



AngleBuddy

All-in-one billiards, pool and snooker super training tool.

(Bonus DVD narration – 25 minutes)

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing what we believe to be the best all round cue sports training aid on the market.

Whether you play pool, snooker or prefer billiards, are just starting out or already play competitively, we are certain that with a little bit of practice, by following the routines outlined in this DVD and the instruction booklet, that your playing skills will improve.

I am Jeff Keating and together with Justin Sajich, we will be taking you through how you can get the most out of your new AngleBuddy.

When you miss a shot it can be very frustrating trying to figure out exactly what went wrong! Was it because Justin wasn't aiming at the right spot on the object ball, or was it because he didn't play the cue ball to hit the right spot?

AngleBuddy takes the guesswork out. The laser lines separate aiming from cuing, allowing you to perfect just one of these skills at a time.

In this DVD Justin and I will show you how to use your new AngleBuddy to eliminate cue sighting errors, to learn where to aim to pot an object ball, and to learn where to aim and how to play bank shots.

Setting-up

AngleBuddy sits on the cushion rail and projects one or two laser targeting lines.

A single line is used to help you accurately sight and stroke your cue.

The portion of the line seen on your cue shaft gives you a visual indication of when you have the cue correctly lined up and for you to confirm that you are running your cue in a straight line.

A single line is also used to help you learn exactly where to aim to pot a ball.

To set the level of the lines, switch both lasers on, and use the angle control knob to center them together. Then project the lines down the length of the table, and use the level adjustment wheel to set the top of the lines high enough to be seen on your cue shaft, but not high enough to shine directly into your eyes as you take a shot.

Two lines are used to give you an aiming point and the ball travel paths of natural bank shots.

We'll show you how to use the railstop to set the distance the unit sits out from the cushion after we've shown you the cuing and aiming practice exercises. But first we would just like to run you through a couple of the mechanics on how to approach the table and how to approach a shot.

Stance, bridge, grip and swing – running your cue in a straight line

Fundamental to all shots is the ability to accurately strike the cue ball and that means being able to consistently run the cue in a straight line.

The way you stand, the way you grip your cue, and your cuing action all affect how well you can execute a shot.

You might notice that the only part of Justin's body that moves while he is taking this shot is his cuing arm. Any unwanted body movement will cause your cue to go off line and for you to miss the shot.

Here you can see that Justin has his feet spaced apart to about shoulder width, and is leaning forward using his bridging hand to brace himself against the table.

You can also see that his bridging hand is close to the cue ball. This helps him reduce unwanted side-to-side and up and down movement of his cue as he takes the shot

Just looking again at the shot, you might notice that Justin's cuing arm is vertical at the moment his cue strikes the cue ball. This is the point in his swing when there is minimum vertical movement of his cue. By always striking the cue ball when your cuing arm is vertical you're far less likely to miss hit the cue ball and will have much greater control over exactly where the cue tip strikes the ball.

From this angle we can see that Justin has his bridging arm slightly bent and is using his bridging hand to support and firmly brace himself against the table.

You will also notice that his cuing arm from shoulder to elbow is in line with his cue, again to minimise side-to-side movement of his cue as he takes the shot.

Having a close look at Justin's grip we can see that it opens up a little at the back of his back swing, and gently closes to form a full finger grip as the cue strikes the object ball. The combination of a flexible reasonably loose grip and his arm pivoting at the elbow allows him to run the cue in a straight line making it far more likely the cue ball will go exactly where he intends it to go.

Last but not least is to keep your head down until well after the cue ball has contacted the object ball and to follow through with your cue. Both of which will help ensure that your cue runs in a straight line.

Sighting your cue and perfecting your cue stroke

The following exercises will help you accurately sight your cue and perfect your cue stroke.

First up is determining what your view looks like when you have the cue correctly lined up. Next are playing straight shots potting an object ball into a center pocket then potting an object ball into a corner pocket.

In this first exercise simply project a single laser line down the center of the table, through the cue ball and on to the shaft of your cue. Now line up ready to take the shot ensuring the laser line is centred on your cue shaft. Now here is the tricky bit, and you'll have to try this for yourself because it doesn't come out on the video, anyway, while keeping your cue still, look down the line toward anglebuddy and back toward the cue ball. At the same time make a mental note of how the peripheral view of your cue shaft changes as your focus changes. What you need to do is commit this peripheral view of your cue shaft to memory, so that you will always know exactly where your cue is aimed. What you are looking at is what the peripheral view of your cue shaft looks like whenever you have the cue accurately aimed.

While you are still looking down the cue, try closing each eye in turn or moving your head from side to side, this will help reinforce what your view should look like, and clearly demonstrates how easy it is to mistakenly misalign your cue.

It doesn't matter if you line up with your cue directly under either of your eyes or somewhere in between, The real key to sighting is to place the cue in the same relative position every time.

Something else you can do, and something that Justin does consistently throughout this video is to use the feel of your cue on your chin to help you line up.

These two straight pots allow you to concentrate on your perfecting just your sighting and your cue stroke.

In this first shot, simply set up AngleBuddy to project a single target line across the center of the table. You can then use this target line as a sighting guide on your cue shaft and to help you set up the balls in line with each other and the pocket.

At this stage all you want to do is concentrate on perfecting just your cue sighting and your cue stroke, in order to do that you need to minimise any ball spin effects, and that means trying to hit the cue ball in the center, or playing a cue ball center stroke.

Lets just take a closer look at what Justin does while he plays this shot.

First he identifies where the object ball must be struck to make the shot – and we will cover this in more detail later when we get to learning cut shot angles. Next he roughly lines up the shot, and gets down to play the shot while keeping his view on where he needs to strike the object ball. He already knows where the pocket is, so all he has to do is concentrate on getting the cue ball to strike the object ball in the right place.

After roughly lining up the shot, he looks back and forth between the cue ball and the object ball to make sure his cue is lined up with the center of the cue ball and through to where he wants the cue ball to go. What he's actually doing here as he moves his cue back and forth is making small adjustments in his aiming until he's satisfied his cue will travel along the right line when he takes the shot.

If you look carefully now you will see that on his last back swing he makes a final check of where the cue is in relation to the cue ball, then momentarily pauses while he focuses back to the object ball just before playing the stroke.

This routine allows him to concentrate on the real target, that is where the object ball must be struck to make the shot.

Try this center pocket shot first, making sure that you play a center cue ball stroke, and that your cue glides smoothly along the target line.

Repeat the shot, using AngleBuddy as a guide, as many times as you have to until you can confidently pot the red every time.

Then, after re-setting the balls, switch the laser lines off and repeat the shot until you can confidently pot the red every time.

Move on to the more difficult corner pocket shot after you've mastered the center pocket shot.

Again we're first using AngleBuddy to give us a sighting guideline on the cue shaft and to help us accurately set the balls. Just like the center pocket shot exercise, play this shot first using AngleBuddy as a guide until you can confidently pot the red every time, then after re-setting the balls, switch the laser line off and repeat the shot.

At this stage it is well worthwhile investing the time to get these shots right. The success of pretty well every shot you play depends on you being able to accurately sight and consistently stroke your cue. Perfecting these shots will dramatically improve your consistency and ability to win a match

Basic cue ball control

So far, you should have been using center cue ball strokes to minimise cue ball spin, so you could concentrate on just your sighting and cue action.

In the last two shots, the cue ball tended to run-on, following the object ball for a short distance.

This time you're going to control where the cue ball ends up by varying where the cue tip strikes the cue ball.

The first variation is to stun the cue ball making it stop as it strikes the object ball. The second is to have the cue ball follow the object ball all the way to the pocket, and the third is to draw the cue ball back to where you are cuing from.

All three of these exercises require precision sighting and cuing and are excellent practice shots.

One thing to notice here, is that Justin raises or lowers his bridging hand, rather than the but end of his cue to adjust where he will to strike the cue ball. Doing so makes it less likely he will either scoop the ball or miss

hit the top of the ball, and most importantly, allows him to maintain a fairly consistent cuing action while still being able to control the cue ball.

To stun the cue ball you simply strike it just below center – as a rough guide strike the ball about ½ a tip width below center for the center pocket shots and a full tip width below center for the corner pocket shots.

Try to master the easier center pocket shot before moving on to the corner pocket shot. Again, use AngleBuddy as a guide until you can confidently make the shot, then switch the laser line off and repeat the shot.

Top spin is played by striking the cue ball above center. The amount of top spin the ball has depends on how far up you strike it and how hard the shot is played.

Try these two practice shots to help perfect your top spin, sighting your cue and your cue action.

This corner pocket shot is one of the most difficult shots to make so don't worry too much if it doesn't come easily. If you are finding it way too hard, try placing the red ball closer to the pocket and the cue ball further down the table, then progressively move them further apart as you make the shot.

Back spin is played by striking the cue ball well below center.

One trap many players fall into when applying back spin is jabbing at the ball rather than following through. If you don't follow through you'll find that the ball won't come back, and there is a good chance the cue ball won't end up where you need it to go.

Try these two practice shots, again mastering the center pocket shot before moving on to the much more difficult corner pocket shot.

Being able to stun the cue ball or applying different degrees of top spin or back spin are handy skills you can use to help you position the cue ball for your next shot in a match. For example if we first play this cut shot with a little top spin you can see that the cue ball strikes the top cushion and ends up coming back toward the cue tip. If we now repeat the same shot with back spin the cue ball ends up on a completely different path toward the opposite cushion.

We'll cover the application of spin in a bit more detail when we have a proper look at making cut shots.

Learning cut shots

There are two main methods of figuring out exactly where to aim to pot a ball. The ghost-ball method, and the intuitive or parallel method.

In the first method you imagine the cue ball, or a ghost-ball, in contact with the object ball in-line with pocket. You then memorise where the center of the ghost ball should be, and aim for the cue ball to roll over that spot.

The second more 'Intuitive' method, is to firstly recognise where the object ball must be struck, again by imagining a line through the center of the object ball to the pocket, you then make an allowance in your aiming, so that the edge of the cue ball will strike the object ball in the right place.

Common to both of these methods are the target line through the center of the object ball to the pocket, and that the cue ball will always be centred on the target line as it strikes the object ball.

Here we've set-up AngleBuddy to project a single target line through the center of the object ball to the pocket. What you need to do is to aim the cue ball to strike the object ball on the outside edge of the target line that you can see on the object ball.

It doesn't matter whether you prefer the ghost-ball method or the intuitive method, the end result will be the same, that the object ball and the cue ball should be in line with the pocket at the moment the cue ball strikes the object ball.

When practicing cut shots, we recommend you start out with the object ball on one of the ball spots and the cue ball fairly close to the object ball.

Try this shot using AngleBuddy as a guide until you can confidently pot the ball every time. Then switch the laser line off and repeat the same shot.

Keep doing this same routine, of using AngleBuddy to help you make the shot, then switching the laser line off and repeating the shot, until you can easily recognise exactly where the object ball needs to be struck.

Next move the cue ball further back from the object ball along the same line so that you are making the same cut shot angle. Practicing the shot further from the object ball will help you learn how much allowance you need to make in your aiming to account for the object ball looking smaller as you get further from it.

In these next two practice shots we've made the cut shot angle more difficult by first re-positioning the cue ball and then by re-positioning the object ball.

The same routine applies for all of these practice shots. Always start out using AngleBuddy to give you a target line on the object ball, then once you can confidently pot the ball, switch the laser line off and repeat the shot. Keep practicing the exact same shot with and without AngleBuddy until you can easily recognise exactly where the object ball needs to be struck.

So far these shots have been played with center cue ball strokes to minimise ball spin effects. In these next two shots we have first applied a little top spin and then back spin to demonstrate how you can use basic cue ball control to help you position the cue ball for your next shot in a match. These shots should really only be practiced after you are confident you can make the pot using a center cue ball stroke.

More detailed practice routines are available at the links and the on-line video pages of our website.

Learning Bank shots

AngleBuddy can help you learn how the cushion rails behave and to perfect your kick shots and bank shots.

In these two shots we've set up AngleBuddy to provide target lines that indicate the ball travel paths for a natural kick shot or a natural bank shot.

For the unit to project accurate lines, we use the railstop to set the pivot point of the lasers a half a ball out from the inside edge of the cushion. First install the railstop by sliding it through the guide-rails on the underside of the unit. Then with both lasers switched on, rotate the control knob fully to the left to set the lines 180 degrees apart while positioning the unit so that the lines are centered on two object balls resting against the cushion. Now while holding the unit steady, push the railstop in until it contacts the outside edge of the table. With the railstop set, you can now position the unit anywhere along the cushion rail knowing the lasers will give you accurate natural ball travel paths.

To use the unit, simply slide it along the cushion rail, while at the same time adjusting the laser line angles until you have the desired ball travel paths.

Consistently being able to accurately kick the cue ball is an essential skill, especially if you match up with opponents that tend to play a safety game often not leaving you with any direct shots.

You can learn a lot about the behaviour of the cushions, especially on a table you're not familiar with, simply by kicking the cue ball into a center or corner pocket.

Practice this shot using a center cue ball stroke, adjusting the pace on the cue ball until it accurately travels along the target lines.

You'll find that if you play the shot too slow the ball will overshoot the pocket, while if you play it too firm the ball will undershoot the pocket. What's happening is that the cushion's compressing more in the direction the cue ball is travelling, and as it rebounds back to shape, causes the cue ball to come off at a smaller angle.

After you can confidently play the shot switch the laser lines off, or completely remove anglebuddy from the table and re-play it from the same position until you can make the shot every time.

The next stage is to set up an object ball close to the pocket and re-play the shot, again use a center cue ball stroke then find the correct pace to send the cue ball down the target lines.

Being able to consistently bank an object ball will significantly increase the number of shots you have available in a match.

Here we've set up a natural bank shot with the cue ball in line with the object ball and the target line. We're starting out here with the cue ball and the object ball along the same line so that you can use the laser line to help you aim and stroke your cue as well as to provide the ball travel path toward the cushion. This straight on shot will also help you figure out the pace you need to put on the cue ball to make the object ball travel toward the pocket.

Like the kick shot exercise before if you play the shot too slow the object ball will overshoot the pocket, while if you play it too firm it will undershoot the pocket.

The last type of practice shot is to cut the object ball to make the bank.

Try practicing the shot from fairly straight on, and progressively increase the cut angle to make the shot more difficult.

End

They say that practice makes perfect, but really only perfect practice makes perfect.

If you are just starting out AngleBuddy and these practice routines will help you with the basics and make your matches more enjoyable.

If you are a pro, then we are certain that AngleBuddy will improve your form by helping you to re-train your sighting and perfect your cuing action.

If you like this product please tell your friends.

Log on to www.anglebuddy.com to view and download further practice routines