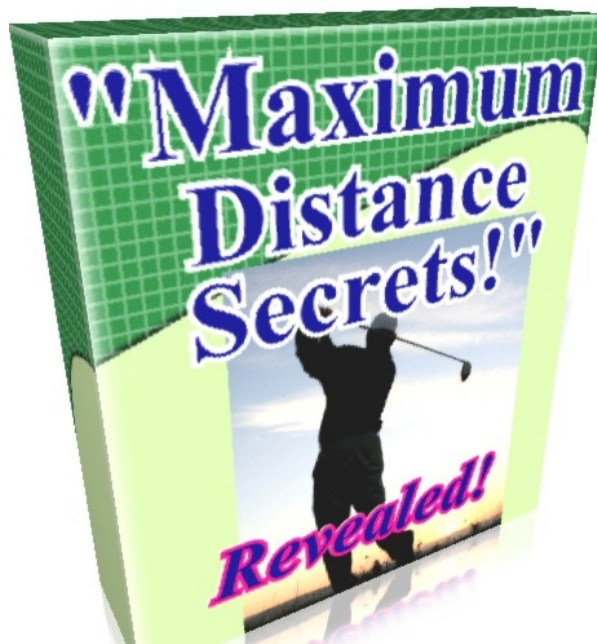


Strictly Off The Record

"The 9 Key Chip Shot Factors!"

Mini-Report



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I. Introduction:The Chip

During any given game of of golf, there will be times when you will have to use what is called a *chip shot* in order to hit the ball onto the green just the right way.

Accuracy & distance seem to always be the goals of every new golfer.

But, skill in "short game" is required to really get good. You will not see rapid decreases in your score without good short game. It's what separates the "men from the boys."

A.Characteristics:

Chip shots generally can be described by these characteristics:

1. There is very little loft when a ball chipped.
2. When the ball chipped, it pops right into the air, but with a very tight arc, and it moves practically straight up.
3. When the ball is hit, the impact of the club often produces a "chipping sound."

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4. Chip shots generally cover 20% their distance from the initial blast off. The ball then travels roughly 80% of its distance on the ground. So it's more a high up front shot that rolls most of the way before coming to a rest.

II. The Chip Details

A. Setting Up

In order to be successful at chipping, you must set up your *stance* correctly.

Chip shots are done the right way by assuming a stance that will put you close to the target line (the line running from the ball to the intended target).

Your eyes should be directly over the target line. The closer to the target line you are, the better the chance you have of moving the club back correctly and hitting straight through to the target.

B. A Matter Of Preference

The stance you choose is largely dependent upon your personal preferences. You should feel comfortable & balanced. If you don't feel right, try opening up your stance a bit as it may allow you to see better down the target line, thus making it easier to swing the clubhead at the target.

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A comfortable setup that feels natural leads to more confidence too.

C.Setting Up The Ball

The ball should be positioned in the ***middle*** of your stance when making a chip shot. It makes it easier for the clubhead to swing right through the target line, and at the appropriate angle.

If you move the ball backwards in your stance, it will fly lower. And moving it up a bit may cause the ball to pop higher. However, good chip shots do not require any adjusting, just set up ***right in the middle***.

D.Proper Weight Distribution

Your weight should be focused through the center of your stance. This position offers perfect balance and allows you to naturally "open up" towards the target.

Generally speaking, if you need the ball to fly higher, additional weight should be placed on your front foot. For right-handed golfers, the more weight that is put on the left side, the more the club will swing upwards.

Chip shots normally are best when the ball flies low with a decent roll. Therefore, the best weight distribution tactic is to keep your balance and all of your weight in the middle of your stance throughout the entire swing.

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E.The Shoulders

If your stance is open, as instructed, then your shoulders should naturally open up or angle slightly to the left of your target. You should be close enough to the ball so that you can look over & down towards the target line.

F.The Grip

Remember, a chip is not a power shot. When gripping the club, you may have the tendency to tighten up too much.

Try to resist this urge.

Too much pressure on the club can make you tense & ruin the shot. A lighter grip on the club will enable you to almost feel the ball when it hits the blade.

Your focus should be on touch, not power...

III. When To Use A Chip Shot

A.The Regs

The United States Golf Association does the world a favor by annually updating it's official "Rules of Golf."

One of the regulations, called the “Greens In Regulation” (GIR),

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states that you must hit the ball onto the green in a specific number of shots as determined by the par rule of that particular hole.

On a Par-3, for example, you have one shot in order to get the ball on the green. Par-4 holes give you two shots to reach the green. And Par-5 holes mean that you have three shots, etc.

Hitting the ball onto the green within these regulations can be difficult for newer players. Your ball may end up just off the green, a foot away, on the collar, or in the rough.

So what can you do?

B.The Chip To The Rescue Handy

A chip shot is very similar to a *pitch* shot. Both are high lofting shots at first that eventually roll most of their distance toward the target.

The difference is that the chip shot is used for *shorter* distances. The ball doesn't need to go as far as when you use a pitch shot. It may just need to travel a few feet.

It works like this:

Many times your ball will land somewhere within the range of a short iron – a close shot to the green.

This is the time when you have to decide if it is best to try a chip or a pitch.

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1.The Pitch Shot: As stated above, a pitch shot is used when the ball lands much further from the green & has more distance to cover.

But, the objective of both shots is the same: you want your shot to snuggle up as close to the hole as possible so that your next putt can be made easily from a short distance of just a few feet or less.

Pitch shots also come in handy when you must send the ball airborne over a hazard area or any other obstacle.

The pitch is airborne longer and higher than the chip and has more backspin.

2.The Chip Shot: A chip shot is used when your ball lands within 5 to 10 feet of the green. Basically, it is any shot that you make which is close to the green.

Your goal when making a chip shot is simply to lag the ball as close to the hole as possible so that you have a very easy putt to make.

The ball simply *chips* it's way up and onto the green, covering a short distance.

This shot might not seem like the killer weapon to use on the course. But, having the skill to successfully use it when you need to can come in quite handy.

It saves unwanted strokes & prevents you from overshooting the

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green.

Think of it like this: When you are close, chip. close=chip. When you need more power, pitch.

IV. How To Make The Perfect Chip Shot

Here are some tips on actually making chip shots count. Let's start with this...which club is best for hitting a chip shot?

A.Choosing The Right Club

There is no hard and fast rule in this area. However, you must decide on your club by:

- 1.Gaging the circumstances of the terrain and
- 2.How you need the ball to travel. (For example, If you are very close to the hole, then you won't need much loft.)

The 7-iron and 8-iron are the most popular clubs used when golfers need to make a chip shot. Their clubfaces are less lofted, which gives them more accuracy as chipping tools.

Personally, if I had to choose between the two, the 7-iron is my favorite for these type of shots. Just pick one & stick with it.

Practicing with the same club, will help you master your technique.

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B. Have Confidence

It is important to envision a positive outcome before setting up for your swing. This goes not only for chip shots, but for every shot you attempt. Visualizing the outcome is vital to it's success.

See yourself chipping your ball onto the green. See it happening....

Having the correct mental picture set will exponentially increase your chances of hitting the ball correctly.

It will also calm you down & lower your blood pressure (which can have a very positive effect on your swing).

Relax. Envision. And it'll happen. Believing is key.

C. The 9 Factors of Chipping

OK, this isn't rocket science. But, it does take practice & technique to get it right consistently.

Take it step by step to get a good understanding of the process (this is generally an integration of the steps covered in depth above):

1. Grab your club, preferably a 7-iron (as stated above), and stand up close to the target line.
2. Keeping your weight in the center of your stance, open up your

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front foot and shoulders toward the target.

3. Take a light, yet solid grip on the club.

4. Look at the green and select the ideal spot in which you want the ball to land.

5. Take a brief moment and visualize your swing making perfect contact with the ball, and having it land in the spot you want it to.

6. Keeping your wrists firm, draw the club back and keep it low to the ground. Your turn should be rotated by your shoulders, keeping your legs and lower body out of the swing and as still as possible.

7. Now swing your club back along the target line, then downswing *through* the ball.

8. Once you've made contact with the ball, keep your form solid and watch the ball hit the exact spot you aimed for, rolling ever so slowly toward the hole.

9. Now practice these steps. Over and over again.

V. Chipping The From The Sand

One final thing...when chipping from the sand, take these three considerations into mind:

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1.The first is the lie. If the ball is positioned so that you can get a clubhead cleanly on the ball, then you have a possible chip shot in the making.

2.The second factor is estimating just how high the lip is. A chip shot from the sand will send the ball traveling with a very low trajectory, so you should only use a chip if the bunker has an extremely *low* lip.

3.The third factor is the location of the pin. It is ideal to have plenty of space between your ball and the flagstick. This is because your ball will travel with very little spin...and you don't want your ball to keep going past the hole.

But wait!

There's A LOT MORE than was presented here!

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