

Never 3-putt again!

Use our three-pronged attack on your short game and putting to always, always get down in two

*By the Top 100 Teachers
Edited by David DeNunzio
& Gary Perkinson*

THREE-PUTTING remains the single-greatest score-wrecker this side of that stupid out-of-bounds rule. True, it has made the vernacular of the game much more colorful, but when you “take up residence in Three-Jack City” or “go work for Ol’ Mr. Threewiggle,” you’re simply using humor to disguise the pain. And, man, does it hurt.

A third putt is a stroke you can never have back. But it’s also one you can very easily erase from your scorecard. The key is to change your take on why you do it. **Your three-putt flaws may start from as far away from the hole as 100 yards, or take shape when you’re in tap-in range.** Thanks to the help of Dave Pelz and other members of our Top 100 Teachers, you can now determine exactly *why* you three-putt and, more importantly, stop doing it once and for all.

FIX YOUR LAG PUTTING

LAG PUTTING FIX 1

Use your body to roll putts on line

How you finish your stroke determines accuracy

by Kip Puterbaugh



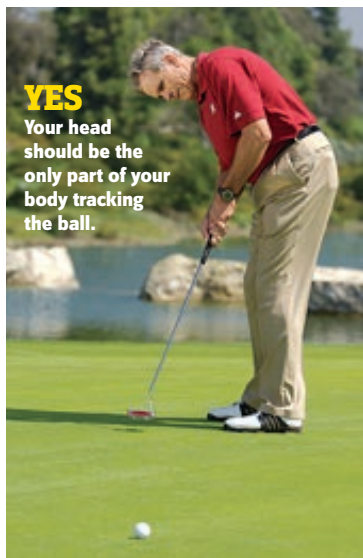
The problem: Most of your putts finish way left of the hole.

The solution: If your setup and aim are solid but you consistently leave putts left of the hole, the problem may be with your finish—namely, you open your shoulders to the target through impact in an effort to track the ball to the hole.

How to do it: The key is to track the ball with your head rather than your body. To do this, **let your putter move past impact ahead of your eyes**, rather than trying to keep your eyes locked on the ball as it leaves the face. This may feel odd at first, but it will allow the putter to complete its movement through the impact zone while your shoulders are still square to the target line, resulting in a putt that will roll exactly where you aimed it.

YES

Your head should be the only part of your body tracking the ball.



NO

You've turned your entire upper body to track your putt.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BOB ATKINS

Kip Puterbaugh is director of instruction at the Aviara Golf Academy in Carlsbad, Calif.