

YOUR GAME



PLAY BETTER. HIT IT FARTHER. HAVE FUN.

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The most elite team of teaching experts in the nation is dedicated to helping you shoot your lowest scores ever, and they can only be found in *Golf Magazine*.



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How to Roll Putts with Perfect Speed

Accelerate to the ball, not past it

THIS STORY IS FOR YOU IF...

1. YOU TAKE A SHORT BACKSTROKE AND LONG THROUGH-STROKE.
2. YOU DON'T PUT A TIGHT, END-OVER-END ROLL ON THE BALL.



Set up the gate like this...

...and reach top speed before the tees, not after them.

THE FAULT

You've probably read or been taught to accelerate your putter strongly through the ball. It's a good thought, but a lot of players misinterpret it by making a short backstroke and a long through-stroke. This mistake can cause a number of problems, the biggest being deceleration through impact. Yes, it sounds odd, but by trying to accelerate the putter on a long path through and past the ball, many players actually accelerate too late in the stroke. The result is poor distance control and a roll that's not end over end or tight.

THE FIX

Set up a gate with two tees that's wide enough to allow the ball to pass through but not as wide as the face of your putter. Place a ball in the gate so that about three-quarters of the ball is behind the gate [inset, left]. Set up as you normally would and try to strike the ball solidly. What you'll probably find is that your putterhead is stopped by the tees before you get an adequate amount of power on the ball. This is because you've been accelerating too late in your stroke (i.e., past the ball). Practice this drill until you can put a solid, authoritative strike on the ball comfortably. Remember, **the part of the stroke that takes place once the ball is gone is meaningless.** You need to accelerate at the ball, not beyond it.

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Watch a video of this lesson and learn more about the PGA Tour's top putting coach, Marius Filmlalter.