



SHORT GAME SAVERS WITH **STEVEN GIULIANO**

# TAKING DEAD AIM

*PART 2*

HOW TO USE YOUR EYES CORRECTLY  
WHEN IT COMES TO AIMING PUTTS



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**In the previous issue**, we covered the first key element of putting, green reading, as well as some modern-day techniques to reading greens. This month we will look into another essential element of being a great putter – putter face aim.

Here are some putting-related questions for you to ponder:

1. When putting, do you regularly take aim, look up and then become unsure of either your line or aim?
2. To compound this, do you then make the mistake of adjusting your aim or alignment just before you putt?
3. How many times do you get over a simple five-foot putt and know you are going to miss? If the answer to any of these questions is

yes, then there's a good chance you're aiming the putter face incorrectly. Once this occurs, then you'll need a compensating stroke to get the ball started on line.

More often than not, a putt is missed due to poor aim, not stroke mechanics. So, rather than spending an excessive amount of time on specific path and stroke mechanics, consider that taking proper aim is the number one factor in putting – with stroke mechanics at number two.

My belief is that 99 percent of poor stroke mechanics can be improved by aiming the putter face correctly and consistently. Coupled with poor green reading capabilities, this makes holing putts with regularity a tough task.

In this article, I'll show you how.

## **BINOCULAR VISION**

As a general rule, when we aim to hit something towards a target in front of us we use what's called our 'binocular vision'. This is simply the vision in which both eyes are used together. An example would be when driving a car, or shooting an arrow or a gun.

Whenever you perceive your target from a side-on angle, the target shifts to the right (right-handed golfers) and poor aiming will invariably take place. In this situation, you're distorting your natural vision and, therefore, will gain an incorrect perception of your target.

Does this sound like you? Then you may want to look at altering your aiming procedure in your pre-shot routine.



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### AIMING PROCEDURE

Once you've read the green and establish an AimPoint in which you want the ball to start, understand that every putt in golf is a straight putt – that means that your target may or may not be the hole.

When working your aim, I suggest you follow this procedure:

**1**

Mark a cross or a line through the ball. As well as helping you aim the ball at an intermediate target, this will ensure the putter face is square to that line as well.





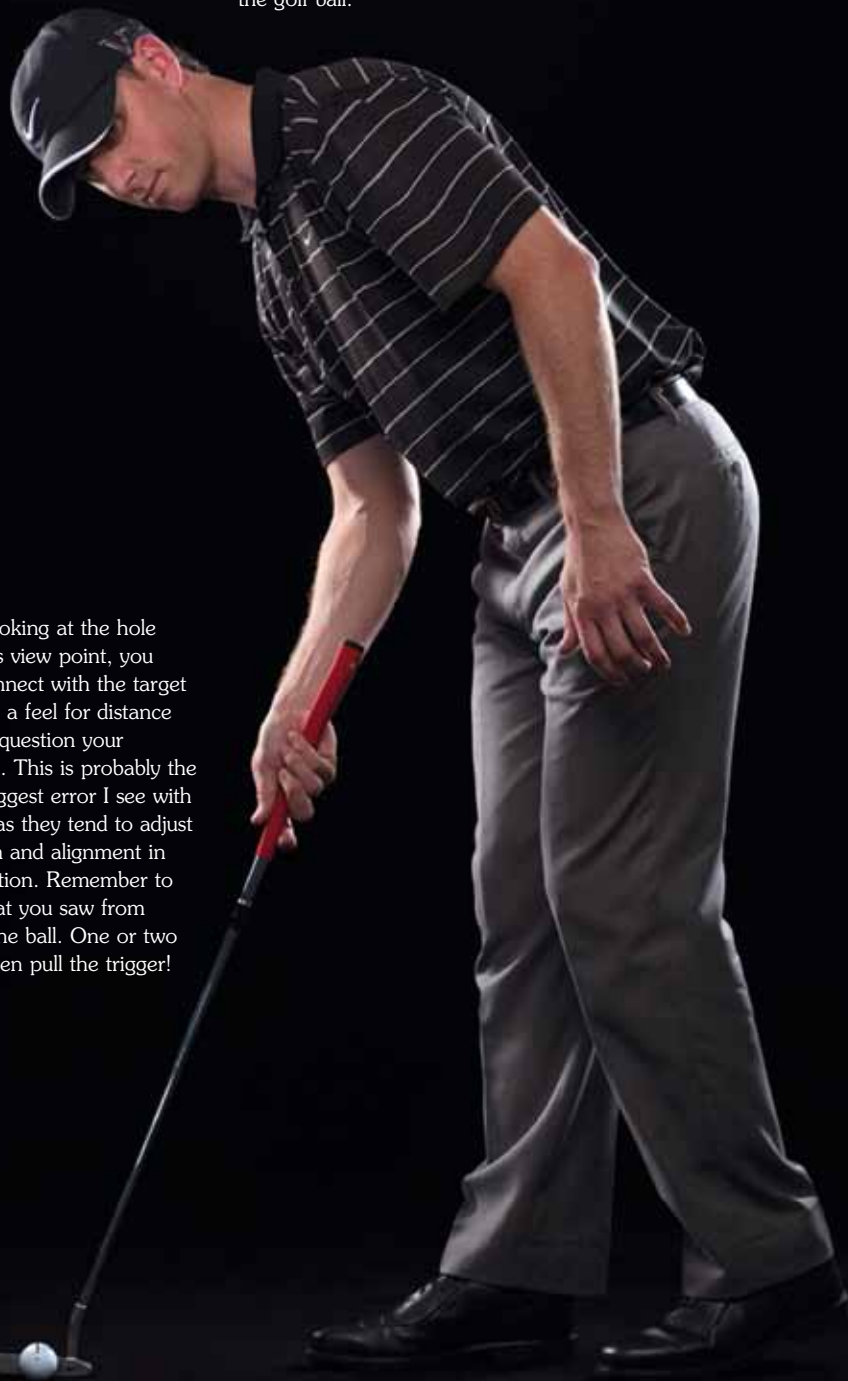
2

Take practice strokes from behind the ball using your binocular vision. Remember, taking practice strokes from the side can distort your ability to aim correctly and undo all the good work you've just done.



3

Aim the putter-face first to match the cross or line on the ball and align the body second. A putter with a line marked on the top can be used as a great tool to match the line marked on the golf ball.



4

When looking at the hole from this view point, you must connect with the target and gain a feel for distance and not question your direction. This is probably the single biggest error I see with golfers, as they tend to adjust their aim and alignment in this position. Remember to trust what you saw from behind the ball. One or two looks, then pull the trigger!