

CHIPPING PERFORMANCE TO COIN AND CUP								
NUMBER OF SHOTS	LANDING DISTANCE VERSUS COIN			LANDING DIRECTION VERSUS COIN			STOPPING DISTANCE FROM CUP	
	SHORT	LONG	EXACT DIST.	RIGHT	LEFT	ON LINE	FEET FROM CUP	TOTAL DISTANCES
1-5	4	1	0	1	4	0	8, 6, 10, 7, 5	36
6-10	5	0	0	2	3	0	9, 4, 5, 3, 6	27
11-15	5	0	0	2	3	9	5, 3, 4, 2, 6	20
16-20	3	1	1	3	1	1	7, 2, 3, 3, 1	16
TOTAL	17	2	1	8	11	1		99 AVE = 4.95

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Prior to hitting a chip shot, many golfers do not select a specific landing spot. During practice, they do not place a coin or tee on that spot to make it easier to observe how close they land it. If they do, they often select a spot that is not appropriate for those shot conditions. They do not consciously, or accurately, observe where the ball lands in relation to that spot. Finally, they never record cumulative data over many shots to perceive their error patterns. As a result, they do not stop the chip shot close enough to one-putt as often as they could.

That is good news, because I have a data collection/observation drill that leads to landing the ball closer to the coin and stopping the ball closer to the cup. That reduces putting strokes. During practice, the player selects a landing spot and places a large coin on it. Then, the golfer observes where the ball lands in terms of *distance* to the coin – long, short or the exact distance to it. In addition, the golfer observes where the ball lands in terms of *direction* to the coin - right, left or online to it. The golfer also observes where the ball stops in relation to the cup.

The golfer records the data on the form above. Golfers improve more when they record the data than when they attempt to merely remember the data over many shots, which few golfers can do accurately.

After studying the results, the golfer usually finds the need to relocate the landing spot from a distance and direction standpoint. The golfer should study what his or her error pattern is in selecting the first landing spot: too short, too long, not enough break allowed (which is the most common error, as it is in putting) or too much. By doing so, the golfer becomes more accurate in making a more accurate first choice in the future.

The first player to use this improved after hitting only fifteen practice shots. The second player, a woman with a handicap of only four, consistently hit well past the coin — but did not observe it accurately. When I noticed this and commented on it, she improved immediately. It should be a permanent part of every golfer's chipping practice.