

Tear-out Tips

Quick drills you can take to the practice area

This month...

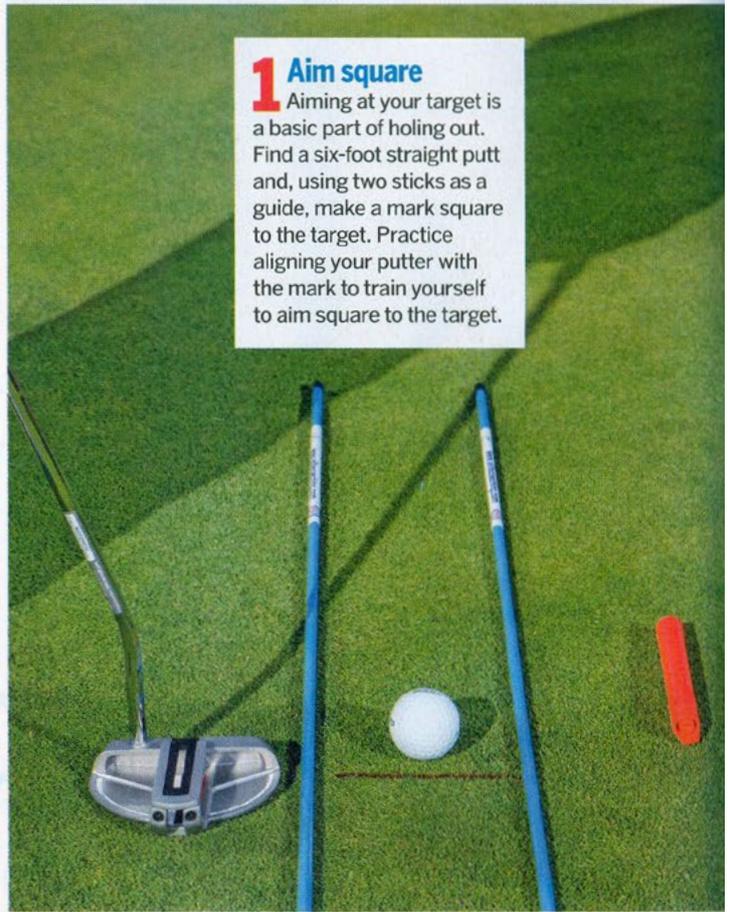
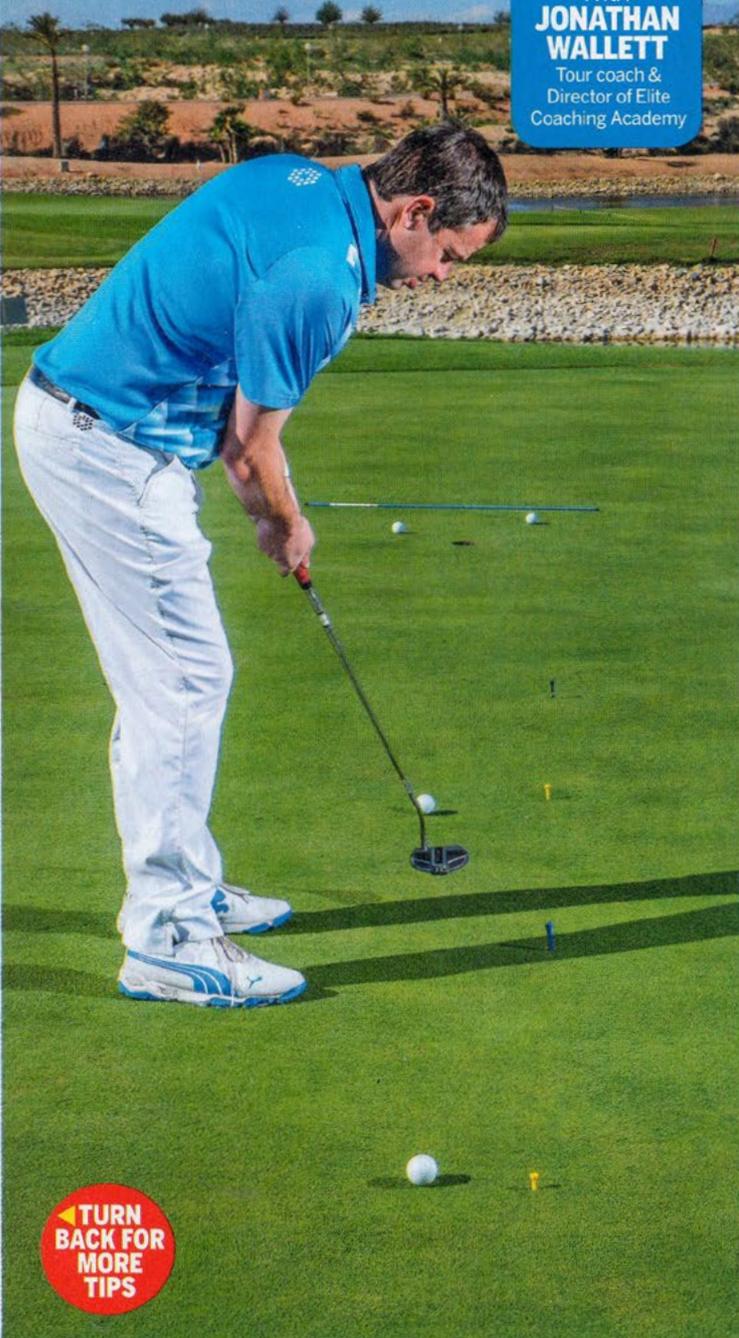
HOLING OUT

Putting drills Simple tips to help you putt like Ryder Cup star David Howell

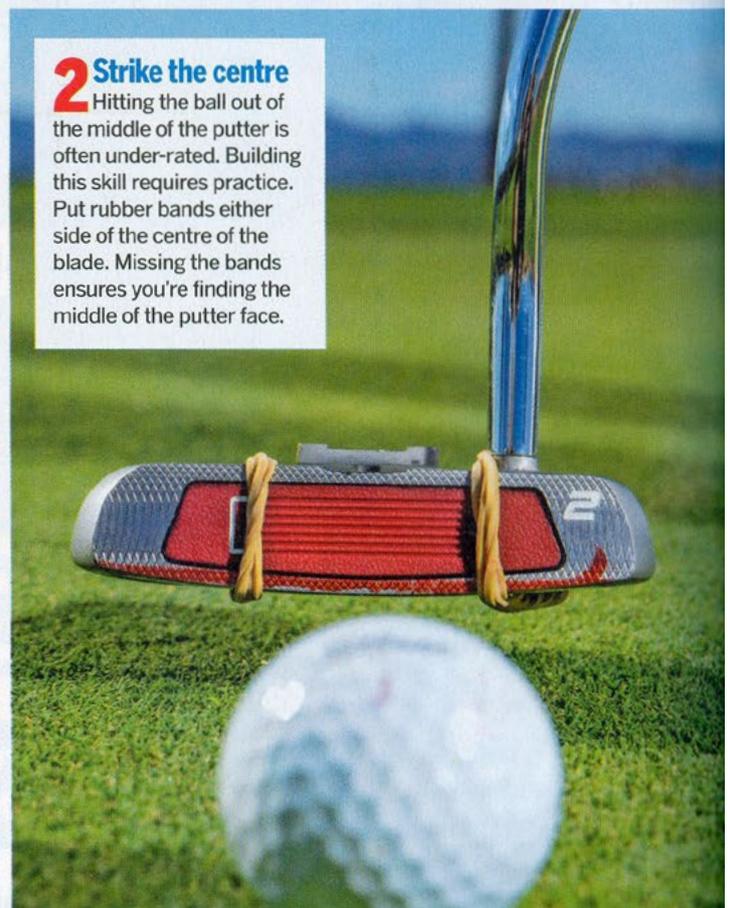
You arrive at your club with 20 minutes 'til your tee time. There's just time to roll a few putts on the practice green. But what are you actually working on and hoping to improve in this time? The following tips and drills give an insight into what my Tour players – like David Howell – work on. Try them... and enjoy the benefits.



With **JONATHAN WALLETT**
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1 Aim square
Aiming at your target is a basic part of holing out. Find a six-foot straight putt and, using two sticks as a guide, make a mark square to the target. Practice aligning your putter with the mark to train yourself to aim square to the target.

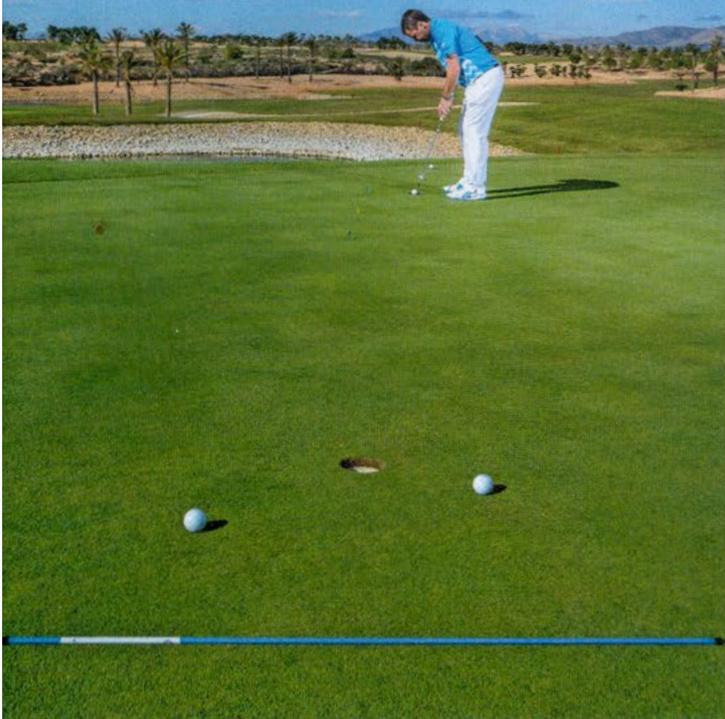


2 Strike the centre
Hitting the ball out of the middle of the putter is often under-rated. Building this skill requires practice. Put rubber bands either side of the centre of the blade. Missing the bands ensures you're finding the middle of the putter face.

TURN
BACK FOR
MORE
TIPS

6 Distance control

Put a club 3ft behind the hole. Set up five tees – the first eight feet from the hole and after at two-foot intervals. The challenge is to get five putts between the shaft and the hole. If it's short, or touches the shaft, you must start again.



5 Eyes shut for feel

Feel is a key skill in all parts of golf, but especially in putting. Nick Faldo used this drill and my players do too. Try to group balls together with your eyes closed, guessing whether the ball is short or long before opening your eyes.



4 All about rhythm

Good distance control comes from consistent rhythm. Practice with one hand and feel as though the putter is almost swinging itself. Don't aim at a hole, just look to putt the balls in a tight group – then repeat with two hands.

3 Find the heart of the cup

Make your practice tougher by placing two tees on either edge of the hole. This will challenge you to hit the ball into the centre of the cup and make it easier to hole putts once you get out on the course.

