You can choose to chip with a club as low as a 6-iron all the way up to a 60-degree wedge. The set-up dictates the motion of the club; the club itself dictates the air to roll ratio.

When you set up to a chip shot with the proper position it makes the overall motion much easier. Here is where most all golfers have gone off the deep end on this particular shot:

1) The ball is too far back
2) Weight is too far forward
3) Shaft is leaning too far forward
4) The stance is aimed way left (right-handed golfer).

Learning the basics of chipping will improve your prowess around the greens

By Scott Sackett
The tendency from that set-up is now you have to make a compensation in the overall motion. Once this motion takes place you will hit one of two shots – either a thin shot that shoots across the green or a fat shot because you hit behind the ball.

With a poor set-up it is just about impossible to find the bottom of the arc in a consistent matter. Before hitting a chip shot, or any shot for that matter, be absolutely certain what you want to do with the ball. Determine where you want the ball to land and what you expect the ball to do.

Here’s a checklist of what will make you a better chipper:

- Slightly weaker grip optional
- Grip normal on the shaft
- Light grip pressure, around 3 or so on a 1-10 scale
- Square stance parallel to your starting direction (not open)
- Heels place about a club and a half-width apart, with both toes open 10-15 degrees
- Ball positioned in line with your front armpit
- Weight on your forward foot that’s distributed 65/35 percent
- Level shoulders
- No weight shift onto the back leg during the swing
- Shaft of the club leans slightly forward
- A little hinge in the wrists
- Hands not traveling far from the body
- Sensation of pivot back/pivot through

When chipping you need to understand that this motion is simply a smaller version of the golf swing. The only modifications are a narrower stance and your weight distributed to your front foot.

There is no quick way to become proficient at chipping; you must work at it. I would recommend that, along with your putting, that you spend at least 50 percent of your practice time working on the different short game shots you are faced with during a round.

One of the key reasons chipping has become such an important shot during a round of golf is because the average amateur hits approximately 3-6 greens a round, which breaks down to approximately 25 percent of greens in regulation GIR. Conversely, your top 10 Tour players are hitting 71 percent of (GIR). With that thought in mind, it’s not hard to see why this shot is vital to your scoring arsenal.

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