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# How to Achieve That High Spinning Wedge Shot

It is probably no secret to you that a powerful wedge shot depends on your ability to get maximum backspin on the golf ball. But if you are like many amateur golfers, you are at a loss for how to actually get that maximum spin.

As it turns out, there is only one, very simple key to increasing your backspin. However, there are several factors and considerations that influence your ability to tap into that key and start hitting the kind of wedge shots that will improve your scorecard.

I am going to walk you through:

- the secret to spin,
- · the factors that can improve or interfere with your ability to increase spin,
- · the techniques that will sharpen your wedge shots, and
- how to drill those techniques so they become second nature.

If you are an experienced golfer, you may know that the concepts behind high spinning wedge shots can be complicated. I am only sticking to general information here, so that these concepts can be easily understood and applied by golfers of every level.

It is also important to note that the following information is based on a 75-yard shot.

"Very informative video and very nicely explained."

~Raza K.



## The Single Key

Achieving maximum spin depends on one very simple key:

You have to get clean contact between the ball and the clubface.

When you get that clean contact with no interference from elements like dirt, grass, or water, you create friction between the ball and the face, and friction is what creates spin.

This is why you see the pros achieve maximum spin on their wedge shots time and time again. They have mastered the precision necessary to consistently get that clean contact.

While you may not be ready for the PGA Tour, you can at least increase your probability of maximizing your own spin. All you have to do is understand a few key concepts and learn how to apply them to your wedge shots.

#### **Important Concepts**

Before getting into the steps you need to take in order to get that maximum spin, there are a few concepts you should understand. These points will help you make sense of the advice that follows, enabling you to execute that advice to the best of your ability.

#### Launch

When making these wedge shots, you want your ball to launch at a much lower angle than you might expect. The ideal launch angle falls in the range of 27-32 degrees. If it is difficult to visualize a numerical angle, think of it as an airplane taking off. The plane doesn't shoot straight up or fly low along the ground. It takes a steady, gradual rise. That is what you want your ball to do.

#### **Spin Rate**

The ideal spin rate is around 8,000, give or take a little.

#### Loft

Loft refers to the angle between the clubface and the shaft of the club. Each club has a different loft, and most wedges have the angle of loft imprinted on the clubhead. Knowing that you want a 27-32-degree angle of launch, you may look at many of your clubs and think they can only work against you. Won't a 58-degree loft result in a much higher launch than you want?

Not necessarily. There are actually two types of loft - one you cannot control and one you can.









Static loft is the loft that is built into your golf club.

<u>Dynamic loft</u> is the loft delivered at impact. This refers to the angle of your clubface at the moment you make contact with the golf club. You will learn how to control the dynamic loft later. First, let's cover the factors that can influence your spin.

### Important Factors

There are several factors that can make or break your spin rate before you even take your swing. Some of these things may seem obvious or pertain to good habits you have already adopted as a responsible golfer. Nevertheless, it is important to review these, as you may not realize how crucial these factors are to achieving maximum spin.

#### The clubface must be clean

You may have noticed that when you play with a brandnew wedge, the ball spins like crazy. That is because the club is pristine. There is absolutely no dirt interfering with the contact between the ball and the clubface.

Always make sure you are making your wedge shots with a clean clubface. This includes using a brush or golf tee to clean out the grooves.



#### The clubface must be dry

Your clubface may occasionally get wet, like when you are playing an early morning round and there is still dew on the grass. In such instances, you may already have the instinct to dry off your clubhead. Always follow that instinct. Water will compromise the clean interaction between the clubface and the ball.

#### Use a ball designed to spin

Golf balls are not all created equal. Not only are some balls of higher quality than others, but they are also designed with different goals in mind. For example, Pinnacle golf balls are of great quality, but they are not designed to spin. For maximum spin, I like to use Titleist Pro V.







#### Type of lie makes a significant difference

At this point, it probably comes as no shock to you that the more debris surrounding your ball, the more difficult it will be to get good spin. If your ball lies in taller grass, for example, you are likely to catch some of the grass in your swing and create interference in contact.

All of these factors can help you set yourself up for a high spinning wedge shot. Now, let's talk about the technique that will help you make the most of this setup.



## Technique

#### **Shallow Angle of Attack**

The first trick to achieving that maximum spin is to come at the ball with what we refer to as a "shallow angle of attack (AOA)." That means that the club is traveling at a shallow angle as it is coming into the golf ball, rather than coming down on the ball – and the ground – at a steep downward angle. When you swing at a steep angle, your clubface is likelier to grab grass and dirt along its



path, which will interfere with contact and severely reduce spin. A shallow AOA increases your odds of achieving a clean interaction between the ball and the clubface.

#### **Decrease Loft**

Remember that while you cannot control the loft that is built into your club (static loft), you can control the loft of your clubface at the moment of impact (dynamic loft). So while your club may be lofted at angle that is far too high, you can still achieve that ideal launch of 27-32 degrees. You can set yourself up to control the dynamic loft by:



- 1. Positioning the golf ball just slightly back from the center of your stance.
- 2. Allowing the handle to have a slight forward shaft lean, as happens naturally with the ball set back in your stance.

This setup forces you to hold your club at a slight angle, which tips the clubface forward, reducing the loft and helping you get that lower launch.



#### **The Swing**

When you take your swing, there are two tricks that will help you maintain the dynamic loft and shallow AOA that you have set yourself up to accomplish.

 Work the handle and the clubhead through the golf ball at the same rate. You may feel an instinct to release the clubhead hard - that is to say, you might notice a flick in your wrists at the bottom of your



- swing, as though you are casting a fishing line toward the ground. You want the swing to feel more like an exaggerated broom sweep, with the clubhead and handle working together in one steady motion. This will allow you to control the dynamic loft and get that low launch.
- 2. Get slightly taller through the strike. As you swing through, pull your body up with your hands arcing slightly upward and inward. This is your key to accomplishing that shallow AOA.

This is a lot of information, and if you are hearing many of these concepts for the first time, the thought of applying all of them may feel a little overwhelming. As with all golf skills, the trick is not to remember and apply them immediately in your golf game. The trick is to drill this new technique until it becomes second nature your body.

#### Drill

When drilling these wedge shots, tee the ball up just above the grass.

When you clip the ball off the top of the tee, you more naturally draw the handle up through the strike and get that shallow angle of attack. This helps you achieve better interaction between the ball and clubface and gives you a feel for how a high spinning wedge shot should feel.



"Thank you. This video is awesome and I learned a lot. Please keep the videos coming.." ~Ranbir S.



## Next Steps

Now that you have a more comprehensive understanding of the hows and whys of the high spinning wedge shot, give yourself some time to let these concepts sink in. Take a little time on driving range to drill your wedge shot and apply what you have learned. Then let me know how it goes.

Did these techniques work for you? Do you have any questions?

We look forward to hearing from you!









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