

Articles and Tips - Tool Time

How to use a yardstick to make more three-foot putts

Find a flat section of green and lay that yardstick down. Roll putts off of it into the hole. It not only helps you groove your three-foot stroke; it helps tremendously with alignment. You line it up perfectly, three feet from the hole, so you get used to the proper alignment. The putter face aligns with the lines on the yardstick, so that helps, too.



You just make your stroke and pour the ball right into the middle of the hole. This learning tool will tell you if your putter face is square at impact. If the face is a hair open or closed, the ball immediately will dive left or right. That kind of instant feedback is critical for improvement.

You can measure a spot six feet from the hole, too, and use the yardstick from six feet out. The ball will come off the stick after three feet, but if your stroke is pure, the ball will roll true for the final three feet.

If you're constantly making three- and six-footers, you're going to play much better golf and shoot lower scores. Maybe the guys or gals in your group give you those three-footers, but when you're in a tournament or have to make those short putts, you'll thank for me for this drill.

If you look at the PGA Tour stats, the best players in the world make 99.8 percent of putts from three feet and in. They make 71 percent of their six-footers. Then, at 10 feet, the best players make only 41 percent of those. My point is that practicing those 10-footers can frustrate the heck out of you, and even the best putters in the world only make four out of 10 from that range.

So spend your time practicing short putts. You're going to make more of those, and practicing with a yardstick will help you improve your personal putting stats..



Great Golf, Neil Wilkins
