



# MAKING THE PUTT

with Marius Filmlalter, Marius Golf, Dallas, Tex., [www.mariusgolf.com](http://www.mariusgolf.com)



## How to Roll Putts Effortlessly

Do what Ernie Els did—change your posture to maximize your natural putting motion

**THIS STORY IS FOR YOU IF...**  
 1. YOU'RE MISSING MORE THAN YOUR FAIR SHARE OF PUTTS.  
 2. YOU NEVER THINK ABOUT YOUR POSTURE OR STROKE PATH.

### THE COMMON MYTH

Swing your putter on an arc if it's toe-weighted, or straight back-and-through if it's a face-balanced model.

### THE REAL DEAL

Although your putter's weighting scheme can influence stroke path, it doesn't affect it as much as your posture. You'll enjoy better results if you match your posture to your stroke before tinkering with anything else.

### IF YOU'RE AN ARC PUTTER...

Stand more upright at address. The inverse works, too: If you're more comfortable standing tall when you putt, strive to produce an arc-like stroke.

### IF YOU'RE A STRAIGHT-BACK-AND-THROUGH PUTTER...

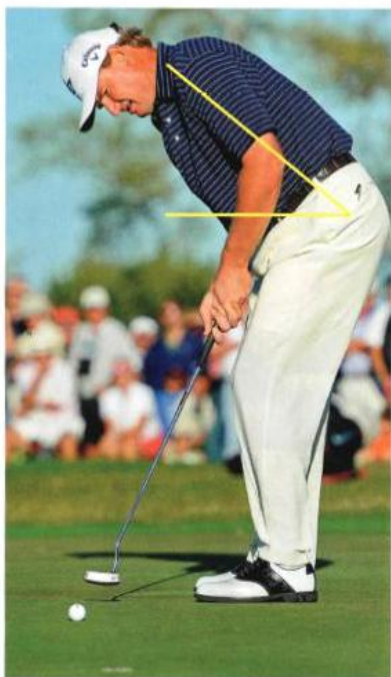
Bend forward more at address. This relationship also works the other way around: If you're more comfortable bending over when you putt, try to keep face rotation to a minimum.

Marius Filmlalter is the leading expert on the science of putting, working with 40+ Tour students. He is part of the team that created the SAM PuttLab and the TOML, the industry standards for stroke analysis, and his tips can only be found in *Golf Magazine*.



### HERE'S THE PROOF

Look no further than the recent success of PGA Tour star Ernie Els. When I began working with Ernie last year during the FedEx Cup playoffs, he was standing tall to the ball (above) but trying to swing his putter straight back and through. In other words, his stroke path didn't match his posture. So instead of smoothly making his stroke, he was fighting it the whole way, overusing his arms and hands to manipulate the putter in an attempt to keep it on the path he wanted. Once we changed his posture so that he was more bent over (right) he was able to reduce the rotation and arc in his stroke without manipulation. So far this season, Ernie has notched two wins and doubled his make percentage from the 15- to 20-foot range (from 10.8% in 2009 to 27.5% in 2010).



[golf.com/putting](http://golf.com/putting)



Watch a video of this lesson and learn more about the game's premier putting expert, Marius Filmlalter.



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## How to Groove the Perfect Putt Path

This stroke test grades your motion, then shows you how to improve it

**THIS STORY IS FOR YOU IF...**  
 1. YOU TRY TO SWING YOUR PUTTER STRAIGHT BACK AND THROUGH...  
 2. ...AND WONDER WHY IT'S NOT HELPING YOU MAKE MORE PUTTS.

### FACT

My research on more than 50,000 putting strokes shows that good putters—pro or otherwise—swing the putter back a little to the inside of the target line on an arc, even the ones who think they take it back dead straight.

### THE TEST THAT PROVES IT

Place a 2 x 4 on the ground and set up to putt a ball with the toe of your putter just barely touching the wood (photo, top right). Now, try to take your putter straight back by keeping the toe in constant contact with the 2 x 4. Feels awful, right? It is. That's because in order to make this kind of stroke you must allow your right elbow to fly out and separate from your body (photo, far right). From this position you have almost zero chance of striking the ball in the center of your putterface with the correct amount of loft.

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An arc-like stroke makes it easy to strike the ball squarely and with the correct loft.

### NOW DO THIS

Try the test again, but this time swing your putter to the inside on a nice arc, with the toe losing contact with the board. This is the stroke you need to putt your best. Be careful not to rotate your hands to create the arc—that only opens the face and sets the stage for bad misses. Practice this drill from time to time to make sure you have enough arc in your stroke—it comes and goes for most players. You can perform this drill against the baseboard on any wall, too.



A straight-back stroke sounds like a good idea...



...until you see how it forces your right elbow to fly, de-lofting the putterface.

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