THE FULL-SWING STROKE

First Position, The Address

How to place the club. This means 1 Adjust the club handle so that the club rests on that part of the sole midway between heel and toe.

2 Set the bottom edge of the blade at right angles to the line of play. The top edge and the bottom edge of the blade of an iron club are not parallel to each other. Go by the bottom edge, ignoring the top edge. The face of an iron club is built from the bottom edge up.

3 Have the club shaft at right angles to the line of play, i.e., neither leaning towards nor away from the direction of play.

THE GRIP

To my mind the orthodox grip is the overlapping, finger grip with left thumb on the handle. There are, however, many good players who still adhere to the old fashioned two V grip. My reasons for adopting the overlapping, finger grip with left thumb on the handle are several. Reason 1 With the left thumb on the handle you have a fulcrum for the left hand action, (note, I did not say wrist action). With this thumb on handle grip, there is an action in the left hand quite distinct from, and in addition to the wrist action, which you cannot get with the two V grip. At the top of the swing the club handle comes away from the base of the palm of the left hand, which is merely a resting point. The club is
held entirely in the fingers, and more especially in the second, third and fourth fingers of the left hand. The club rests upon the left thumb. See Illustration 181, page 153. The thumb is a fulcrum which the second, third and fourth fingers of the left hand pull down against during the downward stroke, and it is possible to develop no small amount of speed from this left hand action.

The palm of the right hand should completely cover the left thumb to support it, Illustration 182, page 153. My objection to the two V grip is very evident, i.e., take away the left thumb from off the handle and you have no fulcrum for left hand action, and consequently you will get none. Also, if the player starts out with a palm grip it will be impossible to get left hand action because if the palm grip is released at all at the top of the swing, the club will slip out of the palm into the fingers and it would be impossible to say just how the club might be facing when it returned to the ball.

Reason 2 for the overlapping, finger grip. The more sensitive nerves are in the finger ends, and especially in the end of the thumb and forefinger. We want the most acute sense of feeling possible in the club head. With the club handle held between the tip of the thumb and forefinger it is possible to get feeling in the club head so that it seems almost as if there were prolonged nerves which ran from the thumb and forefinger down the shaft into the very club head itself. Without the thumb upon
Taking Club Handle in Fingers—Correct way

The Left-hand Grippers, Second, Third and Fourth Fingers. Club Handle is well Placed in Roots of the Fingers—Correct

Taking Club Handle in Palm of Hand—Incorrect. See above for Correct

Club Handle is not well Encircled by the Grippers—Incorrect.

Thumb and Index Fingers Wrongly Placed, not Opposite each other but Spread Apart—Incorrect
the club handle it is impossible to get the same acute sense of feeling in the club head. For the same reason that the club handle should be held in the ends of the thumb and forefinger, it should be held in the fingers of the second, third and fourth fingers of the left hand and not in the palm, because then, they too give a more acute sense of feeling in the club. See Illustration 176, page 151.

Reason 3 By overlapping we shorten the distance between the right hand power and the left wrist fulcrum, which quickens the wrist action. For convincing proof of the truth of this statement take hold of a club with your hands two feet apart and try to swing the club with your wrists, you will soon find that the closer you bring your hands together the quicker the action of the club. It seems like an insignificant matter to eliminate one little finger to get the hands a little bit closer together, nevertheless it does increase the speed of the club considerably provided you have very strong hands.

Reason 4 Most players are stronger in the right hand than in the left; elimination of the little finger places the right hand at a disadvantage, and this helps to equalize and balance the work of the two.
Illustrating Hand Action. Note how Club Handle has come away from the Heel of the Palm of the Hand—Correct

Illustrating How the Palm of the Right Hand Supports and adds Strength to the Left Thumb which acts as the Fulcrum of the Hand Action—Correct

Illustrating How the Club Handle should be Gripped in at the very Roots of the Fingers of both Hands—Correct

Illustrating How the Left Thumb is Placed on the Club Handle, just a mere Suggestion to one Side—Correct
I am not advocating the overlapping, finger grip because I use it myself. I did not always use it, in fact I fought against it for many years, but finally had to acknowledge it to be the superior form of grip for the large majority. Therefore I now accept it as orthodox, and teach it to all my pupils except those with very weak hands.

Eliminating the little finger of right hand brings third finger of right hand next to forefinger of left hand on club handle. The little finger is then allowed to override the division between forefinger of left hand and third finger of right.

The second, third and fourth fingers of the left hand do most of the gripping. The left thumb and forefingers I look upon as the feelers. In order that I shall not grip too tightly with my right hand I grip with the second finger of my right hand only. The callouses on my hands prove this. My right thumb and forefinger are used as feelers also, rather than grippers.

Next to the proper gripping of the club comes the proper set of the hands. This has already been dealt with under mechanical laws of the golf swing, fundamental 5.
Illustrating Third Finger of Right Hand placed next to the Fore Finger of the Left Hand—Correct

Illustrating the Little Finger of Right Hand overriding Fore Finger of Left Hand—Correct

Completed Grip

Correct Completed Grip, showing Palm of Right Hand almost completely Covering Left Thumb, which fits perfectly into Groove of Palm of Right Hand
Note the callous on the second (longest) finger of right hand, and also on the fourth (little), third and second fingers of left hand. It will be seen there are no callouses on the palm of the hands at the roots of the fingers. This is because the club handle is held in the fingers.
was struck with the lower part of the club face inside the center.

The **cause** is that the swing was a little too flat. Fundamental Three is being violated. The club was not swung on the correct slope.

**REMEDY:** The right hand and arm should guide the club to a position a little nearer the back of your head at the top of the swing. Should it appear that there is no fault at the top of the swing, then it must be that the fault took place at the bottom of the arc of the swing. Too tight a **grip** with the right hand holds the club head up, thus preventing it from following the correct groove of the swing. If either of these causes is pronounced, the ball will be shanked, or, if very pronounced, topped with the heel of the club. When a player is troubled with a persistent case of this fault, the most positive cure is to practice scuffing the grass. Swing back and forth continuously from the top of the swing to the finish and all the way back again to the top, scuffing the grass at the proper place on both the forward and backward swings. Keep a close check on the position of the club at the top and finish of the swing and check the right hand grip. It should be so loose as to allow the club head to **drop** down to the bottom of the arc of the swing.

**Definition of slice 4.** The ball starts out to the left of the intended line of play and then
THE WRIST ACTION in Motion Picture Series

This was an actual drive in which the ball was driven 250 yards
Notice also how comparatively placid the body is as compared with the energy of the wrists
A SIMPLE INTRODUCTION TO THE GAME

Golf is not an expensive or difficult game if gone about in the right way. An outfit of four correctly made and properly fitted clubs, brassie, mid-iron, mashie, and putter, with caddy-bag suited to a beginner can be bought for fifteen or twenty dollars, and if a public course or unpretentious club is near at hand, a lot of pleasure and beneficial exercise can be had with little cost.

To excel at the game, one should go about it correctly. The manner of gripping and swinging the clubs is important.

**Grip** There are many styles of gripping the club, any of which may be good, but grip must be suited to the individual. The accompanying illustrations show—orthodox, natural, and the old St. Andrews grip.

Always grip the club in the fingers, never in the palm of the hands because a keener sense of touch is possible in the fingers. Also set the hands correctly, i.e. see the back rather than the face of the wrists. Balanced effort on the part of the hands is the chief thing in producing good direction in the ball's flight.

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![The overlapping grip (orthodox)](image1)
![The best grip for weak hands](image2)
![The old St. Andrews grip](image3)
The hands are the main driving force. The right hand strikes against the left, the left hand acts as a fulcrum for the right hand to strike against.

So that the left hand may function as a fulcrum there must be a resistance coming from the left side of the body. This left side resistance is to be against turning the body to the left only and not against the shifting of the weight to the left leg.

The left side of the body must resist against turning to the left because if it did not the left hand fulcrum would be carried away by the turn of the shoulders and then there would be no hand leverage.

The power we get from the right arm is in the form of a right fore-arm slap, and not in the form of a right hook punch from the right shoulder as in boxing. In order to get this right forearm slap the right elbow must be kept well in to the side of the body, especially immediately before impact.

In starting down from the top of the swing correct foot work is again very important. The first movement is the reaction of the hips. This places down the left heel so that it is in position to receive the weight of the body. The knees swing back as the body weight is shifted from the right leg to the left by the sidewise action of the hips. The right leg is the main brace which bears the brunt of all the strain and it should push the body weight thru the stroke. The right heel should rise off the ground before the ball is struck as it is this right foot work which enables the right leg to push the hips and body weight thru the ball. The left foot must have a good grip of the ground or there will be no resistance against turning to the left.
Incorrect Swing: Out of parallel, generally destroys the timings of the wrist snap and makes their action sluggish. This combination of errors results in a form of swing commonly known as cutting across the ball, causing a slice in which the ball starts out to left of direct line of play and curves around to right. Shoulders did not turn enough to the right at top of swing, and turned too much to the left at finish. 

Pictures taken from overhead.
PARALLELISM OF SWING
Pictures taken from overhead thru the oblique plane of the swing
THE PRESIDENT'S PUTTER: G. Micklem, who was beaten by A. A. Duncan 4 and 3 in the semi-final, drives from the fourteenth tee during the tournament at Rye.

I.

T has occurred to me that some percentage figures—estimates only—might enlighten students on the value of the power they apply to the ball with various parts of their body.

In passing, as a suggestion to relieve crowded 18-hole courses with no place to practise peacefully and dozens of members bursting to spend an hour or two on various sections of their game, why not close a few sections of their game, why not close a few hours near the club-house for certain hours on certain days a week? Rules can be made that the arm and shoulder play a part, for it was obvious that weak-wristed golfers will, in a swing to take place, for this reason alone we should not try to apply our maximum shoulder power, because the player's weak wrists and is setting out to improve his golf seriously. His first step should be to acquire by training an alteration in his percentage of wrist power available in the swing. If he only wishes to make do with what he has got—i.e., use the proportions he has—then he will need to search for an expedient to make his big, slow shoulder and body muscles play their really minor role in a major way.

Players with short back swings have powerful wrists, and use them. Most players with powerful wrists find a way to use them effectively on their own, just as they automatically throw a ball well, but there are many players who do not get the most from their wrists, for this reason alone we should not try to exaggerate a certain movement which they consider essential. Here is where the instructor comes in, for he can see what the player himself cannot see—himself playing. Whilst there is a lot of talk of the "Swing the club-head" theory and the "hit the ball earlier" theory, there is a lot of truth in the "hit the ball later" theory also. The obvious weak link in every golfer is the wrist, and for this reason alone we should not try to apply our maximum shoulder power, because the wrist cannot transmit it; they would collapse or give way under the strain, the club-head trails behind and a slice results.

I often use the expression in teaching, "Do not try to hit harder than you can hold on." This does not seem very clear when put on paper, but it does register with many pupils who have a fast arm-and-body action with no strength in the fingers.

Facts and Ideas

For the shoulders and arms begin to move the head. The shoulders, after the release of the club-head to overtake the hands, for, if the club-face is open or shut at the top of the swing is almost of secondary importance. Many players who do not get the most from their wrists, for this reason alone we should not try to exaggerate a certain movement which they consider essential, unless the wrists are strong you can swing to your heart's content and not get very far. You have to make the club-head do the work. This is my slogan, and this "make" implies effort, will power and resistance, for the golf-club is more or less a lever and the left hand resists the hit of the right hand.

THE FINAL of the President's Putters was between Duncan, shown driving from the first tee, and L. G. Crawley, who had beaten Martin 5 and 4 in the semi-final.

MR. BERNARD DARWIN holds the famous "Putter as he stands between the winner, L. G. Crawley (right) and the runner-up, A. A. Duncan. Crawley has won the event three times.