System 4 — the gap method

Where the ball arrives after a cushion: **gap + carry-over = 4**

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/en/systeme4/

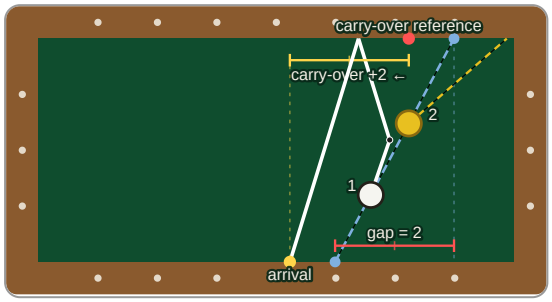
THE FOUR MOVES

1. **Pass the cue between the balls.** The line joining the center of your ball to the center of ball 2, extended to *both* long cushions.
2. **Count the gap.** The number of diamonds between the two points where this line touches the cushions.
3. **Calculate the carry-over: 4 − gap.** It's the only calculation in the method.
4. **Carry over from the right reference point.** Gap under 0.5 diamond (balls almost facing each other): from the point where your ball hits the cushion after touching ball 2. Gap of 0.5 diamond or more (the usual case): from the diamond above ball 2. Positive: left. Negative: right.

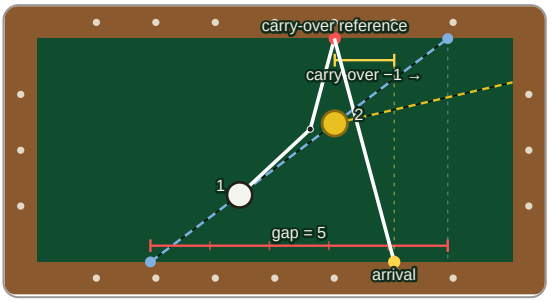
THE TABLE, AT A GLANCE

Gap measured	Carry-over (4 − gap)	Counting direction
1 diamond	+3	3 diamonds to the left
2 diamonds	+2	2 diamonds to the left
3 diamonds	+1	1 diamond to the left
4 diamonds	**0**	**the arrival is the impact point itself**
5 diamonds	−1	1 diamond to the right
6 diamonds	−2	2 diamonds to the right
7 diamonds and beyond	*−3 and beyond*	*the arrival falls off the cushion: no usable reference left*

TWO EXAMPLES



Gap 2 → carry-over +2: two diamonds to the left from the reference point, the diamond above ball 2.



Gap 5 → carry-over −1: the carry-over turns negative, the count changes direction — one diamond to the *right*.

Blue dotted line: line through the centers of balls 1 and 2 (it gives the gap) · **yellow dotted line**: ball 2's starting point · **red point**: carry-over reference · **white line**: from ball 1 to the reference, then to the arrival (it shows where to count from, not the actual path).

CORRECTING WITH SIDE SPIN

Count the diamonds between the announced arrival and ball 3, on the side that catches up. **1 tip of side spin ≈ 1 diamond if the carry-over was positive, ½ diamond if it was negative** (twice as much side spin). If ball 3 falls short, use the opposite spin.

MY TABLE

Measure once the gap between the announced arrival and the real arrival on *your* table, note it here, and correct by that much from then on.

ROOM / TABLE	OBSERVED CORRECTION	DATE

Club method, passed down by word of mouth, checked at the table. A reliable reference, not a law: every table behaves differently. The complete course, free and offline: **www.espritbillard.com/en/**