

Tom's Tips

Little Kernels of Wisdom to Help Your Game

Tom Klimcheck

I see many players shooting shots with the butt end of their cue sticking up in the air and hitting down on the cue ball. This is fine for some shots, such as when another ball is in the way and you have to shoot over it, or when the cue ball is on the rail. However, on most shots a level cue will produce much more accuracy. What happens when you try to sit on a basketball? It wants to roll to one side or another. The same is true when you hit down on a round cue ball. It wants to squirt to one side or another instead of where you intended it to go. A more level cue will almost always result in a more accurate shot.

But what about when I'm trying to put backspin on the cue ball and draw it back? Doesn't raising the cue and

hitting down result in more spin? The answer is a resounding NO! This is probably the most widely believed piece of misinformation in the game of pool. While there are certain shots reserved for more advanced players that require a player to do this, the simple stop shot or draw shot are not among them. The fact is, that when you raise your cue and hit down, only a tiny edge of your cue tip contacts the ball. With a level cue, more of the tip surface contacts the cue ball and therefore provides more spin. As for accuracy, refer to the previous paragraph. **REMEMBER: FOR MOST SHOTS A LEVEL CUE IS BEST.**

Happy shooting,

Tom