

555 GOLF ACADEMY

'WHERE PASSION MEETS PERFORMANCE'

'SHORT GAME DRILL'

The 'SALOON DOOR' DRILL

(Putting & Chipping)

I was not going to put this 'Drill' into the book because it requires not only some props but 'Four People to do it. In a 'Clinic' that is quite all right. Lots of bodies! Well I guess you could automate the scenery and get the job done with 'Two'!

This 'Bullet-Proof Drill' is of course a 'Putting Drill' and is designed to accomplish several things.

1) It helps you **'Visualize Effectively'** and store the 'Image' in you **'Mental Library'**, that **'Inner EYE'**, so that your 'Captain EYES' can do their pure task unfettered.

2) It helps you to make 'Strokes' without turning your 'Head'. I was going to say "Prematurely" but, remember, we agreed to NOT turn it at all. To discover whether the Ball goes in the hole or not is no mystery. Just Listen! The 'Bottom Of The Cup and The Crowd Will Tell You If It Goes In'! Actually the '555 TEAM' wants you to look at the very end of the 'Ball Rolling Trip' so that you can personally see how the final break takes place if there is one. If you miss and have to take yet just one more 'Stroke', a 'Come Backer' or regular 'Going Away' one, you will have 'Gone To School' on your own 'Putt'. That is not only fair, but also smart. After all, you paid for the experience!

3) It helps you build 'Confidence and Trust'.

4) It helps you to employ the **'INTERMEDIATE TARGET'** task we discussed. You will recall that we 'mentally' placed a small bit of paper on the 'Putting Surface' directly on the 'Ball Rolling Line' (BRL) and inside the 'Rubber'. We roll the Ball over this speck of whatever (Direction) and, 'Weight Being Right' (Distance) we get immediate reward. This is 'Top Of Break' stuff!

Actually this drill works on everything we have come to discover is important in making this 'Shortest Of Golf Strokes'. So use your **'B.E.S.T. Rule'**, the 'Three Brush Stroke and Then Paint The Picture', the 'Baseboard Rule', the 'One Inch Rule', the 'Putt to the

Top Of Break Rule' and whatever else you deem beneficial to be the 'Best Putter You Can Be'! Remember, the 'Short Game' is not overly athletic so anyone can excel at it. Get 'Fitter' too!

THE EQUIPMENT OR PROPS:

Actually simpler than a full truck load! You need two pieces of 'Light-Weight White or Off-White Sign Core Board' (one will do and so too one less person), you know that very light material you see used all over the country for placards and temporary signage. I know there are some specific names for the material that the tradesmen use but I don't know what it is. Call your local sign maker. These pieces should be about 36" across and 48" tall (24 X 36 is OK), about the size of each of the two western movie 'Saloon Doors'. You could attach this material to a very stable frame and then be able to do the 'Drill' with just a student and teacher, but we are always trying to keep it simple! Besides you like company too! It may not be a 'Private Lesson'!

HOW THE DRILL WORKS:

Start with putts that are about 5 to 10 feet so that your 'One Inch Rule' applies. You can make longer 'Putts' later in the 'Drill'.

Go through your 'Routine'. Thoroughly! That means especially your 'Pre-SHOT Routine'. Do the 'Walk Around' as discussed. See the 'Putt' from all four directions, 1)DTL, 2)ATL, 3)UTL and then again 4)DTL just before you actually 'Address The Ball' and 'Execute'. Do the calculations. Say your 'Mental Words'. Do whatever you have decided to include in your repertoire. Don't skip items! If you feel any of your steps are really unnecessary in the actual 'Routine' cut them out! **KISS!**

Once you have picked out your 'Intermediate Target' (inside the rubber or your Target EYE Peripheral Vision) and marked it with a very small piece of paper the size of a dime or smaller, place a 48" piece of string about a foot farther away at 90 degrees across your 'BRL' (where your doors go). This further defines the 'Mental Picture' and gives you what the '555 TEAM' calls a 'Chase Zone' or a place to which you might 'Follow the Ball' with your 'Clubhead and Hands' so that you do not suffer the tendency to 'Pop or Stab the Ball'. This is a very common 'Stroke Error'. There is a very famous and now deceased dolphin named after the 'Error'! **'FLIPPER'!**

Remember, **'THE BALL GOES WHERE YOUR HANDS GO'!** SMOOTHLY!
BREATHING OUT!

You may soon come to the conclusion that this 'Golf Stuff' has a lot to do with 'Seeing & Breathing'! Well, you are absolutely correct! The sooner good 'Ball & Stick Folks' come to this realization, the better!

ON WITH THE DRILL

Now place the two 'Swinging Saloon Doors', long edge to long edge, directly over the piece of string, centered on the 'BRL'. Pick them up off the 'Putting Surface' about 12 to 15 inches. These swinging doors now block your view of the entire 'BRL' so there is no purpose in taking a look or peak!

You know the 'Line and Weight'. Make your 'Stroke' ... **'TRUSTINGLY' with your 'INNER EYE' you 'MIND'S EYE' working to perfection! Your 'VISUALIZATION' supports 'TRUST' and 'CONFIDENCE' which are key ingredients to becoming proficient.** Might I suggest that you make a great many of your 'Putts & Chips', especially towards the end of your practice session, as though they were for the 'Championship'. This shifts you from the 'Practice or Training Mentality' to the 'Playing or Trusting Mentality'. Believe it or not, you need to exercise your 'Playing & Trusting' modes every time you go out to the golf course, for whatever reason. I would like to share a little personal secret with you. When I was younger (last week) I went out to the 'Club' for a purely social event. I get easily bored when I am inside buildings on the property, always distracted by what I know is outside. So I excused myself and walked to the very end of the low balcony where the cypress trees line the cart path approaching the ninth green. It is a rather private little area of little use to most folks. Not to me! Here I spent about fifteen minutes 'Visualizing, Fantasizing', if you will, finishing and key hole at majors. I can make most of the shots in my mind. This tickles my fancy a little, but so does making them for real!

Fantasize! Make winning shots in those special little corners of your mind. Pat your self on the back! Accept graciously those accolades from the crowds. Take a bough!

So, 'Listen For It! Imagine its 'Ball Rolling Path', but expect it to drop!

If it does not go in, one of your 'Doormen' will tell you **"Short Right Two Feet"**. Now you adjust your **'STANCE and ALIGNMENT'** and make another 'Stroke' with just a touch more **'WEIGHT'**. If necessary, listen to the report and make another and another and another. No more than four to six! Then open the 'Saloon Doors' and take a look for yourself. Observe your 'Dispersion' as it tells you your tendencies. You need to know your tendencies. Go through your 'Pre-SHOT Routine' again and try four to six more strokes. You will get great feedback. Pay attention to it!

Don't stay in one location on the green too long. You will put too much wear and tear on the 'Putting Surface'. Too many footprints! We are all obligated to protect our greens as they all belong to lots of nice people who care about their welfare! Right? If you see anyone abusing any green, say something constructive to them! If they have a hearing problem, fetch the Pro!

To continue, move your Ball to another location and do it again. Work some straight 'Putts' and some breaks but certainly choose wisely at first so that the 'BRL' is not too complex. I like single breaks, left and right, of about six to twelve inches.

Put your periphenalia, two living 'Door Frames and Hinges' included, off the green onto the fringe where no one will step on them and continue your session. You might excuse the human parts! Or invite them to join you.

Remember, most 'Putting Drills', the longer ones, are also 'Chipping Drills' so be efficient and use them for both 'Strokes'. Your 'Safety Ladder and Safety Box Drills' is prime examples.

By the way, you are going to get questions! And perhaps make new friends!

Enjoy the Journey!

It is just getting started!

**“Welcome Aboard!”
“Enjoy The Ride!”**

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

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