
Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, technical proofs (TP), and all of my past articles can be accessed and viewed online at billiards.colostate.edu. The reference numbers used in the articles help you locate the resources on the website. If you have a slow or inconvenient Internet connection, you might want to view the resources from a CD-ROM or DVD. Details can be found online at: dr-dave-billiards.com.

This is the seventh in a series of articles dealing with the Billiard University (BU). The mission of the BU is to provide assessment tools, a rating system, and learning resources to help pool players strive for and achieve excellence, and to officially acknowledge excellence through the awarding of diplomas (Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate of Pool). Canadian instructor Randy Russell and I cofounded the BU with support from the following “dream team” of well-known and respected instructors: Jerry Briesath, Mark Finkelstein, Randy Goettlicher, Bob Jewett, Mike Page, Tom Simpson, and Mark Wilson. Online videos **NV D.1-D.6** explain every step of the BU process and demonstrate the BU playing-ability exams, which are available for free on the BU website: BilliardUniversity.org. **NV D.7-D.14** include excerpts from the 3-DVD BU Instructional Series that provides advice for improving your fundamentals, teaches useful aiming systems for various types of shots, and offers “hot tips” for how to do well on the exams. Last month, we looked at some 9-ball run-out-pattern drills from the Skills Exam (Exam II). This month, we’ll do the same for 8-ball.

Drill S4 in Exam II tests and helps you practice various common run-out patterns in 8-ball. There are three different ball layouts in each of the three versions of the exam (Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate). Suggested run-out patterns and options for each of the layouts are demonstrated and discussed on Disc III of the 3-DVD BU Instructional Series. Here, let’s study the three layouts in the Doctorate version of the exam. Before looking at the run-out patterns we suggest, first look at the ball layouts and decide which position plays you would choose to maximize your chances for running out.

Diagram 1 shows the first Doctorate-level 8-ball layout along with the suggested run-out pattern. Starting with ball in hand, the goal is to run-out the stripes. Per 8-ball rules, the stripes can be pocketed in any order; although, in the diagrams, I’ve numbered the balls in the order in which they are pocketed to make it is easier to see the recommended run-out pattern. As is common in typical games of 8-ball, there are often many run-out-pattern options. With the ball layout in Diagram 1, we recommend clearing the balls in the center of the table first because they can be problematic later in a run. The 15 is a good key ball for the 8 since it is easy to get a shot on the 8 from almost any angle on the 15-ball shot. Notice how, as with any good run-out pattern, a proper angle is left on each shot to make it easy to get good position for the next shot.

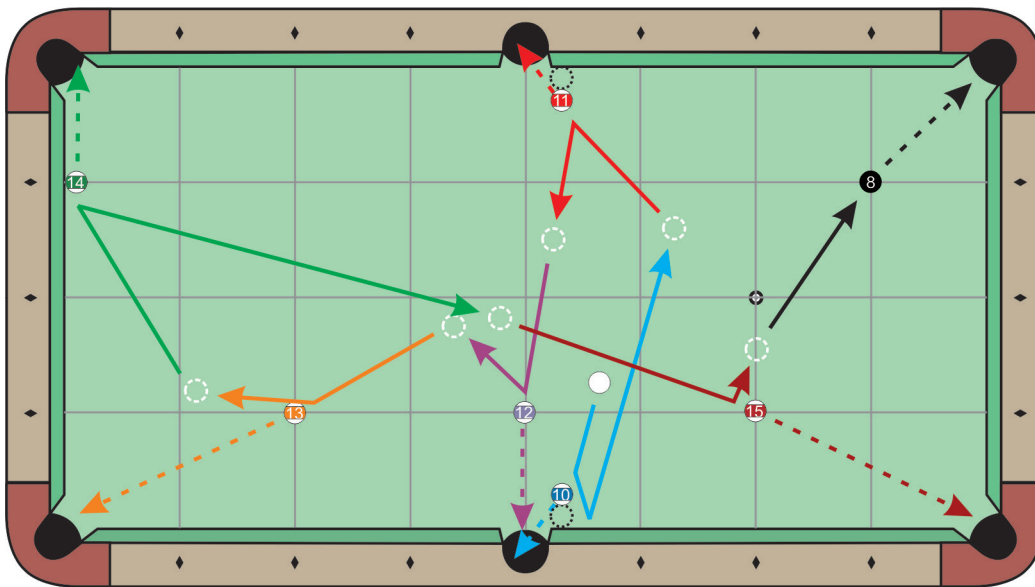
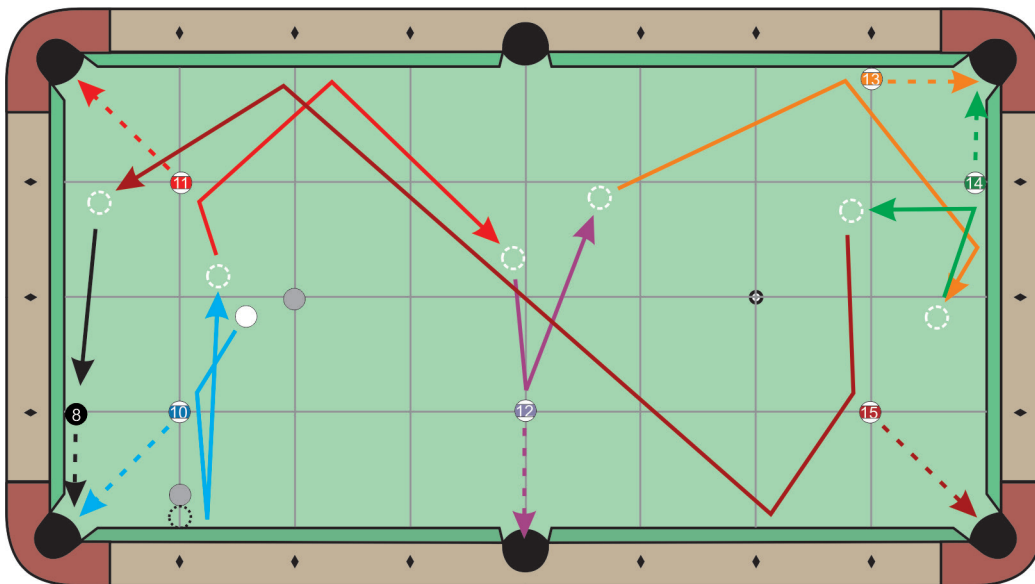


Diagram 1 S4 – 8-ball layout 1

Diagram 2 shows the second Doctorate-level 8-ball layout along with the suggested run-out pattern. The grey balls in the diagram represent obstacle solids. The 10-ball shot is a good place to start because the balls close to the 8 are not the best key balls in this layout. The obstacle solids can get in the way, especially if good angles aren't left on the ball before the key ball. Here, the 15 ball is a much better key ball because almost any angle on this ball will allow for easy position on the 8. Sometimes the best key ball can be far from the 8. The position play from the 15 to the 8 is a very natural and common route in both 9-ball and 8-ball. Position plays through the center of the table like this are important to practice and recognize in game situations. Here, the path takes the obstacle solids totally out of the picture, and there is a wide margin for error with speed to get a good shot on the 8.



to create a natural angle on the 13 to end up between the 14 and 15 on the end rail. Leaving an angle on the 15 allows a natural tangent-line path, with slight draw, to the 8 through the heart of the gap between the obstacle solids. Here, even though the 15 is the ball farthest from the 8, it is probably the best choice for the key ball, assuming you use the 13 and 14 as key balls to get on the key ball.

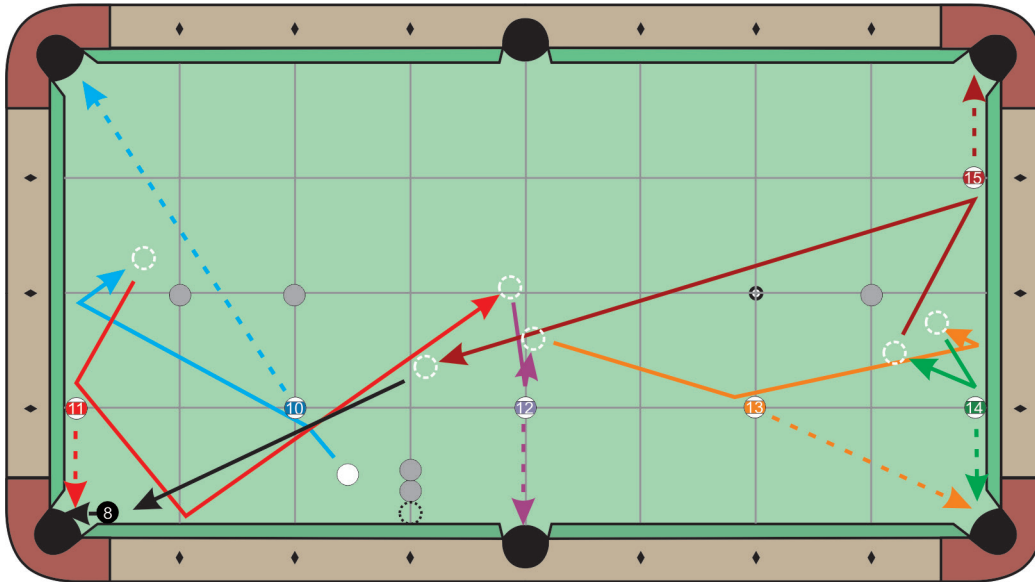


Diagram 3 S4 – 8-ball layout 3

The next time you find time to practice (and not just play), try all nine of the 8-ball layouts in the three versions of the Skills Exam (Exam II). Attempt each pattern as many times as it takes to run the table. Also experiment with different run-out patterns and position-play options to see what works best for you, especially when you get out of line and need to use “Plan B.” Again, all of the layouts and patterns are demonstrated and discussed in detail on Disc III of the 3-DVD BU Instructional Series.

If you haven’t taken the BU playing-ability and rating exams yet, give them a try. They provide a fun, challenging, and efficient pool workout to help you develop and improve the full range of pool skills necessary to be a good player. Everything you need to prepare for and take the exams is available for free at BilliardUniversity.org. It’s time to see where you rank so you can set a goal to graduate your game to the next level.

Good luck with your game,
Dean Dave

- [NV D.1](#) – BU - Part 1: Introduction - overview of the BU process for earning a pool diploma
- [NV D.2](#) – BU - Part 2: Table Setup - preparing to practice and take the BU exams
- [NV D.3](#) – BU - Part 3: Video Recording - recording official exam runs for online submittal
- [NV D.4](#) – BU - Part 4: Exam I Overview - demonstrations and scoring of the Fundamentals Exam
- [NV D.5](#) – BU - Part 5: Exam II Overview - demonstrations and scoring of the Skills Exam
- [NV D.6](#) – BU - Part 6: Submittal and Wrap Up - applying for a BU diploma online
- [NV D.7](#) – Pool Fundamentals - The Stance - from Vol-I of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.8](#) – Stun Shot Drill - from Vol-II of the Billiard University instructional DVD series
- [NV D.9](#) – How to Aim Pool Shots - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.10](#) – Draw Shot Trisect Aiming System - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.11](#) – Cue Ball Control Target Pool Drill - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.12](#) – Safety Drill - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.13](#) – Kick Shot Aiming Systems - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.14](#) – Pool Break Technique Advice - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series



PS:

- If you are a pool instructor and are interested in becoming involved with the BU, check out the “[Instructor How-To Guide](#)” in the instructor section at [BilliardUniversity.org](#).
- Every July, we hold a BU Summer School Boot Camp in Colorado. If you want to raise your game to the next level, consider attending. Details are available at [BilliardUniversity.org](#). I hope to see you there.
- 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 don't fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](#) at [billiards.colostate.edu](#).

Dr. Dave is author of “[The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#)” book and DVD, and co-author of the “[Video Encyclopedia of Pool Shots \(VEPS\)](#),” “[Video Encyclopedia of Pool Practice \(VEPP\)](#),” and “[Billiard University \(BU\)](#)” instructional DVD series.