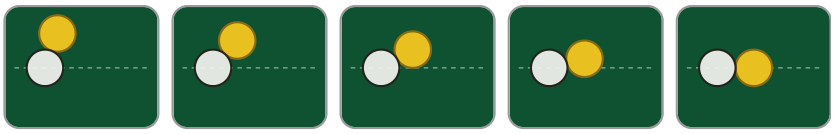
Basic technique — the straight push

A billiard shot is a straight push: **everything else protects it**

1 · STANDING: DECIDE THE BALL FULLNESS

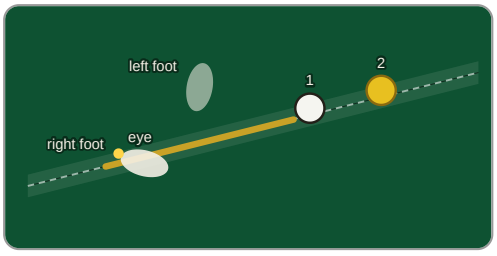
First decision, before the attack and the spin: what portion of ball 2 your ball covers. **Don't aim at a point on ball 2**: the contact follows from the fullness. The line is chosen standing; bent over, you only confirm it.



Fullness also splits the energy. Full: almost everything goes into ball 2 (with no rotation, your ball stops dead: the stun). Half ball: fifty-fifty. Finesse: your ball keeps most of it.

2 · SETTING YOUR STANCE: THE SINGLE PLANE

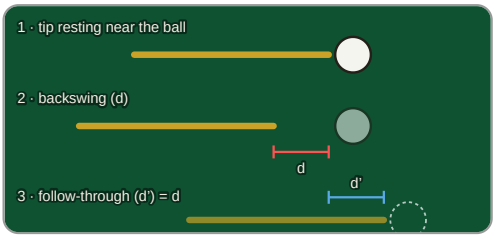
A **single vertical plane** holds the cue, the line of the shot, your right arm and your eye, and exits through your right foot. The left foot steps out of it: it opens the body and frees the arm. Forearm vertical, free under the elbow.



There's no model position: the stance holds you still, lets the forearm swing straight back and forth, and places your eyes to judge the fullness. The spacing depends on you and the shot: tight balls call for a shorter base.

3 · SWINGING THE ARM

Hand closed on the butt **as if holding a bird**: it holds, it doesn't crush. Wrist in line with the arm. Two controls of power, amplitude and speed: last-second acceleration is the most common flaw.

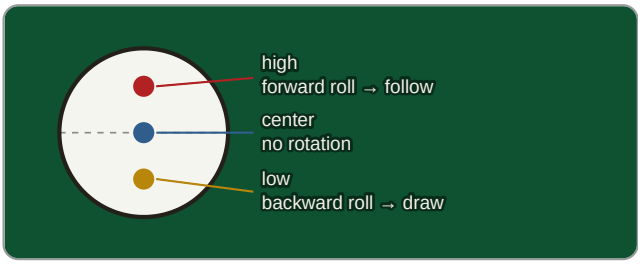


Practice swings: same length, same speed as the shot. A clean pause at the front, never at the back point. What you follow through past the ball equals what you drew back.

4 · GUIDING THE CUE: HAND ON THE RAIL

The hand stays **flat on the cloth until the stroke is finished**; its fingers decide the hit height. Hand-to-ball distance follows the amplitude: a long shot, hand further back.

- **Low**: palm on the cloth, cue in the loop between thumb and index, resting on the middle finger.
- **At center**: the middle finger slides under the thumb, one level higher.
- **High**: hand on its edge, the last three fingers under the loop.
- **Very slow**: cue in the hollow between thumb and index. **Against the cushion**: hand flat, the index finger caps the cue.



5 · LOOKING TRUE

The head comes **above the line cue – ball – aimed point** (dominant eye, or the midpoint of both). A head off the line makes you aim with a constant offset, without knowing it.

WHAT AN OUTSIDE EYE CATCHES

None of this can be felt from the inside: get filmed.

- Stance too narrow for the intended amplitude.
- Both feet on the line of the shot, instead of straddling it.
- Grip too far back on the butt.
- Cue that dips instead of staying level.

WHAT DAMAGES THE STROKE

From most to least common.

- Choppy sawing, instead of a smooth swing.
- Acceleration right before contact.
- Stopping at the back point.
- A hand that grips.

Written for a right-hander: left-handers, swap left and right. The facts are common to every carom billiards teaching; the presentation and diagrams are specific to this site.

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