

The Short Game ^{-7.0}



**The short game
is the yardstick for
a good score.**

The Pitch Shot^{-7.1}



How to play a pitch.

Because it is played from varying distances, the length of a pitch must be flexible. The swing used for a long iron is not suitable for a pitch because too many body parts are in motion due to the hip movement and the release of the club head. Decisive for the pitch is a smooth and controlled

swing. The pitch can be played without release – the hands can remain firm to keep the flight of the ball soft and slow. With a long iron in contrast, where the ball flies with power and speed, it would not land on the target and stop quickly.



Good to know.

In contrast to the long game, with a pitch the club can be swung from outside to inside with an open face.

-7.1



Good to know.

Thanks to the MB Wedge System you can rely on your short irons ...

The three basic movements

-7.2



Summary.

For a good pitch the player must gain proficiency in the three basic movements. They ensure the correct angle of impact, good transfer of weight, power, control and repetition of the pitch stroke. Pitching is an integral component of the game. It is frequently the stroke that professionals fail to master properly, although it is paramount for a good score and a tournament victory. On average professionals play the pitch with a degree of inaccuracy exceeding 20%. Because the probability of holing with a single putt drops below 50% when the ball is more than two metres from the pin, it is obvious just how important good pitching is.

Turning the shoulder.

The shoulders must turn during the golf swing. This transfers the body weight to the right foot. The shoulders turn on an even plane.

Lifting the arms.

During the backswing the arms lift. This is also known as the hub and provides an optimum angle of impact. The arms are lifted at a very steep angle and thus move on a different level as the shoulders.

Rotating the arms.

The rotation of the arms brings the club into the correct position. The right arm is bent and the left arm rotates. An angle forms between arms and club.



Basic stance



In the address position the arms hang loosely. Arms and body move differently: the arms swing steeply whereas the body turns on a flat plane.

-7.2



Turning the shoulder



Lifting the arms



Rotating the arms



The shoulder turn is the first basic movement.



Lifting the arms is the next sequence of the basic movement.



The third basic movement is the rotation of the arms. This brings the club into the correct position on the backswing.

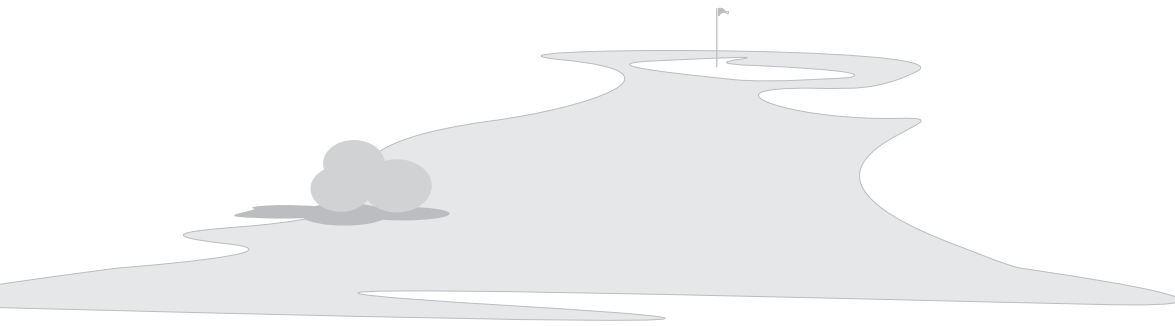
-7.3



Good to know.

The lie of the ball determines the trajectory.

The angle myth^{-7.3}



Good pitching can be accomplished without any increase in the body angle of stance because in the normal address position the angle is perfectly adequate. The three basic movements bring you automatically into the correct pitch position.

Basic angle of stance

Ball position / Trajectory ^{-7.4}



Flat trajectory / ball right

With the ball opposite the right heel at address the club shaft is sharply inclined. The angle of impact is high and the club hits down into the ball starting it off on a flat trajectory.



High trajectory / ball left

With the ball in the central position the club shaft is neutral. The ball flies in normal trajectory according to the loft of the club.



Hohe Flugkurve / Ballage links

With the ball opposite the left heel a high trajectory is achieved. The hands remain behind the ball. The angle of impact is so flat that a heavy or fat stroke frequently occurs (turf hit before the ball) and the ball is topped.

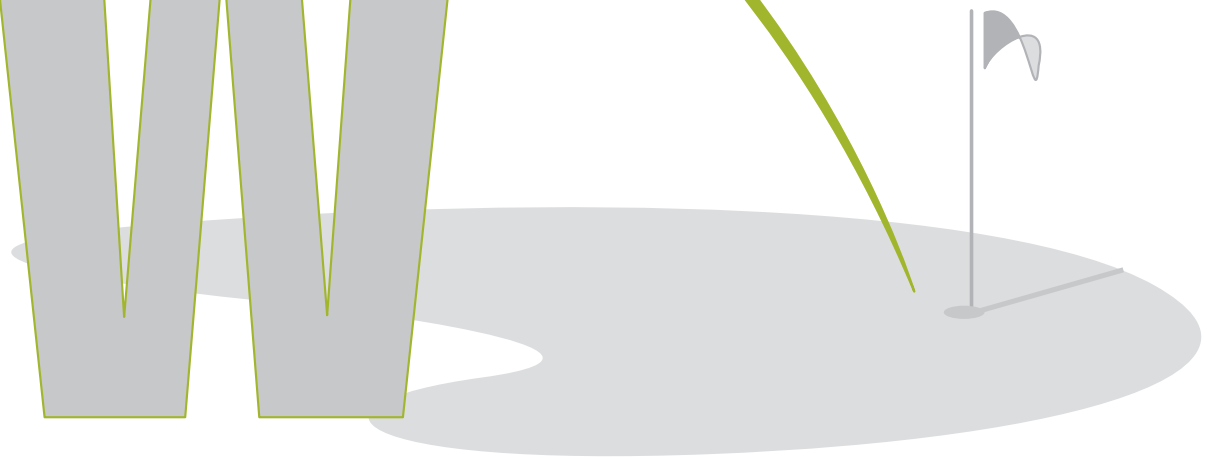
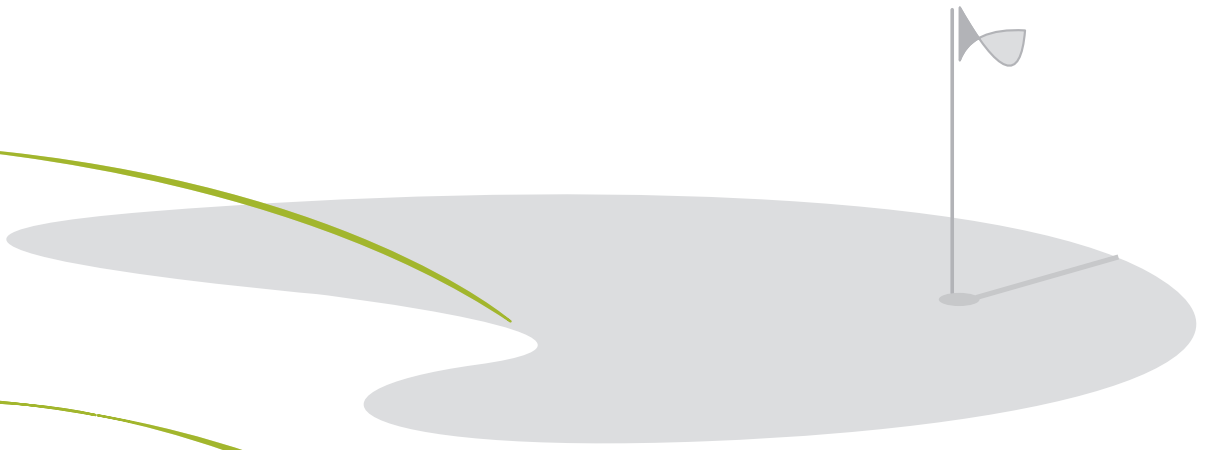


-7.4

PW

PW

PW



Pitch with release^{-7.5}

Flat, dynamic flight with roll effect

This position results in a stroke that gives the ball a flat trajectory. The arms hit down and through the ball and the closed clubface squeezes the ball into the turf. The high angle of impact produces a divot.

Turn the shoulder and close the clubface by release. The ball flies straight and fast. It is the ideal stroke for playing through obstacles.



Flat trajectory position

Pitch without release^{-7.6}



Soft flight

The backs of the hands face the sky - indicating a stroke without release. During the downswing the clubface is slightly open. The ball flies softly with plenty of backspin for a “dead” landing near the pin.

Early shoulder turn in the direction of the flag. The right arm below the left. Open clubface. The forward turn generates a large angle of impact.

Soft pitch position

Controlled length of backswing^{-7.7}

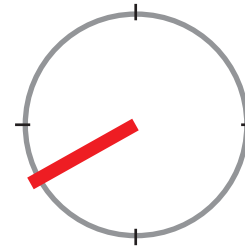
8 o'clock arm position

A controlled length of backswing produces a specific stroke distance. The left arm and an imaginary clock face determine the length of the backswing. The club itself is irrelevant because the angle between arm and shaft is identical in all positions of the wedge system.

Distance in metres

Player: Marcus Buksch

Club: Sand wedge



27 m (SW)

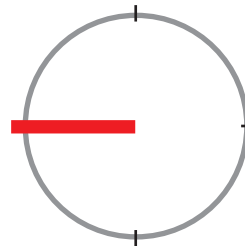
9 o'clock arm position

With the arm on the backswing in the horizontal 9 o'clock position the ball flies ca. 45 metres. This distance varies from player to player depending on technique and physique. It is only important that the player knows how far the ball will fly with this stroke.

Distance in metres

Player: Marcus Buksch

Club: Sand wedge



45 m (SW)

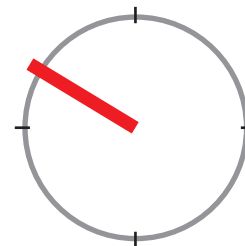
10 o'clock arm position

The left arm is at the 10 o'clock position. The angle between arm and club shaft is identical with the other positions.

Distance in metres

Player: Marcus Buksch

Club: Sand wedge



64 m (SW)

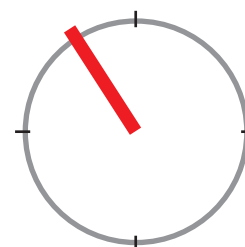
11 o'clock arm position

Every player should be aware of this stroke distance. It is the standard distance achieved with the normal swing.

Distance in metres

Player: Marcus Buksch

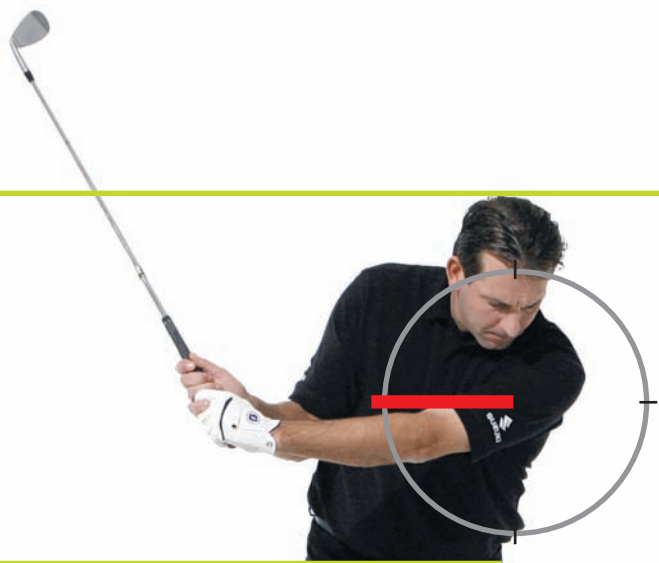
Club: Sand wedge



85 m (SW)



-7.7



Need to know.

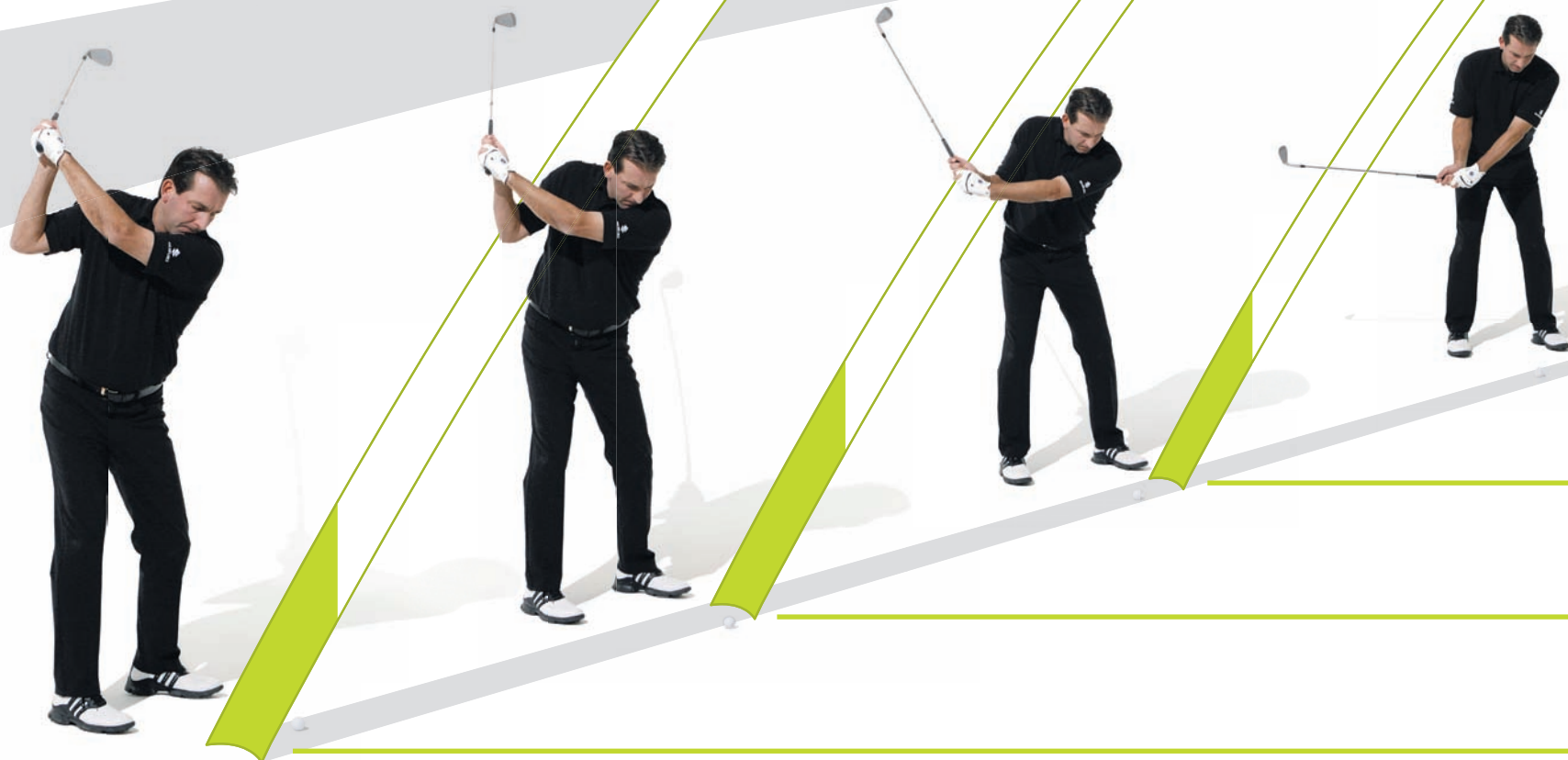
The angle between arm and club shaft is identical in all positions.

MB Wedge System (SW)^{-7.8}

Distance control when pitching

Different lengths of backswing produce different stroke distances. Control of the stroke distance is best achieved by practising the backswing positions. Initially hit a series of 10 balls from off the green but not in the direction of the flag. This is important because otherwise the results can be falsified. The only goal of the exercise is to establish how far the ball flies with a specific backswing. You can then find an average stroke distance for each backswing position with different clubs.

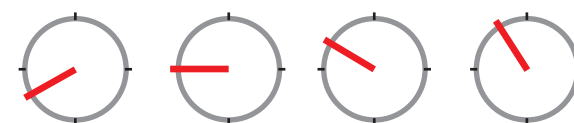
The rhythm with each swing is smooth and controlled. The stroke need not be particularly powerful, important it is an unhurried and easy movement. Players are often surprised at how regularly the shots always land in the same place. Carry out the same procedure with all clubs of the MB Wedge System and determine their stroke distances: pitching wedge (ca. 48%), target wedge (ca. 52%), sand wedge (ca. 56%), lob wedge (ca. 60%). The 4 backswing positions with these 4 clubs result in 16 different stroke distances.







-7.8

Need to know.

The angle between arm and club shaft is identical in all positions.



Stroke distance in metres		LW	20	35	45	60
Stroke distance in metres		SW	27	45	64	85
Stroke distance in metres		TW	35	58	73	90
Stroke distance in metres		PW	42	63	80	100