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*Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, technical proofs (TP), and all past articles are available online at [billiards.colostate.edu](http://billiards.colostate.edu). Reference numbers used in the articles help you locate the resources on the website.*

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Recently, I spent some time with pro player Demetrius Jelatis of the Minnesota Pool Boot Camp to record several YouTube instructional videos together. The one I feature in this article (online video [NV J.104](#)) presents 10 very useful game-winning shots that many people haven't seen before. I will cover the first 5 shots here and the second 5 next month.

## 1. Low-Inside Kill Shot

In **Image 1**, Demetrius needs to pocket the 11 and hold for a shot at the 8 in the side next for the win. To an inexperienced player, it might seem impossible to prevent the cue ball (CB) from heading up table because the cut is so thin. But with low-inside spin, we can kill the CB for the hold. The bottom spin helps create drag action into the cushion, which slows the ball, and creates an angle for the inside spin to reverse off the cushion, which helps kill the CB even more. This is a useful shot to know.

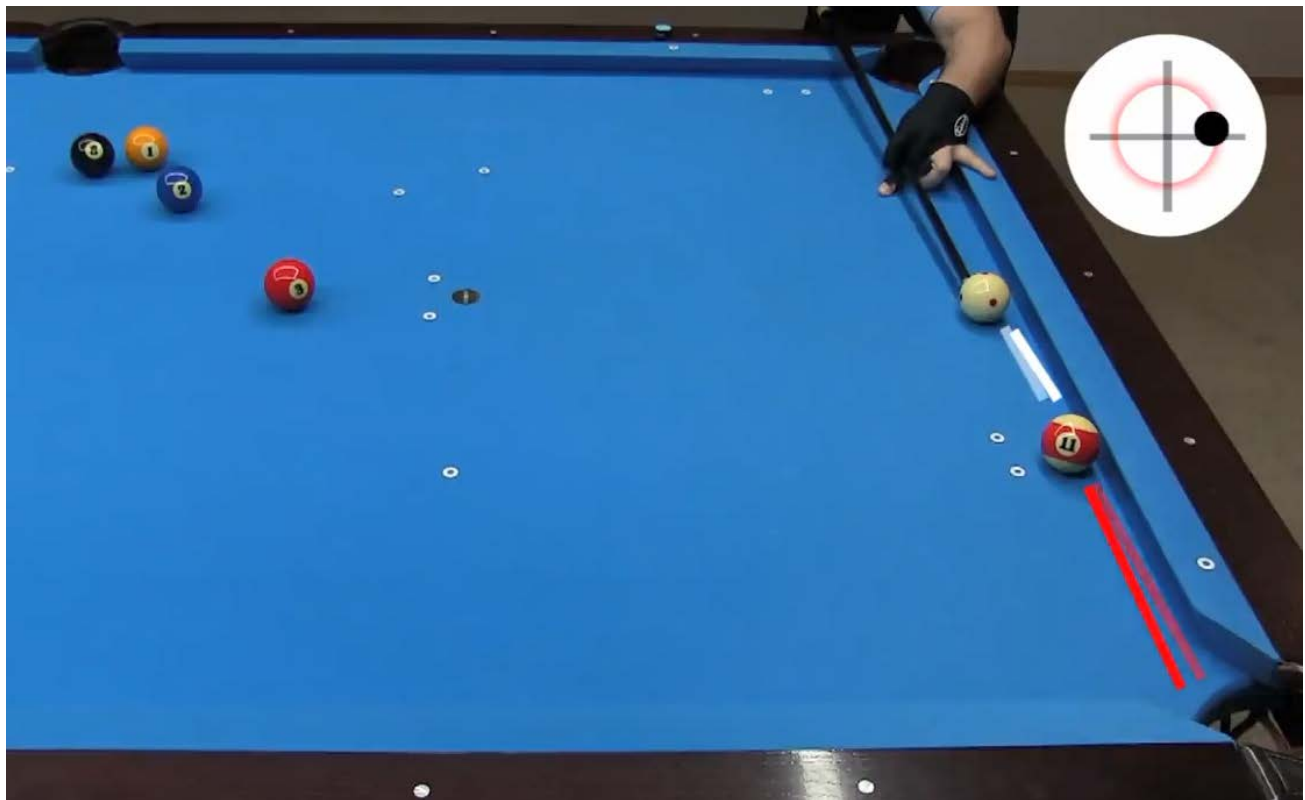


**Image 1 Low-Inside Kill Shot**

## 2. Stun Forward with Running Spin

Have you ever ended up straight in on your key ball, as shown in **Image 2**, needing to get up table for the 8 next? The most reliable way to do this is to stun forward with running spin off two rails. As shown by the lines in the image, you can cheat the pocket a little if necessary to help create a small angle to send the CB toward the 1st cushion a little. The running spin does most of the work, so you don't need to use as much speed as you might think.

Another option here is to draw with outside spin off the opposite long cushion, but this can be more difficult to control in this game situation. When the object ball (OB) is close to the rail and pocket like this, a good option is to go rail first instead with inside follow. The follow action takes the place of the ball-first running-spin effect described above. This is probably the best option for most people in this game situation.



**Image 2 Stun Forward with Running Spin**

### 3. Thick Hit Rolling Ticky

In the situation shown in **Image 3**, shooting stripes, needing to pocket the 8 for the win, many people would attempt a tangent-line ticky, kicking the CB off the end rail and thinning the 2, so the tangent line points to the pocket. That shot works, but it requires a very accurate hit. An option with a larger margin for error is to hit the 2 fuller (between a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ball and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ball hit) with slower speed to allow the 8 to roll through the ticky in the natural angle direction. As demonstrated in the video, this shot has a much larger margin for error with both the amount of cut and speed as compared to the tangent-line ticky.



**Image 3** Thick Hit Rolling Ticky

#### **4. Twice-As-Full System**

Have you ever left the CB frozen to one of your balls, as shown in **Image 4**, making an otherwise easy out almost seem hopeless? Well, if you know the twice-as-full system from fellow BD columnist Bob Jewett, you can easily recover from the mistake. Just visualize the line through the frozen balls and the desired line to the target and aim  $\frac{1}{2}$ -way between with a center-ball hit. Under the WPA “official rules of pool,” you are allowed to hit into a frozen CB like this with a normal stroke since it does not result in a push or double hit. For more information and demonstrations dealing with how to aim these types of shots in different situations, see the “[frozen ball aiming systems](#)” resource page at [billiards.colostate.edu](http://billiards.colostate.edu).



[Image 4](#) Twice-As-Full System

## 5. Frozen Rail Safety

**Image 5** shows another interesting frozen-ball shot. A good play here that many people might not consider is a safety played with inside follow. The 8 goes up table some and the reverse spin holds the CB close to the foot rail, leaving your opponent with only a tough bank. See the demonstration in the video.



**Image 5 Frozen Rail Safety**

Check out online video [NV J.104](#) to see everything in the article brought to life. And if you want to add these useful shots to your pool arsenal, be sure to practice each of them. Demetrius and I hope you can learn a new trick or two from the video. I'll see you next month for shots 6-10!

Good luck with your game,  
Dr. Dave



normal video

**NV J.104** – Top 10 Useful GAME-WINNING SHOTS You Need to Know

**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 [billiards.colostate.edu](http://billiards.colostate.edu).

*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](http://DrDaveBilliards.com).*