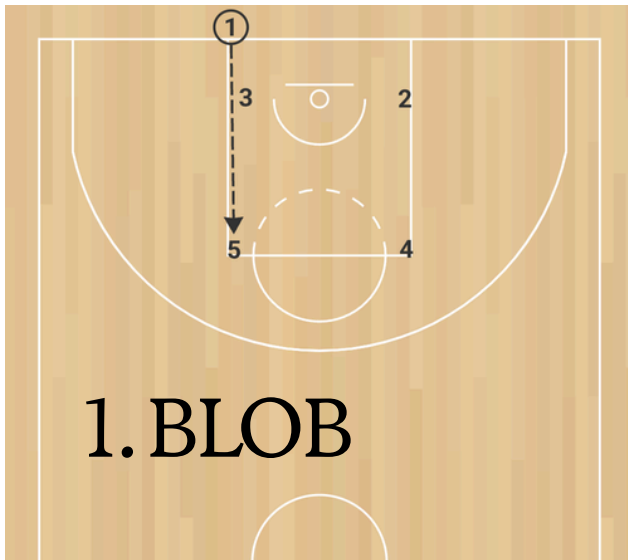


Zoom Action

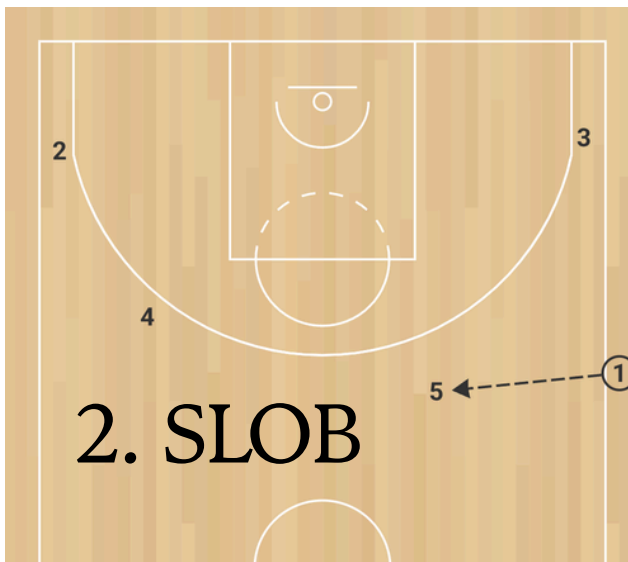
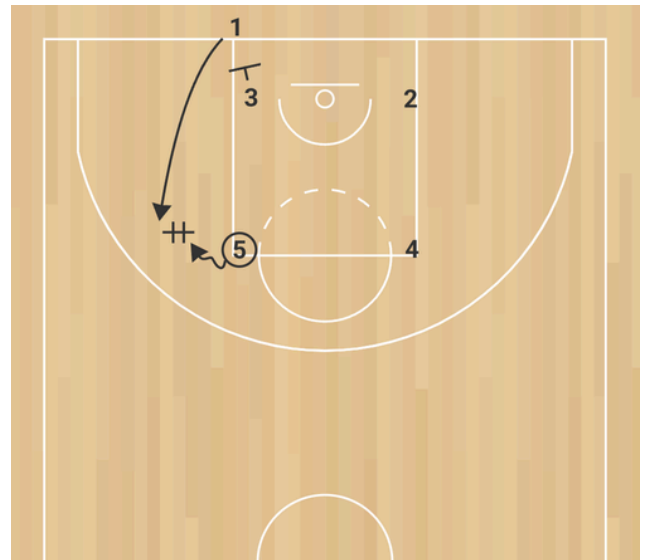
Inbound Plays



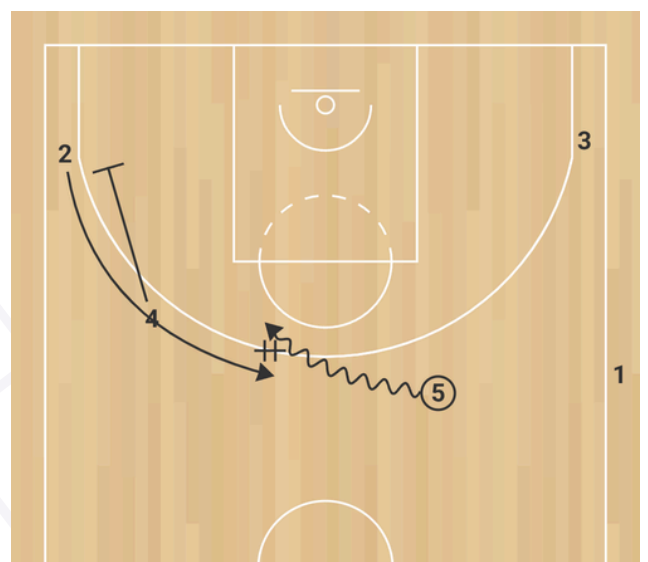
Inbound Plays



BLOB: The inbounder (1) passes to the elbow or slot, ...



SLOB: The inbound goes to the slot (5).



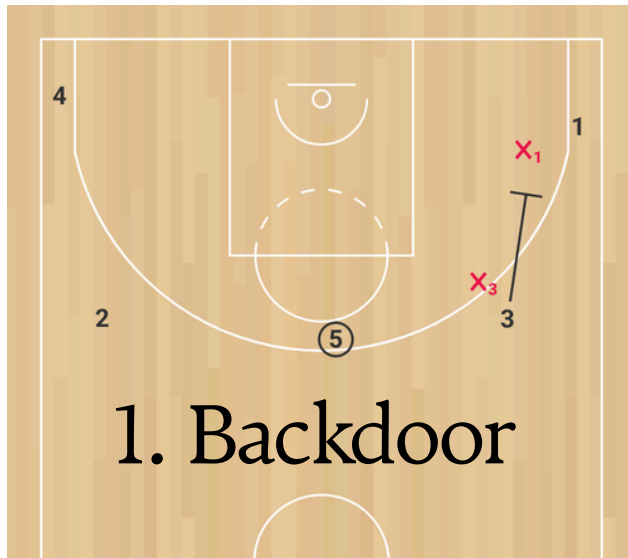


Zoom Action

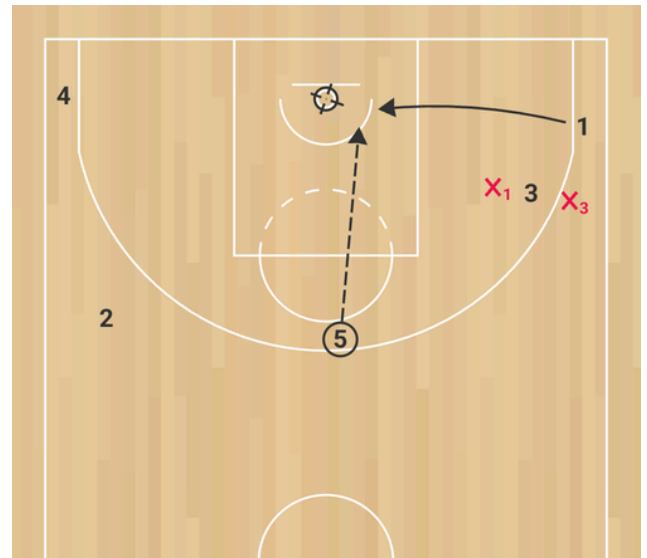
Counters & Wrinkles



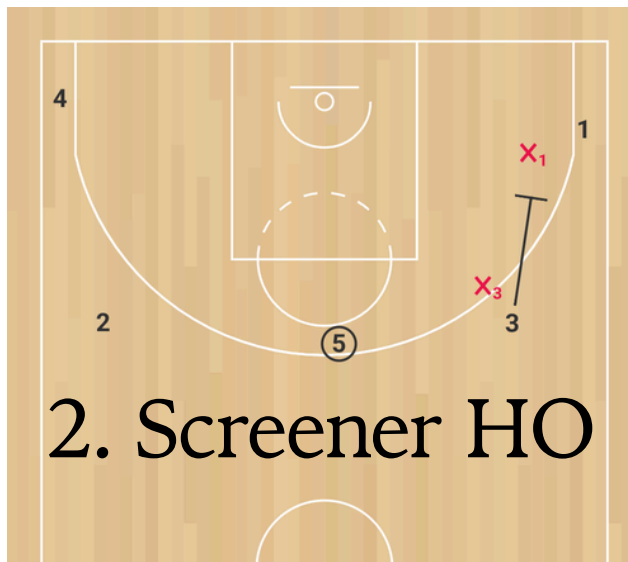
Counters & Wrinkles



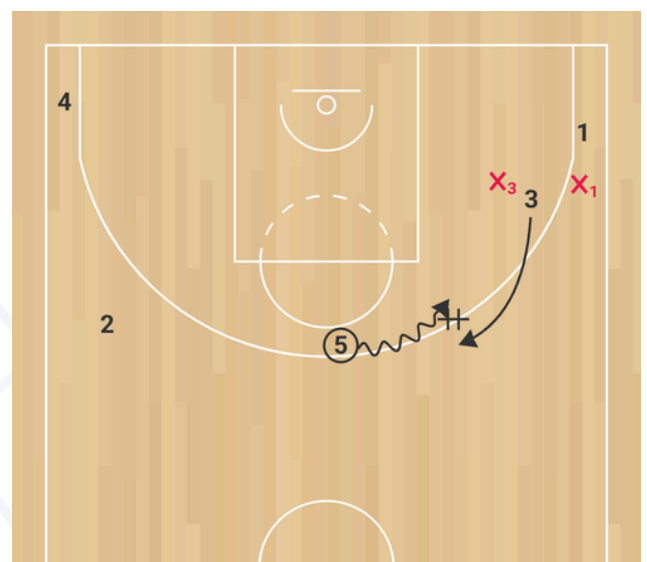
Backdoor: If the defense switches or overplays, ...



... the receiver (1) cuts backdoor instead of taking the handoff



Screener Handoff: If the receiver (1) is denied, ...

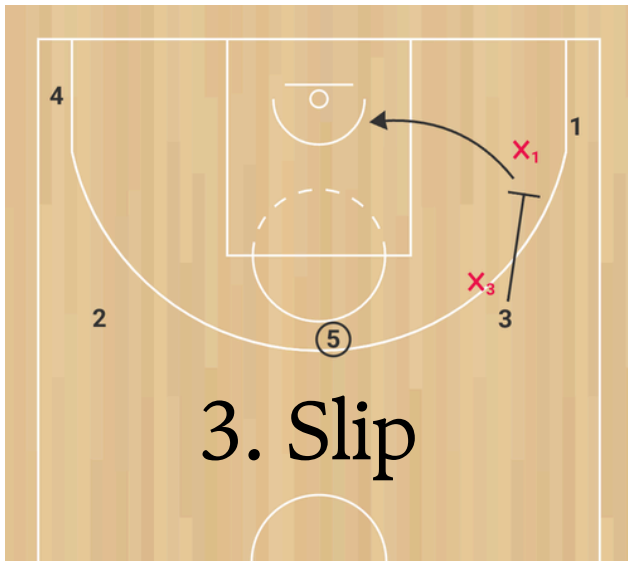


... the screener (3) cuts to the ball and receives the handoff instead



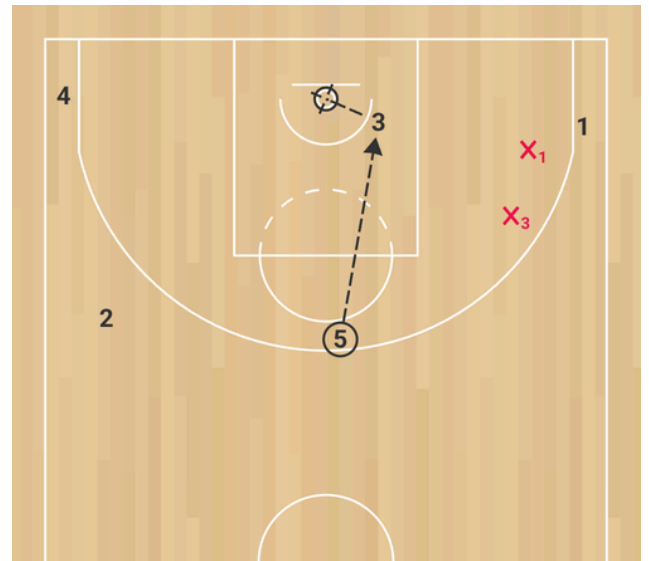
Zoom Action

Counters & Wrinkles



3. Slip

Slip (Basket Cut): The screener (3) fakes the screen ...



... and slips straight to the rim for an immediate scoring option.





Zoom Action Implementation



Implementing the Zoom Action

1. **Start Slow:** Don't try to add every variation at once. Begin with the basic setup — down screen into handoff — and build from there.
2. **Practice the Basics:** Focus on timing, spacing, and clean handoffs. Run short, targeted drills to help players master the sequence.
3. **Conditioning Matters:** Players need the speed and stamina to cut hard, set solid screens, and attack off the handoff multiple times per possession.
4. **Communicate Clearly:** Call out screens and handoffs. Good communication keeps spacing clean and helps avoid turnovers.
5. **Be Flexible:** Use Zoom in different spots — wing, middle, Horns, or inbound plays — and adjust based on your team's strengths.
6. **Stay Disciplined:** The action only works if cuts are sharp and timing is precise. Trust the reads instead of forcing the play.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. **Slow Timing:** If the screen and handoff are delayed, the defense recovers and the advantage is gone.
2. **Poor Spacing:** Crowding the ball side removes driving lanes and makes the action predictable.
3. **Forcing the Handoff:** If the receiver is denied, don't force it. Flow into a counter like a backdoor cut or screener handoff.
4. **Ignoring Options:** Players sometimes lock in on one read. Train them to see all five options — drive, pull-up, three, kick, or hit the roller.
5. **Weak Cuts and Screens:** Without hard cuts and solid screens, the Zoom Action loses its effectiveness.



Zoom Action

Conclusion



Conclusion

Congratulations!

You've now got a solid understanding of the Zoom Action — one of the most effective entry triggers for a 5-Out motion offense.

Remember, this isn't just a set play. It's a flexible concept that creates separation, opens driving lanes, and generates high-value shots.

To make it work, keep it simple:

- Focus on speed and timing
- Emphasize spacing and communication
- Add variations and counters once the basics are mastered

The Zoom Action will give your team structure without taking away freedom. Start small, stay consistent, and watch how quickly it transforms your offense.

For more breakdowns and teaching points, check out my videos on YouTube:



[Zoom Action - Guide](#)





Where strategy meets passion — this is Basketball Orbit



Hi, I'm Chris – Welcome to Basketball Orbit!

Basketball has been a huge part of my life. Growing up in Germany, I fell in love with the game and have been lucky to play it for most of my life. Over the years, my passion evolved into coaching, where I've worked with players and teams of all levels—from beginners to experienced athletes.

Coaching can be challenging — planning practices, teaching plays, and motivating players isn't always easy. That's why I started Basketball Orbit: to share the strategies and tools I've learned to help coaches like you create confident, successful teams.



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On my [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/@basketballorbit), I focus on practical drills, plays, and strategies for youth and senior teams alike. My goal is simple: to help you grow as a coach and take your team to the next level.

Basketball is about more than just winning — it's about teamwork, resilience, and having fun. Join me on this journey, and let's build stronger teams together.