

Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, technical proofs (TP), and all past articles are available online at drdavepoolinfo.com. Reference numbers used in the articles help you locate the resources on the website.

In recent online video [NV L.107](#), I demonstrated a very useful cue ball (CB) control principle involving rail cut shots, where the cue ball is brought straight back along the shooting line with the right amount of outside draw. An example shot is shown in **Image 1**, where I am trying to get shape on the 8 up-table. I'll summarize the main points of the video along with a useful drill to practice the skill.

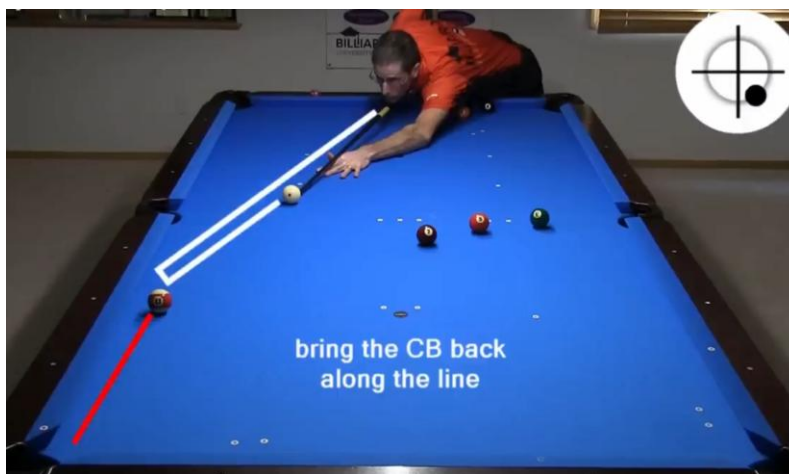


Image 1 Bringing the CB back along the line

As shown in **Image 2**, when the object ball (OB) is close to about a ball off the rail, the CB can be brought back along the shooting line at any angle into the rail. At steep angles, mostly sidespin can get the job done (see the white and red paths). And at shallow angles, mostly backspin is required (see the green and yellow paths). In the middle of the range, maximum outside-draw is required (see the blue path). The best thing about the principle is it lets you know what is possible from any direction. Knowing you can “hold the line” along the shot direction can help you plan position accordingly.

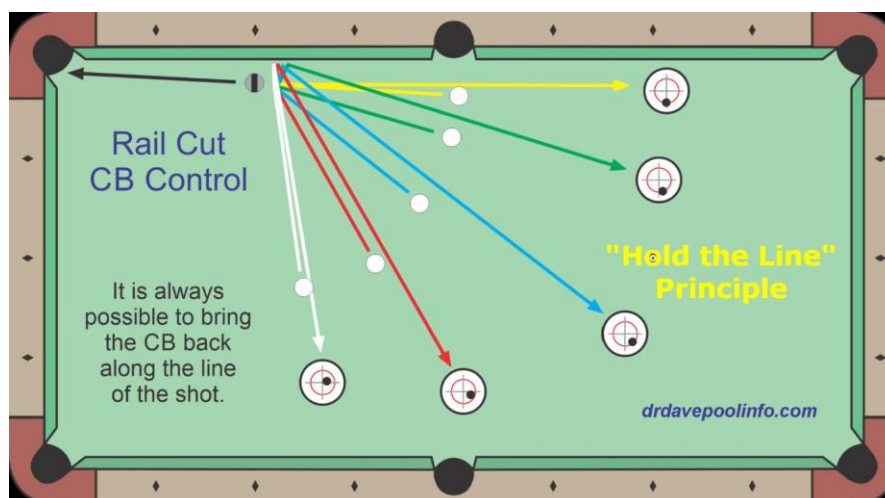


Image 2 “Hold the Line” principle and drill

Let's look at two game-situation 8-ball examples that are demonstrated in the video. In **Image 3**, I need to get shape on the 8 up-table. Because I know I can bring the CB back along the shooting line, I am confident to get the CB above the opposite side pocket for Z-path shape on the 8.



Image 3 Game situation example #1

In **Image 4**, because I can hold the line, I know I can easily break out the 10-13 cluster to enable the runout. Knowing and practicing with the principle can help you execute these types of shots with confidence. And it will help you win more games.



Image 4 Game situation example #2

To develop and improve the skill and feel necessary to best take advantage of the “hold the line” principle, it can be very helpful to practice the drill shown in **Image 5**. The 11 is a ball off the rail at the 2nd diamond. The goal is to pocket the 11 and hit each of the 9 balls along the rails by shooting along the line from each ball. The CB position shown is along the shot line from the 1. As demonstrated in the video, the 7-ball is the toughest target in the drill, requiring maximum outside draw. At that CB position, it helps to hit the 11 as full as possible with just the right speed.



Image 5 “Hold the Line” drill

It is also helpful to practice cut-shot CB control with the OB farther from the rail, where you have much more control. Another video ([NV J.102](#)) demonstrates a good drill for this, where combinations of stun, follow, draw, and sidespin are used to control the CB over a very wide range.

Be sure to check out the videos, especially [NV L.107](#). It demonstrates everything above and a lot more. It covers how to judge the effects of sidespin, speed, and fullness of hit with these types of shots. It also covers the effects of OB distance from the rail. The video also covers a useful twice-the-angle system for judging CB direction for rail cut shots with “good action” draw. Be sure to try everything at the table so you can get the most benefit from the video.

Good luck with your game,
Dr. Dave



[NV J.102](#) – Using The Rail For More Position Options

[NV L.107](#) – Useful CB Control Principle for RAIL CUT SHOTS ... Bringing the CB Back
ALONG THE LINE

PS:

- I know other authors and I tend to use lots of terminology, and I know not all readers are totally familiar with these terms. If you ever come across a word or phrase you do not fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](#) at [drdavepoolinfo.com](#).

Dr. Dave is a PBI Master Instructor, Dean of the Billiard University, and author of the book: [The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#) and numerous instructional DVD series, all available at: [DrDaveBilliards.com](#).