

Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, technical proofs (TP), and all of my past articles can be accessed and viewed online at billiards.colostate.edu. The reference numbers used in the articles help you locate the resources on the website. If you have a slow or inconvenient Internet connection, you might want to view the resources from a CD-ROM or DVD. Details can be found online at: dr-dave-billiards.com.

This is the sixth in a series of articles dealing with the Billiard University (BU). The mission of the BU is to provide assessment tools, a rating system, and learning resources to help pool players strive for and achieve excellence, and to officially acknowledge excellence through the awarding of diplomas (Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate of Pool). Canadian instructor Randy Russell and I cofounded the BU with support from the following “dream team” of well-known and respected instructors: Jerry Briesath, Mark Finkelstein, Randy Goettlicher, Bob Jewett, Mike Page, Tom Simpson, and Mark Wilson. Online videos **NV D.1-D.6** explain every step of the BU process and demonstrate the BU playing-ability exams, which are available for free on the BU website: BilliardUniversity.org. **NV D.7-D.14** include excerpts from the 3-DVD BU Instructional Series that provides advice for improving your fundamentals, teaches useful aiming systems for various types of shots, and offers “hot tips” for how to do well on the exams. In the last few months, we’ve looked at some drills from the Fundamentals Exam (Exam I). Over the next few months, we’ll look at some drills from the Skills Exam (Exam II).

Drill S3 in Exam II tests and helps you practice various common run-out patterns in 9-ball. There are three different ball layouts in each of the three versions of the exam (Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate). Suggested run-out patterns and options for each of the layouts are demonstrated and discussed on Disc III of the 3-DVD BU Instructional Series. Here, let’s look at the three layouts in the Doctorate version of the exam. Before looking at the run-out patterns we suggest, first look at the ball layouts and decide which position plays you would choose to maximize your chances for running out.

Diagram 1 shows the first Doctorate-level 9-ball ball layout, along with the suggested run-out pattern. The pattern we show is fairly straightforward and obvious; although, as with all patterns, depending on whether or not you get out of line during the run out, you might need to alter the approach you take.

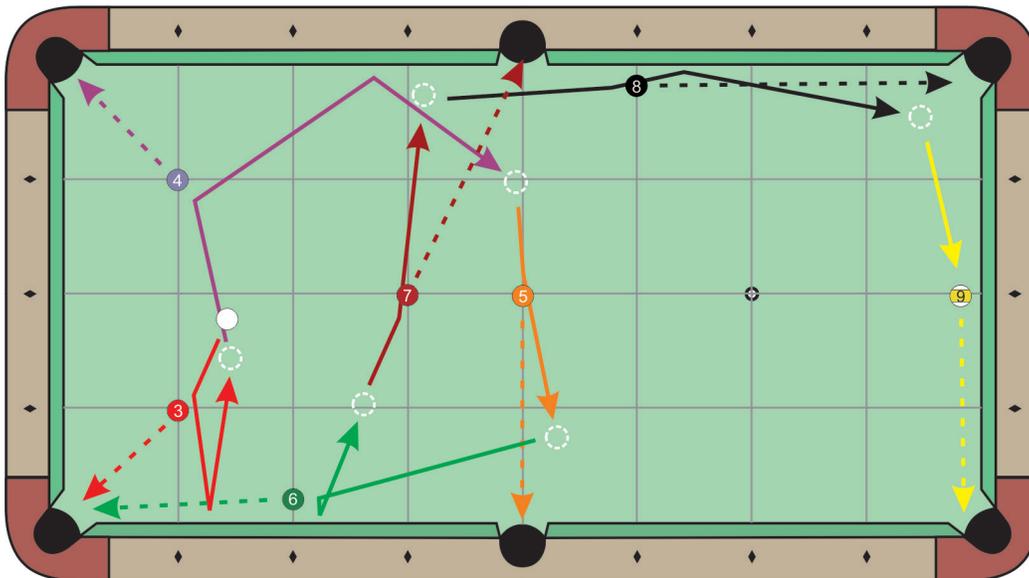


Diagram 1 S3 – 9-ball layout 1

Diagram 2 shows the second Doctorate-level 9-ball ball layout, along with the suggested run-out pattern. As with most run-out patterns, it is very important to leave proper angles on each shot to make it easy to get good

position for the next shot. All of the shots shown in the diagram are simple natural-roll or draw shots. No sidespin is required to stay in line.

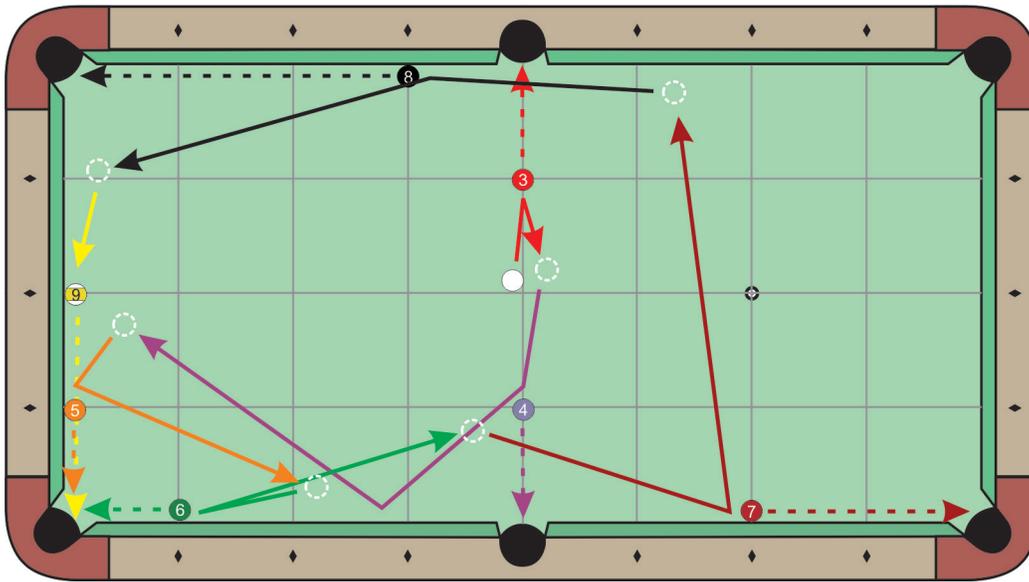


Diagram 2 S3 – 9-ball layout 2

Diagram 3 shows the third Doctorate-level 9-ball ball layout, along with the suggested run-out pattern. With this layout, there is an added requirement that you must use 3-rail position to get on the 7 and 9 off the 6-ball and 8-ball shots. These are standard 9-ball shots that you must master if you want to be good at the game. Remember the 45° rule? If not, see **NV B.74**. To get good position on the 6-ball shot, It is helpful to plan for a stop shot on the 5 to leave a natural 3-rail path from the 6 to the 7. An outside-english stun shot will send the CB safely around the 8 through the middle of the table. Then it helps to come off the 7 into the line for a similar shot off the 8 to the 9. A rolling CB with slight outside english is a good approach for this shot.

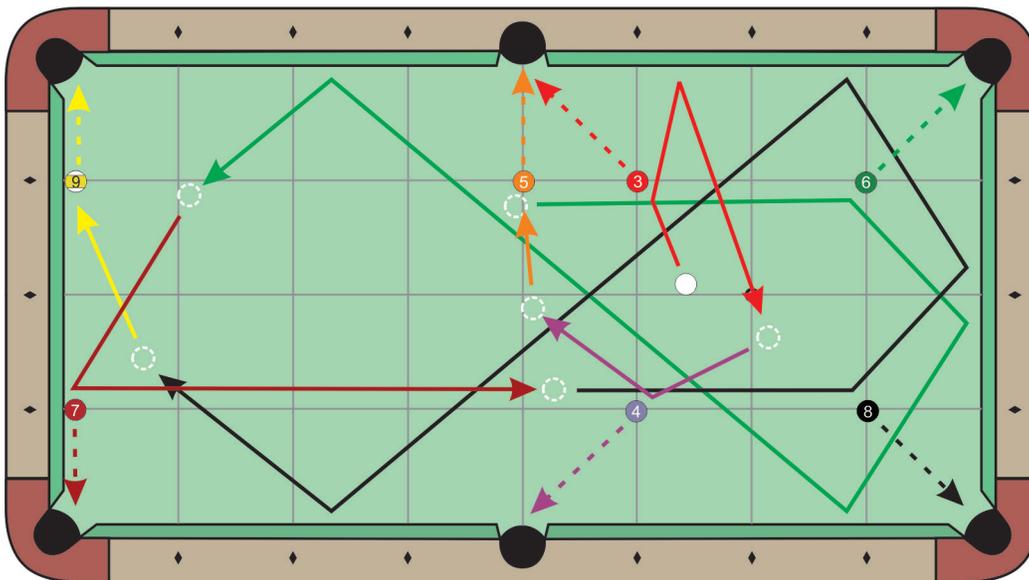


Diagram 3 S3 – 9-ball layout 3

The next time you find time to practice (and not just play), try all nine of the 9-ball layouts in the three versions of the Skills Exam (Exam II). Attempt each pattern as many times as it takes to run the table. Also experiment

with different position-play options to see what works best for you, especially when you get out of line and need to use “Plan B.”

If you haven't taken the BU playing-ability and rating exams yet, give them a try. They provide a fun, challenging, and efficient pool workout to help you develop and improve the full range of pool skills necessary to be a good player. Everything you need to prepare for and take the exams is available for free at BilliardUniversity.org. It's time to see where you rank so you can set a goal to graduate your game to the next level.

Good luck with your game,
Dean Dave



- [NV D.1](#) – BU - Part 1: Introduction - overview of the BU process for earning a pool diploma
- [NV D.2](#) – BU - Part 2: Table Setup - preparing to practice and take the BU exams
- [NV D.3](#) – BU - Part 3: Video Recording - recording official exam runs for online submittal
- [NV D.4](#) – BU - Part 4: Exam I Overview - demonstrations and scoring of the Fundamentals Exam
- [NV D.5](#) – BU - Part 5: Exam II Overview - demonstrations and scoring of the Skills Exam
- [NV D.6](#) – BU - Part 6: Submittal and Wrap Up - applying for a BU diploma online
- [NV D.7](#) – Pool Fundamentals - The Stance - from Vol-I of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.8](#) – Stun Shot Drill - from Vol-II of the Billiard University instructional DVD series
- [NV D.9](#) – How to Aim Pool Shots - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.10](#) – Draw Shot Trisect Aiming System - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.11](#) – Cue Ball Control Target Pool Drill - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.12](#) – Safety Drill - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.13](#) – Kick Shot Aiming Systems - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.14](#) – Pool Break Technique Advice - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV B.74](#) – Center-of-table position and routes, with the 45-degree rule, from VEPS II

PS:

- If you are a pool instructor and are interested in becoming involved with the BU, check out the “[Instructor How-To Guide](#)” in the instructor section at BilliardUniversity.org.
- Every July, we hold a BU Summer School Boot Camp in Colorado. If you want to raise your game to the next level, consider attending. Details are available at BilliardUniversity.org. I hope to see you there.
- 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 don't fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](http://billiards.colostate.edu) at billiards.colostate.edu.

Dr. Dave is author of “[The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#)” book and DVD, and co-author of the “[Video Encyclopedia of Pool Shots \(VEPS\)](#),” “[Video Encyclopedia of Pool Practice \(VEPP\)](#),” and “[Billiard University \(BU\)](#)” instructional DVD series.