

Articles and Tips - Putting with a Quarter



Here is the setup, with the quarter resting on top of the ball.

Bobby Locke, the first South African golfer to win a major championship, defeated Sam Snead 12 times out of 14 in a series of head-to-head competitions in 1946. Locke, who won the British Open four times, was an extremely good putter. He always said, "Putt and listen." I agree.

The only time I want my students to keep their head still is when they are standing over a putt. The head naturally moves a little during the golf swing, but it should remain still while putting.

The "quarter putting drill" is one of the best ways to practice keeping your head still and eyes trained on the ball. If you have a tendency to follow the putter with your eyes on the way back or on the way through, then this drill is perfect for you

The drill is a purposeful distraction. Place a quarter on top of a ball, go through your normal routine, hit the putt, watch the quarter hit the ground and listen for the sound the ball makes when it falls in the cup.

You can do this drill with long putts and short ones, but it might be most useful in the two- to five-foot range.

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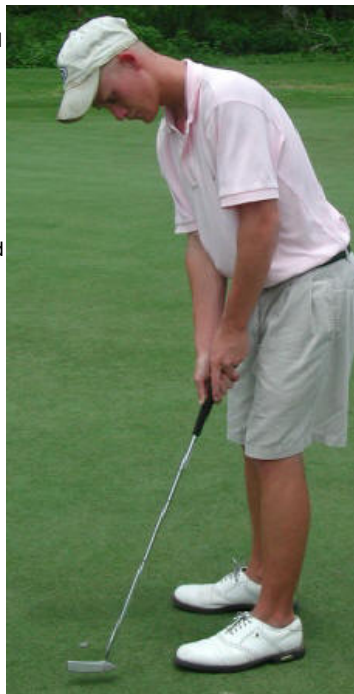
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In your pre-shot routine, while making practice strokes, look at a spot you intend to roll the ball over into the cup. If your eyes are down during practice strokes, they tend to judge where the putter is swinging and start to follow the putter back and through.

Learn to feel the distance in the practice strokes by looking at a spot in the cup. Then learn how to keep your eyes still and listen for the ball in the bottom of the cup.



Trey still has his eyes fixed on the quarter, waiting for that pleasant sound the ball makes falling into the cup!