



THE DRILL SERGEANT

EXCLUSIVE BY
MARK GIBSON
GOLF AUSTRALIA
TEACHING EDITOR

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF PUTTING PRACTICE

The simplest way of viewing putting is to know that ALL putts have a correct line and a correct speed.

Putts have a perfect take-off line and if struck on that line at the correct speed, they will go in if misfortune does not get in the way.

The purpose of these two putting drills is to promote the thought process of correct line and speed, so you can achieve putting success under pressure by executing your putting stroke with confidence.

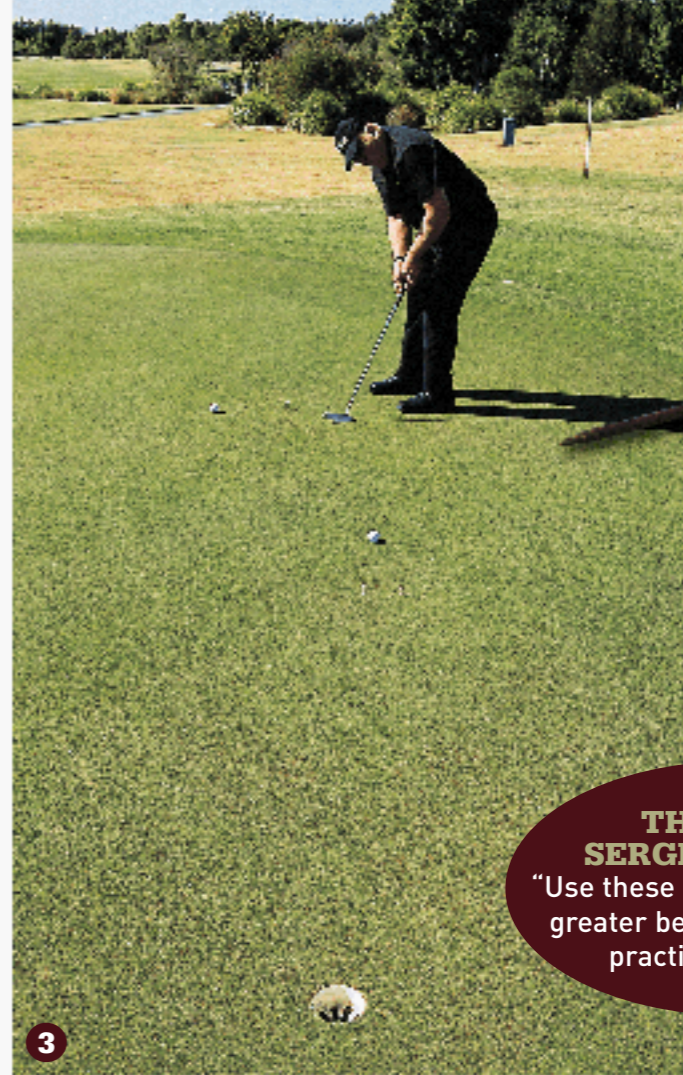
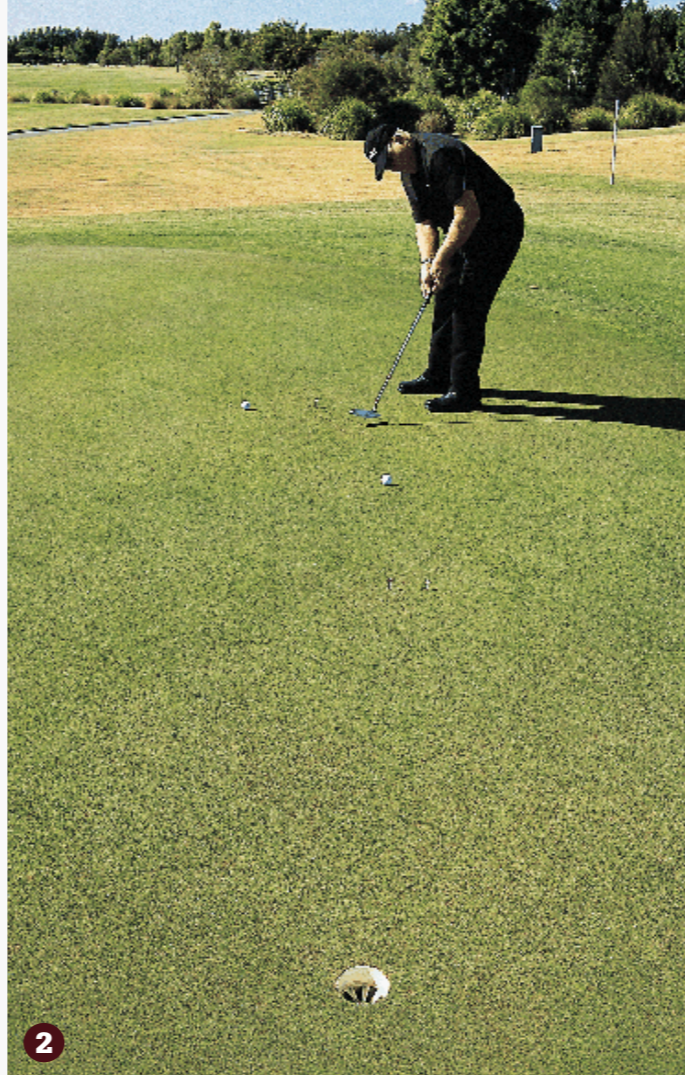
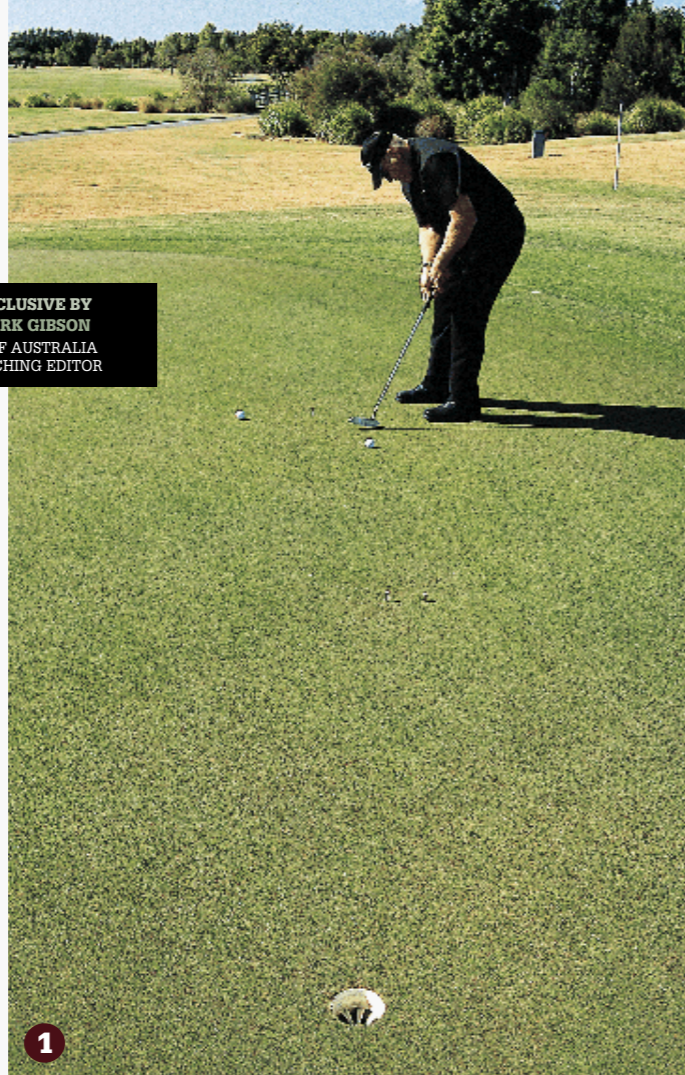
THROUGH THE GATE

Pick a slightly turning putt of about four meters and aim to putt through a gate at the halfway point to the hole.

Drop some balls and gauge how much break the putt has and set up a gate that is as wide as a golf hole and is marked by tees (pic 1). Now, having determined the line of the putt, aim to hit some putts through the gate (pic 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6).

If you don't hit the putt at the correct speed, the putt will still miss the cup. The ideal holing speed for any putt would see the ball roll about 30 to 40cm beyond the hole if the putt was on an incorrect line.

This drill needs to be done with putts that break to the right as well as the left.



THE DRILL SERGEANT SAYS:
"Use these putting drills to get greater benefit from putting practise sessions."

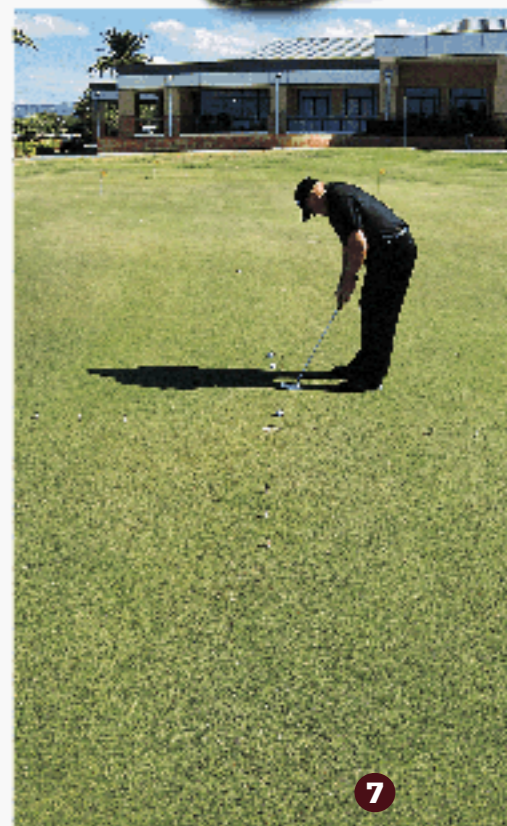
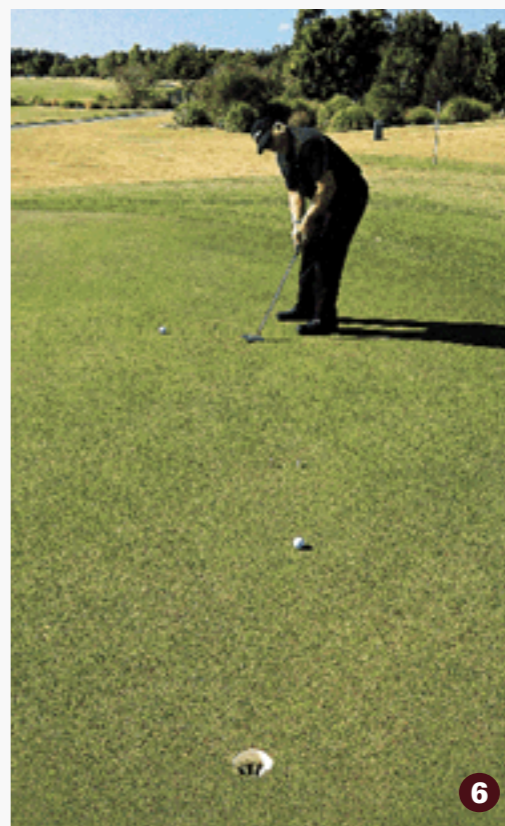
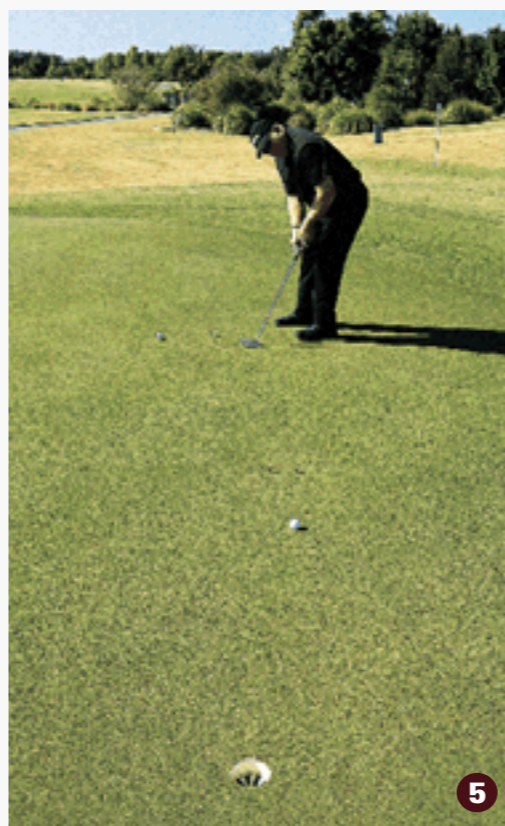
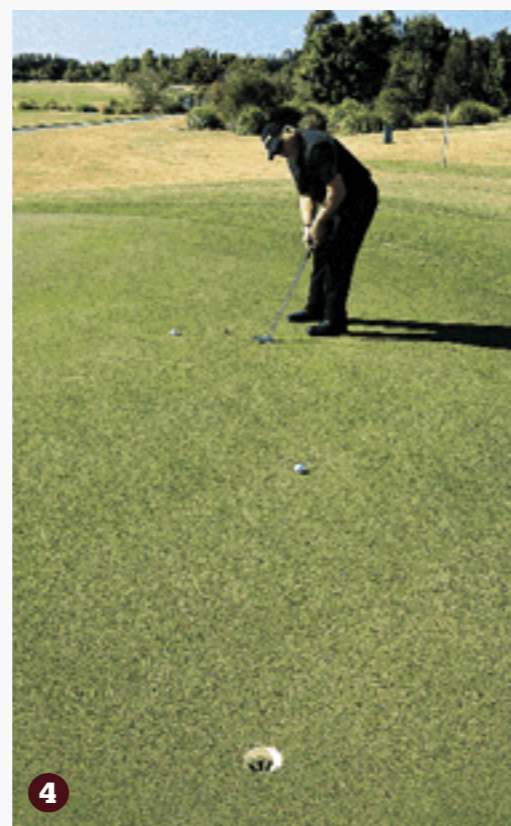
COMPASS POINTS

Set up 12 tees around a hole, with three tees in a line at the four points of the compass – north, south, east and west.

At each compass point, place the first tee about one metre from the hole and the next two tees at 30cm intervals.

Starting at any compass point, putt balls from each distance starting with the closest putt (pic 7). If you hole all three putts, move onto the next compass point. Once you miss a putt you have to go back to the beginning. You MUST hole 12 putts in a row to complete the first phase of this drill. This risk-reward aspect is important in creating some of the feelings you will experience when out on the course.

The second phase sees the furthest tee at each point become the closest putting position and two more tees are placed in the green at 50cm intervals behind each tee.



PHOTOS: BRENDAN JAMES X 9