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

I am happy to announce an exciting new Playing-Ability Exam Challenge from the Billiard University (BU). Through the end of August 2020, players at all levels have a chance to win money in this “virtual” video-based tournament, where there are no travel costs or entry fees ... only prize money! We are offering \$10,000 total with a possible top prize of \$5000; and, again, it is free to enter! The challenge will also give you quality dedicated practice that will help bring your game to the next level. We have an open division for top players and a junior division for younger players. We also have a lottery division, where anybody can win money, regardless of their playing performance. We want everybody to participate and benefit from this challenge.

Everything you need is at the Challenge website (see **Image 1**) at:

billiards.colostate.edu/challenge/2020-bu-exam

There you can find a list of the money prizes available, all the detailed rules of the challenge, the Exam documents containing diagrams and detailed instructions for each drill or shot, scoresheets you can print or complete electronically, video demonstrations of Shane VanBoening and other top players taking the exams. and video demonstrations that help you through every step of the process.

\$10,000 Billiard University (BU) Exam Challenge

Home | Challenge Competitions | \$10,000 Billiard University (BU) Exam Challenge

See the official entries to date below.

Post videos of yourself taking BU Exams, and **win money!**

Get **excellent practice** to raise your game to the next level.

\$10,000 BU EXAM CHALLENGE

Everything you need is free:

- BU Playing-Ability Exams
- Clear how-to videos: BU Exam Demonstration Videos

***** NO COST TO ENTER *****

***** Open through August 31, 2020 *****

***** Anybody can enter worldwide *****

This is a **virtual tournament** with **no travel costs**, no hotel costs, **no entry fee**, no greens fee ... **only prize money!**

[Image 1](http://billiards.colostate.edu/challenge/2020-bu-exam) Challenge website

There are two different main categories of the Challenge. The first is BU Exam I which tests all important fundamental skills and measures excellence in these skills. The top divisions are to challenge pros and other top players. The highest score on Exam I before this challenge was 95 (out of 100 possible). Anybody who can score 96 or above, which is not easy, will split \$2500. Anybody who can score 90-95, which is also very difficult, will split \$2000. The 1st place winner overall will also receive a \$1000 bonus. And if that person also achieves a perfect score of 100, he or she will receive an additional \$1500 bonus. So, again, it is possible to win \$5000 total!

To encourage participation by all, we also have a lottery division, where anybody who scores 50 or above will be entered into a drawing for \$500. The person with the number that is drawn at the end of the challenge gets the money. Remember, it costs nothing to enter, so get to the table and start practicing so you have a free chance at \$500. A score of 50 should be easy to attain for any upper beginner or lower intermediate player with a little exam practice.

The second challenge category is BU Exam III which consists of a collection of advanced shots that require special skills (see some in **Image 2**). For each, you get 4 points if you succeed on the 1st attempt, 2 points for the 2nd attempt, or 1 for the 3rd. The maximum possible score for perfect shooting is 100. Diagrams for all the shots and a scoresheet are available via the BU Exam link on the website.

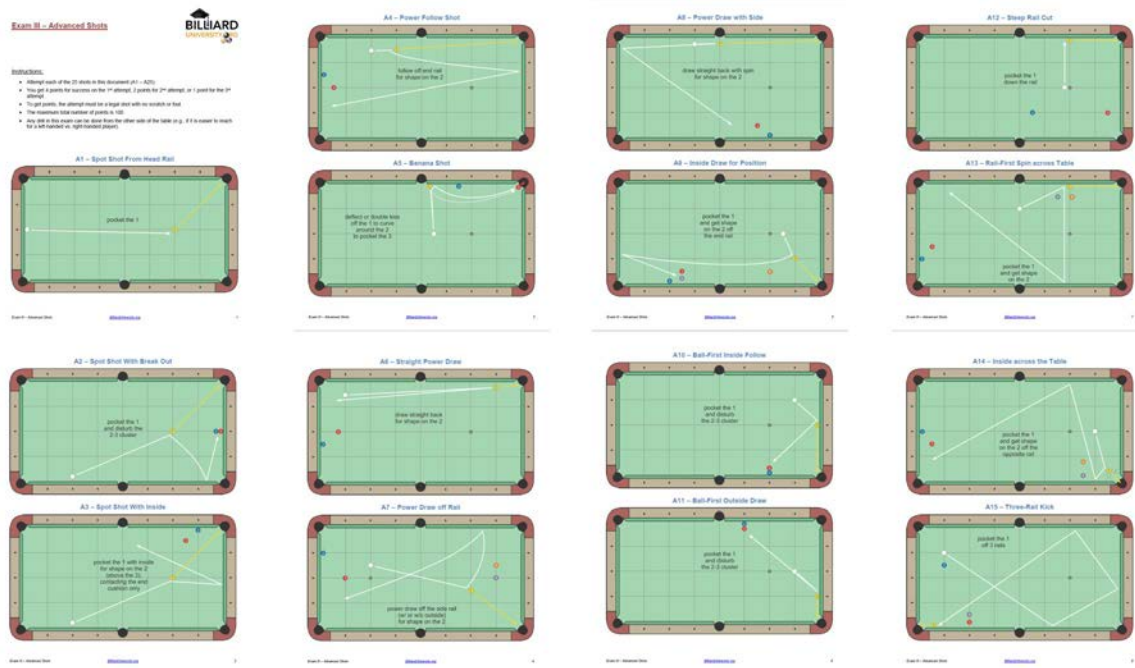


Image 2 BU Exam III – Advanced Shots

The BU Exam III shots are fun to learn. And these types of shots come up in game play occasionally, so it is important to practice them periodically. If you do not believe me, check out the link on the BU Exam website showing examples of pros executing shots like these in actual pool matches (see **Image 3**).

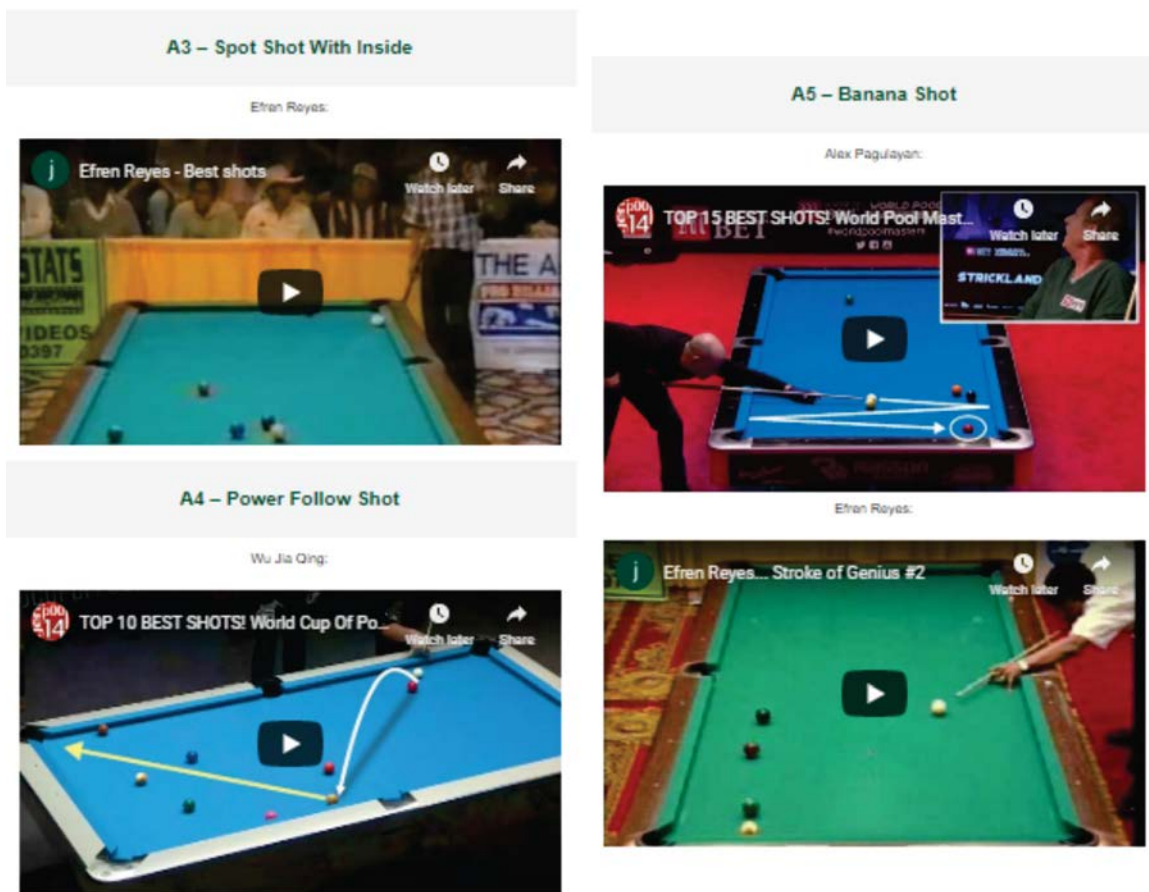


Image 3 Pro Match Examples of Exam III Shots

We have a separate Juniors-only division of the Exam III Challenge, sponsored by Bob Jewett. We hope lots of junior players out there will get excited about learning and having fun with these advanced shots. And they can win some money and respect in the process.

We hope you enjoy and benefit from the BU Exam Challenges, and we hope you win some of our prize money. All you need to do to enter is video record yourself taking BU Exam I or BU Exam III, post your video for public viewing online, and send the video link and score to Dr. Dave. On the website (see **Image 4**), we have video demonstrations of how to execute all the shots in both Exam I and Exam III. If you are interested in entering the Challenge, these might be useful to watch first thing.

Any submitted video must be a continuous, uninterrupted, and unedited run at the entire exam, and it must be obvious there is no trickery or cheating involved. During the entire video, you must stay in the frame of the camera, keep balls on the table during each drill (pulling them out in groups), and keep your cue on or against the table when spotting balls and between drills. For more information, see the Detailed Rules and Instructions on the website.

Here's an example of Shane VanBoening taking Exam I:



Here are videos of top Exam I scores from past Challenges:

95 – Tobias Bongers | 95 – Lee Cooper | 93 – Dr. Dave Alciatore | 91 – Ken Cileli

Here are demonstrations of all of the Exam III shots:



[Image 4](#) Videos on website

Good luck and have fun with the Challenge,
Dr. Dave

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.

Dr. Dave is a PBI Advanced 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.