

YOUR GAME

MAKE THE PUTT

ERIC JOHNSON

Oakmont C.C.,
Oakmont, Pa.
(Top 100 since 2011)



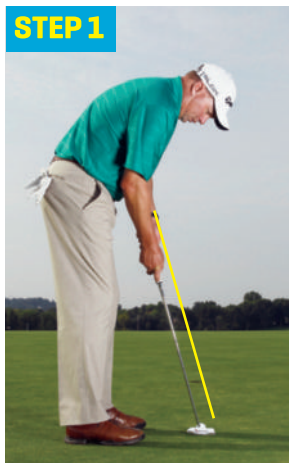
Watch this on your iPad or tablet.
Visit golf.com/allaccess.

NEVER MISS A SHORT PUTT AGAIN!

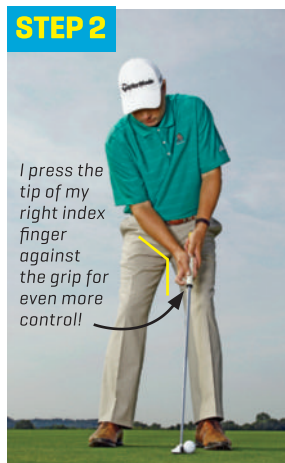
Take dead aim with your putterface to get your ball rolling on line



STEP 1



STEP 2



I press the tip of my right index finger against the grip for even more control!

STEP 3



You're on 18, facing a straight five-footer. Make it, and you shoot your best score ever. Easy, right? Not so fast—before you know it, you've missed it way left. What happened?

Why You Miss "Easy" Putts

When you miss short, straight putts, the culprit is usually poor putterface control. You probably focus heavily on your stroke path but less so on face angle. The truth is, the path of your stroke contributes little to putt direction. Your path can be perfect, but if you open or close the face at impact, you'll be two-putting from short range. The simple truth: Putts start where the face points.

How Your Wrists Can Help

The secret to making straight putts? Minimize wrist movement. These three wrist-control moves will keep the putterface square and start your ball on-line, even if your swing path is less than perfect.

1. At address, move your hands away from your body. This will decrease the hinge in your wrists. (When looking down at your grip, you shouldn't see any wrinkles between your left wrist and left thumb.) This limits your ability to rotate your hands and the face in the stroke. If the heel of the putter lifts off the ground, no sweat. A lot of great putters do this.

2. Set the shaft with a forward press of your hands so that it leans slightly toward the target. This bends your right wrist back and locks your hands in place so the putterface can't open or close. It also points your palm at the target.

3. Maintain the forward press during your forward-stroke. You should feel like you're "pushing" the palm of your right hand at the hole. This keeps the face square through impact and gets the ball rolling straight and true. And no peeking. Just listen for the sweet sound of "in."

