



Learn a new shot... THE PUTT LOB

As the name suggests, the putt lob is a shot that uses the arm/shoulder-dominated technique of the putter but flies high, like a lob. By taking the hands and wrists out of play, the putt lob is both easier to execute and more reliable than the traditional

lob shot. While perhaps lacking in versatility, the putt lob can nevertheless deliver quick height and a soft landing. This makes it a great option for anyone who gets a bit twitchy when asked to play a greenside finesse shot. Here's how it works.

WHEN TO USE THE PUTT LOB

On all greenside shots you will ideally pitch the ball on to the putting surface to guarantee a predictable bounce and roll. Use this shot when the flag is cut close to you, demanding a shot that lands steeply with little roll-out. Choose your most lofted wedge.

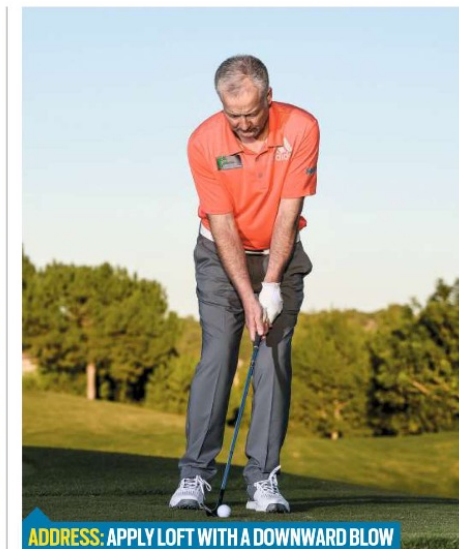
THE 8ft RULE

Stats suggest that if you can get the ball within 4ft, your chances of holing out shoot up. That sounds quite a tight line until you place an 8ft string across the hole; suddenly that target seems achievable! In practice, place your two longest clubs either side of the hole to give you that same target focus.



START WITH A 'Y'

The putt lob begins by creating a Y-shape between your arms and shaft. It's not symmetrical, though; push your hands forward to create some shaft lean. The key to mastering it is to keep this Y-shape intact throughout the entire action, so after you've set it, picture the putt-like arms/shoulders action that would accomplish that.



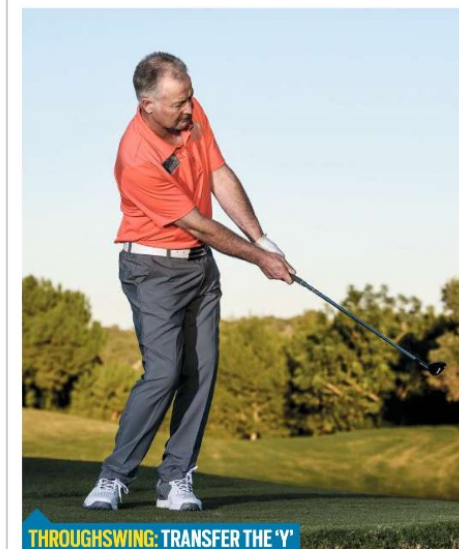
ADDRESS: APPLY LOFT WITH A DOWNWARD BLOW

In the putt lob, we use physics to create the flight: apply loft to the ball on a slight downward arc and the ball will rise steeply, with plenty of spin. Programme all this into your action through your set-up. Play the ball just behind centre in a narrow stance, and lean slightly towards the target to put your shirt buttons ahead of the ball.



BACKSWING: RECREATE A PUTTING FEEL

Your key thought is to retain the Y you created at address. Rock the arms and shoulders back just as you would for a very long putt; there may be some slight wrist hinge through the club's momentum, but generally your hands and wrists should feel passive. Avoid lateral movement by feeling a little extra weight under your lead foot.



THROUGHSWING: TRANSFER THE 'Y'

Again just like a putt, use your shoulders and arms to bunt the ball forward; you should finish with the Y-shape uncompromised. However, the longer movement does demand a little more freedom of movement: allow your chest to turn through to face the clubhead, and your trail knee to soften towards the target to assist this core rotation.