Get Square

Align your clubface properly and hit more solid shots.

By Michele Conte

Failing to square the clubface at address is one of the more common causes of mis-hits. For instance, if you set up with the face open (below left), it's almost sure to result in a slice. A closed clubface (below right) causes you to hook the ball or, worse, to smother it and hit a grounder. Here's a simple way to get square every time: Place the clubface behind the ball and imagine a straight line beneath it that forms a 90-degree angle with a line drawn straight from the target to your ball. The leading edge and grooves of the clubface should be parallel to the line (right). If the heel of the clubhead is closer to the ball, the clubface is open; if the toe is closer to the ball, the clubface is closed. When you're sure you're square, grip the club and move your body into position. If the clubhead opens or closes when you apply grip pressure, go back to square and regrip.

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