

Get the Scoop out of Your Chips

Extend another shaft from the end of your club

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One of the hardest points to get across to beginning and intermediate players is the concept of hitting down to get the ball to go up in the air.

The almost irresistible urge for many players is to try to scoop the ball to help it get airborne. The result? Some ugly shots, especially around the green. If you've ever shanked or bladed it, or hit a chip fat, this advice will work for you.

With a simple prop—a shaft or another kind of thin, shaft-like stick (a yardstick will work)—you can immediately groove a nice, crisp downward strike in your chipping game. Hold the shaft next to the grip of your chipping club so that it extends out past the grip and beyond your hip, as I'm showing in the photo here. Now you have instant feedback for your chipping stroke.

In a good chipping stroke, the extended shaft will stay just in front of your left hip all the way through. If you do make a scoop move with the right hand, the extended shaft will bump back against your hip and give you a quick reminder.

This drill also works well for mini-punch shots, which encourages you to keep your hands ahead and low post-impact. 🏌️

