

How to Hit Your Driver Like You've always *IMAGEN*-ed

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Presented by Imagen Golf



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Introduction

It's no secret that the single most difficult club for all golfers to hit – from beginners to PGA Tour professionals – is the driver. Yes, even PGA Pros aren't quite as consistent with this club as they are with their irons. We've all seen it - especially on Sunday afternoons when these professional golfers are in contention. The nerves, the pressure, the spectators can all get inside the head of even the most seasoned PGA Professionals. So it's no wonder that us 'average golfers' have difficulty hitting our drivers too!

In this eBook we'll look at various aspects of the driver from why is it so widely regarded as the most difficult club to hit, to how to hit your driver more consistently, more accurately, and farther than you ever have before. We'll look teach you how to overcome some of the mental hurdles that can be just as detrimental to hitting consistent drives as anything else.

So WHY is the Driver So Difficult to Hit?

The driver is the longest club in your bag (but the driver HAS to be longer than the rest of the clubs because this length is necessary for generating the maximum amount of club head speed in order to produce the greatest distance). The sheer length of the driver makes it necessary to stand the farthest away from the golf ball at address versus any other club in a golfer's bag.

The farther away a golfer stands from his or her ball the more things that can go wrong during the swing. When there are more opportunities for something to go wrong during the swing there are more chances that the golfer may NOT get the club face to contact the ball squarely. And not getting the club face to contact the ball squarely is the number one problem encountered by beginning and even professional golfers!

This brings us to our first secret for hitting your driver like you've always *IMAGEN-ed*...

A Square Clubface at Impact is Essential for Hitting Great Drives

If you've ever visited our website: <https://imagengolf.business.site/> or taken a lesson with me you'll notice that making sure that the face of the golf club contacts the ball squarely is the first tip for beginning golfers and one of the most important golf swing tips that we provide.

Every golf swing tutorial that we create always has this singular goal in mind no matter what your body type, age, experience, how refined, perfect or imperfect your golf swing mechanics are. As long as the face of the driver contacts the ball squarely the resulting shot will be successful.

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

The picture below really demonstrates a nice close-up of a driver hitting the golf ball squarely. That picture demonstrates exactly what we should all strive for when using our drivers. Hopefully, *and likely* before the end of this eBook you will be crushing your drives and making perfect contact with your driver just like the driver in this image!



“The way the clubface contacts the golf ball determines everything...”

Why Is This So Important?

It's because the way the clubface contacts the golf ball determines:

1. The flight path of the ball
2. How accurate a golf shot you will make (i.e. how straight it will go)
3. That the maximum amount of distance will be achieved.

The image we just looked at above is a close-up, side-view of what every golfer should be trying to achieve when the driver's face comes in contact with the golf ball at impact.

I think it's important to actually SEE what you are trying to achieve BEFORE you try to achieve it.

That's why on <https://imagengolf.business.site/> I provide close-up images like the one above in almost all of our online golf tutorials and it's why I also attempt to include instructional videos, as well, whenever I can.

Before we can achieve this perfectly square clubface at impact we need to start from the beginning and analyze all four phases of our golf swing: The set-up, the backswing, the downswing, and the follow-through.

Let's Start with the Proper Set-Up For Hitting Your Driver

All successful golf swings begin with the set-up – or the golfer's stance. The set-up provides a starting point for your swing and it also provides a mental image of where the club head should be when it returns to the spot at which it's about to contact the golf ball. *Keep in mind your mind wants to deliver the club wherever it starts.*

The image below is a front-view of a golfer taking his stance as he prepares to hit his tee shot with driver. This picture demonstrates the proper set-up with the ball in the center to slightly forward in the golfer's stance. If you'll notice it's also the image I selected for the cover of this eBook. It represents the beginning of the golf swing and so I thought it would also be appropriate to represent the beginning of this book.



At this point in the swing the main thing to focus on is having good balance with your knees slightly bent and your weight distributed across both feet. Stand far enough away from the ball so that your arms can be fully extended at the bottom of your swing.

Focus on the position you want the club head to return to, which is with the face of the golf club exactly square to the golf ball at impact. Take your stance to prepare to start your swing exactly in this position – just like in the image above.

By setting up with the clubface square to the ball you will have improved your chances of achieving a square club face when you contact the golf ball at the bottom of your downswing (at impact).

“Always start your swing with the club head in the same position you want it to achieve at the bottom of your swing...”

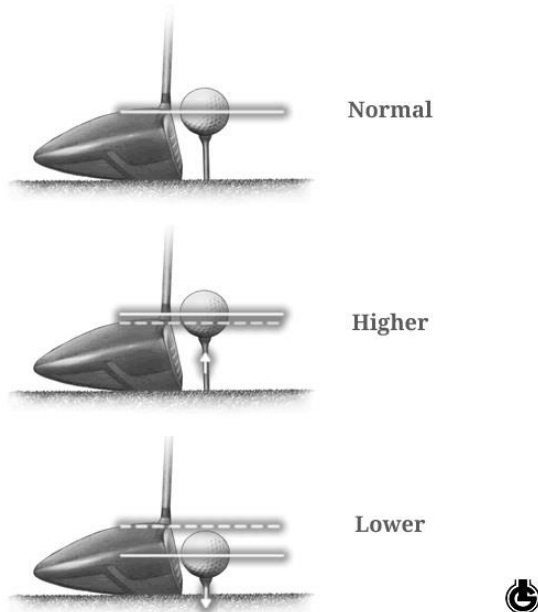
Try to keep the driver impact image and driver set-up image above in your mind when teeing it up for your next drive. This visualization can really help.

And speaking of teeing it up...

Launch Angle is Crucial for Generating the Maximum Distance

One of the ways to increase your distance is by improving your launch angle, this is the angle at which the driver's face contacts the golf ball.

To help accomplish an ideal launch angle, it is generally good practice to tee the ball slightly higher and slightly more forward in your stance (*than you probably are doing now*). See the largest (topmost) of the three images below for an example of a good tee height to use when hitting driver. The image below is also helpful because in addition to demonstrating the tee height I suggest (top) it also depicts incorrect tee heights!



One added tool I discovered is that - in addition to teeing the ball at the height depicted in the largest of the three images above - I also like to tilt my tee just slightly toward my back (right) foot (Note: This is for right-handed golfers. For lefties the tee would be tilted slightly towards your left foot). This allows the ball to be launched at an angle that is facing slightly upwards.

This may sound counter-intuitive to what you've heard about how to hit all of the other clubs in your bag, which is that it is generally good practice to hit down on the ball. And with most other clubs in your bag (like irons) this is certainly true.

The reason that teeing the ball up with a slight angle towards your back foot can help when using your driver, however, is that – with the driver – hitting the ball at a slightly upward sloping angle reduces the amount of backspin imparted to the ball.

In general the less backspin imparted to the ball, the farther it will roll upon landing.

Remember....

“... the distance of any drive is the distance the golf ball travels in the air PLUS the distance the golf ball rolls after landing on the fairway...”

Simply increasing the launch angle by tilting the tee back slightly can help reduce backspin and help you achieve a greater roll and ultimately greater distance.

This little tip has helped many of my students increase their drives by an average of 20 yards!

The Best Swing for Hitting Your Driver Like You've Always *IMAGEN*-ed...

So we've talked about the object of your golf swing – which is to get the club face to contact the ball squarely – and we've talked about some tips to keep in mind when you tee the ball up for your next drive, but what about the swing itself?

The golf swing is the most crucial aspect of any golfer's game and the single most important element of the game to master in order to hit your driver like the professionals.

This is the area of your golf game where you will have to devote the most work and most practice if you truly are serious about hitting your driver as well as the big boys.

Below, we are going to break the golf swing down into its main components in order to help you really understand what it takes to perfect a swing that can achieve maximum accuracy and distance with your driver each and every time.

When I give lessons, I generally break the swing down into its four (4) main parts:

Golf Swing Part 1 – The Set-Up (discussed above)

Golf Swing Part 2 – The Backswing

Golf Swing Part 3 – The Downswing

Golf Swing Part 4 – The Follow-Through

Some golf instructors don't include the set-up as part of the swing, but I like to include the set-up because it is how you prepare for the next three phases of your swing.

So, as we examine the elements of the golf swing here, I will look at each part of the golf swing, individually. Then we'll look at all of the tips we learned about How to Hit Your Driver Like You've Always IMAGEN-ed and see how to put them all together.

Part 2 – The Backswing

The backswing begins with the takeaway – the first, or initial, part of the swing. I consider the backswing to be the entire part of the swing from the takeaway to the very top of your swing. During the takeaway portion of the backswing, you'll want to keep your head down and your left-arm straight (if you are a right-handed golfer).

Take a quick look at the image below for the proper position at the beginning of your backswing:



Mid-way through your backswing, the driver's shaft should be parallel with the ground and in-line with your toes as depicted in the following image:



Your head should remain down and focused on your target – the golf ball – throughout your swing.

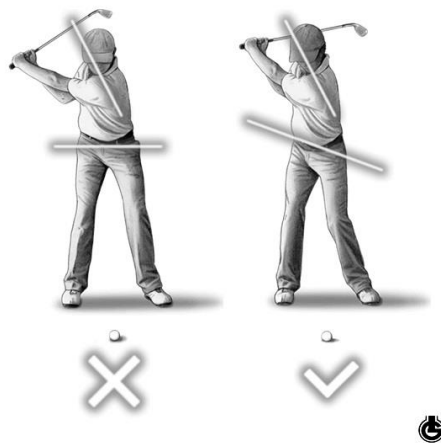


“Have a Friend Assist You When Practicing Your Backswing Drill By Holding Your Head Steady As In The Image Above While You Slowly Take The Club Back.”

Don't have a friend who can come along to help? Don't worry, I didn't either. But I was lucky enough to stumble onto the best golf swing trainer I've ever used and it literally reduced the time it took me to develop a consistent, repeatable golf swing, by months if not years!

As you progress through your backswing, continue to keep your head down while you rotate your shoulders (and hips) away from the ball. This shoulder turn – or rotation – is what builds up the tension between your upper and lower body. This is the energy that will be unleashed during your downswing to produce maximum clubhead speed at impact.

At the top of your backswing, you'll want the club almost parallel to the ground as in the image below:



I find that the proper position at the top of the backswing does vary quite a bit from student to student and depends a lot on flexibility as much as anything else. You can see that Tiger Woods who is extremely flexible can almost take the club beyond parallel at the top of his backswing.

In general, older golfers or those folks with limited flexibility may not be able to get the club parallel with the ground at the top of their backswing, like, say, Camillo Villegas who is one of most flexible golfers on the planet, hence his nickname, Spiderman, or even Tiger Woods. On our website we have some really good golf exercises to increase your flexibility and reduce the risk of injury for you to check out.

But don't feel as if you have to have your driver exactly parallel to the ground at the top of your backswing like the top PGA Tour Professionals mentioned above.

In contrast, you may only be able to achieve something like this (*and that's perfectly fine*):



The main point I am trying to make here is that the position you achieve at the top of your backswing – although it does affect how much power and club head speed you will be able to generate – is not as important as some of the other things we discussed already, like making sure the club face contacts the ball squarely and making sure you are taking the proper set up with your driver.

The key is developing a simple and consistent golf swing that is easy for you to remember and repeat and by breaking the swing into its four main parts it should speed up the learning process, as well.

Part 3 – The Downswing

The downswing is the part of the swing that begins once you have taken the club back as far as you can. It begins once you have achieved the maximum shoulder turn and hip rotation that is comfortable for your body. And it begins at the point that your backswing has stopped.

And now that you know when the downswing begins, let's look at how the downswing occurs – or should occur.

The first part of the downswing should begin with the hips leading the 'uncoiling' of your body and a transference of weight from your right (or back) foot to your left (or leading) foot.

“Contrary to Popular Belief, the Downswing Should Begin With the Hips NOT THE ARMS!”

Your arms should follow, naturally, of course, as your rotation continues toward your front foot. All the while make sure to keep your eye on the target, which is the BALL, and not where you are aiming!

The goal of the downswing is to get the driver's club face back on the ball so that it is square at impact. The form of your swing is not as important as making sure the face of the driver connects squarely with the golf ball.

Now, it is also important not to rush your swing, either, because swing tempo is very important. By maintaining an even tempo throughout your swing, you have the greatest chance that your hands, body and clubface will be where they need to be at impact.

“Try Counting During Each Part of Your Swing in Order to Maintain an Even Tempo. Try Counting 'One-And-Two' During Your Backswing. Then Try Saying 'And-Through' During Your Downswing.”

That simple counting tip is all it took for most of my students to achieve a nice smooth swing tempo, but if you need more help with this part of your swing or feel that sometimes a good training aid is worth its weight in gold, we have reviews of some excellent golf training aids on our website.

Part 4 – The Follow-Through

While the downswing is all about leading with the hips, keeping your head down and your eye on the ball, and contacting the ball squarely, the follow-through is just a matter of continuing what you have already begun during your downswing.

The key here is to continue your hip turn as you gradually shift more weight onto your leading foot. Keep your head down and drive your back foot into the ground as this will help with your power, as well as the transfer of weight onto your leading foot.

Putting it All Together to Hit Your Driver Like You've Always *IMAGEN*-ed

The following 11 steps, wait what, I need to remember 11 steps? Relax most of these become second nature just after a bucket of balls on the range. I'm simply isolating each one to emphasize their importance.

Step 1) When setting up with your driver, try teeing the ball slightly higher and a little more forward in your stance than you do now, on your left heel, and tilt the tee slightly toward your back foot.

Step 2) Align the club face squarely with the ball at address.

Step 3) Stand a comfortable distance away from the ball.

Step 4) Place your feet slightly more than shoulder width apart (for good balance) and bend your knees slightly.

Step 5) Begin your takeaway (backswing) by rotating your shoulders away from the ball while keeping your left arm straight (if you are a right-handed golfer) and your head down. The driver's shaft should eventually be parallel to the ground when the club has reached waist level.

Step 6) Most of your weight should be on your right (or back) foot during your backswing. The goal of the backswing is to create the maximum amount of torque between your shoulders and your hips. This is how you generate the greatest club head speed resulting in farther drives. Think 60-40, 60% of your weight is on your back foot at address.

Step 7) Begin your downswing by initiating it with the hips and NOT the arms. You really need to keep your head down and focused on your target, which is the back of the golf ball.

Step 8) As you thrust your hips towards the ball, begin to transfer your weight from your rear foot to your front foot. Your arms (and club) should naturally follow this rotation.

Step 9) Break your wrists the moment your hands are directly above the ball. This helps increase clubhead speed through impact.

Step 10) With the driver you'll want to make sure the club face contacts the ball squarely and slightly above the center of the club face, just as the head of the driver starts to swing upward. This is where the tip about teeing the ball slightly higher than you may be used to and titling the tee towards your back foot really helps!

Step 11) Follow through with your head down and by driving your hips toward the target and your back foot into the ground just like in this video.

So there you have it. Learning How to Hit Your Driver Like You've Always IMAGEN-ed just takes a little bit of knowledge and a whole lot of practice!

But before we wrap it up, I'd be remiss if I didn't talk about the value of professional instruction. Less than 10-11% of ALL golfers even take a single lesson. Yet the average cost of a driver is over \$400.00 now. Most golfer hit their peak in the first three years of playing the game, they never get better. Regardless of how many balls they hit, how often they practice or how many round they play.

Professional instruction allows the student to see things they may not have ever been able to see and more importantly provides a path to fix what most golfers have no idea how to fix it.

To see our Golf Lesson Options or Book your Lesson:

<https://bookeo.com/imagengolf>

I hope that you enjoyed How to Hit Your Driver Like You've Always *IMAGEN-ed*

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Thank you for being part of our journey to better golf,

See you on the links!

Daniel



About the author: Daniel Guest is a Partner & Head of Golf Instruction at IMAGEN Golf, one of the fastest-growing golf improvement & golf instruction firms in the country.