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CTE Back of the Cue Ball

1 message

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Why does it have to be all or nothing on the feel part of it?

I posted some diagrams on my theory of how CTE brings the player to the ghost ball line. None of the naysayers even looked at it.

Here it is in a nutshell,

The CTE line and the actual GB line both converge at the CB center.

You don't know the GB line though. But you do know that it is somewhere to the left or right of the Center to Edge line and no more than half a ball in. So for any cut shot the actual contact point of the two balls MUST be between the edge of the object ball and the center of the object ball on one side or the other. The ONLY time it can be dead center is when the cue ball and object ball are in a straight line. Now this is from the shooter's perspective NOT from the pocket's perspective.

From the pocket perspective the contact point is always in one fixed position. But from the shooter's perspective it gets increasingly difficult to fixate on where the contact point is imagined to be as the cut gets thinner and as the object ball gets smaller with distance.

So, GB works and is done from the pocket perspective. We are taught to draw a line from the pocket to the ball and beyond and that point on the back of the ball is the contact point. Then we are told to back that up to the cueball and finally to lay our cue on that line. The works fairly well for a lot of shots and not so good for the thin ones and the backwards cuts.

But what happens with CTE in my opinion is that visually getting into the space behind the cueball where you can see the cte line gets you to within a half a ball of the GB line even though you have no idea where the actual GB line is at that moment.

From the cueball's perspective though, which is to say the shooter's perspective the CTE line and the GB line are only about 1mm apart at the BACK of the cueball after they have converged and exited on their way to the person standing behind them.

Now, as I said at this point the shooter does not know where the GB line is, he can't unless he has imagined it accurately OR he has marked it out.

So now the $100,000 question? How does the shooter translate the GB line (and secondary reference line) into ending up on the perfect GB line?

Here it is in my opinion: The first two steps where the shooter is told to stand behind the balls and find the CTE line and then is told to find a secondary line orient the person's body in such a way that coming down into the shot and planting the bridge hand with the cue swinging into position at center ball is what forces the cue to be pointing at the GB.

Because the GB center line is a half ball or less OFFSET from the CTE line in ALL cases except the pure half ball hit and because this line comes out the back of the ball at just a mm or so as it travels back to the shooter

who is using the CTE line and the other lines as references means that when the shooter bends down and the cue comes to rest at center ball and is NOT pointing down either of the two lines then what's left is the GB line.

I have tried my damnedest to make this not work. I have used my laser cutter to cut out 100% perfect GB templates and used my staff to place the templates AFTER I got down on the shot with the cue pointing to center cue ball. Every single time from any position the center of the cue is pointing at the center of the GB.

I have done a bunch of diagrams trying to figure out geometrically and this is the best I can do to think that is has to do with the lines converging at the cueball and going out from there.

Now at this juncture I should say that apparently I am not doing it right. I didn't learn CTE from Hal Houle nor did I learn it from Dave directly. Dave sent me a book that he wrote which was very helpful but according to his critique of my attempted explanation I am not doing it all the way right yet.

But, I reverse engineered it from ghost ball by starting with a known GB line and taking the cue ball through all the angles and following the steps backwards to figure it out to the point I am at now. And after that is when I made the GB templates and tested it out all over the table.

And so if we assume that the system does in fact work to bring the shooter to the right line then yes the only things that can prevent the ball from going in at that point is not compensating for throw/spin properly and not stroking straight or a combination of both. And part of not stroking straight is not trusting the line the system forces you into.

And this comes from a lifetime of actually seeing and choosing the wrong line and then learning to steer the ball in. Well that same bad habit of steering balls in gets really dangerous when you are now on a line that your brain does not trust because it does not look right.

So yeah, the next step is to fix the stroke IF you do have a stroke problem. Some people don't who learn CTE. They just had a perception problem and would miss balls that they thought were lined up perfectly. So when they learned CTE they started making balls because they were able to retrain their brain to focus on the line CTE forced them into.

So let's go back to feel. With GB the feel required is quite a bit to imagine a ball and then line up to that imagined ball or to hold a contact point on a sphere. It simply can't be done with accuracy.

I did this experiment in my shop AND in the pool room.

I put up an object ball and asked my staff to place another ball in line with the pocket in five seconds. They were off horribly and these are people who sew straight lines in expensive cases for a living. The deal with lines all day. But those lines are marked out with rulers. Having to judge it by eye with a physical ball was too much. I gave them ten seconds and they had the experience of the five second try. They did a little better.

Now you would expect that the people in the pool room would do much better right? Not really, most of the pool players flubbed the five second try and they did much better with ten seconds.

I imagine given more time everyone would do better. But this was done with actual balls. So I can only imagine the wide range of difficulty to accurate place a phantom ball to get a contact point OR to get a contact point using the line to the pocket and hold it accurately as you move into position.

So that's the level of feel involved with GB. Now you go to CTE and it has one line to orient you, another line to dial you in and from there you step in and swing the cue to center ball. There isn't much feel or guesswork there. There can't be because you are pretty much locked in by the use of the CTE line and the secondary line.

There is literally no feeling right or wrong unless you absolutely can see if it's right or wrong. Then it's not a feeling it's a surety. (except at the beginning when you are practicing and you come up on shots that you have shot plenty of times and your brain wants to be on the line you know - which has always been the wrong one) After you get past the trust issues and allow yourself to stroke with no steering then balls go in cleanly from

positions you thought were near impossible. I cut balls into the sides from ridiculous angles now. And I do it with CTE. If I miss one then it's always just slightly off by a centimeter at most. So that can be attributed to a stroke error or even not being precisely on the GB shot line. But overall the net effect is more shots made and the misses are really close. As opposed to missing by a diamond.

And this is what really infuriates me, the fact that no credit is given to the people trying CTE for being good players BEFORE getting into it. It's like this is somehow seen as a liability. Well you're not making those great shots because you are using CTE you are making them because you were already a good player. Ok, but if you honestly think that the person is a good player then you should trust them that they have a pretty good idea of what shots they could make consistently and what shots gave them trouble before trying CTE. Isn't it better to assume that a person is able to judge their own ability rather than to assume they can't?

Which then brings me to the next point and it's analysis and the assumption that everyone can accurately describe why something works that they do. I bet most drivers coudn't tell you about centrifugal force yet they know how to use it every time they drive. So most CTE users aren't going to get into how it works they only know that it does work and that it's not as easy to see how it works as Ghost Ball is.

But instead of trying and asking the right questions of those who are interested in both promoting the systems and in learning how it works the opposition says well if you can't tell me how it works then it doesn't work. You and I both know that this reasoning does is not valid. In fact on the way home I listened to a podcast which was talking about Damascus steel. The forgers knew the recipe to make blades of "Damascus" steel but they had no idea WHY this particular blend of metals worked so well. And to this day no one can make a blade that is the same as the original makers did it. But science now knows WHY the blades were so strong because they dissolved a blade in acid and were then able to catalog it's components.

So this is what pisses me off. So many smart people who also love pool could be working together to figure out WHY it works instead of just using the catch-all of "feel" and "subconscious adjustment".

So I rambled off the feel part for a moment. So no matter what you have to put your hand down and address the cue ball. So here is where the feel component comes in. You misjudge the cte line, you misjudge the secondary line, when you come into the shot you place your bridge hand just slightly wrong. All of those things can affect the resulting shot line. Or you get on the right shot line and you twitch every so slightly jsut enough to throw the shot off or you jsut don't feel 100% right and take the shot anyway rather than getting up. BUT in my experience the feel or better said estimation/guessing is reduced dramatically. And I mean HUGELY. Thus in my opinion the amount of estimation(feel) is greatly reduced if not mostly eliminated by the lines. So when you swing into the ball there just isn't much room to adjust since by default any little movement of the cue tip at the back of the ball will result in up to a half ball difference in cue ball path at the object ball.

Whew, this is a big nutshell.

So think of CTE as starting at the back of the cueball instead of the object ball. Looking at it that way I believe that it becomes clearer as to how it could work. Just a SLIGHT shift in the bridge hand and resulting slight shift in the where the shaft is pointing at the center of the ball means that the cueball can travel on a wide range of angles. So why not see that the consistent restriction imposed by using the CTE line and a secondary line going from the CB to the object ball narrows down the possibilities to a range tight enough to reconcile with where the GB line is?

Think about that and get back to me.

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I suck at returning emails. So if you don't hear from me soon please send a reminder to Karen@jbideas.com and she will answer you or bug me until I do.