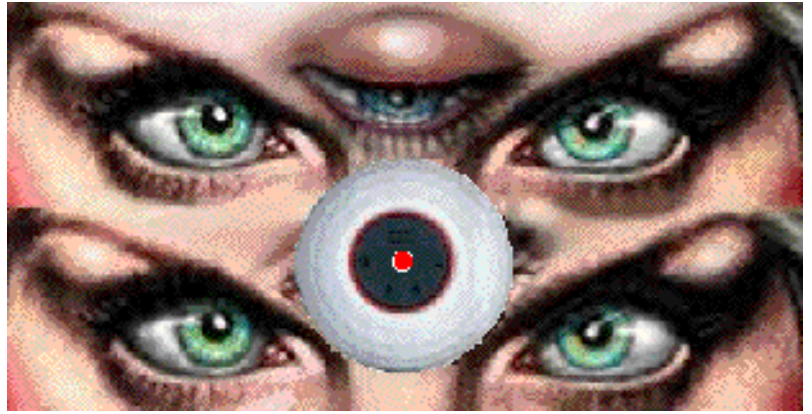


The
SIMPLEST,
EASIEST
and



MOST ACCURATE
(PGA/USGA/R&A LEGAL)
PUTTING TECHNIQUE

Used by:

PGA Tour record holder Of 82 Official Wins

Top Qualifier in Dave Pelz / Compaq
World Putting Championships by 3 Putts

Multi-Winner California Golfer of the Year

European Amateur Champion

Taught by 100's of PGA Pros.

1000's of Tournament Wins
& Personal Best Rounds

the PUTT GURU

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FOREWORD

No matter how much you are willing to spend, there are only a couple of things that can be done legally with putter technology that can actually help your putting. Head materials to help with feel and ball response off the face.

Weight distribution to reduce torque on off-center hits. Head design and markings that can help with setup alignment. All these things together can only have a limited effect on your overall putting.

The only way to putt consistently well is to have the putter face square and traveling on line and at the proper speed at ball contact.

You simply must accomplish this on your own. If you can do that, (and nobody can) any putter will do. The real problem with putting is that we attempt to do it from a position and with equipment that are both remarkably ill-suited to the task.

To begin with, when we use both hands together to initiate the stroke, we must continue to maintain equal grip pressure in both hands throughout the swing in order to keep the putter face square and maintain proper swing speed. It also takes away the control we could feel if we were able to take advantage of our natural right or left handedness. A ridiculously tall order that is completely unnecessary. Many years ago, the game of basketball experienced a similar problem with the two hand shot from the chest in the field and from between the legs at the free throw line. Unlike golfers, who seem to be willing to follow their leaders over the cliff... like lemmings, basketball players were quick to adopt the more logical and effective, one handed shot.

THE CONVENTIONAL PUTTING TECHNIQUE DOES NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR INHERENT TENDENCY TOWARDS OUR BODIES RIGHT OR LEFT SIDEDNESS, OUR NATURAL AND PREVIOUSLY LEARNED SKILLS OR PERCEPTION OF PACE AND DIRECTION AFFORDED US WITH OUR BINOCULAR VISION.

Oddly enough, most of us have had this idea before and tried it with our own putters that are not suited to this technique. Usually it's part of a desperate attempt to find some magic solution when our putting goes sour. Even though it may work pretty good right away, most of us discard it after a couple of feeble attempts because we thought it was probably a fluke, feels kind of awkward, looks silly and would take too long to perfect it. Besides, there must be something wrong with it or everybody would putt this way. Many golfers saw the potential, stuck with it, and now consider putting the best part of their game.

Before you go any further with this, go get your putter right now. Find a straight line to make a stroke over. The tile lines on a floor will do just fine or grab another club and lay it down along your intended line. First set up over it with your regular stance and try to stroke the putter back and through while keeping putter face square and the center of the head directly over the line both back and through. Now grab the top of the grip with your left hand like an ice pick. (If you're right handed) Place your right hand about half way down the shaft and pinch it in the crotch between the thumb and fore finger or grab it in the palm as you would with your conventional stance. Face down the line and place both feet to the left a few inches apart. Anchor your left forearm to your body. Lean forward enough to get the putter head close to the ground. Swing the putter back and forth over your line from your right shoulder letting your left wrist roll with the stroke. Notice how much easier it is to keep the putter face square and over the line during the entire swing... particularly at the critical impact point and the follow through.

Please forgive me in advance if I seem a little "testy" about this, but in my nearly 50 years of golf I have heard a lot of "excuses" and not one rational argument for the conventional putting stance over sidesaddle. In my pursuit of material for this page I am more convinced than ever that putting while facing the target line is absolutely, positively and without question the easiest and most accurate way to get a golf ball in the hole from any distance. The evidence is so overwhelming that it has become painful for me to watch the torture that "conventional" putters continue to deal with.

**IF YOU DON'T FACE THE TARGET LINE WHEN YOU PUTT,
YOU ARE NOT THE BEST PUTTER YOU CAN BE!**

Independent studies conducted at Indiana University by Dr. Gideon Ariel confirms that facing the target line with a long split-grip putter improves putting accuracy by 68%. It reduces the number of body parts necessary to produce a consistent pendulum stroke by 50%. It takes advantage of the hinge at the shoulder joint that naturally allows the arm to swing back and forth in a straight line. From the sidesaddle position we can better utilize our right or left sidedness (or handedness) The study also confirmed the added visual benefit of looking directly down the target line before making the stroke. This is the only head position that lets us use our binocular vision for depth perception during the actual stroke... a prerequisite for accurately seeing the line and calculating pace.

So called "conventional" putting techniques have been evolving since the game began. More recent changes include the "V" or "Y" pendulum style using the shoulders for the stroke instead of the wrists. And then there is the ever more present tall, split-grip putters that are making quite a statement.

Scott McCarron gave up the tour for 4 years because of poor putting. Also Bernard Langer and Sam Torrance to name a couple more. The tours are full of new careers due to tall putters. The one thing that stands out about this is the fact that even though pros constantly change conventional putters, none make the claim that any conventional one has actually saved their career.

The question everybody wrestles with is... "Why don't more golfers putt facing the target if it's that much better?"

Let me answer this way:

One of the reasons is that, until recently, there have not been any putters properly designed for this technique. But lack of exposure is the main reason. You probably won't see a well known professional putt sidesaddle on TV (Except for Sam) until there's a manufacturer able to pay the big money necessary to get it done or one of the many no-so-well-knowns using sidesaddle makes it to the leader board. (This will happen... you just watch!) Many professionals are simply stuck with a putter brand due to sponsorship and endorsement commitments. It may even be tough find a successful touring pro desperate enough to putt this way because most of them are staunch traditionalists who are highly competitive and don't want to win and be accused of using some kind of "crutch to do it. Others lack faith in the logic of it. They are afraid that making such a radical change might have an adverse effect on their conventional technique should they ever have to go back to it. Few ever give it a chance and spend enough time with it to realize it's full potential.

(On a recent Golf Academy segment on the Golf Channel, Dave Pelz recommended using a tall split-grip putter as a training aid for developing a proper pendulum swing with a sidesaddle stance because it's much easier to do and feel from that position. He has even gone further in his new book, "Dave Pelz's Putting Bible", by touting sidesaddle as positively the most accurate way to putt... right behind the pool cue method and the croquet style which are both illegal.



Former PGA Tour Pro Marty Fleckman is a believer in putting while facing the target line. His awards include the Texas Amateur Championship, three College Team Championships, an NCAA individual Championship, member of the U.S. Walker Cup Team, competitor in the US Open, winner of his first PGA event (one of only four players to do so), and a member of the Texas Golf Hall of Fame. Today Marty conducts corporate and charitable golf clinics and provides private instruction to golfers of all levels.

This is what Marty thinks of sidesaddle putting.

This is truly a remarkable putting style. You can take your natural instincts and normal ability and implement this easy technique.

It is so easy to release the putter with my right arm. I have no conflict with my left and my right arm. My left hand is holding the putter and I am swinging it with my right arm. My right arm is swinging in a very natural way. My arms are moving conducive to my natural instincts.

It's impossible to miss because you have no conflict because you are not trying to pull with the left or push with the right there is only one way to release the putter and that is the natural instinct of how your arm flows and swings to your side.

What were doing is putting conducive to our natural instincts and when you do that you eliminate variables.

I've never seen anything easier to use. And I mean to tell you, it's just so easy to line the putt up and set the putter down and aim it and just trust the stroke because it is just so natural. You are letting your arms swing conducive to how you naturally walk so, it is the most natural way to aim and release the putter in the direction that you are trying to make the putt to go.



Encarta Encyclopedia...

Snead, Sam (1912- 2002), American professional golfer, who won a record 84 Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) tour events.

He was born in Ashwood, Virginia. In the 1940s and early 1950s Snead won the PGA championship, the Masters tournament, and the British Open championship. He won the United States Professional Golfers' Association (USPGA) Seniors Championship six times in the 1960s and 1970s. Also known as Slammin' Sammy.

Snead was recognized for his sidewinder putting technique, in which he faced the hole and struck the ball with his hand low on the club shaft.

Sam Snead is having all kinds of problems with the "yips" and yes, resorts to a homemade croquet style putter. He starts winning big again. (WINS PGA BY 16 STROKES PUTTING THIS WAY.)

USGA BANS CROQUET STYLE PUTTING

Sam tells it this way: The great Bobby Jones was riding around in a cart one day during a PGA tournament with the Commissioner of Golf. Jones saw Sam putting croquet style and exclaimed to the Commissioner... "That has got to go!". And go it went. The USGA promptly ruled it to be unfair in that (while on the green) you could not stand "astride" or "directly behind" your line of putt, and the shaft had to have at least a 10% angle in relation to the head. Sam never missed a beat.

He still faced the hole with a regulation blade putter. He put both feet on the left of the line. While holding the top of the grip with the left hand, he held the right hand down the shaft with the palm facing forward. (Called "sidesaddle" today.)

In every underhand sport we do, we face the target line and execute the action with one hand. Our eyes, mind and body already know how best to accomplish the task. From bowling, horseshoes, croquet and pool to pitching pennies. Why anyone would insist on complicating a simple thing like putting by using two hands on the putter while standing at a right angle to the target defies all logic.

There are at least 5 major flaws in the conventional stance:

- 1. Using both hands together on the putter grip requires you to maintain equal pressure with each in order to keep the stroke on line. (Basketball players learned long ago that two handed shots were far less effective than one handed ones. It took a while for it to get accepted also)
- 2. It doesn't allow us the use of our binocular vision for the best judgment of depth perception for accurate pace and direction. (Although we usually line up our putts using binocular vision from behind the ball, once we take our stance we get a different perspective with conflicting information that evokes confusion and hinders confidence)
- 3. Does not allow us to take advantage of our natural sidedness... right or left handedness. (why not make use of our previously learned underhand tossing skills?)
- 4. The hinge at the shoulder is designed to swing freely forward and back and not across the body. (The conventional setup requires the use ... or restricting the use... of many more body parts in order to keep the putter face on line at the desired speed.)
- 5. There is a undesirable carryover from the full swing into the putting stroke. (The arm and wrist action required to bring the club face square on the full swing is so ingrained that it causes this same unconscious action on putts causing pushes and pulls.)

ABC's OF PERFECT PUTTING

ALIGNMENT:

Could you make more putts if you knew that the putterface was always square to your target line?

BALL CONTROL:

Could you make more putts if you could always keep the ball tracking down that line at the proper pace?

CONSISTENCY:

Could you make more putts if the ball reacted the same way every time even if you miss the center of the putterface by as much as two inches?



COULD YOU MAKE EVEN MORE PUTTS IF YOU COULD DO ALL THREE WITHOUT IMPROVING YOUR PRESENT SKILL LEVEL?

Well, you can achieve all three but you'll have to make some changes in the way you approach this part of the game. Somehow, you have stumbled onto the only resource in the world that can show you exactly how to do just that

Why not just make it easy?

The Magic of the PENDULUM

It's about that silky smooth stroke with gradual acceleration that starts the ball tracking on line and end-over-end that is so difficult to achieve with a conventional stance.

Your mind and body already knows how to put a roll on a ball that is more effective than the best professional.

Buddy Bernhardt was the Indiana Putting Champion in 1997 and 1998 in the Dave Pelz / Compaq World Putting Championship. Beat all the professionals by 3 shots in qualifying round.

THE MOST IMPORTANT DRILL FOR PUTTING SIDESADDLE

Before you ever start to putt sidesaddle, it is important to execute this simple drill for at least a half hour.

Get out your shag bag or fill your pockets balls and get on a putting green at least 30 to 50 feet away from a hole.

Without any thought about putting and while making sure you are positioned the way it feels most natural for you, toss balls one at a time underhand toward your target in an effort to get them as close as possible. Don't be afraid to fool around a while until you find the most comfortable and effective setup.

You will accomplishing a number of things when you do this:

1. You will be ingraining your only swing thought for sidesaddle... (Tossing the mid grip as though it were a ball with focus in the fingers.)
2. You will find your natural setup by observing how you finally position yourself during this drill... (Foot position, bend at the waist, bend in the elbow, lean to the ball side, etc.) This will dictate your own, most effective stance for sidesaddle.
3. Observe the distance from the ground your hand is at the bottom of the toss... (This will tell you where the mid grip should be positioned on the shaft.)
4. Although not as critical... while in your ball tossing stance, place your other arm across your body with the forearm at a right angle to the upper arm and the hand in a fist with the knuckles facing the target line. (The distance from the ground to your thumb less about 1 inch... depending on the putter head and hosel type... will give you your shaft length.)

You should do the ball tossing drill often and before every round to reinforce your feel for the sidesaddle stroke and swing thought on lag putts.



THE SIDESADDLE SETUP

The top or left hand for right handers.

After you have found the line for your putt.

grasp the top grip with your left hand as shown with the knuckles facing forward and pointing the same direction as the putter face. Maintain light pressure between the thumb and forefinger with the other fingers barely feeling the grip.

Palm out facing the line.



Side finger with palm facing the leg... this is the way the hand naturally swings when we walk.



The two finger is similar to the side finger except the thumb and forefinger pinch the grip instead of holding it in the palm.



Get yourself lined up

One of the best ways to get everything lined up is to walk up from behind the ball facing your target line. Straddle the line... croquet style. Sole the head and inch or two behind the ball and square it up to some spot (Discolored blade of grass, old pitch mark, etc.) only a foot or two up the target line. Bring your right foot to the same side as your left and you're ready to pull the trigger.



Remember... it is not USGA legal to make a putt while standing on, astride or directly behind your line of putt while on the putting surface. ----->



THE MAGIC STROKE



Take it back and...



...hit it where you're looking with a tossing motion as if you had the ball in your fingers.

Now Take it to the Next Level

LOOK AT THE HOLE DURING THE STROKE!

In order to truly maximize the results of this technique, you should look at the hole as the target like you do when you toss a ball underhand.

This helps with three things.

- 1) It totally eliminates the "hit" impulse that prevents a smooth, on line followthrough.
- 2) It prevents looking up too early and insures staying steady through impact.
- 3) It dramatically improves feel for pace and direction... particularly on long putts.

Square the putter to the intended line on breaking putts but still look at the hole for the stroke. Your intuitive mind will factor in the pace allowing for the break just as a basketball player looks at the basket even though the shot will travel in an arc.

NOTE: There may be some discomfort at first as you learn to trust the putter to contact the ball properly.

In fact, it probably won't at first.

Don't let this discourage you.

Contact will improve as you gain confidence.

Besides, even your mis-hits, while looking at the hole, will be amazingly accurate.

**COMMIT YOURSELF TOTALLY TO THE TECHNIQUE.EVEN THOUGH
IT MAY FEEL AWKWARD AT FIRST... YOU WON'T BE SORRY!**

SO, WHAT ABOUT PUTTERS?

Although there are many commercially manufactured putters available for the Sidesaddle technique, (Visit <http://puttmagic.com>) You can assemble your own or sometimes alter your current putter.

The most important things are the head type, shaft length and lie angle.

Look for a putter head that has some depth from face to back like a mallet style.

Good alignment properties are important and quite helpful. Long lines or the new 2 ball types are really good. The shaft hole must not be at an angle. 90 degrees only. Heads with hosels will not work as they nearly all have too flat of a lie angle. You can also use a left handed head and lean the bend the other way as shown the reversed shafted ComfortZone putters on the web site <http://puttmagic.com>. (recommended)

The shaft can be between 42" and 50" (I prefer a shorter shaft as it allows you to get into a more natural ball tossing position and is easier to handle on shorter putts. (I'm 6' 5" and use a 44" shaft.)

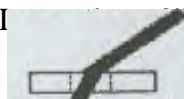
An aluminum alloy shaft is recommended since you'll need to make a bend or two. (The long High-Tec Black shaft from Golfsmith works great and is inexpensive (<http://golfsmith.com>))

Grips must be round in order to conform to USGA rules.

There are several split grip sets on the market for long putters but a pair of oversize or jumbo round grips that work just fine

STEP 1: Cut the Shaft to Length. (I recommend 44" for most.) Rough about 1/2" of tip for better glue hold.

STEP 2: Bending the Shaft. Clamp a piece of 3/4" hardwood with an approx. 1/2" hole to bench top or in vise. I



For a heel shafte ... 1 to make a second bend of 20 - 22 degrees approx. 2" above the

First



STEP 3: Preparing the Grips. Cut just the butt tip off from one of the grips.



Cut about 4" to 5" off the bottom of the other for the top grip.

Use sander to clean up cuts.

STEP 4: Assembling the putter Thread the butt end of the longer mid grip onto the tip end of the shaft and leave loose.

Using a 2 part epoxy, cement the shaft into the hole with the bend leaning to the left (toward you) for a right hander.



Once the epoxy has set, take some LIQUID HAND SOAP (Dial works best) and well lubricate the top 7"-8" of the shaft. Push the top grip onto the shaft until it bottoms out.

Push the mid grip well down over the first shaft bend and well lubricate the shaft with the hand soap up to a few inches of the top grip. Pull the mid grip to the desired position on the shaft.. **NOTE:** Although the grips will be on firm enough to putt with right away, the soap will delay the adhesive for sometime allowing you to reposition the grip. (I recommend a relatively straight elbow that promotes a "rolling" rather than a "tossing" type stroke

CALL ME TOLL FREE FOR HELP: 877-788-8487

LESSON 1: SLOPING PUTTS

Approaching a Sloping Putt Well Briefed and in the Right Frame of Mind is the Best Way to Hole it.

Many simple-looking holes are strengthened by heavily contoured greens, so make life easier for yourself by taking precautions.

ASSESS THE GREEN Many parkland courses have relatively flat greens - you can deal with fairly easily if you have a smooth putting stroke

Heathland and links courses are a more complicated matter - their greens are designed to make you concentrate until your ball disappears into the hole.

When top players practice before a tournament, they size up the green from all angles. Putting from every part of the green helps them learn the best spot on which to land their approach shots - if their on target they can look forward to a birdie putt.

You can make putting on sloping greens a lot easier by copying the pros. If you play the same course regularly, make a note of the best and worst parts of the greens. Aim your approach shots to the areas which offer the straightest putts.

Don't be content to hit the green anywhere - the most inviting spot may leave a three-putt.

GREEN SPEED To assess how much the ball will move on a slope, you must get a feeling for the speed of the green. If the speed of the practice green is the same as the greens on the course where you play, spend some time putting beforehand. You'll putt far more confidently during your round.

The speed of your putt affects its line. A softly struck putt reacts to the subtle slopes more acutely than a firmly hit shot. If the green is fast, hit softly so that you don't over hit - allow for movement.

Bear in mind that a putt will not swing as far on a wet green as it does on dry grass. A putt on a wet green may leave a track in the grass as well, which gives an excellent indication of the swing.

Look at your putt from all angles to check the line - one view on its own could deceive.

Whatever the slope on your line, hit your putts straight. Let the borrow you've allowed roll your ball towards the hole. Never try to spin or curve a putt. Keep a positive image of the line in your mind and hit smoothly.

UPHILL AND DOWNHILL PUTTS Always try to give yourself an uphill putt rather than a downhill one. A fast uphill putt that hits the back of the hole may still drop in. But a speedy downhill putt is risky - even if it's "dead on line" the momentum may send your ball flying over the hole and off in the distance.

SHADE YOUR EYES To concentrate on the line of our putt, crouch down on your haunches and shade your eyes as you read the green. This helps give you a clearer, better defined picture of the putt you have to make than a wide and distracting view of the whole green - which disturbs your concentration

LESSON 2: PUTTING ON TWO TIERS

When your approach shot lands on one tier and the flag is on the other, you should still need only two putts.

Learning to putt well on a two-tier green saves precious strokes.

Although the putting technique is the same as on a flat green, judging the bank is the key to playing well. Understanding how a ball behaves when it rolls over the step is half the battle.

Going straight up or down the bank is purely a matter of how hard to hit the ball. But when you're faced with a putt across the green and over the bank the line must be taken into account.

CHANGING PATHS The path of the ball changes twice on its way to the hole. It first alters when the ball runs on to the bank between the tiers, and changes again when the putt reaches the other tier.

For example, if you need to putt up and across - from left to right - a two-tier green, you must aim at a point wide and left of the hole. The ball moves to the right on the bank then straightens again when it reaches the top tier.

The amount the ball breaks depends on how high and steep the bank is, and the pace of the putt. The higher the bank, the more the ball

PUTTING ON TWO TIERS continued

moves off line, and the wider of the hole you must aim. The ball is less affected by the bank if it's rolling fast. If the green also slopes across, take this into account when choosing your line. Once you have chosen your line you must judge the pace.

GOING DOWNHILL For a downhill putt going across a flat two-tier green from left to right, you must learn to aim to the right of the hole. The bank turns the ball left but it straightens out towards the hole on reaching the lower tier.

The path the ball takes on the lower tier is parallel to the initial line if you judge the pace correctly.

Pick a point on the edge of the bank and try to hit your ball over it. Imagine you're putting to a hole on the step. The strength of the putt should be just enough to for the ball to trickle over.

Make sure the ball reaches the lower tier every time.

A ball 10 feet past the hole is better than leaving it on top of the tier. If the hole is a long way from the foot of the bank, aim at a point on the bottom tier to make certain the ball reaches the target.

PUTTING UPHILL When going up the bank remember to take into account the cross slope on the top tier.

You must always get the ball on the top tier with your first putt... even if it goes past the hole.

Never hit the ball too weakly so it rolls back down the slope. You'll be in three putt territory even if you putt sidesaddle.

Choose a spot past the hole to counter the effect of the bank. Imagine you're playing to a hole beyond the cup. If you judge the pace reasonably well you should finish fairly close to the hole even if bank put you off line.

LESSON 3: PLUMB-BOBBING

Plumb-bobbing is an effective way of measuring the slope of the green.

Greens are full of deceptive slopes and undulations. The vertical line created by hanging the putter in front of you gives a useful pointer for the subtle slopes around you on the green. On hilly courses it helps you keep an idea of the true horizontal, as the humps and hollows can be deceptive.

ASSESS THE BREAK You can also plumb-bob to assess the amount of break in your putt. Sometimes a putt can look straight but be affected by slopes that you can't see with the naked eye. Plumb-bobbing helps you to adjust your putt accordingly.

PLUMB-BOBBING TECHNIQUE To plumb-bob correctly, you need to use your master eye. To find which one, with both eyes open, hold your forefinger at arms length and line it up with a point in the background. Then look with each eye separately, closing the other as you do so. The eye which shows your finger nearest the point in the background is your master eye.

Stand a few paces behind your ball, on a direct line with the hole. Hold your putter with one hand... between the thumb and tips of the fingers near the bottom of the grip. Hold it loosely at arms length opposite your master eye with the toe or heel facing directly away from you.

Line up the center of your ball with the lower part of the shaft. Let your master eye come up the shaft until it is level with the hole. If there is a slope, the hole will be to the right or left of the shaft. Adjust your borrow accordingly. If the slope is obvious, plumb-bob to confirm exactly how much.

CHECK OUT THE HOLE Sometimes the last few rolls before the ball reaches the hole can have a marked effect on your putt. After plumb-bobbing, check how the hole is cut.

Greenskeepers often pull up the hole cutter at an angle. This means that one side of the hole is higher than the other.

For instance, if plumb-bobbing has shown you have a left-to-right putt, and the hole is cut higher to the right you must adjust the line... the putt is now almost straight.

LESSON 4: JUDGING THE GRAIN

Although reading the green correctly is essential, you can hole even more putts by judging the grain properly.

The grain is the direction in which the grass grows. In mild climates, the grass grows straight up, so the grain hardly affects your putt. However, the grass is mown up and down, pushing it in one direction and then the other. These stripes give the same effect as natural grain.

CONTENDING WITH MOWN GRAIN With the mown grain the grass looks pale and your ball travels more quickly.

Against the mown grain the grass looks darker and will slow a putt down.

Across mown stripes the ball will hit a mini-wall as it hits the join between the different sections and will tend to veer off line towards the direction of the mowers path.

READING THE GRAIN A green with a strong grain looks dull and dark when you stand on one side, and shiny and light from the other. When it looks shiny and light, you are putting with the grain, and the ball runs very quickly. With the green looking dull and dark, a putt is against the grain and runs relatively slowly. Recognizing this and understanding what it does to the ball's path is as important as gauging the slope and line of putt.

Golf courses in warm climates usually have greens with either Bermuda or bent grass. These grasses which shoot up quickly in the sun also grow in specific directions.

The direction the grass grows depends on where the green is - If there a sea or a natural lake nearby, it is very likely that the grain leads toward it.

Alternatively, the grain may point where the prevailing wind is heading, or it could lead away from mountains or even lean toward the setting sun. Taking all these factors into account is vital if you are putting on grainy greens.

An uphill putt against the green is extra slow but the same putt with the grain may counteract the effect of the slope and make for a normal speed putt.

When the green slopes downward and the grain runs against the slope, the putt is almost straight.

If both the slope and the grain run in the same direction, the line of your putt becomes more acute and you must play for more break.

If the grain runs sideways across the line of putt, it has the same effect as a side slope. Aim the putt to curve with the direction of the grain.

Breaking putts with the grain become more acute while breaking putts against the grain will cancel out some of the slope.

DRY OR DAMP A hot sun dries out the grass very quickly. If the green is sunken, or has trees overhanging it, parts of it may remain in shadow for longer than others. This means that sections of the green can be either bone dry or damp.

Remember this when you assess your putt - damp grass can slow your putt down considerably while dryness means a fast putt and a more acute break.



DRILLS & GAMES

Using various drills and games helps you to become a better judge of line and weight, and to grove your stroke without unnecessary toil and boredom.

MEASURED WEIGHT To find your feel for distance it is best not to aim at a hole - it can be disturbing. To gauge long range putts, simply press a tee peg into the practice green and try to lay every putt dead on.

To develop a touch for medium range putts, lay out three tees in a line. Place the first one about 15 feet away and each of the others at 10 foot intervals further away. Putt two balls to each tee and keep repeating the exercise. This teaches you to take putts individually and judge the pace each time which helps your touch.

BOWLING GREEN One of the most enjoyable ways to hone your pace and line is to play bowls.

You need two or more players, three balls each and a “jack” - the target ball.

Player (1) knocks the jack down the green, than hits his first ball towards it, trying to get as close to the jack as possible. Player (2) then has to beat his rival. Take alternate putts until you have hit all the balls.

To score, judge whose ball is closest. The player with the nearest ball is awarded 1 point. If the same player has more than one ball closer than the opponents, award a point for each. Play to 21.

ALL IN A ROW Line 5 or 6 balls up in a row from the hole with the first one about 3 feet away and the others in a straight line at one foot intervals. Start with the closest and then putt each of the others in order until you miss. If you miss, pick up and replace the putted balls and start over.

This drill helps your short putt stroke and does wonders for concentration and determination. It makes you really want to hole out each time as you know you must start all over again if one fails to drop.

BLIND MAN’S PUTT With roughly 10 balls, aim to a hole free area. Take one ball at a time and try to stroke it to a point about 25 feet away. Don’t look up between shots. Just roll the next ball and repeat your stroke. Try to keep everything the same - the line, rhythm and strength.

The idea is to keep all the balls in as tight a group as possible. Only after the last ball is well on it’s way do you look up. Do the drill from longer and longer distances.

This drill is better than putting with your eyes closed since you can still concentrate on your stroke and your ball striking is more consistent.

Find Your Authentic Putting Stroke with this Laser Pointer Trick

If you don't have the kit, here are the basic things you'll need to pick up.

1. You can purchase a key chain type laser with batteries for under \$10 at most office supply and drug stores. Ebay has them all the time for under \$5.



2. Ratcheting, adjustable Kwik Klips with an adhesive base by Gardner Bender (GKK-1538 for up to 3/8 bundles) can be found at a larger hardware store such as Home Depot.



3. A small jar lid.



4. You can use a small, 4"-6" cable bundler to activate the laser switch for some other tricks explained later. You'll also need a roll of vinyl electricians tape for these.



A. #10 rubber "O" ring works even better,



First attach the a Kwik Klip to the top of the jar lid. Remove the key chain parts from the laser and insert it into the Kwik Klip with the on/off button centered in the gap as shown.



In this position, a simple counterclockwise twist will turn the laser on.



Laser Tricks

You can save \$100's of dollars on similar training aids with these tricks for \$10-\$15 if you don't have these 3 items.

1. A key chain laser.
2. Vinyl tape.
3. Cable bundler Or "O" ring.



In order to depress the laser ON/OFF button, secure the cable bundler snugly around the body of the laser.



To turn the laser on, simply slide the cable bundler over the ON/OFF button.



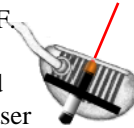
HERE ARE SOME DRILLS THAT WILL REVEAL AND HELP CORRECT ALIGNMENT, TAKEAWAY AND SWING ERRORS FOR ALL CLUBS

Tape the laser parallel to the sight lines or at a right to the face of your putter.

with the laser OFF.

Face a small target on the wall To help with alignment, take

your putting stance and target. Turn the laser



square the putter up to the on to see how close the dot is

to the target. A well known manufacturer uses thousand dollar devises at pro shops to sell putters with this revealing idea but it doesn't do this: Obviously, you can also swing the putter with the laser in the ON position to see how square the face is throughout the stroke. Excellent way to groove it.

Tape the laser in the ON position to the shaft or hosel of any club as shown.

Set up to a target on the ground to represent a ball.



Make swings and observe the path of the laser streak to see whether it stays on plane and passes over the target. Doing this with a wall in front of you and then the wall behind will reveal much more. Taping the laser in the ON position to butt end of any grip will let you see how well you take the club away with your body instead of your hands by keeping the laser dot still during start of swing.

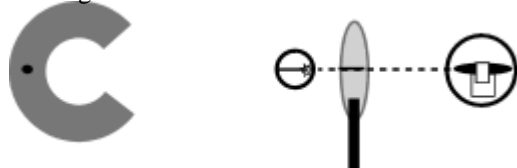
SOME MORE LASER TRICKS THAT REALLY WORK

Laser Putting Drill

Step 1. Separate the laser and target as far apart as desired. Aim the laser at the center of the target. (Small flag pole if you have a putting cup with one.)



Step 2. Place the ball with the line you have marked pointed down the target line and the laser dot is on the back.



Step 3. Set up to the ball with your putter square to the line on the ball. Put your focus on the laser dot and make a stroke as you say your cadence. Your putter may obscure the dot but you will remember where it was. (No mechanics.. Experiment.) Observe the results.



Did the laser dot stay on the center of ball the entire distance?

Did the line on the ball remain stable as it rolled?

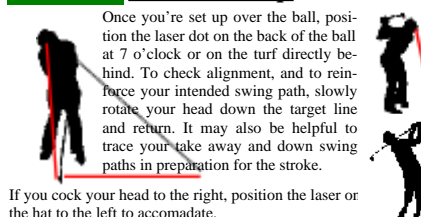


It probably didn't. Simply observe the results. DON'T MAKE ANY CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO CHANGE YOUR STROKE! It's OK to change your preparation though. Change your putter alignment. Even change putters, grip or technique. But when you're ready to putt again just play the little game of focusing on the dot, and timing your cadence. Start short and move further away as your results improve. This will soon train self 2 to take over let you putt consistently



The Laser Hat Trick

Attach a Kwick Klip or use tape to hold the laser under or on top of the bill of a visor or hat as shown.



If you cock your head to the right, position the laser or the hat to the left to accommodate.

Forget about the ball and focus on the dot throughout the takeaway and downswing. You should still be looking at the dot until your right shoulder reaches your chin. You will find this training aid quite helpful on all golf shots including: sand, putts, chip, pitch and trouble. Although not USGA legal for tournament play, your best results will come if you use it on the golf course in practice. play.

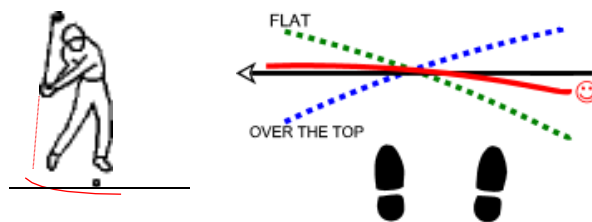
ANOTHER LASER TRICK

NOTE: Alternate method for attaching laser to grip butt. If you open up the small hole on the end of the grip with a 3/16" (5.5mm) drill, the laser will not interfere with your hand placement. The key chain knob on the laser will fit snugly as shown



Place a club on the ground pointing down the target line slightly closer to you than the ball would be. Take your setup parallel to the club. Take your backswing to the top and stop. Point the laser dot to a point where the smiley face is on the diagram below.(this should be a good position at the top.) *Slowly* begin the downswing tracing a line with the dot like the red one in the diagram while uncocking your wrists so that the club face is square when it reaches the impact point. Continue the follow through down the target line. Repeat this drill over and over and often. Increase your speed as this skill improves

According to Dave Leadbetter (Sells a device like this on the Golf Channel for 4 payments... No!! 3 payments of \$29.95 if you call now!) it not only quickly gets you on the proper swing plane but also sets your wrists in the "slot" for a powerful, accurate release.



A PERFECT DOUBLE DUTY BALL LINER AND BALL PICKUP

For only 88 cents you can pickup this little gem at Walmart. Add a small or medium point permanent marker and you have a tool that will allow you to mark lines of any length on the middle of your golf ball for better putting alignment.

Put it in your bag or on the end of your putter grip. Picks ball up without bending better than any other on the market.



FINDING THE HEAVY SIDE OF GOLF BALLS

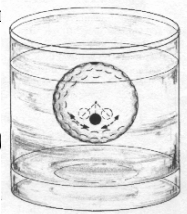
BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE!

I must again refer to Dave Pelz for letting me in on this one. I was amazed at the number of balls I found that were heavier on one side than the other... nearly all of them! According to Dave in his book "Putt Like the Pros", he found that most golf balls are so out of balance that they will roll off line as much as 2 1/2 inches on a 10 foot putt. Ever notice how often 2 or 3 putts on the same line will break differently? If there is anything that will make practicing futile, it's got to be balls that are not going where you hit them. How could anyone expect to improve their putting while never knowing if you're hitting off line putts or the ball has a mind of it's own.

Here's a simple, do-it-yourself method for finding that heavy side which when placed up, down or somewhere along the circumference of the ball that it will roll on, will not effect it's ability to stay on line.

If you don't have a kit, here's what you'll need:
Epsom Salts: 1 to 3 tablespoons.
Jet-Dry (dishwasher rinsing agent): 1 or 2 drops.
Short tumbler or glass.
Permanent marking pen.
Spoon.

Fill glass with about 2 inches of warm water.
Add 1 or 2 tablespoons of Epsom salts.
(Allows the ball to float.)
Add a drop or two of Jet-Dry.
(Reduces surface tension. Ball spins easier.)
Stir until salts are dissolved.
(Add more salts if needed to float the ball with the top just above the surface.)



MARK A FEW BALLS FOR PUTTING PRACTICE

Place a ball in the solution. Spin it with your finger. After the ball comes to a stop, put a small dot on the very top of the ball. Repeat several times. You will probably discover that the dot will continue to be on top each time. If it doesn't, you have found a rare balanced ball indeed. It won't matter where you put the line (Covered in the next section.)

Set these little pearls aside for special occasions such as tournaments and serious competitions. Give the really bad ones as gifts to your playing partners. Another clever example of expert golf gamesmanship.

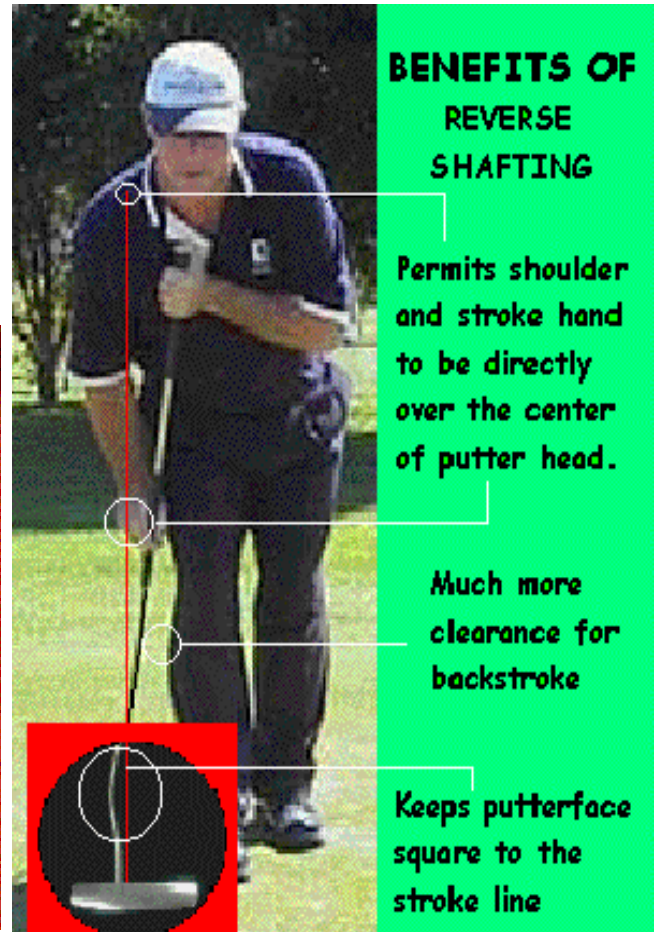
The heavy side will be on the under side of the ball from your dot. When you line your ball, I recommend that you do it on this heavy side. When you place the ball down on the green this line will be on top and pointed at your intended target line.

If you don't know where the heavy side of the ball is and you have it placed anywhere but on the balls tracking circumference, it will tend to roll off toward the heavy side. It will react much like a bowling ball which has side weight added to make it curve.

Although I don't have means to prove it, I feel that by having the heavy side on top or in front rather than on the bottom or back is better. I feel more confident that if I am not lifting the weight from the bottom at impact but instead starting the weigh moving downward, there would be less chance of the ball hopping and should track the line better from the start.

I also place the line on top and pointed down my target line for all tee shots. It only stands to reason that if you put unwanted side spin on the shot it will be minimized. It also provides a good visual to help with your swing path.

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SLAM DUNK



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and stroke hand
to be directly
over the center
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This new concept of cross or reverse shafting has brought sidesaddle putting to a new level of ease and effectiveness. The "SLAM DUNK" used from either the sidesaddle or broomstick position is, without question, the simplest and most accurate putting system in the world and the one I use exclusively

~The Putt Guru

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