

555 GOLF ACADEMY

'WHERE PASSION MEETS PERFORMANCE'

THE POOR MAN'S STIMP METER DRILL

If you know of a source, you might procure a real 'PGA Tour Stimp Meter' for the following very useful and simple 'Bullet-Proof Drill'. An alternative would be to contact Dave Pelz via his numerous communication lines and investigate purchasing one from him. Thirdly, you can play 'Sherlock Holmes' and will find one somewhere out there, especially if you have access to the 'InterNET'. Do you call it the 'World Wide Web'? Curious!

Now we at the '555 Golf Academy' have found a way of making a '**Poor-Man's Stimp Meter**' which I can tell you costs a great deal less than any commercial alternatives!

Go to your local well-stocked building supply super-store like 'Home Depot', 'Build All', 'Pay Less Cashways', 'Lowe's Hardware', 'True Value Hardware', 'Ace Hardware', 'Coast to Coast' and many more which you can locate in your local 'Yellow Pages'. You know them better than I. Ask the smiling clerk where their aluminium linear or flat stock is located. Follow him there and then ask if he has any 1.5 inch '90 degree, outside corner or angle stock'. If the answer is yes, have a look at it and investigate whether they have it in 5 foot or ten foot lengths. You need a five foot length. (four feet will do) Worst case scenario, you can use a good straight length of the same dimension stock in wood or plastic.

Once you have selected and procured this five foot length, set one end of it on the ground and hold the other end up so the length of material is at about 30 degrees to the floor. You will need the further help of the sales staff. Take a piece of 1 X 4 wood flat stock, two scraps of 5/8" drywall or some similar thickness of flat material, set it on the floor beside the floor end of your 'Angle Channel' and then scribe a 'Felt Pen Line' across the floor end of the 'Angle Channel' parallel to the floor. This line should start on the high side or top edge of the channel and work back towards the bottom edge. This scribe line will be about 30 degrees to the top edge. Draw the same line on the other side of the floor end of the 'Angle Stock'. Cut along the two lines simultaneously. The 'Angle Stock' will now have a bevelled or mitred end that will sit flat on the floor while the flanges or sides of the material (the top of the V's) will be roughly level to the floor. I call it a 'Crow's Foot' but my natural background may be a little unusual! Call it what you like!

You now have an 'Angled 1.5" Channel' down which you can roll a 'Golf Ball' from various heights and 'Angles Of Approach' to create various 'Ball Rolling Speeds and Distances'. This is a 'Poor Man's Stimp Meter'. Congratulations!

ON THE ACTUAL PRACTICE GREEN:

"Why are we doing this, Mr. Fischer?"

Good questions deserve good answers.

If your imagination is fertile, you already have good ideas.

You can find how fast the greens are rolling to the 'Stimp Method'.

More to this 'Putting Drill', you can practise your 'Green Reading'!

How?

Here we go. Find a perfectly 'Flat Area' on the Green. Have three to six 'Golf Balls' in your pocket. Stick a tee in the 'Putting Surface' at about twelve feet from the hole. Set the bevelled or mitred end of your 'Poor Man's Stimp Meter' on the ground by this tee. Line the 'Angled Length of Channel' parallel to the 'Target or Ball Rolling Line' (BRL). Hold the other end at a fixed height above the ground, perhaps against your chest for stability and a location. Place one of the 'Golf Balls' in the channel about one foot below the top end. Gently let it go.

The Ball should roll straight as there is no slope or break in the 'Putting Surface'. Watch how far the Ball rolls. If it rolls exactly 17" past the cup, it was a perfect position at the top end of the 'Stimp Meter'. Too far, too high. Not far enough, too low. Practise this procedure until you get proficient at the 'Release Location'. Mark the channel from one inch inside the very end, in one-inch increments for about two feet. Now you have a 'Calibrated Stimp Meter'! Pretty scientific for a frugal 'Do-It-Yourselfer'!

So what is next?

Of course, find an area on the Green that is NOT FLAT! Pace out about twelve feet and stick a tee into the 'Putting Surface'. Read the 'Break, Down-the-Line and Across-the-Line'. Stick a second tee in the grass even with the hole but displaced to the right or left the amount of the 'Break Read'. Now take your 'Poor Man's Stimp Meter' and give it a roll!

Use your 'One Inch Rule' basis and be as precise as possible with the 'Release Point'. Make several rolls until you find the precise 'Break and Weight' (Direction and Distance)

Now you can practise like a pro or even better! Why "Even Better"? Most of them do NOT have a 'Poor or a Rich Man's Stimp Meter'!

FOR TEACHERS:

For we teachers, this 'Stimp Meter Drill' is a great way to start your 'Putting Clinics'. **"How would you athletes rate your 'Green Reading' on a scale of 1 to 10?"** Get answers.

Have your 'Stimp Meter' laying on the 'Putting Surface', forked end about twelve feet from the cup and entire 'Stimp Meter' lined up straight to it or parallel to the 'Target or Ball Rolling Line'. Stick a tee in the grass at the closer end to the cup so you can locate this point if someone picks your device up and moves it.

Have your students stand at least five paces behind the 'Stimp Meter' and read the green 'Down-The-Line' (DTL) to the best of their ability. Get a specific 'Ball Rolling Point' (BRP) from each student one at a time. Suggest you start with the worst if you know who this person is. You likely saw them try a few strokes while you were taking attendance records. (You do keep records don't you?)

Now stand just directly behind the cup and ask this student where the 'BRP' is. Do not indicate any point to him or her. Let them tell you which side. They may have read the break completely to the wrong side. Don't lead them. Once they tell you the right or left side, indicate with your toe various locations from close to farther away from the edge of the cup. They are to tell you when to stop. Then stick a tee in the grass just in front of your toe. Next!

You will surprisingly get lots of variety from most groups that are at all new to the 'Skill Of Green Reading'. Stick tees in the 'Putting Surface' for each. Remember the location of each parties tees. Accountability!

You have already tested the 'Break or Ball Rolling Line' before the clinic in your 'Set-Up Time' so you know where the real 'BRP' is located. I always stick a tee right into the ground (flush) so I remember where the break is. Now comes the fun and revealing part!

Walk back to your 'Poor Man's Stimp Meter' and give it a go! Again, you know what the 'Release Point' is as well, if you can remember it from your test! How is your memory? Gently place the 'Ball' on the top edge of the 'V' at the say, '14" Point' and smoothly let it go.

“You have got to be kidding Mr. Fischer!”

The 'Range Of Reads' was from eight inches to seventeen inches on the correct side with one client seeing it from the opposite side of the cup! Your tested 'BRL' and 'BRP' was at 37" right of the outside right edge of the Cup! You aimed the 'Stimp' there. Confirmed your aim by having at least one or all your students read it over your Shoulder. Let the Ball go and sunk the Putt!

“OOOO's and AHHHH's”!

Moral of the story? Learn how to 'Read Breaks' with the '555 Golf Academy Pre-Shot Routine'. Advice? Until you get better at it **'Double Your Reads'** so you come at the 'Hole' 'From the High Side' where you have a chance to drop in with Gravity's help!

Remember, what Yogi Berra said, “90% of my Putts that come up short don't go in!”

I want to add that the ones that are on the 'Low Side of the Hole' never go in either!

I have a very good friend and well-known international player who enlightened my perspective in this 'Green Reading Regard'. He said “Anyone who comes up 'Short and/or Low' is at a disadvantage. These 'Short and/or Low Reads and Executions' are called 'Chicken S_____ Putts' and you must soon learn to rectify the situation.” I could not have named them more appropriately. They are generally painful little devils too! And costly if you have a wager!

Thank you my long-time friend. I miss seeing you more often.

Well done one and all!

Every participant is a winner!

I really enjoy this ten-minute portion of my 'Putting Clinics'.

Truth can be seen!

See and 'FEEL'!

'Remembered FEEL'!

“Welcome Aboard!”
“Enjoy The Ride!”

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