

From my Heart... ...To Your Table

Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in this compilation of drills I've created—or simply enjoy using—with my students over the years. I hope you have as much fun working through them as I've had putting them together for you.

This will remain a work in progress, and I'll continue adding to it as more drills come to life.

An online version of these drills can be found at:
PoolBilliards.co/SAMM

If you have any questions or feedback,
don't hesitate to reach out directly:
sammdiep.com/contact

Samm Diep
Master Certified Instructor



HOW TO USE THIS HANDOUT:

Common Acronyms you may see used:

A.S.S.
Angle (cut angle)
Speed (how fast/"hard")
Spin (tip position)

OB
Object Ball

CB
Cue Ball

BIH
Ball in Hand

Challenge Level:



Not all of the drills will work perfectly on every table size, so don't stress if it doesn't look exactly like it's illustrated.

Do your best—and most importantly, **have fun!** Give yourself grace, and take plenty of breaks if you find yourself struggling. These drills are designed to help you develop specific skills, so don't move on the moment you're successful. Pick a new shot or drill each session to tackle, and work on it until you own it.

Wherever available, I've included a QR code you can scan to access the corresponding supporting video.

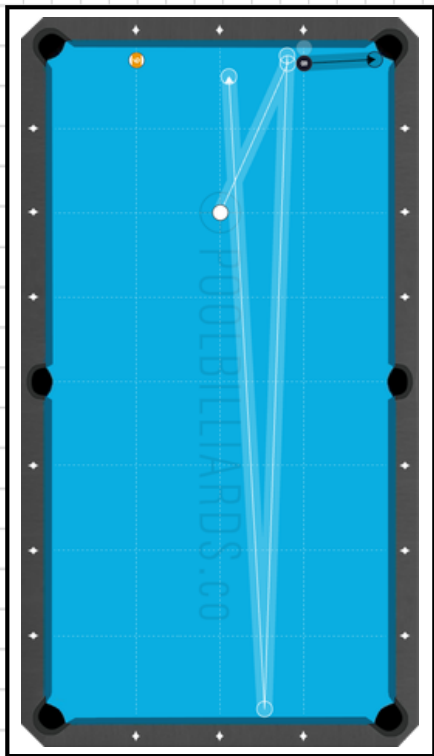
Even if it's not illustrated, always practice every drill in both directions.

Diagrams created using: PoolBilliards.co/SAMM



No-Frills Drills

THIN CUT ON THE 8 FOR POSITION ON THE 9

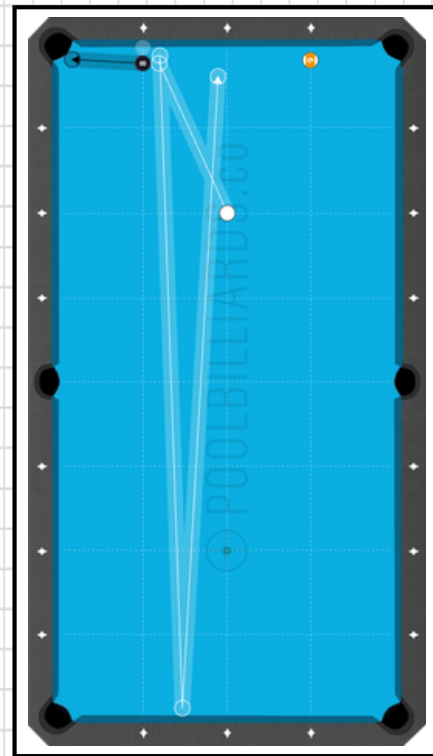


The key to this shot is a full commitment to pocketing the ball—ideally to the thin side of the pocket.

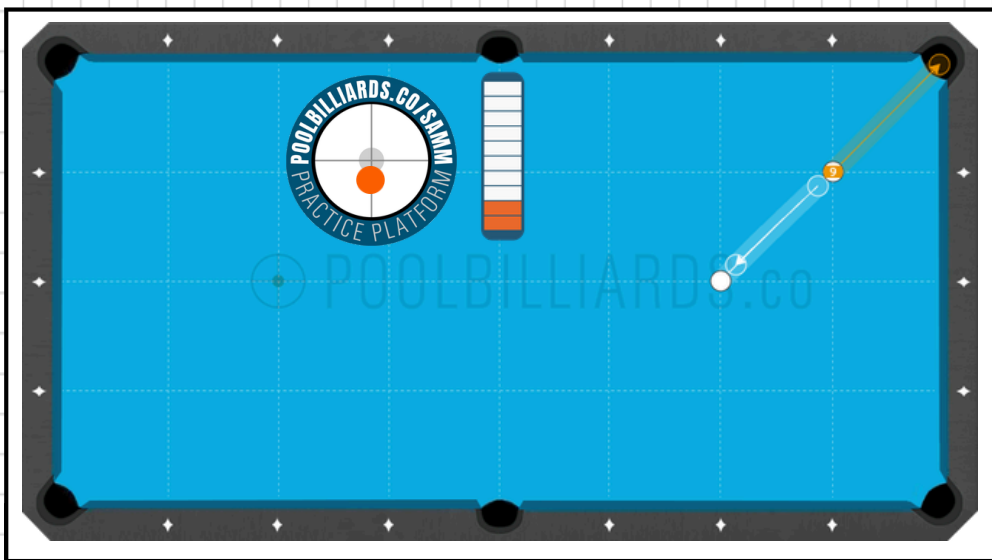
Visualize a clean stun shot. No side spin is needed here. The cut angle will do more work than any spin could.



PoolBilliards.co/SAMM



THE “BABY DRAW”



HOT TIP:

Do not approach this shot with a draw shot in mind. First, decide on your speed. Then step into your stance as if you're planning to shoot a stop shot. Now, just lower your tip slightly and just like that, you have your **baby draw**.

SCAN FOR VIDEO:



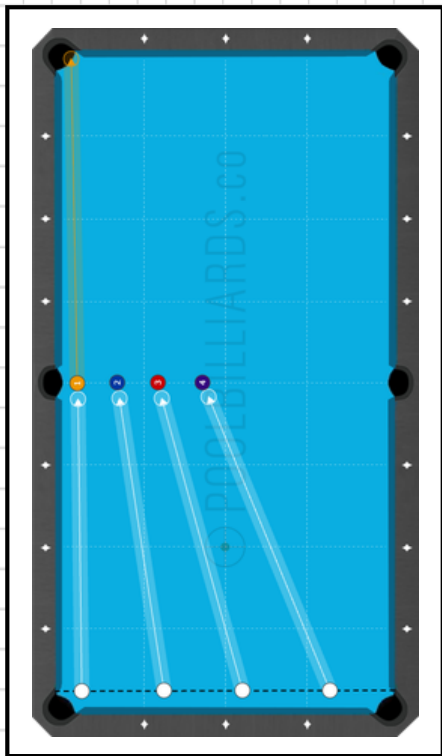
INSTRUCTIONS:

Pocket the object ball and draw the cue ball back to the starting position.

No-Frills Drills



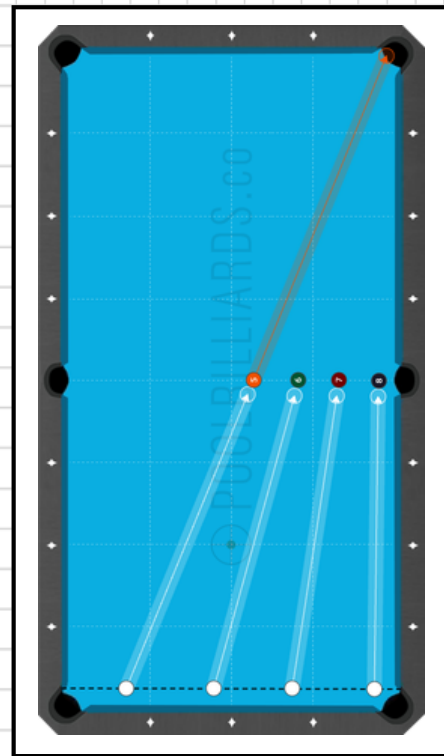
LONG SHOTS WITH CUE BALL ON THE RAIL



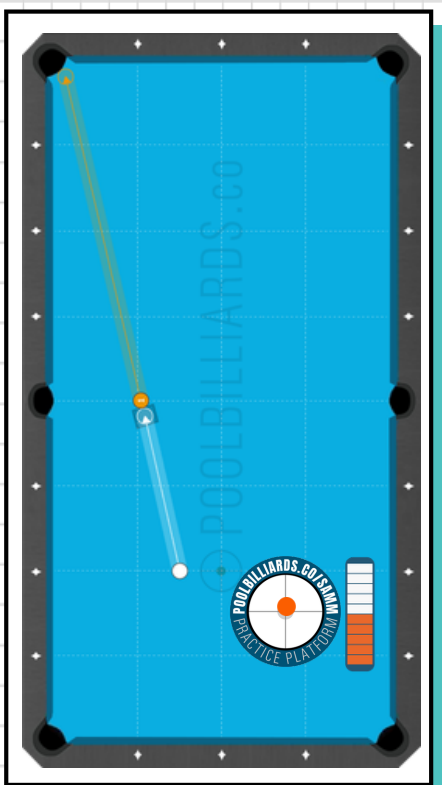
Hot Tips:

- While standing, place your cue along the shot line first.
- Then, calmly build your bridge around the cue.
- Use an open bridge here to keep a clear view of the cue ball.
- Keep your grip relaxed, and use only as much speed as needed.

SCAN FOR VIDEO:



DEVELOPING THE BREAK SHOT



Goal on the break:

- Squat the rock (don't let the CB hit a rail)
- Get a little hop (side effect of perfect speed & square hit)
- Pocket a ball (not guaranteed but there are ways to increase your chances)

Practice this shot on both sides of the table. **Goal of this drill:**

- Shoot this with your full stroke (without dropping the elbow)
- Closed bridge
- Eventually using your break cue

Questions to ask yourself while practicing the break shot:

- Did my tip finish into the cloth?
- What did the CB do?
- Did I hit the head ball where I was aiming?

SCAN FOR VIDEO:



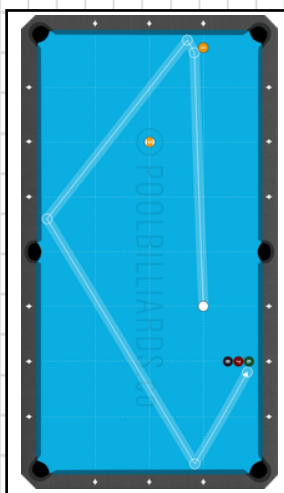
No-Frills Drills

THIN THE 1 FOR 9B SAFETY

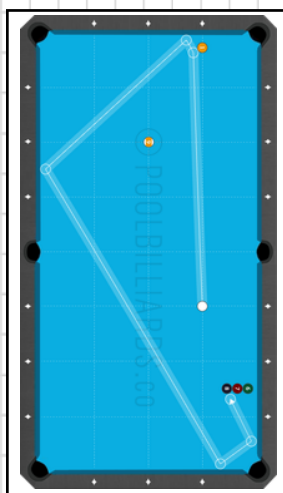
Often in safety play, one ball—the CB or the OB—requires more precise speed control. In this case, we're thinning the object ball, so we know it won't travel far. This exercise will help you develop a feel for the exact ball hit fraction and side-spin required to achieve each line.

Try to use the same ball hit fraction for all three shots.

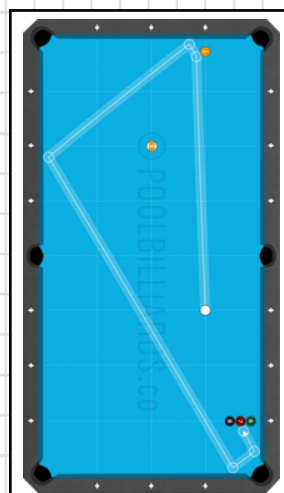
Approach these shots just as you would a potting attempt. Decide and commit to your A.S.S. (Aim, Speed, Spin), then trust your process to execute.



Very thin, $\frac{1}{8}$ ball or thinner



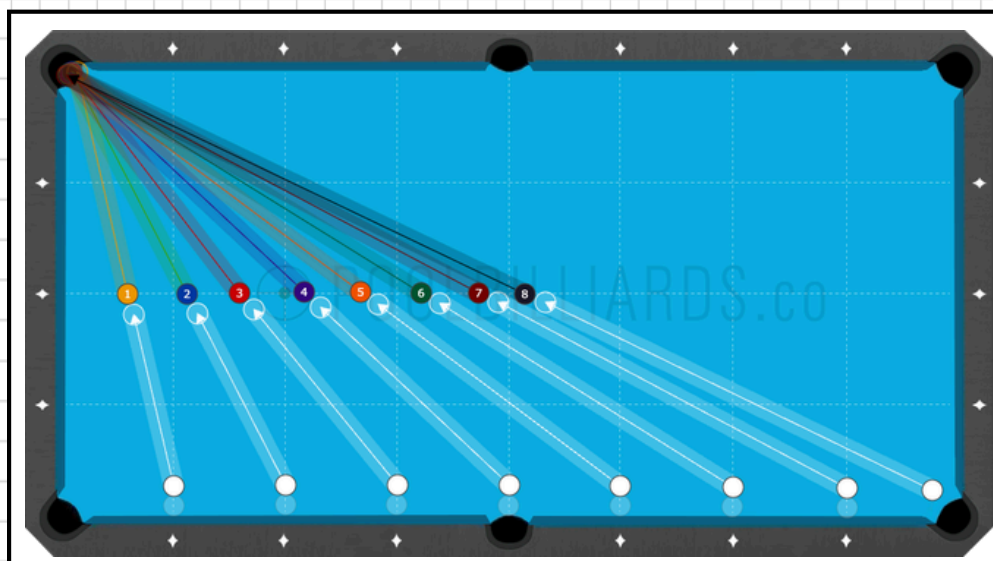
Very thin, $\frac{1}{8}$ ball or thinner



Very thin, $\frac{1}{8}$ ball or thinner



ELEVATED STOP SHOTS (with CB on the rail)



SCAN FOR VIDEO:

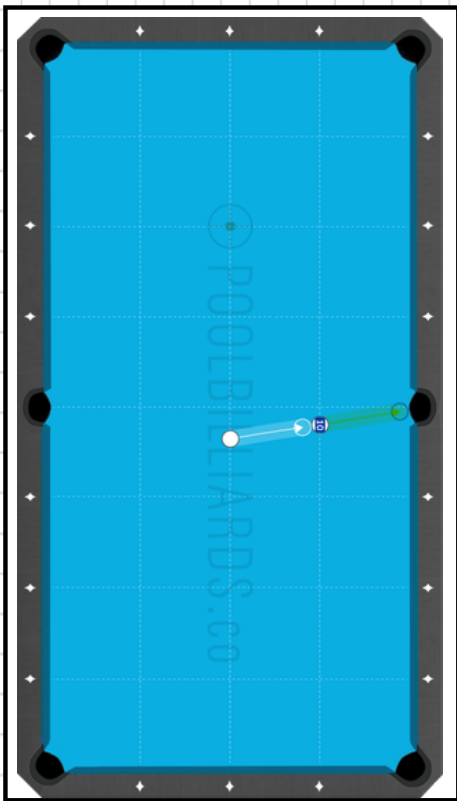


HOT TIPS:

- Keep your body still & relaxed
- Tip should finish down into the table
- Keep your eyes on the CB last (or OB if it's not too far away, as long as it doesn't make your head move)

No-Frills Drills

MASTER THE STOP SHOT Where is the cue ball sliding?



The stop shot is one of the most important shots to master. Before we can learn to follow or draw to move the cue ball around the table, we need a solid understanding of the slide window—the precise zone where the CB will stop when it strikes the OB.

Start with a BIH stopshot in the side pocket with the CB 1-diamond away from the OB. Aim for the very center of the CB at a Medium speed. Find the true equator of the CB.

As you move on to the corner pocket stop shots, practice shooting them with various speeds and tip positions. Really own it.

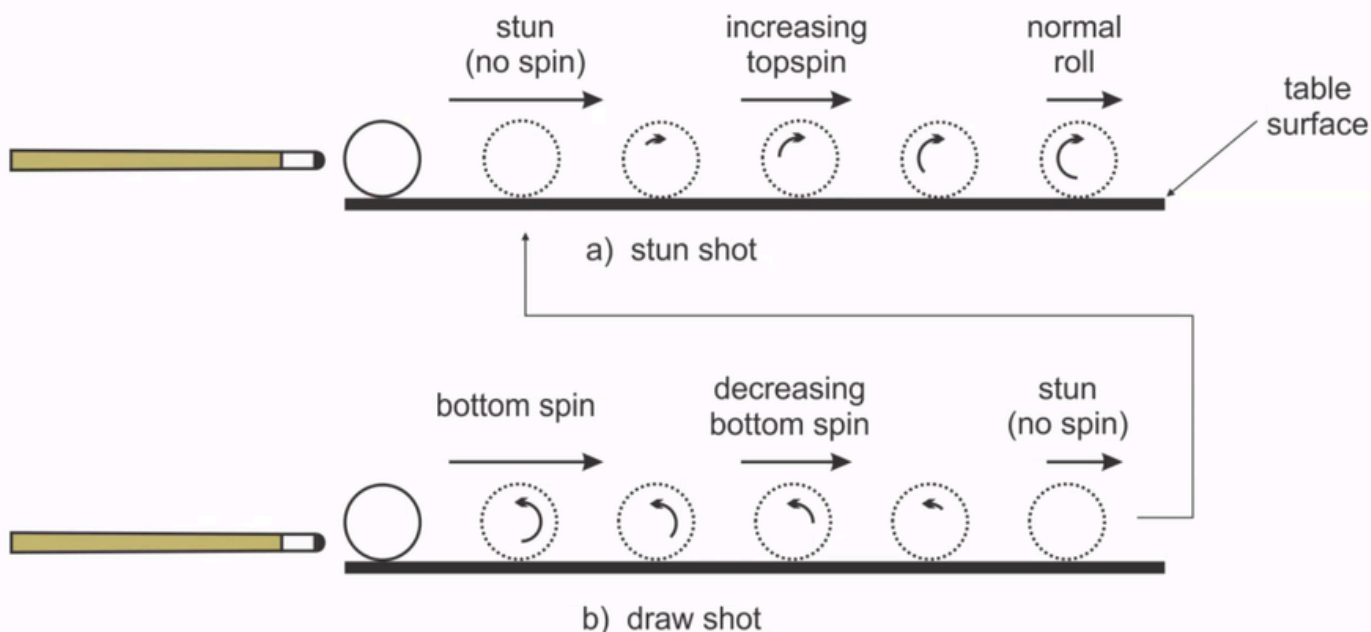
Remember: Lower = Slower
(to achieve the same results)



This graphic from Dr. Dave illustrates how CB based on your tip position. When straight on, if the CB contacts the OB when there is “no spin” it stops.

Draw and Follow Quick-reference

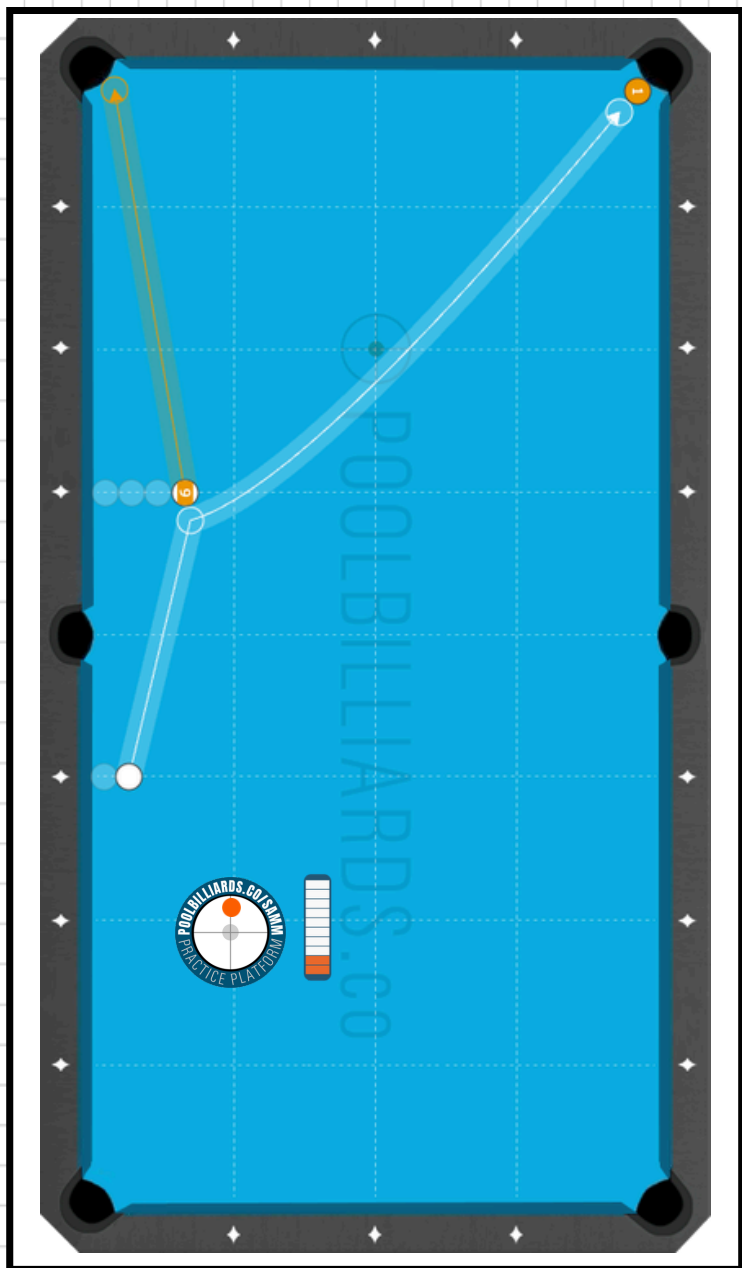
billiards.colostate.edu



No-Frills Drills



SAME BACK-CUT SHOT FOR 5 CB POSITIONS



SET UP:

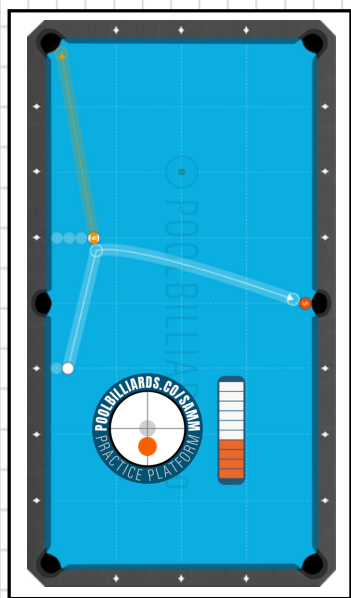
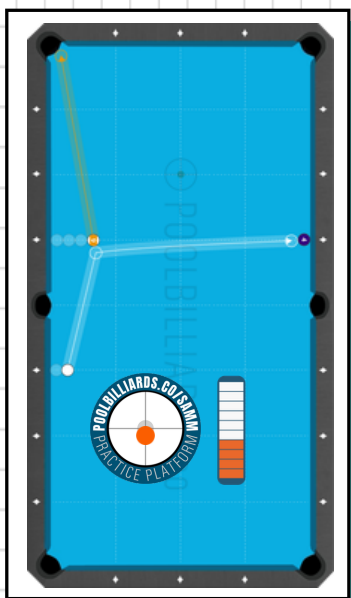
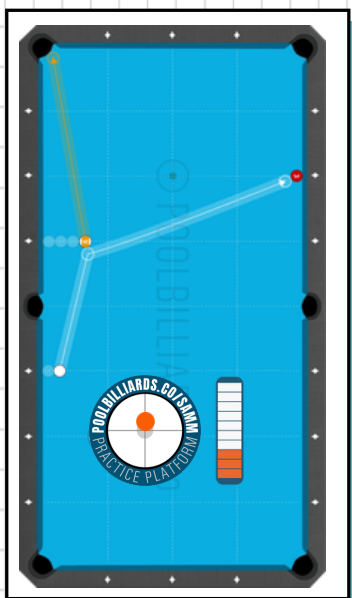
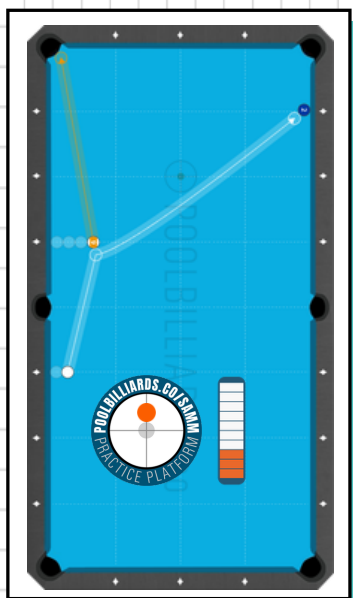
- Object ball 3 balls off the rail at the third diamond
- Cue ball 1 ball off the rail at the fifth diamond

Objective:

Pocket the object ball and send the cue ball on 5 different lines using only the center vertical axis (*no sidespin required*)

See illustrations below for references.

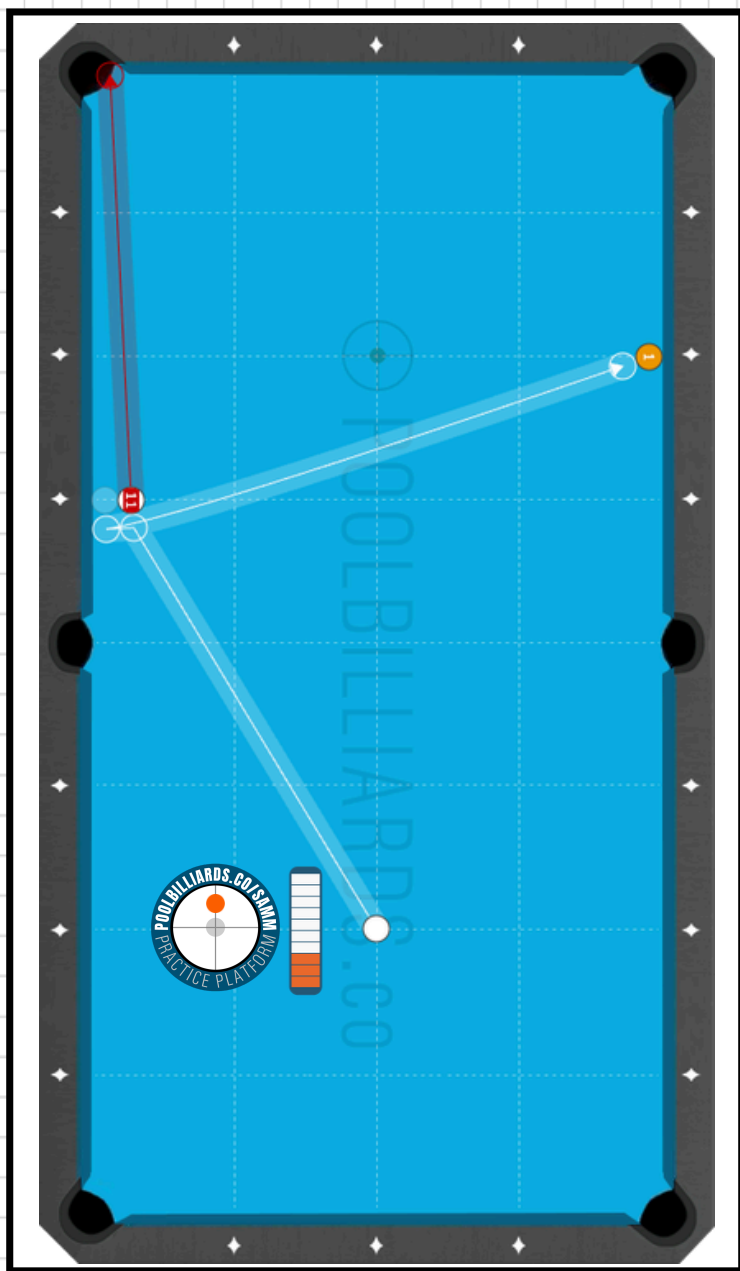
SCAN FOR VIDEO:



No-Frills Drills



SAME RAIL CUT SHOT FOR 5 CB POSITIONS



SET UP:

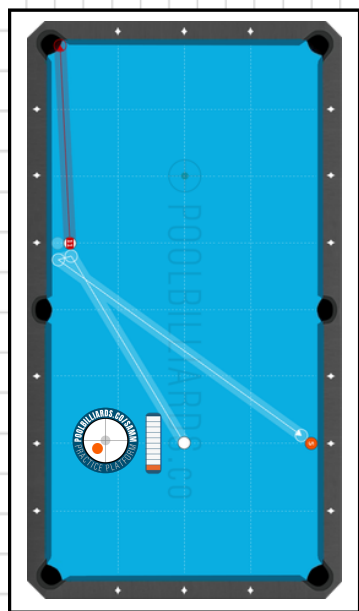
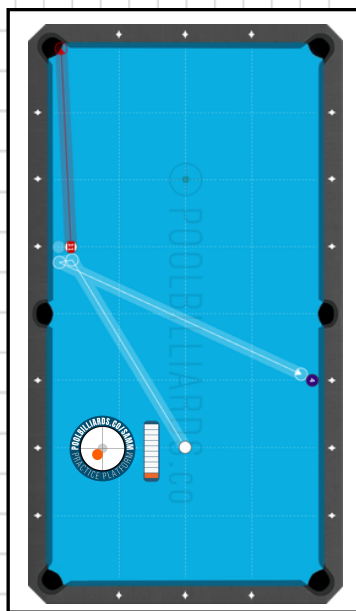
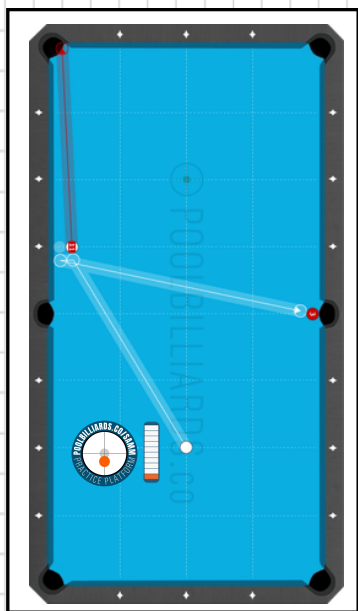
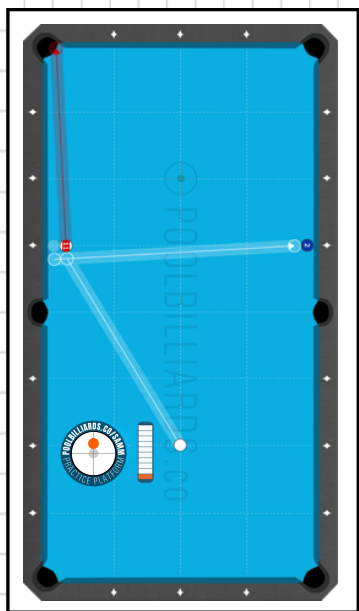
- Object ball 1 ball off the rail at the third diamond
- Cue ball on head spot

Objective:

Pocket the object ball sending the cue ball 1 rail on 5 different paths into OB positions 1-5.

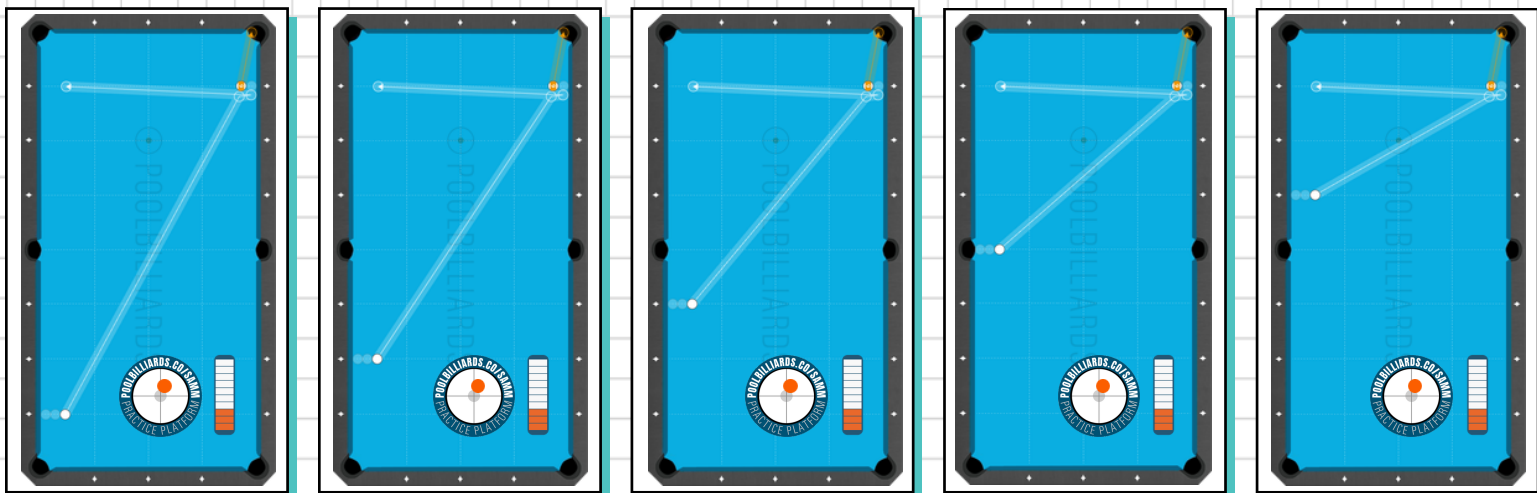
See illustrations below for references. Use only as much sidespin as needed—and only when there's no other option.

SCAN FOR VIDEO:



No-Frills Drills

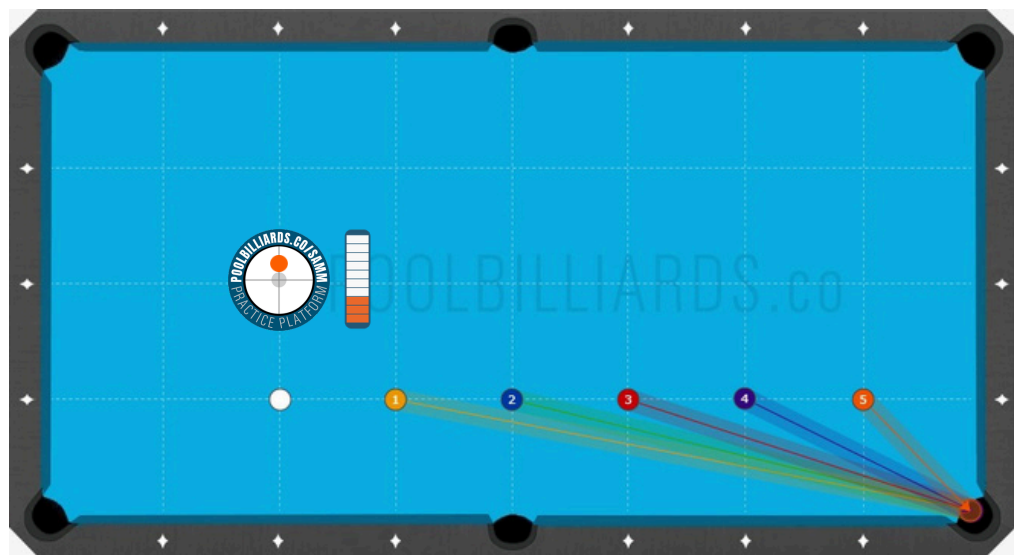
CORNER POCKET CUT SHOT FROM 5 POSITIONS



Free Shot! Practice pocketing this ball from the various CB positions without scratching. OB is 1 ball from the rail. CB is 2 balls from the rail. Try a touch of outside (right sidespin, per diagram) versus elevating your cue.

Think: Pocket Speed

5 Position Progressive Cut Drill w/ Fixed CB



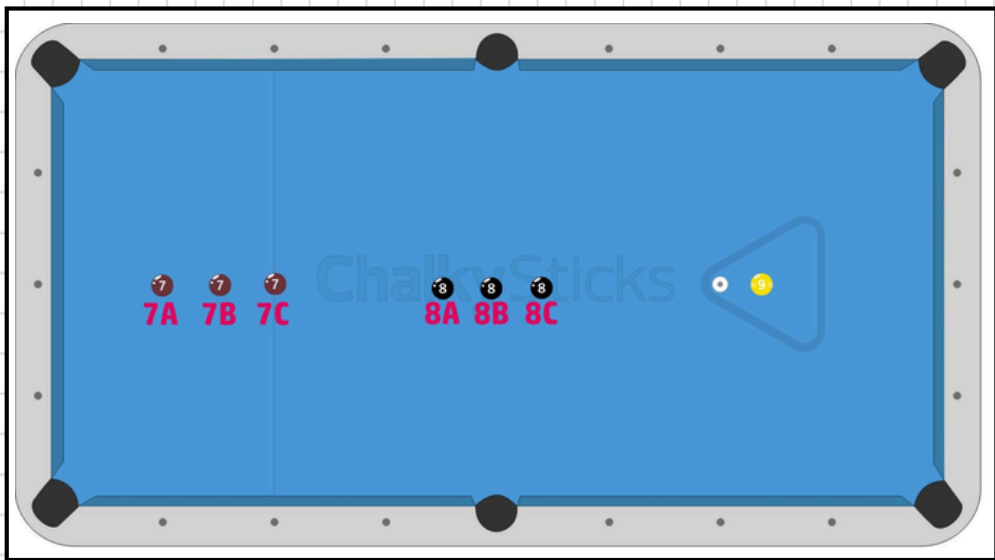
INSTRUCTIONS:

The CB position is fixed for this one. Starting with the OB at position 1, progressively move the OB 1 diamond farther away from the cue ball to build your confidence learning the 5 different cue angles for each position.

No-Frills Drills



7-8-9 AND OUT (9 PERMUTATIONS)



INSTRUCTIONS:

Start with BIH and the following combinations:

7A-8A-9

7B-8A-9

7C-8A-9

7A-8B-9

7B-8B-9

7C-8B-9

7A-8C-9

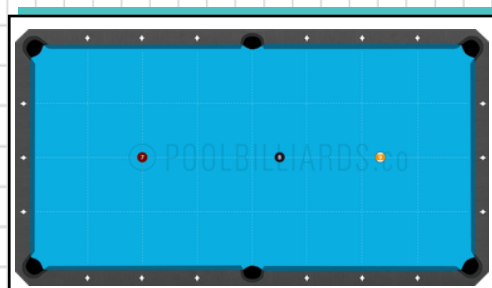
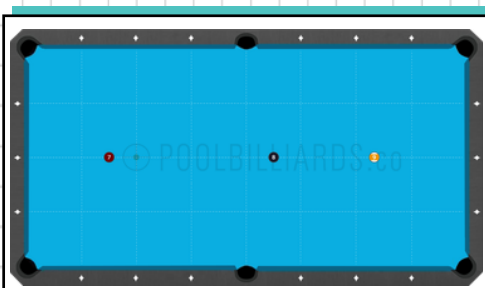
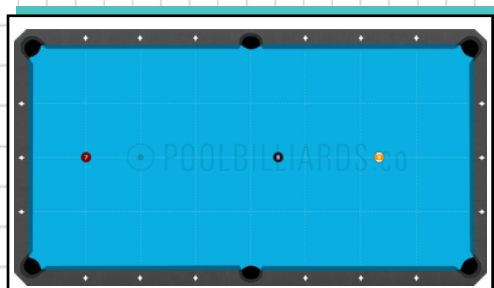
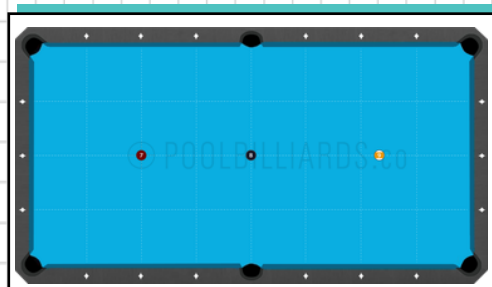
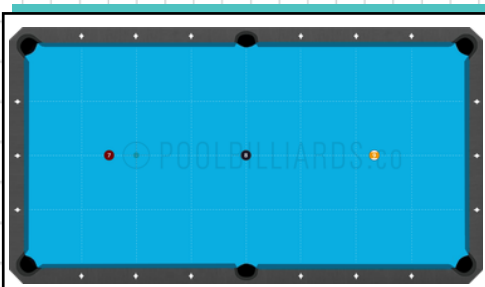
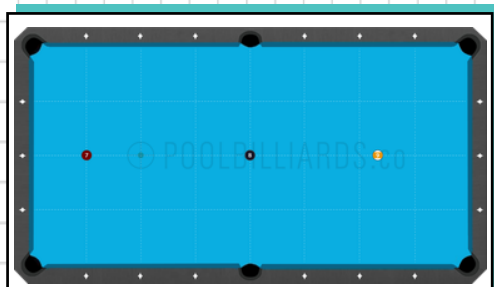
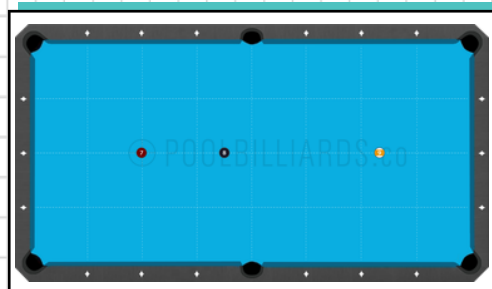
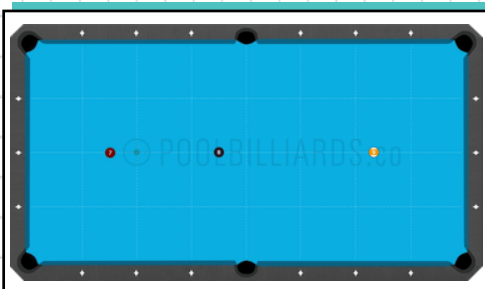
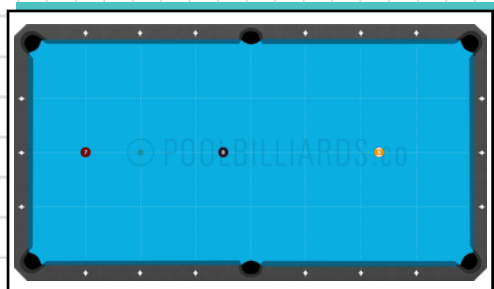
7B-8C-9

7C-8C-9

Must come 1 rail to/off long rail for position from 7 to the 8 to the 9.

Objective:

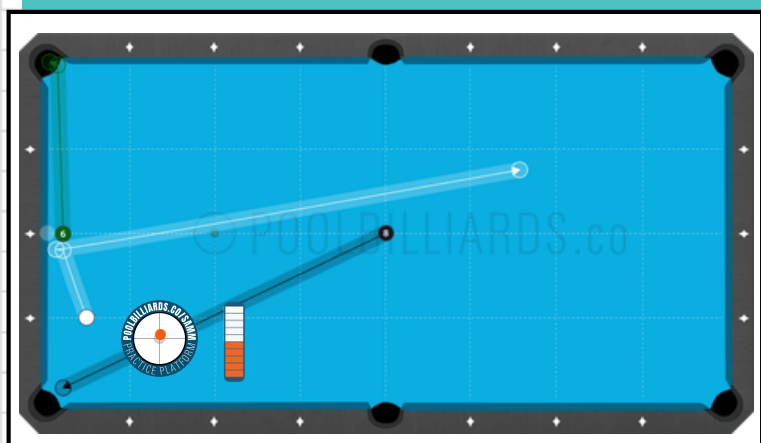
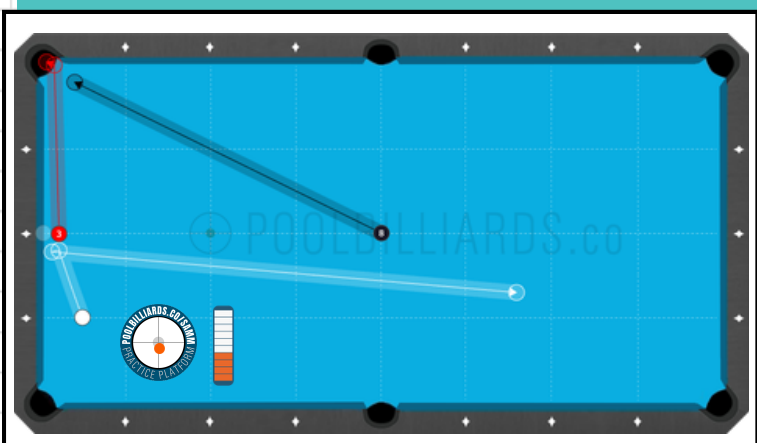
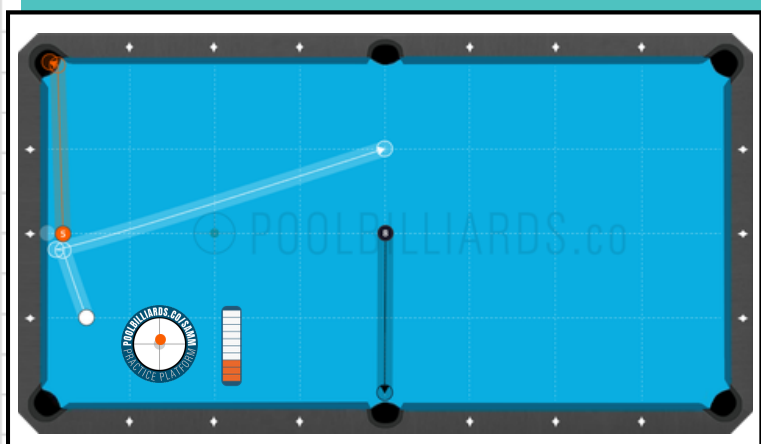
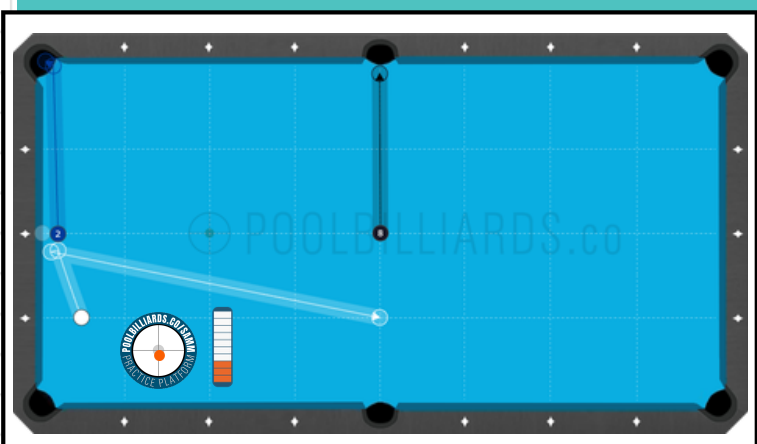
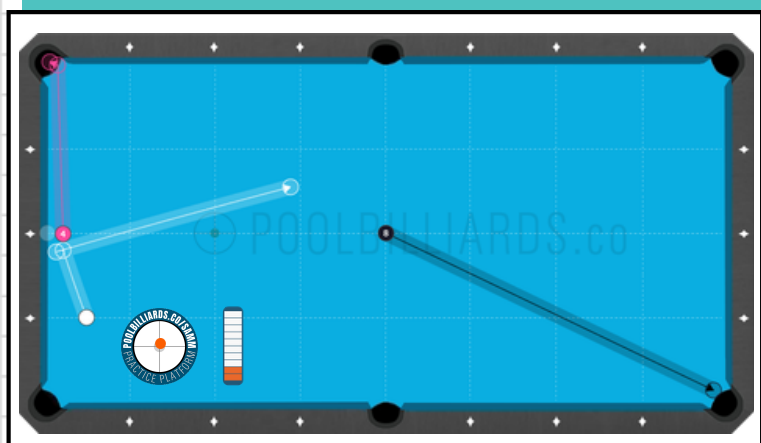
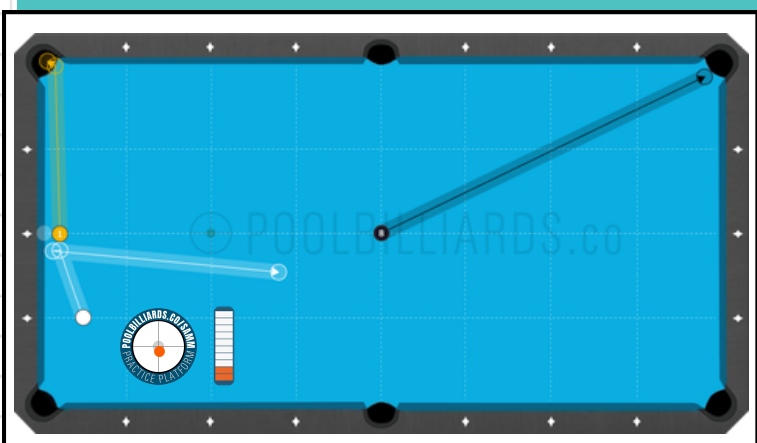
✓ Complete each combination of 7-8-9 with as few recovery shots as possible. ✓ Only use 1 rail for each transition. ✓ Leave yourself ~6" from the rail for each shot. ✓ Get straight in on the 9 ball.



No-Frills Drills



1-Rail Cut Shot 6 Positions for 8 Ball



Instructions:

The objective of this drill is to learn how to send the cue ball on these two paths using only one rail and only the center of the cue ball to play position for the 8 ball in all six pockets.

SCAN FOR VIDEO:

