

PEACE OUT OF TROUBLE

Use this handy tool to get out of otherwise tricky situations.



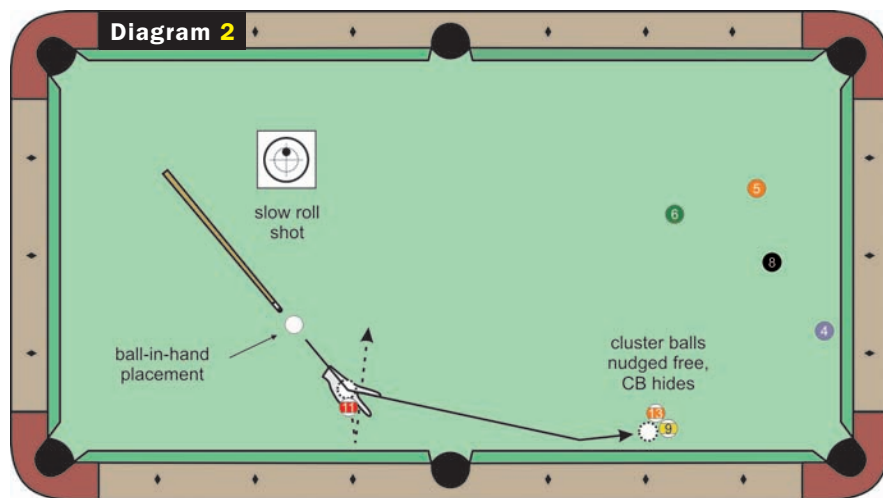
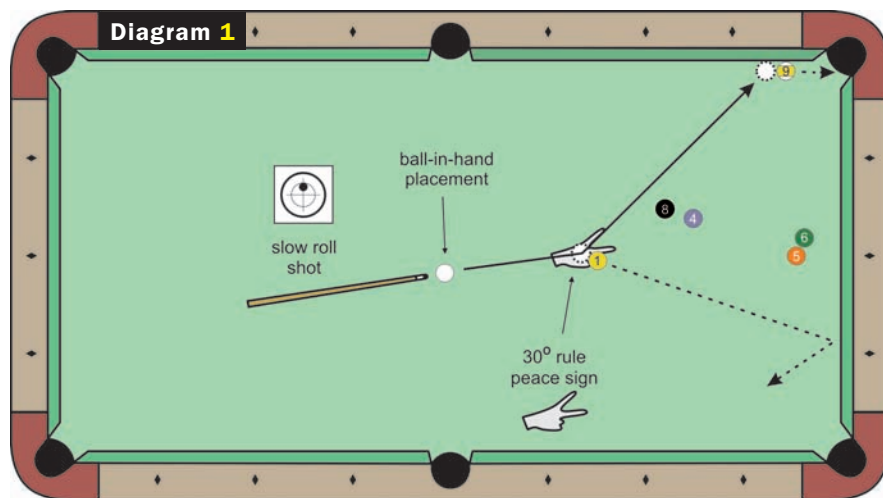
[Note: Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, and technical proofs (TP) can be accessed and viewed online at billiards.colostate.edu. The reference numbers used in the article help you locate the resources on the Web site. You might want to view the resources on a CD-ROM or DVD. Details can be found at dr-dave-billiards.com.]

THIS IS the fourth article based on “The Video Encyclopedia of Pool Shots,” an instructional DVD series I recently created with past *BD* columnist Tom Ross. VEPS contains over 750 shot types within 50 main categories and five major areas. Many clips in the series are also designated as “gems,” indicating shots or concepts important to know as a pool player, whether understood explicitly or in a more intuitive way.

Last month we looked at some gems from the second DVD: “VEPS II: English and Position Control.” This month, we’ll look at selected gems from the third DVD: “VEPS III: Safety Play and Strategy.”

Diagrams 1 and 2 illustrate how to use the 30° rule to plan strategic ball-in-hand shots. The rule predicts that over a wide range of cut angles, between a 1/4-ball and 3/4-ball hit, the cue ball (CB) will deflect very close to 30° from its original direction after hitting the object ball (OB). This angle can be visualized using the peace-sign technique. (A one-page summary of the 30° rule can be found in the instructor/student resources section of my Web site.)

Diagram 1 (VEPS Shot No. 408, demonstrated in NV B.75) shows a 30° billiard opportunity with ball in hand. Whenever the 9 ball is close to a pocket, you should look for a possible combination, carom or billiard shot for the win. Here, we don’t have a reasonable combo, but a billiard (CB carom) off the 1 ball is available. Diagram 1 shows how you can use the 30° peace sign to aim



the shot. If you align the index finger of your right hand in the desired billiard direction to the 9 ball, the middle finger defines the line where the CB must be placed for a slowly rolling half-ball hit. With a well-calibrated peace sign, this shot is much easier than it may appear.

Diagram 2 (VEPS Shot No. 409, demonstrated in NV B.75) shows another example of how you can use the 30° rule, in this case to aim a cluster break-out safety during a game of 8-ball. You have ball in hand and are playing stripes. If you don’t address the 9-13 cluster immediately, you have very little chance

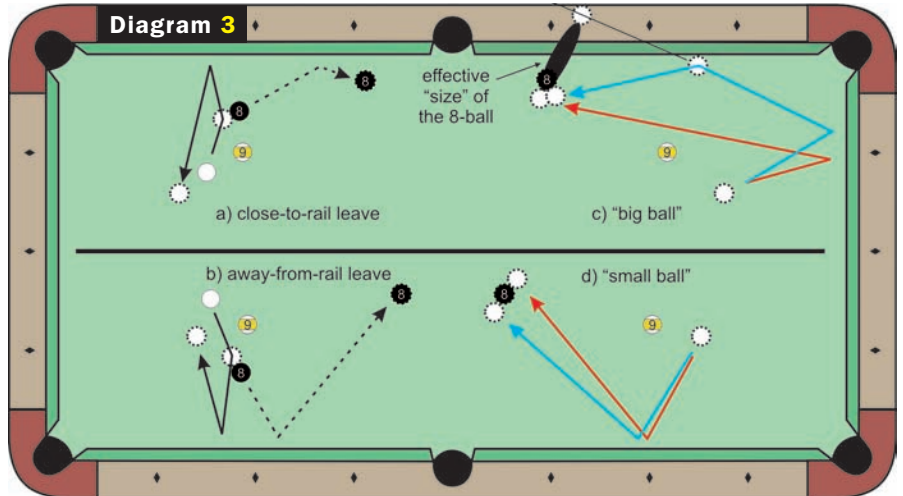
to win this game, because neither of these balls can be pocketed easily as they lie. You also can’t leave your opponent with an easy shot, because he or she will likely run out. One option is to billiard the CB off the 11 ball to break out the cluster. The shot is aimed using the 30° peace sign as described earlier. With soft speed, the 9 ball and 13 ball are separated slightly and block any direct route to the solids. Your chances are now good to win this game. Whenever you get ball in hand after a well-executed safety or an opponent’s mistake, you should always look for 30°

rule opportunities such as the ones in Diagrams 1 and 2.

Diagram 3 (VEPS Shot No. 370, demonstrated in NV B.76) shows two possible ball layouts after a 9-ball safety. In shot "a," the 8 ball is left fairly close to the rail; in shot "b," the 8 ball is left away from the rail. The CB is hidden just as well in both cases. Your opponent has the option to jump at the 8 ball, but let's assume that he or she will be kicking. Which is the better place to leave the 8 ball? Cue the "Jeopardy!" music...

With the 8 ball about one ball's width off the rail, its effective "size" is much larger than if it were out in the open. As shown in Diagram 3c, there is a very wide margin for error with the 8 ball sitting so close to a rail. The two extreme CB paths are shown, but every CB path in between also makes contact. The effective size of the 8 ball at this position is four or five times the actual size of the ball, making it almost impossible to miss.

Diagram 3b shows the better safety option, where the 8 ball is left out in the open. As illustrated in Diagram 3d, the



effective size of a ball here is just the size of the ball, regardless of the path. The margin for error is much smaller when kicking at a ball sitting a good distance from a rail. So, it's important to remember, when trying to hide the CB, don't leave the OB close to a rail.

Well, I hope you enjoy and benefit from my series of articles highlighting shots and gems from the "Video Encyclopedia

of Pool Shots" series. Next month, we'll look at selected gems from the fourth DVD: "VEPS IV: Banks, Kicks, and Advanced Shots."

David Alciatore is author of the book, DVD and CD-ROM, "The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards;" the DVD Series, "The Video Encyclopedia of Pool Shots;" and the DVD, "High-speed Video Magic."

Video Encyclopedia of Pool Shots

by Dr. Dave and Tom Ross

See more information at:
dr-dave-billiards.com

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*** 750 shots in 50 categories ***
*** 100 gems of the game ***
*** all of pool's secrets revealed ***
*** the definitive video reference and resource ***
*** everything you need to elevate your game to the next level ***

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Disc I - Basic Shot Making and Position

Disc II - English and Position Control

Disc III - Safety Play and Strategy

Disc IV - Banks, Kicks, and Advanced Shots

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