

# Split Shots

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## Objectives

In this module we will:

- Revise the basics of angles and ratios
- Look at how and where to aim
- Give you some basic practise routines

## What is a Split Shot?

A split shot is a croquet stroke where the two balls move off at different angles.

## Some Basics

The croqueted ball will travel along the line through the centres of the two balls.

The *angle of split* (or *angle of deviation*) is the angle at which the two balls diverge from each other. The largest angle that you can achieve is  $90^\circ$  - in reality slightly less than this.

The *line of aim* (or *angle of aim*) is where you aim relative to a straight line croquet stroke.

The *largest* angle of split is achieved when the line of aim is  $45^\circ$  or greater.

As the angle of split increases the striker's ball travels further relative to the croqueted ball.

## How to Work Out Where to Aim

Place two markers on the ground to indicate the final positions of the striker's ball and croqueted ball.

The *aiming point is the half way point between the final positions of the two balls.*

It is not the half angle line!

To see this play a wide angle stop shot split stroke – one where the angle of split of about  $90^\circ$  and the striker's ball travels as short a distance as possible. Before playing the stroke mark where the half angle line of aim and halfway points are to confirm the above.

## Putting It All Together

The best way to learn to play reproducible and accurate split strokes is to complete the following drill.

- 1) Start off with straight line croquet strokes. Play at least 5 stop shots – measure the ratio. Then play at least 5 drives; 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  rolls; 5 full rolls; and 5 pass rolls – for all of them measure the ratios. These then provide the basis of how the strokes change when they become split shots.
- 2) Then move to the  $90^\circ$  split shots (*angle of aim* is  $45^\circ$ ). Play the above type of strokes again. Measure the ratios – they will be very different from the straight line strokes. Look at the angle of split as well – the effect of *pull* should be evident.
- 3) Halve your angle of aim from above (now about  $22^\circ$ ) and play all the strokes again. Measure the ratios and angle of split.
- 4) To gain finer control of your strokes halve the angle of aim again (now about  $12^\circ$ ); and also try at about  $36^\circ$ .

- 5) You can also carry the drill out for angles greater than  $45^\circ$  - the angle of split will not change but the ratios will. You are practising thick take-off croquet strokes now.

There is no need to do the above in one session. It should take about 3 hours to carry out all the above.

## **Practice**

Do the above drill – learn it off by heart

After having made hoop 4 practice the split shot loading hoop 6 and going to a ball at hoop 5. Place the load for hoop 5 a yard south, east, west and north of the hoop to see how your stroke type and line of aim changes.

Do the same drill but after making 4-back, loading rover going to penult. This enables you to practise split strokes on both sides since almost everyone will find their angles and ratios slightly different.

Play the split strokes you would find in a standard 3-ball break (harder).