

Hand Position on the Club

Hints That May Help You to Get Away to a Better Start for the Coming Season

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Left and right photographs show the right and wrong ways in the first preliminary of taking the grip. Observe that the left hand should be pretty well over the shaft toward the right side of the body. Inset—the full grip with both hands.

A GREAT many golfers seem to think that the matter of grip refers only to the overlapping, the inter-locking, the old V-grip or still another variety. The grip also refers to the position of your hands and fingers on the club—and this is the most important part of it.

In regard to types of grips it might be mentioned that Vardon, Herd, Ouimct, Evans and Abe Mitchell all grip differently, yet in each case there is usually one important thing—and that is the position of the left hand.

To my way of thinking, this is one of the most important things about the grip. I had the accompanying photographs made to show what I consider the right way and the wrong way of holding the left hand. As the left hand starts the club back and takes control of the back swing, you can see how important it is that one should use it in the right way.

Right and Wrong Way

THE main fault with many golfers in gripping is that they grip the club in the palm of the left hand instead of in the fingers,

and that they don't place the left hand over far enough, but hold it too much under the club.

In the first place with the left hand placed over, as in the photograph, you get more power and much more control. You get much better use of the left wrist. Try for example, to hit a back-handed blow with the left. You can easily see how much more power there is with the knuckles held up rather than sideways.

The left hand and arm of course start the club back. A few experiments will show you that it is much easier to handle the back swing with the left hand slightly over than it is with the left hand slightly under.

The position of the right hand on the club differs, among leading players, more than the position of the left. There are many fine golfers who believe in also holding the right hand well over where the V formed by the thumb and forefinger points to the left shoulder.

There are other fine golfers who hold the right hand well under the club. Sandy Herd and Alex Smith, two notable performers, go

in for this right-handed grip as in the main they are right hand swingers. In my own case I prefer the grip as shown in the photograph. I prefer to have both V's pointing to the right shoulder. I find in that way that I can get more power and more control.

Experiments May Help

IT isn't a bad idea to experiment with hand positions on the club until you get one that seems to suit your style of swinging or hitting. But I wouldn't let the experiment carry me too far away from the hand positions I have shown in the pictures. Long experience at teaching and at watching others has shown me that these positions for the two hands suit the big average.

I know of one very good golfer whose hands are six inches apart on the club shaft. He happened to start that way many years ago and has never cared to change an old habit. He has merely made it harder for himself and it isn't a style I would encourage.

Bobby Jones and Tommy Armour, two fine iron players, both place their right hands
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more over the club than I do, to a slight extent at least. There are many occasions when this style of gripping helps the golfer to hit down on the ball and blocks the tendency to lift with the right hand. But for the average player to have both the left and right hand over the club there is a lack of power and control.

Whatever the grip or position of the hands, don't grip too tightly. This is a common mistake. It hits the poorer players at all times. It hits many of the stars under pressure when they are one or two down in a hard match. The grip with the left hand should be firm, but not viselike. As the back swing starts the right hand grip should be on the easy side. If one grips too tightly at the start of the swing there is a tendency towards three faults:

1. A too fast back swing.
2. Hitting down too quickly
3. Relaxing the grip at the moment of impact.

If the right hand is gripping too tightly at the start there can be no snap of the right wrist at the finish.