

## MAKE PRACTICE SESSIONS COUNT-PART THREE

March 2, 2010 ~ by Tom Pringle



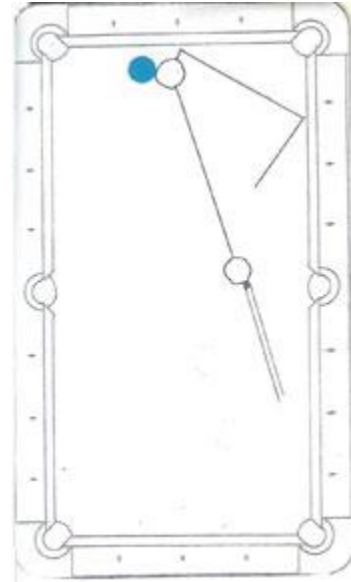
### The Spinning English Shot

The next shot we should talk about is the spinning english shot. This is accomplished by using the same stroke that you would in the scoot shot. The difference is you will be applying low left or low right english. The trick is to get the cueball spinning faster than it is moving toward the

object ball. With this shot you will find that you don't have to go back down to the foot rail and back up again. Check out the illustration and it should become apparent how you can use this shot to your advantage. It will be much easier to control the position of the cueball with this shot.

This shot will need to be practiced until you get the feel of it. It is a finesse shot which will reap many rewards when mastered.

There is a commonality between the slip stroke, the kill shot and the scoot shot and the spinning english shot. With the exception of the slip stroke it is all the same stroke. Once you get used to executing these shots you will learn another secret. Keep your wrist limber. On bar table play, you are better off not using a locked wrist-- with a few exceptions, of course. With the limber wrist, you can adjust the degree with which you strike the cueball. You can also snap your wrist and get a hybrid version of the slip stroke.



**The Half Masse:** The half masse is executed by raising the butt end of the cue stick to about a 45 degree angle and striking down on the cue ball on either the left side or the right side of it. Strike through the cueball like you are trying to push it down into the cloth. This will cause the cueball to curve to the left or to the right. It is low percentage shot but there is a trick to it. Learn to master one specific arc and adjust the shot to match the arc. This is a risky shot at any time so be careful when you use it.

If you've been following this series, you should be building up an arsenal of different shots that you can use in competitive play. Regardless of how much you learn, the secret is to keep everything as simple as possible. You would never use a slip stroke to shoot a straight-in shot and stop the cueball dead. But having the knowledge of how and when to use the slip stroke will give you an edge over your opponent. With that knowledge you will gain a confidence that will make you a tough competitor, no matter whom you are playing.