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Golf Isn't Hard

A final word. Golf is worth giving some thought and time to. And, remember, your local professional is there to help you when you run into the problems. Make use of his knowledge of the game. Even top-ranking professionals seek advice from fellow pros. to iron out kinks in the swing.

Norman G. von Nida

The Grip

GOLF is a two-handed game, though some schools of thought claim the left hand plays by far the greater part. I am convinced that the right hand does most of the hitting.

And because it is a two-handed game it is essential that the grip should allow both hands to work as one. If I were asked to name the most important single point in golf, I would unhesitatingly say "an efficient grip".

Firmness of grip is essential in any sound swing. A flabby grip means that the club gets out of control and in turn the swing is thrown right out of gear.

These pictures illustrate my orthodox overlapping grip. It is a grip that seems a little awkward to the beginner, but which quickly becomes quite natural.

Let me stress that the grip with both hands must be firm. The left hand grips a little firmer than the right, but any slackness of either hand is fatal to a consistently sound swing.

It is important, for a start, that the grips on your clubs be such as to prevent the hands slipping. Your professional will advise you on that.

Picture No. 1 shows the club laid across the fingers and the lower part of the palm.
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In picture No. 2 the left hand has closed firmly on the shaft. You can see about half the back of your hand and the “V” points approximately to the right shoulder.

In picture No. 3 the right fingers take their place in the scheme of things; and in picture No. 4 they close firmly on the shaft. The forefinger and the thumb grip tightly on it and “V” formed points in the direction of the right shoulder.

Picture No. 5 illustrates the overlapping grip; you will notice that the little finger of the right hand overlaps the index finger of the left hand. Because of my comparatively short fingers my overlap is not as complete as that of many golfers.

The overlapping method is essential in enabling the hands to work together.

Work out this grip now, keeping one thing firmly in mind: YOU MUST GRIP FIRMLY THROUGHOUT ANY GOLF SWING.
2. The left hand closes firmly on the shaft.

3. The right hand goes into position, with the little finger overlapping the index finger of the left hand.
Back view of the grip, illustrating the overlapping method.

The two hands in position in a firm, sound grip.
"The Von's" Class

NORMAN VON NIDA is the best golfer Australia has produced. He has achieved that ranking by unremitting practice and a ceaseless study of the methods of the world's best players.

Since he came to Sydney from Queensland as a lad of nineteen in 1934 every move he has made has been towards achieving a place among the world's golfing great.

After learning all the Sydney professionals had to teach him, and achieving some notable wins against visiting overseas stars, he set out after the "real" money.

He twice won the Philippines Open, and made a brief and not very successful trip to the U.S.A.

After the war he settled down in earnest. In Great Britain in 1946 he learnt how to match the stars in appalling weather conditions on testing courses.

He proved himself in the top class that year and came back to Australia to win the national professional title at Rose Bay with the finest golf ever seen in this country.

Back to Great Britain again, and he was the outstanding player of the 1947 season. He was the top-money winner and won the coveted Harry
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Vardon trophy for the best average in the season's tournaments.

It was a fitting reward for a player who has always made his own way in the game and who has always been willing to learn. That is why I commend his theories of the game to anyone keen to improve—and willing to work.

HECTOR MORRISON.

(Golf Editor, Consolidated Press Publications.)