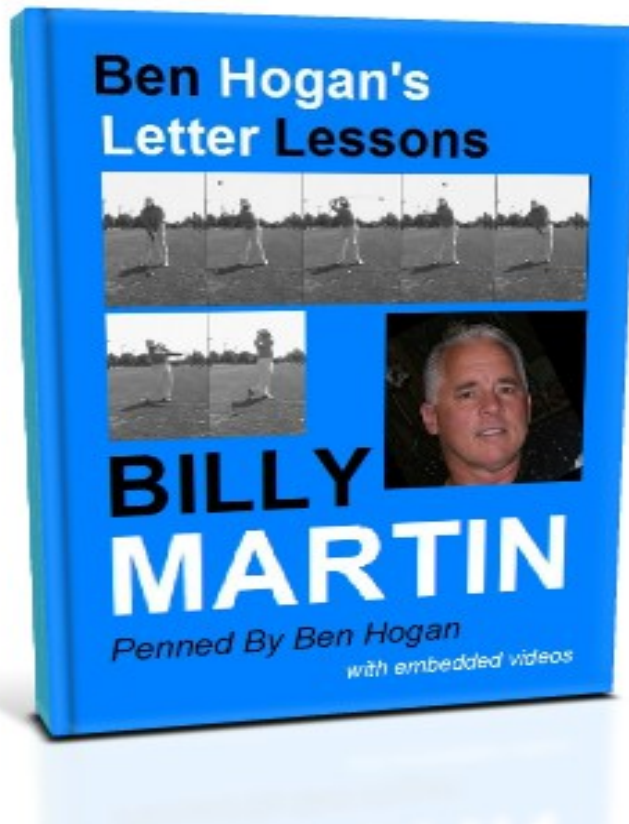




Ben Hogan's Letter Lessons

A Handwritten Golf Lesson Written By Ben Hogan



This Product Brought To You By:

Billy Martin





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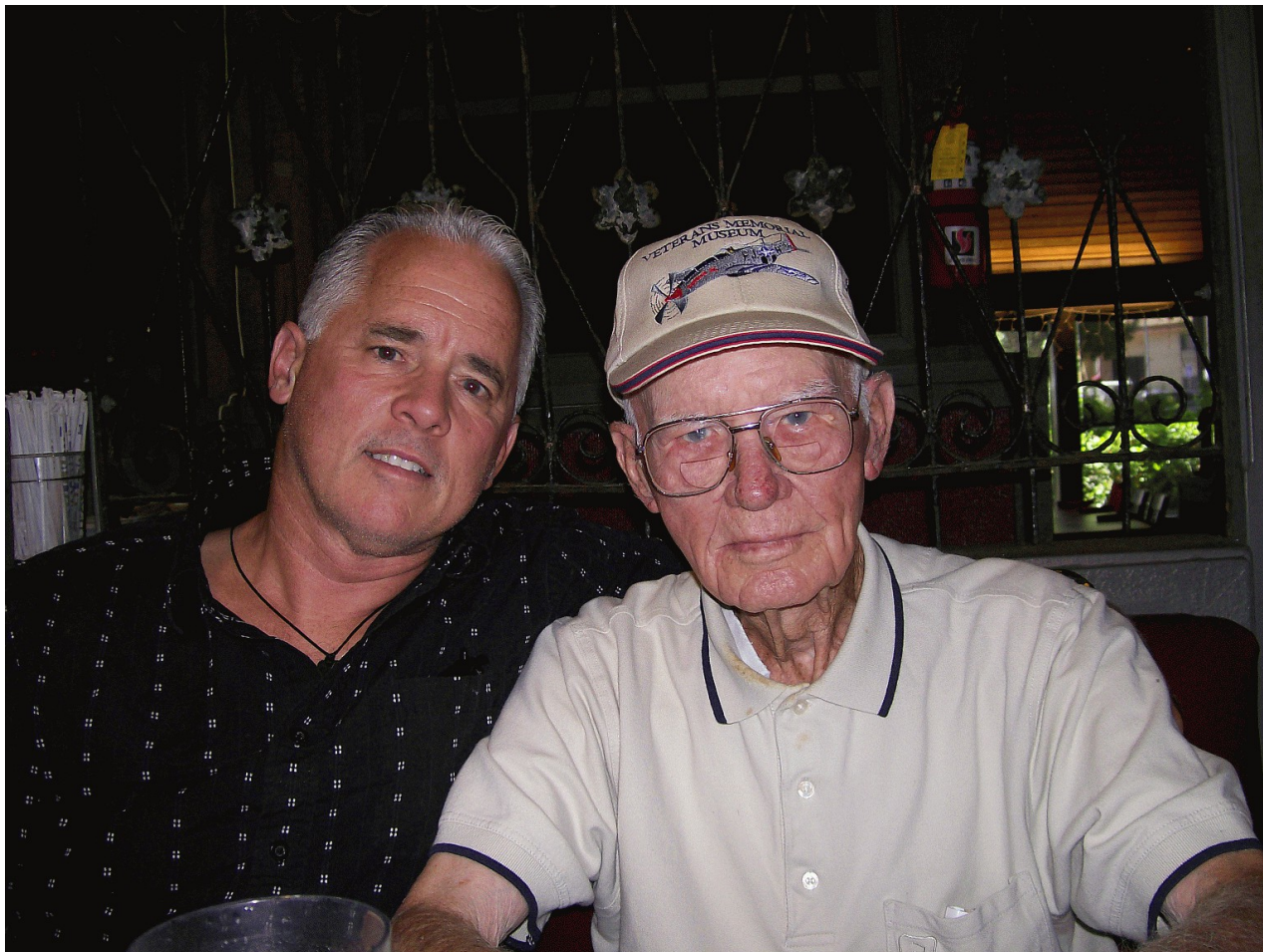
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Dedication



This is how I want to remember my Dad, Woodrow Martin. He was always funny and helpful. He led a rough life, just like Ben Hogan. His Father was killed performing duties as a police officer in South Carolina. My Dad had 5 brothers and sisters and all of them were placed in separate orphanages. They were called asylums. Without his passion for the game of Golf, I would not have ever picked up a golf club. I know I would not have grown into a man that I am today.

Thank you, Dad!





Forward

A Letter From Ben Hogan

Introduction By Billy Martin

Hello, I am Billy Martin, an avid Ben Hogan fan. Thank you for buying this e-book. I hope it helps you get more out of your golf swing and that it adds to your enjoyment of the great game of golf.

I am in my 60's and remember the excitement when I first read Mr. Hogan's Five Lessons The Modern Fundamentals of Golf, when I was a young boy in Sacramento, CA. I would spend hours dragging my mom's mirror out to the backyard net and compare my swing to Ben Hogan's.

One summer I hit so many golf balls, that the divots filled the bottom of a neighbor's built in pool that was behind my parent's home. All the practice paid off, because I built a golf swing that repeated under tournament pressure. When I won junior golf tournaments, I won them running away from the field.

The emotion and gratitude cannot be expressed fully about my respect for Ben Hogan. I have studied his background and the dedication he had to make something of his life.

One of the reasons I am constructing this Ebook is to spread the word to young golfers about Mr. Hogan and his wonderful golf swing. I want to evangelize, if you will, the love and passion he had for his golf and his friends. And I would like him to be remembered for being a deep caring man who did the very best he could every day he was alive.

In 2004, while doing another golf project, I received a copy of the letter from a popular internet golf instructor. I was floored by the effort Ben made to explain the golf swing using stick man characters. In the letter Mr. Hogan took an extreme amount of effort and care to write an in depth letter that explains how the body works in hitting the tee shot.





In my experience the information contained in the letter verifies what I already know about Hogan's teachings. Ben Hogan said in his Five Lessons that everyone should break 80. I know this is true because it made me shoot in the 60's back when I played competitive junior golf.

Since February of 2011, I have hit over 60,000 golf balls at Mid Rivers golf course in Saint Peters Missouri. I am retired now and have passed the 60's mark but I am excited every day to go out with my Ipad 2 and V1 software and work on my Hogan principles.

For you younger golfers, I believe the techniques that will be explained herein will help you with your golf swing and protect you from any bodily injuries. Mr. Hogan knew how to move the human body using a powerful repeating golf swing, and within the letter Mr. Hogan stresses head and body position, more so than the Five Lesson book. He also explains, amongst other gems, his hybrid stance.

I know there is a hunger for more Hogan information, and those who have gotten bitten by the golf bug will eventually read Mr. Hogan's books. Therefore I am hoping this Ebook will be an integral part of all your reference material pertaining to Mr. Hogan.

As you work your way through the book you will notice that I will use the letters **H-O-G-A-N** as a template for Five Letter Lessons that can be extracted from the letter.

The **H** stands for **Steady Head Position**, the **O** for a **One-Piece Handless Takeaway**, the **G** for a **Proper Grip**, the **A** for the **Correct Address** and the **N** for the **Hogan Finish**.





I am 64 yrs young and I can still kick the top of a door jam like Sam Snead!





My Swing

Thank You Mr. Hogan for your life on and off of the golf course. You were with me when I was young playing golf all day long. You are with me now as I have gotten older. I do not feel that I have aged in my golf swing because I get up every day and work on your swing principles and your human virtues. I feel gratified that I can share this with other golfers and most importantly to young people. They need heroes and you were a hero to me and the golfing world Billy Martin.

My Swing Using Concepts From The Hogan Letter



Left knee moves towards Right knee. Club moves 6 feet in the takeaway without using the hands at all!





As the left foot comes down, bring the right shoulder down. As the Hands, Arms and Feet work spontaneously.





This will tighten the left side and bow the right side so that when the swing is finished the belt buckle will be pointing toward the target and the force of the swing will cause the hands to finish high.





The Man Behind The Letter

Now let's peer into the type of Man Mr. Hogan was. A common saying about Mr. Hogan was "those steel-gray eyes of his," a friend would say. "He looks at you like a landlord asking for next month's rent."

Mr. Hogan was a fierce competitor because he knew what the word hustle meant. Young kids today when they hear the word hustle, they believe it is about drug dealing. No, Ben got up and hustled every morning and kicked himself in the butt to create the wonderful golf swing that we enjoy today.

From a 1990 Los Angeles Times article titled Ben Hogan: the Man, the Myth and the New Tour Jim Murray writes:

"Ben Hogan had so much more to overcome than most in his quest for golfing perfection; the early suicide of his father must have left a profound mark on a young boy, an unsuitably small frame for golf, near poverty for too many years to remember, a temperament completely unable to interact with the fawning galleries - lest it interfere with the shot at hand."

He continues: "(Hogan was no Trevino or Palmer in this regard) the head-on collision with a Greyhound bus and subsequent appalling injuries, embarrassing putting yips and a confounding hook that would rear its ugly head at crucial times in tournaments. For years he felt plagued by the hook and eventual disgust augmented the now famous change to the fade that made him in his best years - virtually invincible!"





The Letter Is For You

Mr. Hogan did care for people and the letter he wrote demonstrates it. You can see the dedication and the caring for his friend by the drawings of stick man characters that were provided in the letter.

It is also apparent by the length of the hand written letter that he took time out of his busy day to express his thoughts in such detail.

I believe that the content of the letter was truly written by Ben Hogan,

Some say that the letter is not real and that there are multiple copies of it. I' have spent time and effort researching the authenticity of the letter and have found some strong evidence that it is real and no less from the material given to a Ben Hogan autobiographer, James Dodson.

In his book, "Ben Hogan An American Life", Mr. Dodson writes about this letter specifically. He quotes directly from the letter that was given to him by the Hogan heirs!

I spoke with Jim and he received all of his material from the Hogan heirs. The letter is from Ben Hogan.

Additionally, I was able to contact the family of the man that received the original letter and they sent me photo copies of the actual pages.

One of the pieces of information from Pat Mahoney's son was an envelope that Pat Mahoney said it was from Ben Hogan!

There are famous golfers that say that they may have doubts about the signature of this document, but they still possess the letter as a personal collection item.

I believe that the letter has value for every golfer that is willing to understand the lessons it has to offer.





The Hogan Letter Authenticity





Roger Gunn's Article

While studying Mr. Hogan's golf swing on the internet, I found an article written by Roger Gunn about the Hogan Takeaway.

He talked in great length about the Hogan letter in his lesson about the takeaway. I contacted him and he was kind enough to send me a copy of the entire letter.

Roger Gunn's Article About Hogan Letter

The Hogan Letter was given to him by a famous Golf instructor Jim Hardy I was really interested in the letter due to Roger's use of it and his receiving it from Mr. Hardy.

David Leadbetter's In The Fundamentals Of Hogan

I remember reading about the Hogan Letter from a David Leadbetter book named, "The Fundamentals Of Hogan". In the chapter about the takeaway it mentions the Hogan letter in great detail and how it works with the steady head.

I contacted the David Leadbetter's company and spoke with one of his aides and left a message for David but I never received a reply from them. I followed up a few times with no response.

I again felt more positive about the letter due to another famous Golf teacher was using this letter in his book.





Golf Bloggers - Ralph At Gotham Golf Blog

I decided to find popular Golf blogger to see if they would be interested in backing my project.

I spoke with Ralph at Gotham Golf Blog. Ralph seemed interested in finding out more information. I gave him my project and he networked my work out to his contacts in the golf teaching world.

Ralph gave me Al Barkow's information because of a blog that Al wrote about the Hogan Letter.

Al Barkow's Webzine About Hogan Letter

In his webzine, The Barkow Quarterly Winter 2009, Al wrote about the Hogan letter that was give to him by Loren Roberts. Right from the beginning of his webzine he says that the letter was written to Pat Mahoney a head Professional at Pasatiempo Golf Club near San Jose, California.

Here is the link to his webzine.

[Al Barkow's Article](#)

This lead me to who Mr. Hogan wrote the letter for, a Pat Mahoney, who was a PGA pro at Pasatiempo Golf Club from 1946 to 1948.

He also mentions that he asked Mr. Hogan for the secret and Mr. Hogan gave him the secret in the back of the kitchen at Shady Oaks Country Club!

The lesson Mr. Hogan gave to Al was out of his letter, which is the positioning of the head and using the correct leg and body action.

I hit the jackpot!

Later on I would call Al about his Hogan lesson. I quizzed him about exactly what Mr. Hogan did with his head and where he placed it in his stance. This is crucial for a correct golf swing and the understanding of what is in the Hogan Letter.





Al told me that Mr. Hogan moved his head position horizontally to the right to place it in a balanced position at address.

I further questioned Mr. Barkow if the head was canted or tilted as we have seen other golf greats set their head at address, and the answer was, no.

Mr. Hogan physically moved his head to the right in this horizontal move as if he was looking at the ball from his left eye. The importance of this lesson complements the contents of the handwritten letter that we will now explore.

All of the pieces were starting to fit. It was coming from Mr. Hogan himself. He was telling us exactly what he meant by using someone that asked for the secret.

Al was impressed with what I found and said I could use his quotes and blog for my Ebook.

I continued my search with the help from Al Barkow's webzine for the search of the student who the letter was based on, Pat Mahoney.

Here is his article. I have highlighted certain parts of this blog that we will further investigate. His mention of Pat Mahoney and Pasatiempo Golf Club led me in a search for the Mahoney family which I will explain in detail.

I differ with Mr. Barkow, in that I believe Mr. Hogan was giving him a secret about the golf swing. I thank him for this lead. Here are a few snippets of his webzine entitled "A Very Revealing Hogan Letter". I will insert my comments and you can see the the entire article at this link.





Excerpts From “A Very Revealing Hogan Letter”

*I was talking with Loren Roberts at the recent Charles Schwab Cup tournament, in Sonoma, California and Ben Hogan’s name came up. Loren mentioned he had a copy of a letter Hogan wrote about how to hit the driver, said he’d send it to me, and did. It’s a 13-pager written by hand to **Pat Mahoney**, in 1948. Mahoney at the time was the head pro at the Pasatiempo Golf Club, near San Jose, California.*

The mentioning of Pat Mahoney is what I wanted to hear. Thank you Ben Hogan and Al Barkow.

Al continues.

*Some time passes, lunch is over, and Hogan and I are walking down the hallway at his hangout club, **Shady Oaks**. I still hadn’t gotten **the secret**, and asked him when it was coming. At that he steered me through the swinging doors of the kitchen, saying he didn’t want anyone else to hear. Fine. “**Take your stance**,” he commanded. I did. “**Now turn your head to the right**,” he said. I did. I waited for the next phase. It wasn’t coming. I asked if that was it, he said yes, and I said it was a gimmick. He said it wasn’t. The lesson was over. Hogan had given me a piece of swing business that went back to Bobby Jones, at least. Some secret!*

Mr. Barkow continues quoting from the letter.

“To verify a correct backswing, at the top of the backswing the groin muscle on the inside of your right leg near your right nut will tighten. This subtle feel of tightness there tells you that you [can make] the correct move back to the ball.”

This feeling is what Mr. Hogan was showing and telling him in the back of the Shady Oaks kitchen! You setup to the ball correctly, which Mr. Hogan will explain in the letter and then make the correct move using the left knee towards the right knee. Mr. Hogan gave a lesson for all of us in the back of the kitchen at Shady Oaks.





In Search And Finding Of The Real Mahoney!

The Barkow blog mentioned that the letter was written to Pat Mahoney, the head professional of Pasatiempo Golf Club, near San Jose, CA.

I spent an entire day calling golf courses and driving ranges starting with Pasatiempo Golf Club in search of Pat Mahoney.

I spoke with a gentleman about Mr. Mahoney and he said that I should start my search with Brad Lozares, a popular golf professional in Palo Alto.

Brad Lozares Golf Shop

Mr. Lozares was kind enough to give me some tips on driving ranges and cities that I could try to find out where Pat Mahoney went after leaving Pasatiempo Golf Club.

I ventured on to Sunnyvale and a golf course called Sunken Gardens Municipal Golf. I spoke with a few kind employees and they said that they believed that Pat Mahoney had a son and a daughter that lived in San Francisco.

They believed the son was an attorney. So I looked at all of the Mahoney's that were attorney's in the bay area. And decided to call them all in an effort to find the real Mahoney. The process seemed slow and arduous.

I decided to take a break and go out to Mid Rivers Golf Course and hit some golf balls. I knew I was doing the right thing but I was not getting the right results. I am not one to give up even though I knew I was coming on to full exhaustion from my efforts and a phone list that was getting shorter.

I came back from Mid Rivers golf course after hitting 500 golf balls. Each one I was giving a prayer to have patience and clarity of mind to continue my search.

I told my wife, as I was going down into my basement to do my last few phone calls, that maybe I have reached a dead end and should just give up. I





decided to give it one more chance for Mr. Hogan's sake. I truly believed that Mr. Hogan gave us in this letter, sound teaching and a secret for a repeating golf swing.

Ok, one more phone call for my golf hero Ben Hogan. The last Mahoney on my list was Patrick Mark Mahoney, an attorney in the bay area. I was hopeful, but my phone call before my trip to the driving range ended in a dead end when I spoke with a Patrick T. Mahoney and attorney in San Francisco.

I dialed my last number and the young sounding man said that he was not the son of the elder Patrick Mahoney but his Father, Judge Patrick J. Mahoney is.

I almost fell off my chair. I told him what I was doing and that he was my last Mahoney and I would be grateful if his Father could contact me.

To make a long story short, I had an opportunity to speak with Mark's Dad, Judge Patrick J. Mahoney and he was gracious to send me a email and a copy of the Hogan letter with newspaper clippings of a Ben Hogan exhibition match that his father was teamed up with Ben Hogan!

I was floored when I saw that the envelope that Pat Mahoney kept the letter in that he wrote "From Ben Hogan"!

How great is that! Thank you Grandfather, Grandmother, Father and Son Mahoney!





Authorized Hogan Biographer Writes About The Letter!

Because of my success in locating Judge Patrick J. Mahoney, who is the son of Pat Mahoney, the student that Mr. Hogan the letter to, I was given information about a reference to the letter in James Dodson's Ben Hogan biography entitled, "Ben Hogan An American Life".

Mr. Dodson was authorized by the Hogan heirs to write his book and was given full access to Mr. Hogan's materials to write Ben Hogan's biography. In it was a 2 page reference to the remarkable handwritten letter.

Through my research and locating Pat Mahoney's family I found out that the letter was written in 1948 and not 1960 as what Mr. Dodson has in his book.

Judge Mahoney sent me a email copy of the letter with a email copy of the envelope that his father wrote, "From Ben Hogan".

He also included newspaper clippings of his Father playing in tournaments with Ben Hogan. He was kind enough to give as much detail about his Father's relationship with Mr. Hogan and what a wonderful PGA professional his Father was.

I called Mr. Dodson and spoke to him about his reference to the letter on pages 121-122 in his book and that it was OK for me to use his material.

The Heirs had the letter and had various Hogan friends and associates review the book.

Here is the excerpt from Dodson's book talking about the "remarkable handwritten letter" from Mr. Hogan to one of his students.

Through my research I located the student and it was Pat Mahoney. I have highlighted the import text and included the Mahoney families material at the end of the Ebook.





*Early in his career, Hogan studied almost every movement Walter Hagen made on a golf course, quickly coming to the conclusion that the Haig possessed the finest natural rhythm and playing tempo any champion ever displayed—which he attempted to copy. **In a remarkable handwritten, fourteen-page letter to a friend in the late 1960s, using a “stick figure” he drew to illustrate his point,** Hogan explained the grip and fundamentals of “a sound driver swing” he claimed to have developed directly from conversations with the aging Hagen, detailing principles of a proper grip, finger pressure, alignment of shoulders and feet, flex of knees, position of the body and head through the swing, position of the left hand during the backswing, transfer of weight, and a high finish that encouraged the hips and shoulders to fully turn into the shot. Hogan advised: “Keep on file and refer to when in doubt. If used correctly you can belt the ball a country mile (Drive for show and putt for dough),” then concluded his remarkable tutorial by offering a detailed if somewhat unorthodox way of verifying the correctness of one’s backswing: “At the top of the backswing the groin muscle on the inside of your rt leg near your right nut will tighten. This subtle feeling of tightness there tells you that you have made the correct move back from the ball. Ben Hogan.”*

Dodson, James (2004-05-11). Ben Hogan: An American Life (pp. 122-123). Random House, Inc.. Kindle Edition.





Mr. Hogan's Method





Hagen, Hogan And A Slugger Named Ruth

In the letter Mr. Hogan discusses what he calls The Correct Method. When Mr. Hogan uses terms such as correct, proper, or you must, it builds confidence in my understanding of the golf swing.

He even further states that many instructors DO NOT TEACH a correct method. Is that strong or what! If someone says that their way is the correct way, it would logically follow that any other way would put you on the wrong path.

I believe that this letter was penned prior to his writing of the *Five Lessons The Modern Fundamentals Of Golf* and *Power Golf*; otherwise, he would have made reference to these books. Ben did not have video cameras or computer software to drive his points home; however, he took his pen and drew the little stick man that we will call, "Sticky".

Ben wanted to communicate as simply as possible to his students what the golf swing feels like. He talked more about the arc of the swing and concentric circles versus the plane of the golf swing. The sagging in and the bowing of the body and the logical order of how the club moves back with momentum and the distinct way the golf club is to be brought down from the top of the swing to the finish is a jewel.

In the letter Mr. Hogan credits "this treatise" is because of the teaching of Walter Hagen. Did Walter Hagen draw stickman characters on a napkin in a bar somewhere?

We can let our imaginations run a little. Hagen was a professional baseball player as was the great Babe Ruth. And Hogan uses Babe Ruth's powerful swing which is based on correct use of leg and body positions that works under a steady head position.





Methods, Concepts, Techniques Or Fundamentals?

I believe Mr. Hogan was not a “Method” teacher. By that I mean, he worked on and wrote about “Fundamentals” and in those “Fundamentals” in the letter he says there are techniques that need to be learned such as uphill shots, downhill shots and “then he says there comes putting.”

As far as a method that could be used with his “Fundamentals, I believe that he would try to verbalize what he was doing with the golf swing or physically put the student in a position as he did with Mr. Al Barkow. I will tell you what occurred with Mr. Hogan and Al Barkow in this Ebook.

As far as his swing being the only swing that a golfer should study or try to emulate, I only can say that Mr. Hogan would be asked what he did and give guidance about what he thought how the golf swing should be performed.

There is a saying that golf greats would watch Mr. Hogan hit golf balls but Mr. Hogan would not be driving miles to sit and watch them practice.

Is Mr. Hogan's swing the only swing to use as a model? I believe that as Mr. Hogan says in this letter that you can make adjustments off of “Fundamentals” and you have a correct method. Enough said!

My Discoveries From The Letter

We are the recipients of a golf lesson from Walter Hagen and Ben Hogan. How great is that! From my research I have concluded that these Letter Lessons are pre “The Five Modern Fundamentals Of Golf” and “Power Golf” books.

The cover sheet from the Pat Mahoney's family, the student that this letter was written for, says it was dated in 1948 and therefore it would be placed before his other publications. Mr. Hogan was playing wonderfully and was winning tournaments and formulated a way to describe his golf swing that he learned from a personal lesson he received from the great Walter Hagen.





Key Concepts For Each Letter Lesson

Mr. Hogan writes at the beginning of his letter that it's crucial to have a center of gravity in the golf swing. Either the nose or the head, must keep a certain place in the golf swing by the use of proper leg action and an body position.

I will be teaching these two lessons in Letter Lesson H for a Steady Head Position and Letter Lesson A for a Correct Address together due to the reliance on how you see the golf course and visualize in your mind the shape of your particular shot and how that would affect your address position.

He also writes about the feet being aimed at the target in the left hip left shoulder being open to the target due to the bending in more of the right knee. I will cover this in Letter Lesson A for the correct address.

When I discuss one Letter Lesson, for example Letter Lesson H for Steady Head Position, I will be referencing other Letter Lessons in passing because each of the lessons overlap each other. So you see that I want you to absorb all of the Letter Lessons into one powerful and accurate golf swing from Beginning to End. Or, you guessed it the word BEN.

He will also describe the concept that the hips are controlling the shoulders and head is steady in the golf swing. He mentions this as a concentric turn. I will be giving you drills and guidance on how you can weave all of this together in a cliff notes.

Mr. Hogan knew this and has explained this to us in his other books. For example in his Five Modern Fundamentals of Golf and in his Power Golf books he begins his instruction with the proper grip or in the letter with Letter Lesson G for a proper grip.

He would describe a slight change in the grip would give different results, as when Mr. Hogan weakened his left hand grip which corrected a dreaded hook and helped him develop a full release fade.

A slight change here and there would pay huge dividends and different





results.

In Letter lesson H for steady head position, Mr. Hogan utilizes Babe Ruth's powerful baseball swing as an example of a steady head and correct use of leg work and body position.

This is a perfect example how two Letter Lessons work in harmony. Letter Lesson H, relies on Letter Lesson A. In other words how you address the ball has a huge meaning where your head SHOULD BE. In Letter Lesson A, I will show you discoveries about Mr. Hogan's swing that will make this clearer for you. I have created videos of these lessons for you to enjoy. Click on the hyperlinks so you can take time viewing them.

So in each Letter Lesson I will be writing about the Key Concept for that lesson. This will make your understanding of the letter applicable for practice at the driving range and then on to the golf course.





How To Use The Ebook





Ways To Learn From The Ebook

There are a few ways that you can enjoy this Ebook. You could read the letter for yourself first and enjoy what Mr. Hogan wrote to Pat Mahoney or go through the Letter Lessons individually.

A utilization of the linked teaching video and handouts could be one way to concentrate on each part by itself and then put it all together in the swing summary section. I will breaking the swing down to Key Concepts for ease in taking it to the driving range or the golf course.

When I received the letter from Pat Mahoney's son I spent a week just reading it and took golf swings without hitting a golf ball. I would look at Youtube videos of Mr. Hogan's golf swing and compared it to the contents of the letter.

I then developed drills that I could physically replicate what Mr. Hogan was saying. I also did the shadow drill to get my steady head position and my one piece handless takeaway.

I reread Mr. Hogan's Five Modern Fundamentals Of Golf and any other book I had about Mr. Hogan. I went out and hit golf balls utilizing my Ipad 2 and V1 Golf software.

Our you certainly can view the hyperlinks and physical drills that I have made for you because I will be talking about the letter and giving you guidance and support.

If you want to go back to the table of contents click on the chapter title and you will be sent back to it.





Which Letter Lesson Do I Learn First

Is it the chicken or is it they egg? Is it the steady head position or is it the correct address that we would be adjusting in our swing?

Does the way we line our feet alter where our head our head position would be? Or should our thought is and feelings be about taking the club back on the backswing and the shape of the shot and trajectory play into our first considerations when setting up to the golf ball.

Certainly we all know that a small change of our grip or even grip pressure will give us different results.

The Letter Lessons Work Together

All of the Letter Lessons need each other and rely on each other to be effective in hitting a golf ball.

The way you finish your golf swing, Letter Lesson N for the Hogan Finish, is dictated by Letter Lesson H, the steady head position. Your head and visual clues tell you where your Head must be in your Letter Lesson A correct address.

These are not static positions there is movement here. When you look at Mr. Hogan's swing he is electric. He is finding his balance points on the ground and he looks athletic like a runner getting ready to move forward or a boxer ready to deliver a punch. I will show you in Letter Lesson A how you can put yourself into this mind set and utilize a powerful pivot in your golf swing.

Mr. Hogan used his pivot to drive where his educated hands would be. As golfers we feel the shot in our hands but we must realize that our body creates the motion and the force that is transmitted to our hands through the golf club.





Mr. Hogan's swing controlled the face of the golf club. He thought the golf club was a hook instrument and he was nauseated by the hook. He wanted the correct use of the hands and wrists. I will talk about a caddy swing and how they would set the club with their wrists going back and not roll the hands on the takeaway.

I have a crosshand drill that will instill this important movement in your swing. All of this is important but it is really exciting to know.

Mr. Hogan used physics wonderfully. He had to especially after his bus accident. God Bless Ben Hogan!

Certainly Letter Lesson O for the one piece handleless takeaway relies on the Letter Lesson G for proper grip. Each change of your hands which would mean their grip pressures correlates to how the golf club is taken back on the backswing.

Think of the swing as a whole and not segments. I will be giving you drills and physical exercises that you can do to instill this wonderful information from this remarkable letter.

My Approach In Using The Letter Lessons

I will be going through the lessons utilizing the acronym HOGAN in that order to instill a way of doing things or a checklist that you can remember.

For the 60,000 golf balls I have hit in the last year I have personally utilized this way of using the Letter Lessons and I am happy to explain it to you know. I will try to keep it short and sweet so you can immediately apprehend and comprehend how to go about it.

Okay here we go.





My Application Of The Letter Lessons

The assumption would be that you would have your hands on the club properly and are ready to step into the shot. Refer to Letter Lesson G for proper grip to get your hands on the club correctly.

I have noticed that Mr. Hogan was not big on taking practice swings. He did take more time on the first tee shot in order to get his mind and body working the best he could for the opening tee shot.

On all of his shots he would make his mind up back behind the ball and step into the shot and adjust his grip by having it up waist high. He would have the club in his right hand first and then place both hands together and keep them up at the waist high position and then he would settle into the shot.

I have my grip absolutely how I want them. I have aligned both palms of my hands as in prayer and I have left side pressure towards my swing path on both of my thumbs. (This will aide me in my transition from the top of the backswing thru the impact and follow through). That's it!

I visualize a sighted line behind the ball e and see it at a specific trajectory and shape and try to find a smaller area out in front of me that I can have the ball's flight go thru. It may be a certain cloud in the sky or a tree in the distance. I have a specific follow though or Hogan finish Letter Lesson N that I want to use for this particular shot.

I am stepping into the shot knowing full well that my stance will alter where my Steady Head position will be and I am imaging the ball's flight in my mind as I settle into the golf ball.

I have used the Popsicle/Hogan Cigarette drill so often that I can utilize the tip of the stick and have it point out to a cloud or tree that is out in the distance. I am looking out to where I want the ball to start. I call this my sighted line.

While doing so I am moving my feet, WITHOUT LOOKING AT THEM. If I looked at them I would be starring at my feet and then just glancing at the





target. What I want to do is STARE AT MY SIGHTED LINE and GLANCE AT BALL AND MY FEET.

At this point I have my Letter Lesson H, Letter Lesson O, Letter Lesson G and Letter Lesson A done. A small bump with the right knee and both hands (slightly forward) and then I execute Letter Lesson O for one piece hand less takeaway.

You might say, that I am not using the HOGAN in the correct order. NOT! I have already known and sense where and how I am going to do this because I know where I am going to finish up with my swing, Letter Lesson N. It is all tied together. When you plan a trip you have to know your destination before you start, right? I step up to the ball and do all of the above with this rhythm and timing.

One, Two, Three, Four, move the LEFT KNEE and CLOSE THE DOOR.

One – Right foot is in place in stance,

Two – Left foot is in place in stance,

Three – one waggle, then I

Move the Left Knee (popsicle stick moves back, head is moved horizontally over right groin area) Towards the Right Knee. And Close The Door. Dat Dat Dat Dat, dat dat dat dat dat DAT!

Do you feel the rhythm and timing? Check out the link for a video of it.

[One, Two, Three, Four Walkthru](#)

[One, Two, Three, Four - Move The Knee And Close The Door](#)





Rhythm And Rhyme To Remember The Letter Lessons

The Letter Lesson Swing

To have a proper golf stance the knees must be slightly bent
Always open left shoulder so the ball goes where it's meant
But its the bending of the right knee a little more than the left
Makes the golf swing so much simpler the results will always be deft.



At the top of your backswing your belt buckle should be sticking out
Permitting the hips and shoulders to make a concentric turn
Making the shoulders turn correctly and keeping the head in one place
If you do these moves correctly the hands do not have to move out all.
My father always told me if you want to play this game son
You need to watch Ben Hogan because he dug it out of the ground.
This man from Fort Worth Texas has a sound golf swing.





Letter Lessons Warmups





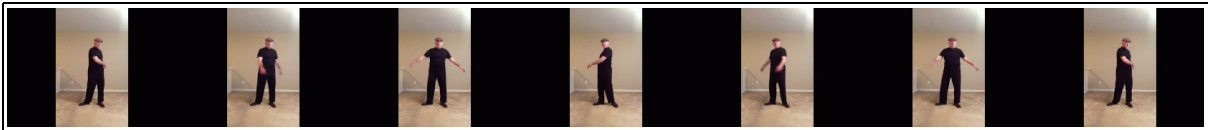
Letter Lessons Exercises

On Broadway - Swinging Your Arms – Concentric Circles

The martial art of Aikido has a tremendous similarity to the Ben Hogan golf swing. I will be giving you mental exercises and physical exercises to get you up to par as it were so you can enjoy the game of Golf and not hurt yourself and maybe loose a few inches off of the belt buckle. Mr. Hogan talks about the belt buckle or belly button in his letter. So that tells me that it is important. Here you go!

Basic Swing Your Arms - Feel Concentric Circles

The sensation of blood running to your feet and hands is a good thing. Note that my left foot is a little closer to you than my right foot. This will simulate the hybrid golf stance that I will cover in Letter Lesson A for the Correct Address. For now loosen up your feet, ankles, knees, hip, abdomen, chest, shoulders and your neck.



This will really work you out if you allow it to. You can try the Aikido step drill that I am doing. You are not confronting or meeting your opponent, you are greeting them and using their force against them.

It is the same with Golf. Mr. Hogan found out that thru his hybrid stance that he used in his long game and his shorter clubs that he could build up a tremendous amount of what I call electricity or go juice with his golf swing.

He had this inside figure 8 swing shape that I will teach you.. Note the back view of his body and his golf swing and study how his backbone is positioned and how it runs up thru his neck. I will show you this in Letter Lesson H.





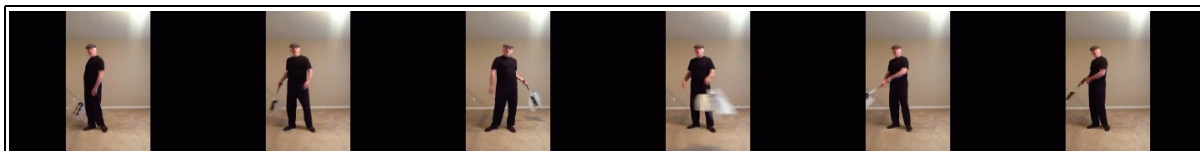
The Rag Doll – The Steady Head

I am using the Golf Fan. If you have one use one or get maybe a 5 iron and a 6 iron and hold them together. You could try to keep them together with a small velcro strap and then it will be easier for you to grab the club as it swings from one side of your body to the next. This will take it up a notch from the last exercise. Be aware of the tops of your forearms. Try to keep them up to the sky. You will end up having a great swing and forearms like Popeye The Sailor. Ah Har Matie!

Moving Club From One Side To The Next - Inside Loop Figure 8

Turn the body and feel the golf club go with the body. We want to get a pivot working. There is your power and your accuracy. This will start you on the correct path of a inside figure 8 swing shape.

The classic golfers would use their pivot to drive the other parts of their swing. You feel it in your hands but it is the body, basically your pivot, that gives you the feeling of a great golf swing.



Let the dog, the body, wag the tail, the golf club. You will feel it on both sides of the body in the groin area. This is what Mr. Hogan says that at the top of the backswing, if you have performed a good backswing you will have a sensation right in that spot. Let's train our bodies to do just that.

Note that I am sagging in my body on both sides. One side going back and then the other coming through. Also look at my spine, from top to bottom it is aligned. Our golf swing is a hinge of a door. We want to eventually place our head to the right side of the hinge so we can slam the door. You are a rag doll!



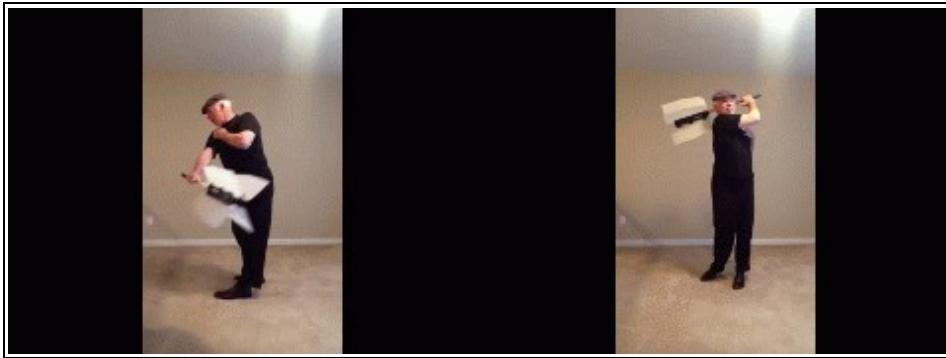


Out Of My Head Right Arm Only -The Hybrid Stance And Hogan Finish

I hope you are enjoying the music.. Rag Doll, On Broadway. Now on to Going Out Of My Head. I will show you how to face the Sighted Line as in Bowling and just swing your right arm. Mr. Hogan never ran out of his right arm. In other words his body was out of his way and in a perfect position for strength and stability and now he could apply accuracy with his right arm. He could shape shots with his follow through.

[Right Arm Only - Works With Hybrid Stance And Hogan Finish](#)

Ken Venturi said in the “Hogan Mystique” that you can tell where the ball went because of Mr. Hogan's finish. We will learning how to do this with the entire golf swing in Letter Lesson N for End The Hogan Finish.



The concept of concentric circles will be placed in the context of a Hybrid Stance which I will be covering in Letter Lesson A for The Correct Address. For now I want you to understand that Mr. Hogan had to find a way to keep the face of the club under control. He knew that he had power in his right hand. He would always say, “I wish I had three Right hands”.

So we need to get the right arm fully through the ball coming through so we don't block ourselves and flip the club. We do not want the hitchhiking thumb rotation coming through the ball. I will show you how to use your thumbs.





See how my entire left side is out of the way and my right arm is just blasting all the way to the Hogan Finish.

Yes do this now! Mr. Hogan wanted us to have speed on the other side of the ball. He was always thinking forward. His setup and his stance was active and athletic. Like a cross-country runner at the starting line. He was all go!

This piece of the puzzle, the left side being open to the target due to his Hybrid Stance is huge. In Letter Lesson A for the Correct Address I will walk you through it but for now really work it, Baby!

First have your right arm and hand arched as if you were shooting a 45 to the ground.

When coming through the ball note the position of the top of the forearm. Try to hold it off a little and have it facing up to the sky. It will give the pie in the face position with palm of your right hand.

You should feel your right pectoral muscles firing off in tandem with a rotation of your torso. Mr. Hogan would tell us that that the right hand is important for a powerful golf swing.

Finish with the golf club behind your neck and horizontal to the ground.

Man, That's Hogan!



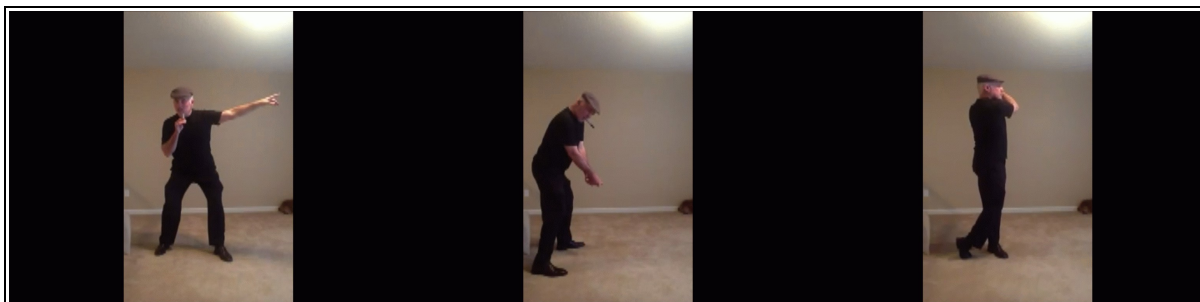


In Crowd –The Sighted Line - One Piece Handless Takeaway

Try to absorb what you are seeing and hearing. This is a In Crowd way using a Pen or a Popsicle Stick to train your Handless Takeaway. The genius of Ben Hogan was that he kept on experimenting until he got it. Feet one way, hips and shoulders one way, one knee breaking one way, arched wrists and having the right arm go out to the target. It happened so fast nobody had a clue what was going on. Mr. Hogan found a way for you and me..God Bless Ben Hogan!

1 2 3 4 Move The Knee And Close The Door

Watch this video and do the 1, 2, 3, 4 move the knee and close the door. Get the rhythm and tempo into your feet. One tip.. Do not lean back onto your heels. Be more on the balls of your feet.



You will be able to turn the corner around your right hip coming thru the ball if you do so. I will show this later on. Have fun. You are almost ready to sit down and be a student from Ben Hogan's own handwritten letter!



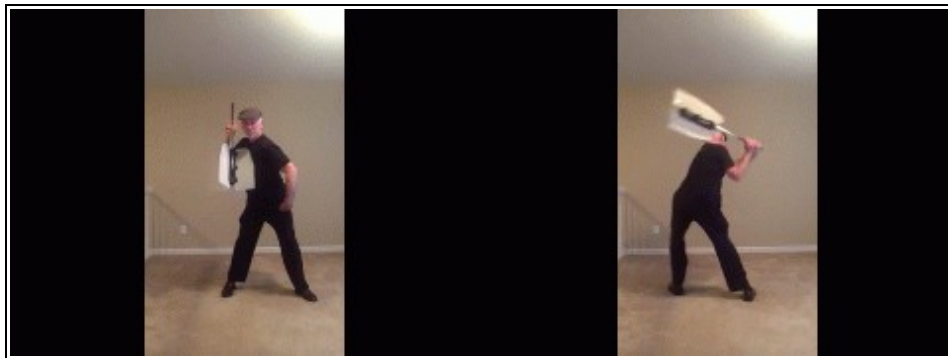


Elusive Butterfly – The Back View - The Center Of Gravity Of The Swing

How many golfers study swing from what I call the back view. It is not the down the line view, but an elusive position to view the golf swing. Mr. Hogan's spine was adjusted to be straight but canted slightly to the right due to his Steady Head position and his Hybrid Stance. He had a backswing and a downswing but he had a set in between. This is the Elusive Butterfly if you will. It is here and then gone in a blink. I found it and captured it for you.

[The Elusive Butterfly Of Mr. Hogan's Electric Hybrid Stance Setup](#)

What you need to know is that Mr. Hogan's move on the downswing to the left heel would not be so great if he did not set up the way he did. View the next picture and see that it is almost like I have a lightning bolt going from my right shoulder angled down into my left heel. You can especially see it in Mr. Hogan's swing from the front view and the elusive back view.



If he did not make adjustments with his body, the feet to the target, the left side open due to the bending in of the right knee and the placement of a horizontal move to the right groin area he would not have the dynamic powerful set move on the downswing.





The Letter Lessons





Letter Lesson H

Steady Head Position





Letter Lesson H—Steady Head Position

Key Concept 1 -The Swing's Center Of Gravity

The center of gravity of the body must stay in one place throughout the swing. The Baseball Swing of Babe Ruth uses rotational and linear forces to hit home runs. The concept is that the hips are controlling the shoulders and the head is steady in the golf swing.

[My Inside Figure 8 2012 Driver Swing](#)

The head or nose is the center of gravity of the body and must stay in one place by the use of correct leg work and body position.



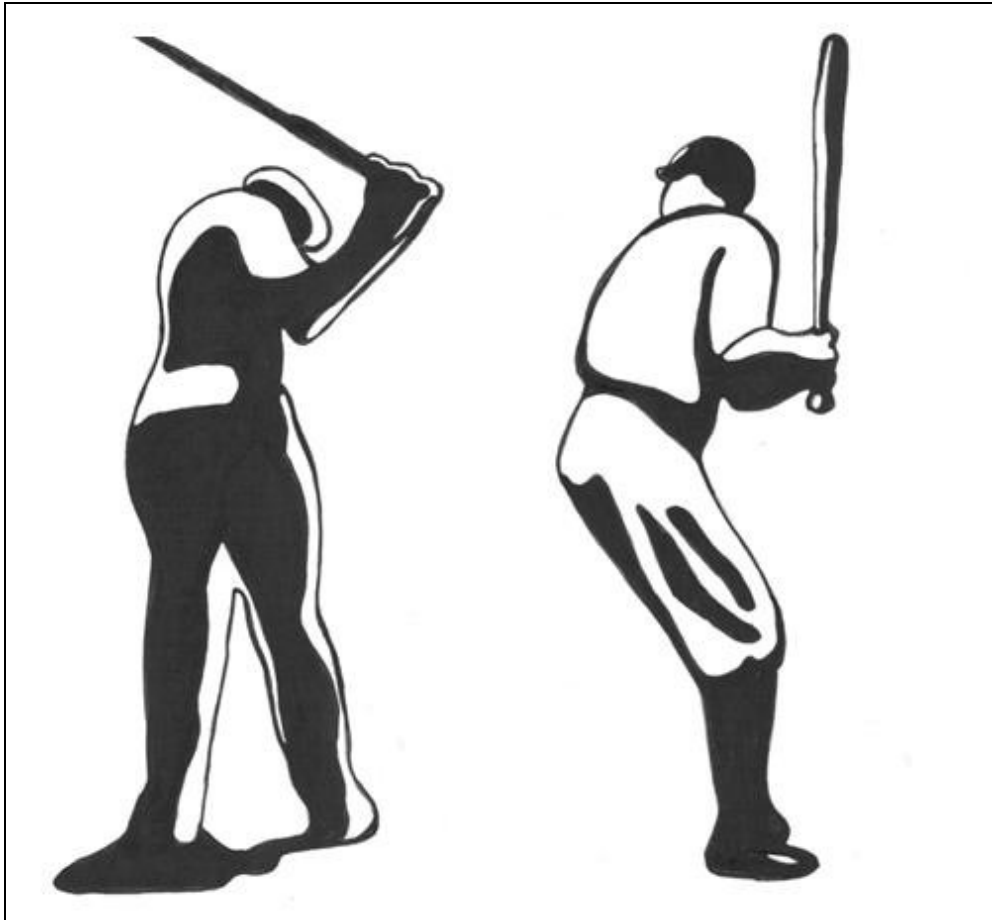


Here is my driver swing utilizing what Mr. Hogan says in the letter. Note the position of the head and nose at address. I am demonstrating a holding cigarette drill. Right knee is bent more in towards ball which opens left side.



At the completion of the swing, the body angles have been released.





In the letter we read, *“The basis of a good sound swing is correct leg work and body position. The center of gravity of the body must stay in one place throughout the swing. That is, if a line is drawn through the nose or head to the ground, the head must stay in that position throughout the swing. Difficult you say, impossible, ridiculous you say.*

Why look how Babe Ruth leaned into the ball when he hit it. Pictures of the Babe verify the fact that he did use his legs with tremendous effect and his head remained in one place throughout his murderous assault of the baseball and golf ball.”

Ben Hogan studied the swings of many baseball players, as well as golfers. The letter states the the lessons being explained within were passed on to Ben Hogan from Walter Hagen who was both a baseball player and golf



professional. We also read in the letter a comparison between Babe Ruth's baseball swing and the action being described in the letter.

When I look at Ben Hogan's golf swing and compare it to the Babe's baseball swing I notice some remarkable similarities. For instance, when viewed from behind we can see some specific characteristics that I feel are very important to point out.



A golfer has a similar motion as a hitter in baseball.



Note the pressure inside the right groin area. Note the pivot and the forearms.

It is clear that both men load into their rear leg. They also have a stable platform with the lower body, and that allows them to use their legs effectively. There is also a noticeable counter action with the hips, and it occurs before the transition is completed.

In Babe Ruth's case he even presets the action to some degree. One, it helps establish the proper sequence of events in the forward swing. Two, it is an essential part of the body motions that utilizes a steady head position.





A Steady Head Works With Concentric Circles

In this lesson we will be talking about concentric circles and how they work with the body pivot and keep the head steady.

Mr. Hogan said that if you control the hips you control the shoulders. He wanted the hips to have a concentric turn.

If you were looking down over the top of me and looking straight down I would assume my correct address with the feet aimed at the target and the hips and shoulders open to the target due to the bending in more of the right knee.



[Concentric Circles - Inner Circle Controls Outer Circle](#)





I believe Mr. Hogan wanted everybody's head position over the right groin area. Al Barkow received a personal lesson from Mr. Hogan at Shady Oaks golf course and Mr. Hogan placed his head in this position.

He asked Mr. Hogan "what is the secret" and Mister Hogan commanded him to take a stance and then moved his head to this exact position.

I spoke with Mr. Barkow and quizzed on this topic and he said that there was no tilt in the head but a horizontal movement so as he would see the ball with his left eye.

That is so important because it set's up the area of the body where you will be building up pressure if you have a correct backswing.

Refer to the Popsicle/Cigarette Drill that helps you place your head in the correct position and helps you with your alignment and your backswing and downswing.

A steady head is not a concrete head placement. Everything moves into the beautiful Hogan Finish.. I believe that it is the correct usage of centrifugal and centripetal forces in the golf swing. Mr. Hogan utilized centripetal force coming back into the ball in his downswing and his follow through to his finish.

This is motion back into center. I will be talking about left thumb pressure and how the left arm should be placed on the body at address and how it will be breaking back into the left side rib cage in the downswing.

The example of what a roller coaster ride would be compared to a ferris wheel should be underscored here. Mr. Hogan had a inside loop figure 8 swing. It was dynamic and created tremendous leverage using his body position and his utilization of ground forces.

The awareness of how the tops of the forearms are up to the sky and with the use of the left side pressure of the left thumb, the golfer is pushing the club into his downswing positions. A tremendous use of the club shaft will occur





on the other side of the golf ball. The bringing the club back into his body and the use of rotation in his body will create a tremendous smash of the golf ball.

Mr. Hogan talked about the second knuckle joint of his right hand on the George Coleman Home Video that is on the internet. He says that this part of the hand is pushing towards the target.

It's not a pulling down with the last 3 fingers and creating a rounded ferris wheel swing. It was a inside loop figure 8 motion that brought the club back into the ball where he was on balance and could use all of his right side. Mr. Hogan never ran out of his right arm. He did not block or brace his left side and flip the club in.

Everything was setup at address and the utilization of where to place his head. The placement of his head allowed his spine to be straight from the back view. His hip line and shoulder line was parallel. His pivot was between his shoulder blades.

He had a backswing and a downswing and then a definite set of the left foot that was electric because his spine alignment did not have a kink in it at the top of where his back of his head was and shoulders. Everything was there to utilize the concentric circles.

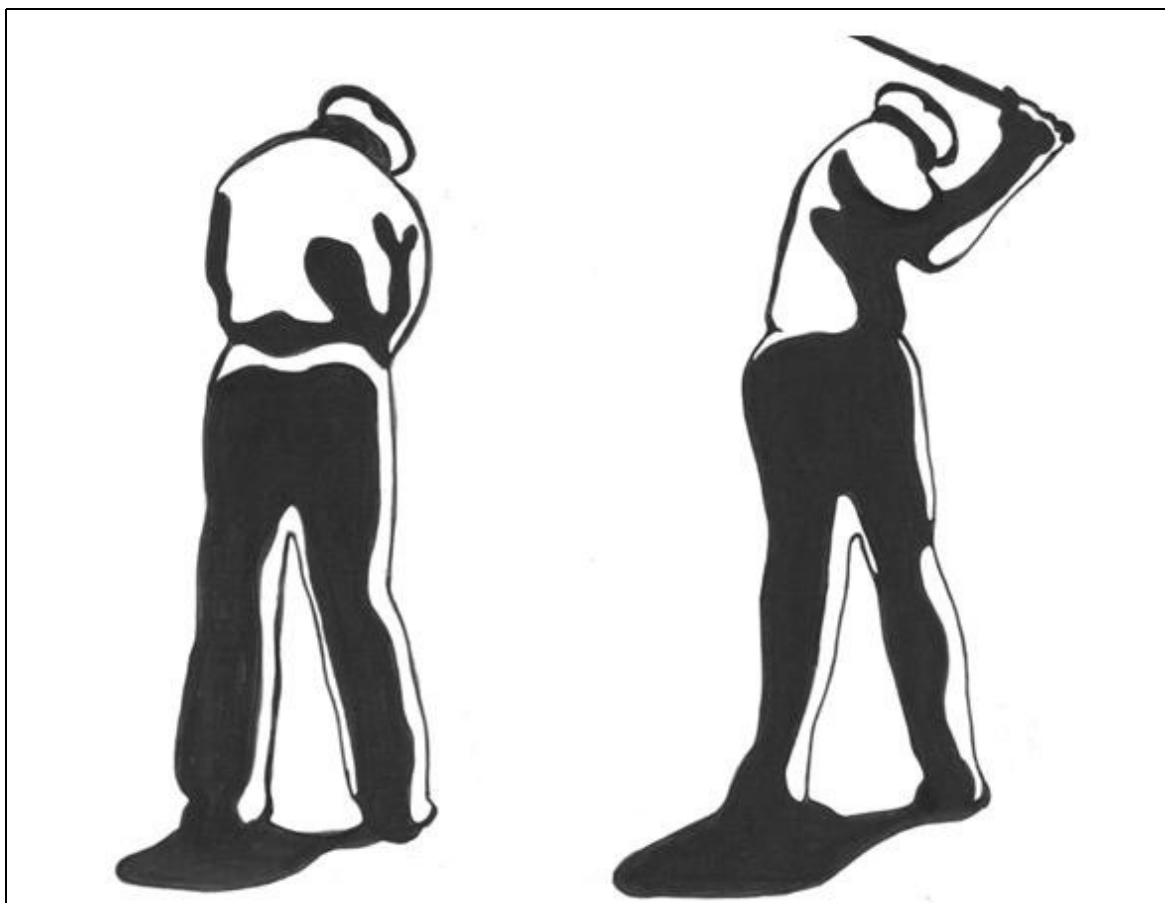
The usage of a hitch hike rotating the thumb release does not occur with action. Again it is the left side pressure of both left thumb and right thumb that allowed everything to become square earlier and then he could just release the club without it closing. Picture yourself hitting yourself with a pie. Mr. Hogan controlled what his arms were doing. Again remember that both of the tops of his forearms were up and he did not crossover his arms or break down.

Your will feel centrifugal forces coming down but when you turn in front of the body with the club you will be feeling and using centripetal forces. So get your setup correctly, put your head as was instructed by Mr. Hogan and utilize the concentric turn.





We are talking the movement of the right side now. Right Hip goes back, right shoulder goes back, right arm goes back, club goes back. For the downswing you just reverse it. The left side will respond in the opposite fashion. You swing back and thru. That is concentric circles and a steady head.



[The Golf Swing From Behind.](#)

[The Cigarette Drill With A Popsicle Stick](#)





The Shadow Drill

In the letter Mr. Hogan suggests a shadow drill This drill ties in nicely Letter Lesson H for a steady head position

Mr. Hogan tells us to take a golf club and take a stance and have the sun cast a shadow in front of you a fairly long one. Take a golf swing taking it back with a left knee moving towards the right knee. If you do this correctly the hands do not have to move at all and the golf club will move at least 5 to 6 feet back in the backswing without using the hands at all.



“To verify the correctness of this, take a short club and make this move with a light behind you so that it casts a shadow (a fairly long one). Note the position of your head when you address the ball.”

“Take the club back by moving the left knee toward the rt knee and sagging the left side in slightly (no movement of the hands or arms is necessary if the legs are worked correctly in conjunction with sagging slightly of the left side)”

“Doing this correctly will move the club head at least six feet away from the ball without moving the hands or arms in relation and the shadow cast by your head will still be in exactly the same spot.”

The Shadow Drill





The Popsicle/Cigarette Drill

Put a popsicle stick or maybe even a long golf tee in the left side of your mouth. Sight down the sighted line where you want the initial ball flight to occur.

Move your head horizontally over to the right groin area. Take a backswing and have your left shoulder move around and underneath the stick. You noticed I did not say under. It is under but your arm but you will be swinging

Drill Tips Have the stick on the left side of your face. When looking down the ball flight line sight over the stick. On the downswing move the right shoulder underneath the stick. Release your body angles to full balanced finish with club shaft behind your neck with weight on the outside of left heel.

Cigarette Popsicle Drill





Letter Lesson O

One Piece Handless Takeaway

