

Perfecting Your Putt

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You've just gotten out of the bunker and now it's time to make the putt.

What should be one stroke, turns into two and then three, and what you thought was going to be easy is now just plain frustrating. What went wrong? Most likely, you didn't take into consideration the undulating topography of the green, and you didn't practice your putting routine.

When it comes to putting, sticking to a routine is necessary for making consistent strokes. Putting is extremely personal. Whatever your style, the key to a good putt is developing a stroke you can repeat and one that produces overspin for a consistent roll. The way you set up will determine the path of your stroke and the position of the putter face at impact.

The shoulder-controlled, pendulum-type stroke is the most effective for consistent putting. A solid repeating pendulum stroke allows your arms complete freedom of movement. Here's how you set up your putt.

- Take a comfortable wide stance with feet slightly wider than shoulders and your knees flexed like you are about to sit down.
- Your weight should slightly favor your left leg, and your elbows should be relaxed and spread to the point where your upper arms rest lightly on your rib cage.
- The putter face should be directly over the ball or just slightly inside the ball.
- Align the putter face squarely with your target line.
- Your shoulders, hips and feet should be parallel to the target line.
- The ball position should be in line with your left eye in your stance.
- Relax and keep your hands in line with or slightly ahead of the ball.
- Take that perfect swing and remember your routine.

