

THE SECRET TO PLAYING AN EASY DRAW

PROFILE

Name: Lee Kopanski
Club: Loipersdorf Golf Club, Austria
Position: Head PGA Professional
Career: Turned pro in 1994

Since 2001, I've been the head professional at Loipersdorf Golf Club, a 27-hole championship golf course in Austria, with my own golf academy. I'm originally from the UK, where I played and worked – and still hold the course record of 63 – at Runcorn Golf Club in Cheshire. I have my very own online golf tuition site, at golfswingzone.com, and I've just published a book called *Signature Golf Swing* in which I'll teach you how to develop a successful technique without having to deal with complicated swing mechanics.



The ability to play a consistent and powerful draw shot is, for many an amateur, but a dream. A draw which elegantly curves only ever so slightly to the left to land on the fairway and kick on thirty yards past a playing partner...

The best way to play any golf shot is to keep things simple and your head clear and free from technical swing mechanics. During your swing it is

far too late (and highly inconsistent) to try to manoeuvre your body and clubface to get your draw shot out there. The success of any golf shot that you play is determined by how you position your body and clubface at address. As long as your golf swing is in reasonably good shape, the rest is a mere formality.

To make your ball flight curve to

the left your clubface must be slightly closed, aiming to the left in relation to where you are standing. A really important point to make is that your ball will always finish where your clubface is aiming at impact. Instead of trying to flip your right hand over your left (for right handers) through impact to close your clubface why not close it at address and save yourself the hassle?



THE EASIEST WAY TO PLAY A DRAW SHOT

1

Align your clubface to where you want your ball to begin its flight, and align your body parallel to this.

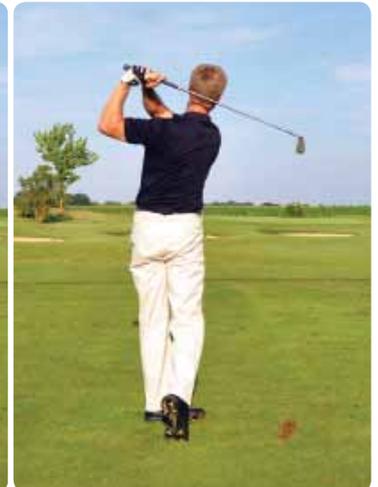
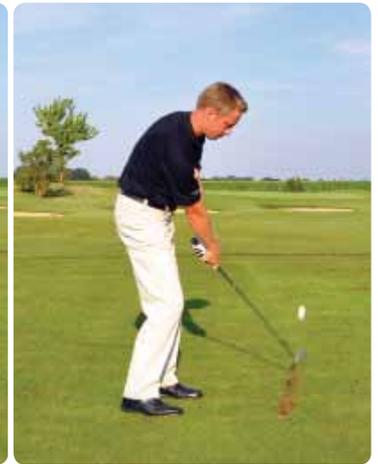
2

Slacken your hold on the handle and close your clubface in relation to your body alignment. Align your clubface at your target (where you want your ball to finish) and re-establish your grip with a now closed clubface.

Your address position has done all of the hard work for you, all you have to do from here is to swing normally in relation to how you have set your body up to your ball (aiming to the

right of your target). If you need a big Hook around a tree to get yourself out of jail simply aim to the right of the tree, realign your clubface to where you want your ball to finish and don't

forget to swing in relation to how your body is aligned. Otherwise you'll hit the tree straight between the eyes! There you go! You know how to play an easy draw, have fun with it!



PLAY A BALL BELOW YOUR FEET

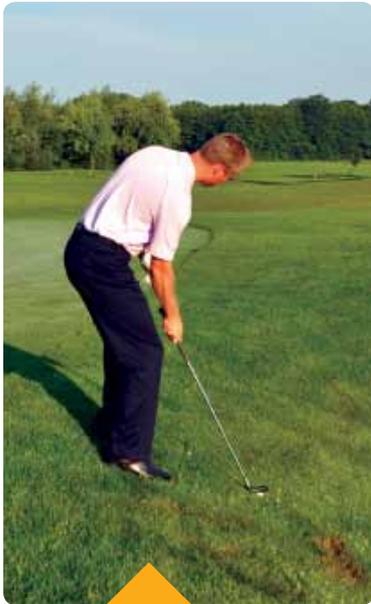
Playing a ball that is below your feet can be quite a scary proposition for many amateur golfers, especially when faced with a small landing area, with out of bounds or a water hazard tight right. I wouldn't exactly call this a Shanker's paradise either as I have seen many a socket raise it's ugly head when a golfer is playing a ball below their feet. If you don't work in harmony with the slope then in your downswing

your body weight is forced forward onto your toes. This throws your downswing, looping it outside of plane to then work back down in towards your body at impact. Nine times out of ten you will hit the ball with the neck of the club head, bingo a classic Shank!

Playing from this lie will automatically steepen your swing plane which results in a ball flight that naturally curves to the right. Many golfers try to fight with this

by closing their clubface at impact or by trying to flatten their swing, which is highly ineffective. The best way to play this shot is to use the slope and turn it to your advantage. You know that your ball will curve to the right so simply aim further left and work with the natural fade spin. It's important to note that the angle of the slope will dictate how much or how little your ball will spin to the right.





1

Align your clubface to the left of your target. Align your body, feet, knee and hips parallel to the direction of your clubface which is aiming to the left of the ball to target line

2

Sit back slightly with your body weight favouring your heels and bend more in the knees to counter-balance the severity of the slope. Grip your golf club higher up the handle. A good way to judge by how much is to slacken your grip and let your hands and arms hang down to find their natural grip height

3

Position your ball inside your left heel slightly further forward than usual which encourages you to hit the shot slightly later, naturally closing the clubface to reduce the slice spin to the right

Your swing will feel more hands and arms because your natural body rotation will be impeded by the slope. You should have the feeling as though you are sitting down in your swing which eliminates the risk of your upper body dangerously lifting

up and out of the shot. You will lose distance so take an extra club or two to compensate for this short fall. A great way to add even more stability to this shot is to play it with pigeon toes, pointing inwards (*See pic marked 3*).

This works great with the nature of the slope and prevents you from falling forward onto your toes during your swing, so give it a try.

Don't fight the slope, work with it. Allow your ball to take its natural course and you'll be onto a winner!

