



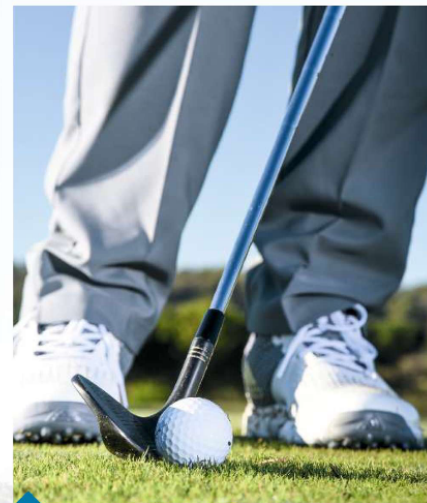
Learn a new shot...

THE ZIPPY PITCH

From 50 yards and in, you want to be able to carry the ball on to the putting surface if possible because the green gives a reliable, predictable bounce. This goal becomes harder when there's not much green between the fringe and the pin. Your answer is the zippy pitch – a positive shot that packs the ball with spin and fires it in on a fairly strong flight. Execute the shot well and you'll see the ball taking a couple of hops before pulling up quickly. Here's how this useful shot works... and four rules you'll need to adopt to pull it off.

**ZIPPY PITCH: HOW IT WORKS**

If you can strike the ball low in the face of your wedge, you increase the spin while lowering the flight. That creates the characteristic "hop-and-stop" flight of the zippy pitch. The best way to find that low-down strike is to deliver the club to the ball with plenty of shaft lean (hands ahead of face) but on a shallow, brushing arc. Base your work on this shot around those two desirables, but also be sure to play it with a brisk rhythm as that will help generate spin.

**RULE #1 USE YOUR ADDRESS**

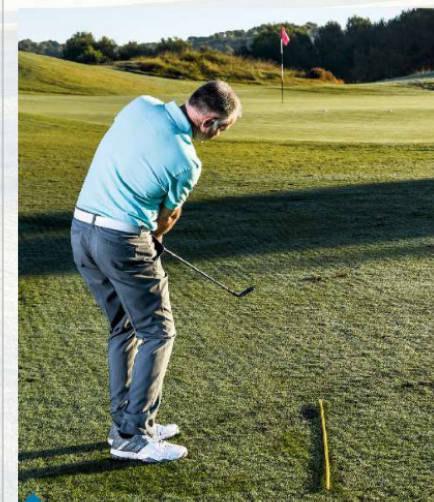
To promote this strike, play the ball in the centre of a narrow stance and push your glove badge forward slightly to create shaft lean. I'd advise playing this shot with either your gap or sand wedge as 52°-56° tends to produce the most effective flight for this shot.

**RULE #2 CREATE A BRUSHING ARC**

To work on the shallow attack this shot needs, lie a bag towel a foot or so in front of the ball. Hit shots from here. When you make the correct, more level attack, the clubhead will miss the towel on the way through – when you get steeper, the strike moves higher in the face and the clubhead will catch the towel.

**RULE #3 KEEP THE HANDS LEADING THROUGH IMPACT**

A second great practice drill is to stick a tee peg into the butt of your wedge and make practice swings one-handed. Again, work on a strike that brushes the ground; but also check that through the strike zone the peg points clear of your lead side and not back to your body. Retaining the angle in the back of your trail wrist will help you.

**RULE #4 CLUB MOVES 'IN AND UP'**

A final thought that has proved effective is to feel your hands move inside and upwards on the way through; picture yourself hiding them from someone stood behind you. This single thought promotes more of an in-to-in action that allows the pivot of the body to carry the club through, preserving shaft lean and stopping the hands interfering in the strike.