

REUSE AND RECYCLE

Try to modify classic shots to come up with something new.

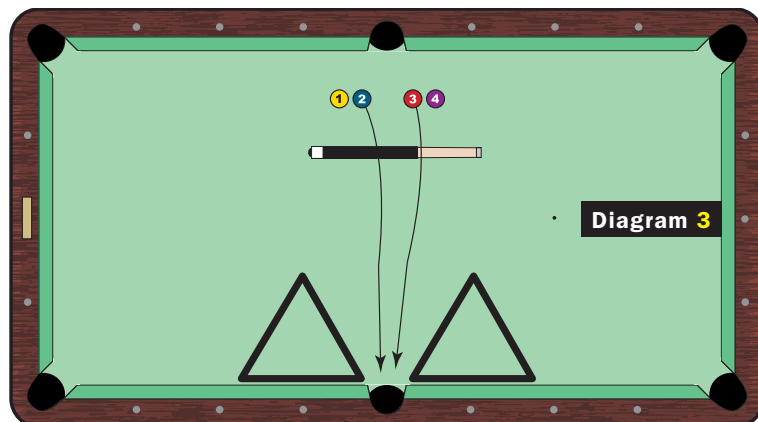
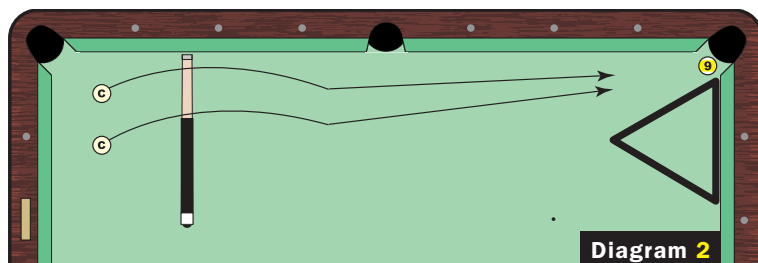
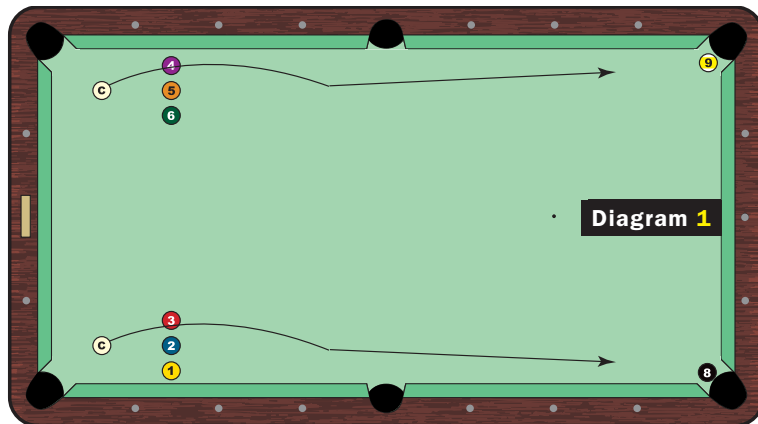
So how do you come up with all of those trick shots?" is a common question I get when competing or performing at an event. To be honest, most new shots created today are built from older concepts. The pros are always modifying old shots to fit their style — or to make them a little more flashy for TV.

I've found one way to add some excitement to a normal jump shot is to do it one-handed. Take the shot shown in **Diagram 1** as an example. The bottom half (sending the cue ball over the 1, 2 and 3 balls) requires you to jump the cue ball over the line of blocking balls, and make the 8 ball in corner pocket. To execute this successfully, hold the jump cue like you would a dart, between your thumb and index finger. Keep the cue stick out in front of you, with the butt of the jump cue pointing directly at your nose. Jab your arm and wrist forward like you are throwing a dart — just don't let go of the cue stick!

Most players will have trouble with a one-handed jump to start out, so begin by hitting the cue ball rather lightly. Try jumping over a pencil. Once you have that mastered, start jumping over a shaft, then a row of chalk, and finally a line of balls. For each increment, you will need to hit the cue ball harder and harder.

Now, I have always been able to shoot with my left hand. So after I mastered the one-handed jump shot, it was only natural for me

to try it lefty. After some practice, I was able to do it with consistency and I created the full shot shown in **Diagram 1**. Here, I hit the bottom shot with my right hand and the top shot with my left. After a few competitions, though, most players were able to hit that shot, so I decided to make it a little harder. Instead of jumping one ball righty and then the other lefty, I decided to try both at the same time.



This approach is illustrated in **Diagram 2**. Here, both cue balls are together with a barrier in front of them (normally I use the butt end of a cue stick). The object of this shot is to jump both cue balls over the barrier simultaneously, one with the right hand and one with the left hand, and have both balls go into the corner pocket. The rack is added against the short cushion, because the two balls sometimes collide and may otherwise miss the pocket.

Using the same technique as before, hold the jump cues like darts and keep both directly in front of you. Because you have two cues, the butts can't both point at your nose. In this case, I usually have the butts pointing just below my eyes. It takes a lot of practice, but if you can jump each ball on its own, you should eventually be able to jump both at the same time.

The shot shown in **Diagram 3** is a much more difficult variation that requires you to jump both balls simultaneously with two jump cues. The catch is that you need to do it one-handed, holding both cues with the same hand. The second set of balls is a repeat of the first part, but done lefty. The difficulty of this shot prevents a detailed explanation of how to perform it, but I wanted to throw this shot in so you could get a sneak preview before you see it performed on TV.