

MY NO. 1 WAY TO MAKE THE PUTTS YOU SHOULD

THREE EASY WAYS TO SQUARE THE FACE ON SHORT PUTTS

Where the ball rolls is largely determined by where the putterface is aimed. Is yours aimed correctly?

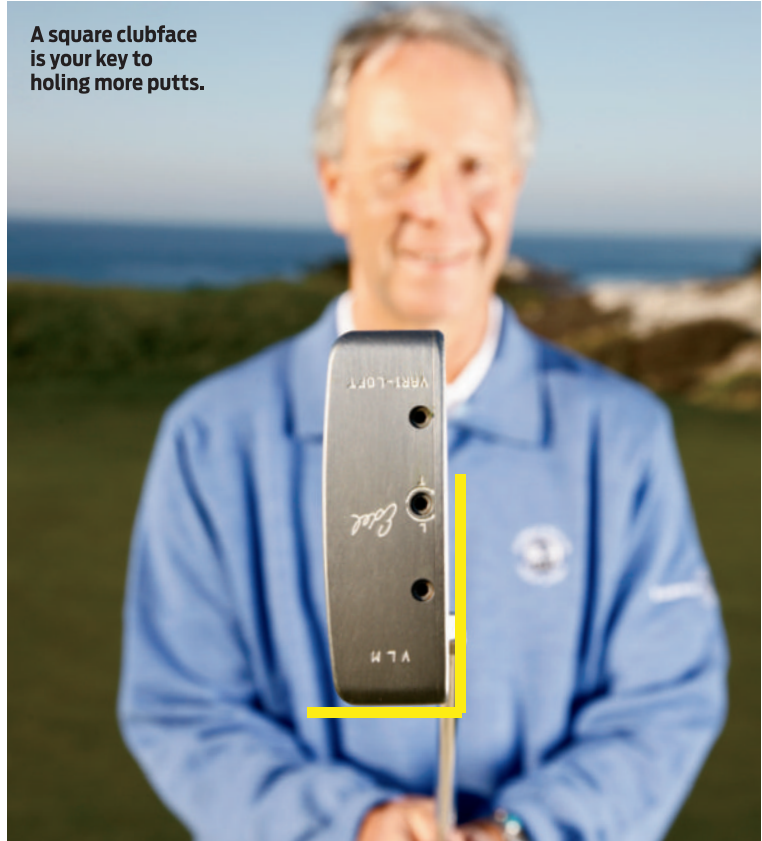
THE PROBLEM

You consistently miss short putts because you don't know how to aim the putter correctly. Even if your stroke is perfect, you'll miss—even from short range—if the putterface is pointing to the left or right of your intended line.

THE SOLUTION

The best and most reliable way to be sure you're aiming your putter correctly is to **use the putterface as your primary alignment aid**. In the old days, few putters had lines or dots on them, and the best putters in the world used nothing but the face as a guide—and it worked. To learn to do it yourself, follow the steps at right and below.

A square clubface is your key to holing more putts.



STEP 1

Instead of trying to align the putterface to your target when it's sitting on the ground, hold it up in front of you so you can see it clearly. Get used to knowing what a square putterface looks like.



Use a box of balls as an alignment aid...



...to tell you if the face is square or not at impact.



Keep your head steady.

STEP 3

When you putt, look for the spot under the ball after you hit it. A steady head is key to maintaining a square face from start to finish.



LAIRD SMALL

Pebble Beach Golf Academy, Pebble Beach, Calif. (Top 100 since 1996)

STEP 2

Once you get the putterface square at address, practice keeping it that way during your stroke by putting next to a sleeve of balls. Set up as shown with the ball in front of the short end of the sleeve, then make your stroke. Use the long side of the sleeve to check that you're not opening or closing the face.



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