

# The **SCOR**<sup>™</sup> Method

**A Simple Way  
To Achieve Precision  
In Your Shotmaking**

A publication of



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## Introduction

One of the challenges of this great game is to learn methods and swings that are **simple** enough to be ingrained into your subconscious and **reliable** enough to be pulled off whenever you need them. Techniques and learning methods that work well for the tour player – whose full-time job is to spend massive amounts of time building and refining his or her golf game – are not necessarily the approaches that should be taken by the average player.

In contrast with the tour professional, your goal must be to build short range performance that allows you to optimize your skill and consistency, ***with respect to the limited amount of time and dedication you can and will give to your golf game.***

This isn't an instruction book – it's about improving the precision in your shotmaking, regardless of your technique. Obviously, sound fundamentals will make your short game better, but for now, we want to help you with the most critical element for a good short game – the ability to hit your scoring clubs (hopefully our **SCOR4161s**) precise distances.

The key to the scoring clubs is to **know** exactly how far each of your wedges and short irons fly with a measured full swing, and how to **reliably** “dial up” 2-3 specific yardages that fall in between your full swing distances. If you can do this, you can effectively turn each wedge and short iron into several clubs, which is a huge advantage when you are in scoring range.

For the purposes of The SCOR Method, we'll be focused on your scoring clubs, those with over 40 degrees of loft. This includes your 9-iron and all your wedges. These five or six clubs are your key to scoring precision on any golf course, regardless of your skill level.

If you will analyze just a few rounds of golf, and disregard all shots that were hit from the tee or with the putter, you will likely find that you played over half of your remaining shots – possibly 70-80% of them – with a short iron or wedge. You might also find that you are carrying a 2-3 fairway woods, a hybrid or two, and all but one or two of your irons to cover as few as 6-8 shots per round at the most. But you are staking the results of all your scoring shots – those from within 9-iron range of the green – on as few as two and probably not more than four clubs.

To solve this problem, we offer you “**The SCOR™ Method**”, a simple way for you to achieve precision in your shotmaking with the scoring clubs. If you learn this method and do the “home-work”, you will begin making more birdies and pars right away.

## Chapter One

### Know exactly how far you hit it.

If you want to begin to score better, the first thing you must learn is just how far you can consistently hit each of your scoring clubs with a square clubface and your hands in their normal position on the grip. This is not just how far you can hit them, but how far you can hit them with confidence and repetition. Once you have that determined, The SCOR Method will show you how to dissect your full-swing distance gaps into smaller gaps by altering your hand position on the grip, and by opening the clubface slightly, each which are simple alterations that will help you get pin-point distance control.

It's not nearly as complicated as it might sound—you can do this with a simple exercise out on your golf course or a vacant field. You'll need about a dozen balls of the brand you play most. The back pages of this book allow you to record your results.

To begin, find a little time to go out on the course when it's not crowded - you'll only need a half hour to an hour. If you have access to a mowed open area

like a neighborhood ballpark or soccer field, where you can hit balls up to 125-140 yards (and find them!), you can make that work just as well. We're going to focus on your wedges and short irons for The SCOR Method, but you can apply this technique to any club in your bag.

You'll need your clubs, this book and a pen, because you'll be noting your results in the Distance Charts in the back – they'll become your “owner's manual” for your short game. If you have a laser range-finder, it makes the process even more precise. (Also please take plenty of fill sand with you to repair your divots.) Choose a section of fairway where few iron shots are played from, like the first half of a long, flat par four or five. Warm up with some stretching and plenty of practice swings.

Once you feel warmed up, take your 9-iron and pick a target down the fairway. Hit enough shots to have several that you believe fairly represent your typical distance. You want to make a comfortable “full” swing at each one – not too hard, not too light. Your goal is to make your swings as identical to one another as possible, and to try to hit as tight a group of shots as you are capable.

### Short Iron/Wedge Tip

*Let me interject here that a “full” swing with a wedge or short iron is much different than with a mid-iron or hybrid. The objective with the scoring clubs is to create distance **repetition** that leads to precision shotmaking on the golf course. It really isn't important whether your “full” pitching wedge goes 100 yards or 130 – there are no awards for that. What's important is your ability to hit each of your wedges and short irons the same distance consistently and reliably. Back off just a bit from what you might think of as a “full” swing and make your lead side stay in front of the swing through impact. Also, by controlling your swing with the body core rather than your*

*arms and hands, you will hit the ball on a lower and more controllable trajectory and have much more repeatable distance control. In fact, you might even find that you hit your wedges further this way than you do when you try to hit it hard. Try it.*

After enough shots with the 9-iron to get a good pattern, trade it for your pitching wedge and walk down to see what you find. Take your laser with you if you have one, along with this book and a pen. If you are not using a laser, carefully pace off the yardage from your starting spot to the center of the pattern. [NOTE: If you are using a laser, just park your cart or stand your bag next to your hitting area so you can “shoot” it instead of pacing off yardages.]

Write down in the Distance Chart the number of paces or the laser-measured yardage from your hitting location to a spot you determine to be the center of your pattern. You now have a realistic record of what your **normal** distance should be with that club.

SCOR Method Distance Chart							
		Distance Chart					
		Hands Normal			Hands 1" Down		
Club	Loft	Square	/	Open	Square	/	Open
9 - iron / SCOR 1	43	128	/			/	
PW / SCOR 2			/			/	
Wedge / SCOR 3			/			/	
Wedge / SCOR 4			/			/	
Wedge / SCOR 5			/			/	
Wedge / SCOR 6			/			/	



Let me stress that what you are focusing on here is distance deviation, not your directional accuracy. Your singular goal from this exercise is to determine the reliable **average** distance you can expect to get from each scoring club with a normal full swing. You'll also be getting a clear picture of how far short or long of that average your variables fall.

Once you've recorded your 9-iron results, take your pitching wedge and hit the balls back toward your starting point. Again, make controlled swings, with the clear focus being to make them identical to one another. When you've hit them all, walk down and find the center of this pattern and then pace off the distance to your original hitting spot. Do the subtraction from your first distance result and you have the next distance to record in your SCOR chart.

Repeat this process for each of your scoring clubs, hitting balls back down the fairway, and then with the next shorter club, back to your original hitting spot. Once you have completed the exercise, you'll have an accurately defined "normal" distance chart for your scoring clubs. (See Pic 2)

This exercise alone should prove to be a giant step to real progress in your scoring game. If your clubs are "synchronized" to fill your gaps correctly, you should see about 10-15 yards difference between each club in your short game arsenal. Shorter hitters might see a gap of only 8-10 yards, while longer hitters might see that increase to more than 15.

SCOR Method Distance Chart							
		Distance Chart					
		Hands Normal			Hands 1" Down		
Club	Loft	Square	/	Open	Square	/	Open
9 - iron / SCOR 1	43	128	/			/	
PW / SCOR 2	47	117	/			/	
Wedge / SCOR 3	51	105	/			/	
Wedge / SCOR 4	54	92	/			/	
Wedge / SCOR 5	57	81	/			/	
Wedge / SCOR 6			/			/	

*Pic 2*

## Chapter Two

### Divide Your Gaps for Shotmaking Precision

Once you've charted your *normal swing* yardages with the exercises in the last chapter, it will be time well spent to practice hitting those shots the same way every time, so that you can get your wedge and short iron swings down to where you can repeat the shot distances you charted.

Your goal is ***to know how to control the trajectory and distance with your scoring clubs.*** It's not important how far you hit each wedge or your short irons; the only thing that matters is whether or not you can hit them the exact distance required to hit the green and even stick it close.

#### *Another Scoring Club Tip*

*If you want to improve your shotmaking with wedges and the short irons, you should understand that these are precision clubs, meant to be swung a little easier than your mid-irons and hybrids. When you try to “add a little extra” to one of these clubs, what typically happens is that you swing just a bit harder, which makes it more difficult to stay “ahead of the club” through impact.*

*So the clubhead passes the hands, adding loft to the face. Even though it's traveling faster, this launches the ball much higher with more spin, and it comes up short. The distance you get from the hard swing is often actually **less** than your "normal" distance. Does that sound familiar?*

*Conversely, how many times have you tried to "just hit it easy" and find that the ball goes to the back of the green, hit flush on a great trajectory? Well, just maybe that "easy" swing is really what your "full" swings should be like with your scoring clubs!*

*When you put a wedge or short iron in your hand, your singular goal is to hit the ball the very precise distance it needs to travel to get close to the flag. These four to six clubs are for accuracy and scoring – you have a whole bag full of clubs for distance. So, the real secret to a good short iron and wedge game is the ability to hit each of these clubs a certain distance – every time! And a big part of that process is learning to hit the ball on the same trajectory each time with each of the scoring clubs. The more fluid and controlled swing you make, the easier it becomes to do just that.*

In Chapter One, you charted your normal full swing yardages and defined the gaps between each club from your 9-iron to your highest-lofted wedge. Now you want to develop a reliable way to dissect those into smaller gaps for efficient scoring.

Let's assume that your pitching wedge flies 115 yards and your gap wedge is repeatable at 103, but you're facing an approach shot from exactly 109 yards. From this distance, you're thinking "get this close for a birdie (or par)", right? Of course you are. So the "old you" has the option of either jumping on a gap wedge, or backing off a pitching wedge, neither of which has any measure of science or discipline to it.

The **SCOR** Method is the solution.

There are several factors that affect how far a golf ball flies, but from the equipment side, the two major influences are launch angle (mostly affected by loft) and clubhead speed (created by shaft length and swing effort). Long ago, golf club designers determined that from the 9-iron to the 3-iron, clubs should be 4 degrees stronger in loft to affect launch angle (Pic 1), and ½" longer in shaft length to affect clubhead speed (Pic 2).



*Pic 1*



*Pic 2*

This “geometry” produces the built-in distance gaps we charted in the last chapter. So, if we alter the length of a club, we will also alter the distance it will propel the ball with the same swing. That’s the foundation of *The SCOR Method*.

Now that you have learned and charted the actual yardages you get from full swings with your 5-6 scoring clubs, you can apply *The SCOR Method* to very easily bring a much higher level of shotmaking precision to your short game. Let’s head back to your test site at the edge of that par five or long par four hole, and create these “in-between” shots that are extremely easy to learn.

At SCOR Golf, we designed a new grip for our patented 4161 line of scoring clubs specifically with the SCOR Method in mind. The angled black rings in the red section are spaced exactly one inch apart to support this concept for precision shotmaking. (Pic 3)



*Pic 3*

But if you are not playing the new SCOR grips, measure 1” increments on the grip’s pattern and use a Sharpie® to color in some that can serve as your guide. Once you’ve done that, head back to that spot on the golf course or the field where we developed our distance charts in the last chapter.

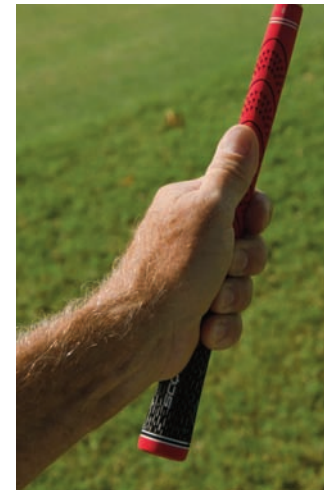
You’ll start with your 9-iron again. Take your normal grip on the club and note where the tip of your left thumb (for right handed players) falls on the grip pattern. Hit a few shots with what you would consider comfortable full swings. That will give you a point of reference for the drill.

Now, carefully grip down on the 9-iron **ex-actly one inch**, using your SCOR grip graphics or the ruler/tape measure to ensure this precision (Pics 7 and 8).

NOTE: Since you are shortening your clubs a full inch in these exercises, you might need to “get down” a little more in your address posture so that you can make solid contact. Make enough practice swings so that you feel like you can get the club back to the ball cleanly with this “shorter” club.



*Pic 7*



*Pic 8*

The key here is to KNOW how to grip down **exactly one inch**. Gripping down “a little” or “just a bit” doesn’t do you any good. *The SCOR Method* is founded on knowing how to grip down **exact amounts** to develop precision in your short game.

With your hands in this lower position on the grip, hit a few shots with that same comfortable full swing; try to duplicate the backswing length and forward swing effort you used on the first set of shots with your normal grip position. After you’ve hit a pattern of shots with the hands lower on the grip, take your pitching wedge and walk down to see what you got from this experiment.

When you get to the two groups, pace off the distance from the center of the two patterns, and make your notes in your distance chart in the back of this book.

You may see some overlap of the two groups – the longest shots when you were gripping down going about the same distance as the shortest shots when your hands were in their normal position. That’s OK, because what you are looking for here is how much distance comes off **on the average** when you re-position your hands one inch down on the grip. You should find it to be about 5-7 yards.

Repeat this exercise with each of your scoring clubs, noting the distance differences you get when you grip down **precisely one inch** from your normal hand position. You now have a second set of yardages that you can reliably produce with each club in the scoring end of your set, and a whole new measure of precision in scoring range.



SCOR Method Distance Chart							
		Distance Chart					
		Hands Normal			Hands 1" Down		
Club	Loft	Square	/	Open	Square	/	Open
9 - iron / SCOR 1	43	128	/		122	/	
PW / SCOR 2	47	117	/		110	/	
Wedge / SCOR 3	51	105	/		97	/	
Wedge / SCOR 4	54	92	/		86	/	
Wedge / SCOR 5	57	81	/		74	/	
Wedge / SCOR 6			/			/	

Once you understand the effect of this “geometry” of your scoring clubs, you can develop more shots by increasing or decreasing the amount you grip down on the grip to 1/2” or up to 1-1/2”. As you do this experimentation, you’ll find that you also learn new shot trajectories and distances that give you many options when you are in scoring range.

The keys to **The SCOR Method** are:

- 1) be precise about where you place your hands on the grip, and
- 2) always try to make the same swing tempo and effort, so that your distances are consistent.

Once you have charted these distances with each of your scoring clubs, you can make yourself a “cheat sheet” for each of your wedges. We produced a **SCOR Method** golf bag tag which you can mark with your own yardages, using a Sharpie® or other permanent market pen.

## Chapter Three

### **Adding a measure of precision.**

With only moderate practice, you can take **The SCOR Method** of precision shotmaking to whatever level you choose. One simple way you can add another measure of refinement to **The SCOR Method** is by opening the face of each scoring club slightly to increase its loft. At either of the grip positions you've learned for full swing shots, opening the face of the club a precise amount will have four effects on the shot:

- ☛ The shot will fly higher than when the face is square, because loft has been increased.
- ☛ The shot will have more spin.
- ☛ The shot will not fly as far, because it travels higher.
- ☛ The shot will fly slightly to the right of the swing path.

Understand, however, that managing the exact amount that you open the face of your wedge should be as precise as managing the exact amount you grip down. And there is a right way and a wrong way to open the face.

The wrong way is to simply make the clubface look open by rotating your hands to where the lower hand is more under the grip (to the right for a right handed player). This, however, doesn't change the relationship of the face of the club to the hands, so in order to maintain that open face, you have to make an unnatural and imprecise path of the hands through impact.

The correct way to open the clubface of a wedge or short iron is to put your hands on the grip with the club rotated to the right (for a right handed player) so that the face is opened the desired amount. This will put your left thumb on the grip slightly to the left of where it was when the club is gripped with the face square.

*Square*



*Pic 1*

*Open slightly*



*Pic 2*

In Pic 1, the hands are on the club normally, with the face square. Pic 2 shows the club rotated slightly, which opens the face 2-3 degrees; note the position of the grip pattern in relation to the right thumb; it's only about 1/8-1/4" to the right of where it was in Pic 1.

Once you grasp this concept of altering the loft by slightly opening the face, you can return to your "test site" and go through another exercise in charting yardages at normal and 1" down grip positions, so that you have two more yardages with each scoring club.

<b>SCOR Method Distance Chart</b>							
		<b>Distance Chart</b>					
		<b>Hands Normal</b>			<b>Hands 1" Down</b>		
<b>Club</b>	<b>Loft</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>9 - iron / SCOR 1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>PW / SCOR 2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Wedge / SCOR 3</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Wedge / SCOR 4</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Wedge / SCOR 5</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Wedge / SCOR 6</b>			<b>/</b>			<b>/</b>	

## Chapter Four

### The Final Step

#### Commit to Memory And Practice.

Accurately conducting these exercises is the first step to building a more precise shotmaking routine to count on when you are in scoring range. After you complete the exercises and your worksheets in the back of this book, take your Sharpie™ and transfer the numbers to your SCOR Method Bag Tag. Then, anytime you have a shot in scoring range, you can just look up the distance on your bag tag and use the notes to know exactly how to hit the shot the required distance.

The other part of the formula is to spend a reasonable amount of time on the range hitting these new scoring shots you've learned. It is time very well spent to occasionally go to the range and get the largest bucket of balls they sell, and hit your scoring clubs **only** . . . by the dozens or even hundreds. In these sessions, really work on your basics, but also experiment hitting shots of different trajectories and different distances to learn new tricks and to keep your

scoring skills sharp. And always have a specific target picked out when you hit a shot with your scoring clubs.

But be warned. When you are having a good practice session like this, you'll have balls stretched from just in front of you out to 115 yards or so, and invariably someone will ask you, "*Why are you 'wasting' all those balls?*" That's the mindset of the average golfer – that hitting balls less than "all out" is just **wasting** them.

The other suggestion I'll make is to begin and end your pre-round warm-up sessions with a dozen or more soft wedge shots of only 5-15 yards. Those at the start help get your body loose and ease you into a smooth rhythm that helps you make solid contact with the ball. Finishing your warm up with a few short pitch shots leaves very fresh "muscle memory" for when you face your first pitch or wedge approach.

Finally, practice these new shots on the course. It is helpful to play at least one out of every four or five rounds just for fun and learning – no blood or money match with your buddies. These are the opportunities to try new things and just focus on your game.

Now you've learned how to turn each wedge and short iron into a precision scoring club, where you can execute as many as four different and reliable shots with each club without making a swing change. If you practice this just a little, it will have a tremendous positive impact on your scoring abilities. No longer will you face some mysterious and imprecise "easy sand wedge" or "soft pitching wedge" shot — you will be able to "dial in" to the flag from a variety of distances from about 60-135 yards or so. All without making those dreaded "half wedge" shots.

This will take some practice, but not as much as you might think. And you can rest assured that it will be the most profitable investment of time in your golf game that you've ever spent.



<b>SCOR Method Distance Chart</b>							
		<b>Distance Chart</b>					
		<b>Hands Normal</b>			<b>Hands 1" Down</b>		
<b>Club</b>	<b>Loft</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>9 - iron/SCOR 1</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 2</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 3</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 4</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 5</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 6</b>			/			/	

<b>SCOR Method Distance Chart</b>							
<b>Distance Chart</b>							
		<b>Hands Normal</b>			<b>Hands 1" Down</b>		
<b>Club</b>	<b>Loft</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>9 - iron/SCOR 1</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 2</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 3</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 4</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 5</b>			/			/	
<b>SCOR 6</b>			/			/	

