



THE
RIGHT-ON-LINE
PUTTING TRACK



Mike Bender

MIKE BENDER GOLF ACADEMY

The Right-On-Line Putting Track

By: Mike Bender (Master Instructor)

CONGRATULATIONS! You have just purchased the best training aid on the market for developing solid putting fundamentals.

The “Right-On-Line” was inspired by touring professionals who wanted to practice all the fundamentals at the same time. Mike Bender, one of Golf Magazine and Golf Digest’s Top 100 and Top 50 Instructors in America respectively, PGA of America’s 2009 Teacher of the Year and former PGA tour player invented the “Right-On-Line” to do just that. Consistent use of the “Right-On-Line” will develop proper:

- Body and Eye Alignment
- Putting Path
- Face Angle
- Length of Stroke
- Speed and Rhythm
- Ability to Read Greens

*Note: Before each practice, make sure the “Right-On-Line” legs lay flat on putting surface.

BODY AND EYE ALIGNMENT

To set up on the “Right-On-Line”, place the putter head on the ground directly underneath the bottom bar. Position your feet approximately shoulder width apart. As you take your stance, make sure to have your toes, knees, hips, forearms and shoulders parallel to the bars of the “Right-On-Line”.

Next you should bend from the middle part of your stomach so that your arms hang straight down in a relaxed position and your eyes are directly over the top bar. You will know if it is correct by being able to only see the top bar. If you are bent over too far or not far enough, you will see both bars.

PUTTER PATH & FACE ANGLE

We recognize that there are many styles and types of putting strokes that work well. However, through our research, we like to recommend using a straight-back and straight-through putting stroke, while keeping the face of the putter square to the intended line. The other popular method of moving the putter head on more of an arc or inside to square to inside, may also be used with “Right-On-Line”. If your putter has an alignment line on the top of it, it will be easier to work on your stroke. Rest your putter head on the ground underneath the bottom bar with the line on your putter hidden from your vision.

Your eyes should be over the top bar and the putter's sweet spot is directly under the bottom bar. For a straight-back-and-through stroke, move the putter head back and forth under the bar and try to keep from seeing the line on your putter at any time during the stroke. Next, watch to see if the putter face angle is staying square or twisting by stopping at the top of your backstroke and at the end of your follow through. Check to see if the face of the putter is at right angles or perpendicular to the bottom bar. Practice this many times making any necessary corrections to achieve these desired positions. It may feel very awkward at first, but with practice it will become second nature. If you prefer the arc stroke method, you will see the line on your putter at the top of the backstroke and follow through. Because the bars provide a reference point it will be easy to see just how much of an arc the putter is moving on.

LENGTH & STROKE

The majority of missed putts are the result of the putt not being struck solidly. One major cause of this is movement of the head, which causes the putter head to move upward too quickly through impact, resulting in a putt that bounces, fails to hold the line and usually has inadequate speed. The "Right-On-Line" teaches you to keep your putter head low throughout the stroke, resulting in more solid contact. The height of the bottom bar is adjustable, depending upon the speed of the green and the length of the putt.

We recommend starting with the bottom bar set in the bottom hole as close to the ground as possible and putting from the 4 to 6-foot range. After you become more comfortable and consistent with the “Right-On-Line”, then move the bar up and use it on longer putts.

SPEED & RHYTHM

Having proper speed is an essential part of being a good putter. You can have perfect fundamentals in your set up and stroke, but if you don't roll the ball with the correct speed, you will not make many putts. To work on consistent speed, take the “Right-On-Line” to a putting green and choose a putt that has some break. From approximately 6 feet away, read the break and aim the “Right-On-Line” on the intended line. If you have chosen the proper line you will quickly notice that the ball will have to be rolling the proper speed to go in. If it is hit too easily, the ball will die off. Hit it too hard and the ball will miss on the high side of the hole. Continue doing this from all angles and distances around the hole.

READING GREENS

Through our research, we have found that amateurs on average under-read the amount of break by around 50%. Professionals under-read their putts as much as 25%. Then how do we make putts? We do it by making compensations subconsciously during the stroke. To test yourself, take the “Right-On-Line” to a hole with plenty of break. Lay a ball down and read the break. Next set the “Right-On-Line” over the ball pointing it on the line you

read. Next hit a few putts, 90% of the time you will miss the putt on the low side. Now adjust the “Right-On-Line” until you are making the putt. Look behind to see where you are actually lined up. With repetitive use of the “Right-On-Line”, you will soon begin to read the breaks properly the first time.

HOW TO USE THE “RIGHT-ON-LINE”

First, take the “Right-On-Line” to practice green or indoors. Place it on the floor with a smooth carpet. Next place the putter head underneath the bar and take your set up. Practice without a ball making strokes back and forth, making sure your putter does not hit the lower bar. Make checks to ensure that path and face angles are correct. After you get the feel, begin to hit balls through the “Right-On-Line”. Don’t worry about trying to hit a hole until you can roll the ball through and out of the mouse hole every time. Next choose a straight 3 to 4-foot putt and practice making it. Now you are ready to begin moving further away and putting breaking putts. Be sure to follow all the guidelines established in these instructions.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Place one of the base ends on the edge of the cup. Place a tee at one-foot intervals starting at 2 feet going to 10 feet. Using 3 balls, putt trying to hole putts through the small opening. If you make one of the 3 move back to the 3-foot tee and continue. This will help in narrowing your focus as well as develop exceptional touch and feel. If the putt has a lot of break, you will need to turn the “Right-On-

Line” so that the ball will be entering the center of the hole on that line.

If you have any questions give us a call at the Mike Bender Golf Academy (407) 321-0444. ENJOY!

