

## Can I really run 3 balls?

Everyone laughs at this and says of course I can. Well, don't be too sure about this. As crazy as these sounds, the majority of the club players in the pool halls cannot do this. Don't just slough this off like you are the big stick. Go out and run the test and find out. A lot of players find out they can't run 3 balls and then come back to me and say now what. Now that I have your attention, you realize you are not near as good as you think you are. Let's teach you how to do this, then you will be good. All I ask you to do is show me, show me you can run out 3 balls in a row, 7 out of 10 times without missing.

Here is the test, you rack up 3 balls, the 1-2-3 on the spot where you rack 8 ball, and the one is on the spot, the 2 & 3 right behind the one in a triangle. Cue ball can be shot anywhere behind the line in the kitchen. Simply break the balls and run out in rotation. You must play call shot, you must pot the one first, then the two, then the three and get out without missing. If you miss a ball, the run is over, re rack and begin game two. Do this ten times and see how many times you do this successfully, break and run 3 balls without a miss. When I present this drill to people who say they can do it, they all agree that being able to do it 70% of the time is very liberal. Most tell me they can do it 90 to 100% of the time. Then they run the drill and do it 30 to 40%. It is a great shock and eye opener to many players. If you make the run 4 out of 10 attempts, then your score is 40% and that is not good. You need to be able to do this 70% of the time day after day after day, until you have this mastered. Your goal is 7 out of 10 times.

The rules, any balls you make on the break do not count and they spot up, you can only make a ball on the break, and have it count if you call what pocket it goes in. If one ball pots on the break and needs to be spotted, it goes on the foot spot, where the one ball was when you broke. If two balls fall on the break and need to be spotted, the lowest number goes on the foot spot the 2nd ball on the middle spot, between the side pockets in the middle of the table. If all 3 balls would fall, the highest numbered ball would be on the break line in the middle of the table. You always leave the cue ball where it ends up. So, if you break and make two balls, both will spot, you now have 3 balls on the table and one attempt and one run to get out. If you run the 3 balls in rotation you succeed, if you miss, you fail.

If you break and scratch the cue ball, the run fails, you fouled, that run is over, rerack, move on to rack two.

Once you master this, then rack up 4 balls, in a diamond shape, the 1-2-3-4 and get out 70% on them.

Once you master this, then rack up 5 balls in triangle, the 1-2-2-3-4-5 and get out 70% on them.

Once you master this, it's time to take a road trip up to NYC and hunt some action, because you are now hard to beat.