



## Learn a new shot... THE HOOKY CHASER

If you are a right-hander golfer, missing the fairway to the left creates a headache. Typically you'll find your route to the green is blocked, your lie is poor and your chances of reaching the green dramatically reduced. But there is a shot that works perfectly in this situation, and we can

call it the hooky chaser. And yes, the clue is in the name: you are going to create a hot, low, right-to-left flight that swings around the trouble in front of you and skips up the fairway to the green. With these tips and a little practice, you can add a genuinely useful shot to your bag.

### WHICH CLUB?

This is a shot that works best with a 6- or 7-iron, clubs with enough loft to get the ball airborne, but straight-faced enough to apply hookspin. Use it when the ball is sitting down, your direct route is blocked and there is an unobstructed run in to the front of the green.

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 Designed for players of all abilities, Las Colinas Golf & Country Club near Alicante has built a world-class reputation for its year-round conditioning and is regarded as one of the best courses in Europe. Visit [www.lascolinasgolf.es](http://www.lascolinasgolf.es)

### STRONG GRIP

Hold the club in front of you, its leading edge vertical. Place your hands on the grip in a 'strong' position, trail hand under the grip and gloved hand more on top. This holds promotes the clubface rotation and closure you need to get the ball hooking.

### AIM RIGHT

Align your body well to the right of the green. This helps you deliver the club from inside the ball-to-hole line, assisting a shot shape that sends the ball right before drawing back towards the target. Play the ball centrally, and aim the face a hair left of your start line.

### TOE THE LINE

It's vital you use your body aim as a reference for the swing, not the ball-to-hole line. So swing the club back along the line of your toes. On your practice swing, swing to hip height and check the shaft mirrors your toes and the butt points right of the green (I've added an aid to the end of the shaft here to illustrate).

### MAINTAIN SHAFT LEAN

Deliver a slightly descending blow, making sure your hands pass the ball before the clubhead. The shaft lean this creates delofts the clubface, allowing the ball to come out low and hot. It also allows you to maintain a stable relationship of the slightly closed clubface to the swing path.





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## Learn a new shot... THE CUT-UP 7-IRON

**G**olf often puts us in situations where we need both height and distance. Imagine you are stymied by a tree, some 140 yards from the green; you need your wedge to clear the branches, but the club isn't powerful enough to reach the green. This is where the cut-up 7-iron comes into its own. Here's how to play it.

### What is a 'cut-up 7-iron'?

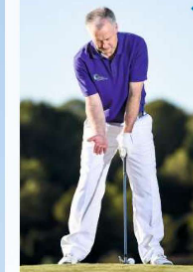
Your 7-iron is built with around 30 degrees of loft, but you can alter that amount by changing the way you deliver the club to the ball.

● **Face angle.** As a rule, an open clubface at impact adds loft while a closed face reduces it.

● **Shaft angle.** The shaft angle at impact influences loft, so by changing the way you release the club you can alter shaft angle and increase that 30-degrees. In the cut-up 7-iron, we rework face aim and shaft angle. And because the 7-iron is around 1.5in longer than your wedge, it is easier to create the extra clubhead speed you need to take care of the yardage.

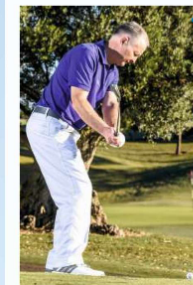
### ADDRESS: PREPARE FOR LAUNCH

Rotate the toe of the club to open and weaken the face. Play the ball forward in your stance to remove shaft lean and add face loft. Feel a little extra weight under your trail foot. Finally, aim slightly left (right-handers) to encourage the out-to-in path through impact that helps cut the ball up.



### BACKSWING: KEEP THE FACE WEAK

Swing back along your toe line — when the shaft is horizontal it should point a little left of target for the right-hander. As you swing back allow the lead wrist to cup, a move that encourages the face to rotate. This ensures you maintain or even enhance the weak, loft-packed position you set at address.



### IMPACT: THINK 'BRUSHED FLIP'

Rather than drive your weight forward, keep your centre of gravity back and allow your hands and arms to make a greater contribution to the delivery. Impact should feel like you release your lower hand past the gloved hand, almost like a bunker flip release. Feel the sole brush the grass as you swing through.



### FINISH: KEEP IT FULL

Make sure you complete your swing. Feel your hands and arms swing more upward than around. Picturing a full and free followthrough helps you release the shaft and club correctly through impact, promoting that extra clubface loft and launch. Expect a high, gentle left-to-right flight, and the ball to land softly.

