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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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In a recent online video ([NV J.129](#)), I demonstrated several interesting ways to quickly visualize a shot's aim and expected cue ball (CB) direction. I'll summarize these techniques in this article. If you have trouble aiming certain types of shots (or all shots), you might find these techniques helpful.

**Image 1** shows a technique I call “air cue” aiming. While standing over the shot, just hold up your cue so you see it passing through the object ball (OB) and target pocket. This can help you visualize the line and angle to the pocket, the location of the ghost ball target, and the required line of aim to pocket the ball.



**Image 1** “Air Cue” Aiming

**Image 2** shows how you can use a “air cue” to help visualize a virtual rail along the edge of the OB to the pocket. This can be helpful since rail cut shots are much easier to aim than back-cuts in the middle of the table like this.



**Image 2** “Air Cue” Virtual Rail

You can also use your cue to visualize the tangent line of a shot. **Image 3** shows the most common way when you can easily reach the OB. Just position the cue perpendicular to the line to the pocket. Here, I am pointing the joint of the cue to the pocket, and the tip points to where a stun shot would head, in this case to the corner pocket. As demonstrated in the video, you can easily avoid the scratch here with a follow or draw shot.



**Image 3** Using the Cue to Visualize the Tangent Line

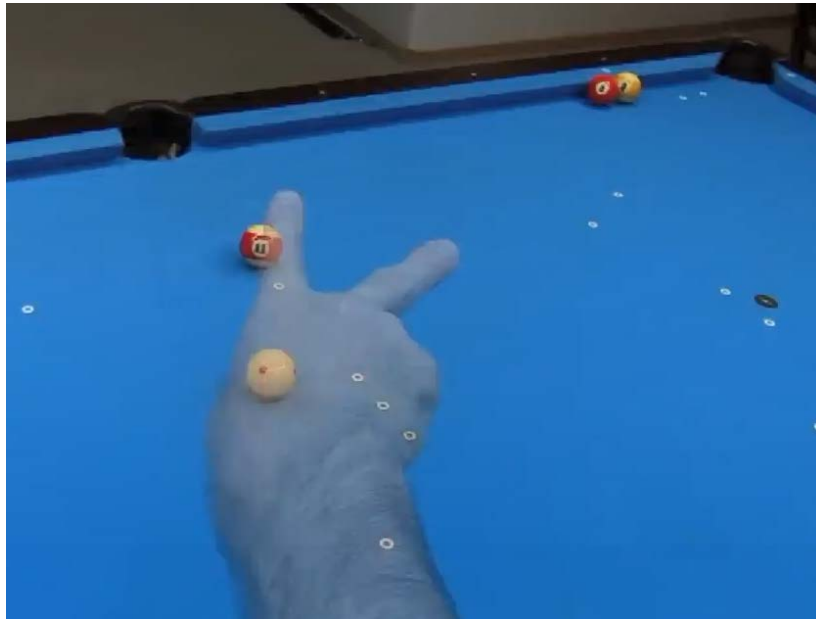
If you can't easily reach the OB, or if you want to stay in your standing position over the shot, you can instead use an "air cue" to visualize the tangent line. As shown in **Image 4**, just hold your cue up along a line perpendicular to the line to the pocket and visualize the tangent line projected down onto the table.



**Image 4** "Air Cue" Tangent Line

You can also use the 30° rule and an "air" peace sign to visualize the carom direction for a rolling CB. If you don't know the 30° rule peace-sign trick, check out the [CB control resource page](http://billiards.colostate.edu) at [billiards.colostate.edu](http://billiards.colostate.edu). As shown in **Image 5**, just point the index finger along a line through the CB and ghost-ball target. And as demonstrate in the video, just parallel-shift the middle finger to the ghost ball to see

the direction the CB will head off the 11. In this case, the CB caroms into the 3 to pocket the 3-9 combo for the win.



**Image 6** “Air Peace Sign” Carom Direction

Check out online video [NV J.129](#) and give some of these “air tricks” a try. I hope they help improve your visualization skills at the table.

Good luck with your game,  
Dr. Dave



normal video

[NV J.129](#) – Improve Your Aim with “AIR CUE” Techniques

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).

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