

BUNKER PLAY

Build your sand game

Make a brick of sand to train yourself to skim rather than dig in bunkers

Fault: Poor control of sand strike through hitting down too sharply

Fix: Create a raised sand surface, and practise skimming the top off it

To find the right strike from a decent lie in a greenside bunker, we need a shallow attack. When the club comes in shallow, the rounded sole engages the sand and creates a 'skimming' impact, perfect for controlling the sand between face and ball. Too steep, and the sharper leading edge is more in play. This is how to do it.



Scrape the surface

As you swing through your goal is to remove just the top layer of sand from the brick. Aim for a neutral shaft at impact to achieve it. This intention helps you develop a flatter base to your swing arc.

Feel the bounce

Keep going down the brick, removing a layer at a time. As you do so, feel how with this shallower attack, the sole of your sand wedge wants to skip forward off the sand rather than dig down into it.

Build your brick

Use a rake's back edge to pile sand into a rectangle about a foot long and the height of two balls. Aim it down your target line.

Try it with a ball

Keep going until the brick is gone, so the sand is at its normal level. Put a ball down and use the same shallow, skimming technique as for the brick. You'll take less sand and have more control.

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