9-ball Evaluation Drill

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Purpose:

The purpose of this drill is to evaluate your offensive skills (shot making, position play, handling of clusters and problem balls, and breaking) and assign a 1-10 (or A-D) rating to those skills. Note - safety play, a very important part of the game, is not addressed in this drill.

Description:

Shoot 5 or 10 racks of 9-ball, with ball-in-hand after the break. Continue shooting after the break until you miss a shot or scratch, and record the number of balls made. Add an additional point if one of the balls made was the 9-ball. Total the scores for all 5 or 10 racks and assign a rating per the table below. For example, if you pocket the 1-ball, 2-ball, 3-ball, and 9-ball (e.g., with a 4-ball combo), and then miss the 4-ball, your score for that rack would be 5 (4 balls plus an extra point for the 9-ball). If you get this same score for 5 racks, your total would be 25 and your rating would be "5" (or "C" or "intermediate"). Here are some additional specific rules:

- Break from anywhere behind the head-string (i.e., in the "kitchen").
- You must always hit the lowest numbered ball first, although balls can be pocketed in any order (i.e., play typical "rotation").
- After the break, place the cue ball anywhere you want on the table (i.e., "ball in hand").
- If you scratch on the break, you must spot the balls made; otherwise, all balls made on the break count.
- If you pocket the 9-ball early (even on the break), you must still attempt to run the remaining balls.
- The rack is over when you miss or scratch on a shot after the break. Balls made on a scratch don't count.

total score for 5 racks	0-8	9-14	15-19	20-23	24-27	28-31	32-35	36-39	40-44	45-50
total score for 10 racks	0-16	17-28	29-38	39-46	47-54	55-62	63-70	71-78	79-88	89-100
rating	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
	D			C			B		A	
	novice			intermediate			advanced		superior	

Rating History:

date	**rack scores (balls made +1 if 9-ball made)**					**total score**	**rating**
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**		