

- ✧ Here are some basic Straight Pool Pointers:
- ✧ Practice your break shots. A good video for this is Pat Fleming's "Creative Edge" series on YouTube, that demonstrates the various straight pool breakshot, and variations that people overlook but that still offer a good yield:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=2iaEWtZOPSY>

- ✧ Try to clear pathways to pockets by getting rid of balls "sitting" in those pockets. In other words, get rid of balls close to the pocket early, if there are other free balls on the table that have a pocket. Those "ducks" block the pocket for other balls, and this may kill you if you leave them there and find yourself wanting to shoot a ball in that pocket (which means, you now have a difficult combo).
- ✧ Try to leave yourself a stop-shot pattern on the last two balls prior to the break ball -- the "triangle" if you will.
- ✧ You don't have to blast break shots, although in practice, you might want to get used to hitting them hard, so that you have this skill when you need it. Try (and get used to) break shots at various speeds.
- ✧ Pick up any of Phil Capelles or George Fels' works on straight pool. For example, George's "Mastering Pool" has an entire section of the book dedicated to 14.1 it is an EXCELLENT book!
- ✧ Clear your rails early as these balls often make end patterns more difficult.
- ✧ On average, you should solve your problems as early as possible, as the number of solutions will tend to diminish as the rack proceeds.
- ✧ Most of all, though, develop your instincts in breaking out clusters. The textbooks may tell you how to hit the break shot that begins each rack, but once the rack is started the variety of shots you will face in which you must break out a cluster is almost infinite. Learn to be choosy about your attack angles. Most inexperienced, and more than a few experienced, straight poolers, think that how well you spread the balls is chiefly about cue ball speed. Learn to identify the sweet spots

in the clusters, the places where your prospects for a good spread are best.

- ✧ Set up a cluster and hit it from different angles, different speeds different spins of the cue ball. Find what works best. Stick that knowledge in your bag-o-shots.
- ✧ Finally, don't fixate on a specific ball. Look the table over, after each shot and whenever a cluster gets bumped. Look to see how that has changed how the balls will move if you hit the cluster.