

Short Game Fundamentals Check

You don't need to be at the golf course to get better at golf, you can get better at home. Here is one of my favorite indoor chipping drills that you can do inside your home that can be easily transferred to the golf course.

Working on our fundamentals isn't always the most enjoyable but it is the most essential in terms of hitting solid golf shots. The short game fundamentals and full-swing fundamentals are two different swings because one is optimal for power and the other is finesse. Today I will focus strictly on the finesse wedge shots (30 yards and in).

For the finesse wedge shot, a few setup checks:

- Setup with your feet close together, your heels about 2 clubhead widths apart
- Your back foot will be square to the target line but the lead foot will be slightly flared and pulled back to set the stance slightly open. This moves the low point (where the club make contact with the ground) exactly what we want in a short game setup
- For a standard trajectory shot, play the ball in the middle of your stance. The ball position should give the shaft a slight forward press when soling the club on the ground
- Your shoulders should be level to the ground (tilt in the spine will significantly affect where the club hits the ground)
- From a face on view, your nose should feel as though it's sitting over your belt buckle which will be slightly forward of the ball due to your sternum being slightly rotated open to the target.



- One important note in terms of the backswing, when the shaft is horizontal to the ground, it points parallel to the target line, which the toe pointing slightly up. Combining an on-plan backswing with an open clubface is key to releasing the club correctly on the downswing. A great indoor chipping drill I'm utilizing here and trying to land the ball on to the seat of the chair. Start at about 5 yards and move the chair back when you can land 3 in a row on the seat.



- Lastly, energy moving toward your target during the swing is essential for creating a controlled strike. Always check that the majority of your weight is over your front foot when you complete the swing.



Here are two of the best short games on the PGA Tour:

[Jordan Spieth chipping \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Jordan Spieth - Chipping & Pitching \(2015\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Steve Stricker - 40 Yard Pitch \(Accenture Match Play 2013\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Steve Stricker - Pitch Shot \(Slow Motion\) \(youtube.com\)](#)