

STRATEGY

How to Chip It Close

Land the ball one pace on and let your club selection take care of the rest

—Top 100 Teacher Scott Sackett

THIS STORY IS FOR YOU IF...

1

You're confused by how much carry and roll you need to land chips close.

2

You hit every chip with your sand wedge.

THE PROBLEM

You're aware that every chip shot you hit features varying amounts of carry and roll, but you don't know how to select clubs or adjust your swing to get the right combination for the shot you're facing.

THE SOLUTION

Regardless of how far off the green the ball is sitting, or where the pin is positioned, try to land every chip one pace on the front edge of the green. That gives you a baseline for determining the exact amount of carry versus roll for every shot. Then, using the guide at right, pull the club that's designed to produce that particular ratio. With the correct club in your hand, just make the swing you think will land the ball one pace on the green. This works for any distance and any pin position— all you have to do is the math.



Determine the yards needed to land the ball one pace on (carry), and the yards from the front edge to the cup (roll), then pull the appropriate club based on the chart below.

Club Guide (Carry:Roll)

<1:1 LOB WEDGE
1:1 SAND WEDGE
1:1.5 GAP WEDGE
1:2 PITCHING WEDGE
>1:2 9-IRON

HOW TO GET THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF CARRY AND ROLL

Say you're 10 yards off the green, and the pin is cut 10 yards from the front. Landing the ball one pace on [X] gives you a 1:1 carry-to-roll ratio (10 yds:10 yds). Checking the club-selection guide above, that's gap wedge. If the pin was cut in front, you'd have a 2:1 ratio. Landing a lob wedge one pace will do the trick.

