

## MAKE PRACTICE SESSIONS COUNT-PART TWO

February 15, 2010 ~ by Tom Pringle



First I would like to emphasize that I am a bar table player and the focus of these instructional articles is bar table play. Although some of the advice is very good for regulation play, my expertise has always been on bar tables....and there is a difference, I can assure you.

The first and most major difference is the stroke. On the bar table, the short firm stroke works wonders. You can get the cueball to go just about anywhere while using the short firm stroke. Practice that short stroke. It is the key to bar table play. Cut down on the back swing and the follow through. You will find that you can accomplish what you want to do and make less mistakes while doing it. The longer the shot the shorter the stroke.

Use low english to slow the cueball down. You will not need a lot of high english when playing on the bar table. In fact, you might be surprised how well the cueball will follow through when using centerball english.

Learn the "Scoot" shot. The scoot shot is accomplished by striking the cueball like you're knocking the legs out from under it. Consequently, the cueball will be skidding backwards while being impelled forward. This shot is invaluable on a small table. Set up hangers and practice, you'll get the idea in no time.

The kill shot is very similar to the scoot shot. It requires the same stroke. However in this case, you would want to use it when cutting a ball that is a couple of inches from the rail. Use the scoot shot stroke with reverse english and you will find the cueball will practically die when it hits the rail. There is a point when the cut is too severe and it will not work. You will need to know when to use it and when not to.

The slip stroke is the most amazing stroke you will ever use. It will require a lot of practice but the rewards are great. The key to this shot is in the wrist. Bend the wrist backwards and whip it forward letting go of the cue stick when you do this. Catch it after the cue tip hits the object ball. If you don't you might put someone's eye out:) It will accentuate your english far beyond your imagination. This stroke is good for kicking at balls that you can't hit with your normal stroke. When you get proficient with the slip stroke incorporate it into the scoot shot and the kill shot, it will make those shots work even better.

There are exceptions to every rule. If the object ball is on one end of the table and the cueball is on the other end, you will not be able to achieve a full length draw without using follow through. There are other times when follow through or high english are necessary, so keep your mind open.

Don't try to do everything every practice session. Work on the aspects of your game where improvements are needed. Slow, deliberate practice sessions are the most rewarding. You will learn much more by setting up shots or practicing your stroke than you ever will by just playing one game after another. Fall in love with the game. You'll never be able to dedicate yourself to something you are forcing yourself to do.