
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.

This is the third article in a series dealing with the “Video Encyclopedia of Nine-ball and Ten-ball (VENT),” a five-disc instructional-DVD set I recently created with fellow Billiards Digest columnist Bob Jewett. VENT teaches all of the skills, knowledge and strategy one needs to excel at 9-ball and 10-ball. Topics include break shot strategy and effects, game planning, position play and english, safety play, and advanced principles, shots, and strategies. An outline of the entire VENT series along with video excerpts from each DVD can be viewed online at: DrDaveBilliards.com/vent.

The topic for this month is creative shot-option examples, two of which are demonstrated in online video [NV 1.4](#). **Diagram 1** shows the layout for the first shot sequence. The goal is to pocket the 1 and hold the cue ball (CB) in position C1 for the 2, to get easy shape on the 3 in the side. However, as demonstrated in the video, the CB goes too far to position C2. A better play would have been to come off the end rail, using the increased margin-for-error effect demonstrated on VENT-II. Another option could have been to take a natural path off 3 rails to the 2. Regardless, to be strategic, one must always reevaluate the table with an open mind to look for creative opportunities, especially when “Plan A” doesn’t work out.

There are several reasonable options from CB position C2. You could bank the 2 cross side; and with the 3 close to the side, the pocket plays much bigger than normal. You could also attempt to bank the 2 cross corner, which is attractive since with a miss you could easily leave the 2 safe. Another really creative option is to play a carom off the 2 to go for the 9. This is actually a good 3-way shot since you have a chance to pocket the 9 for the win, pocket the 2 cross corner to stay at the table, or leave the CB hidden from the 2 if you miss both. Bob makes a good effort on the video, almost making both the 2 and 9, and he left the 2 safe. If he had made the 2, he would have had a shot at the 3. You should always walk around the table to look for creative and smart opportunities like this.

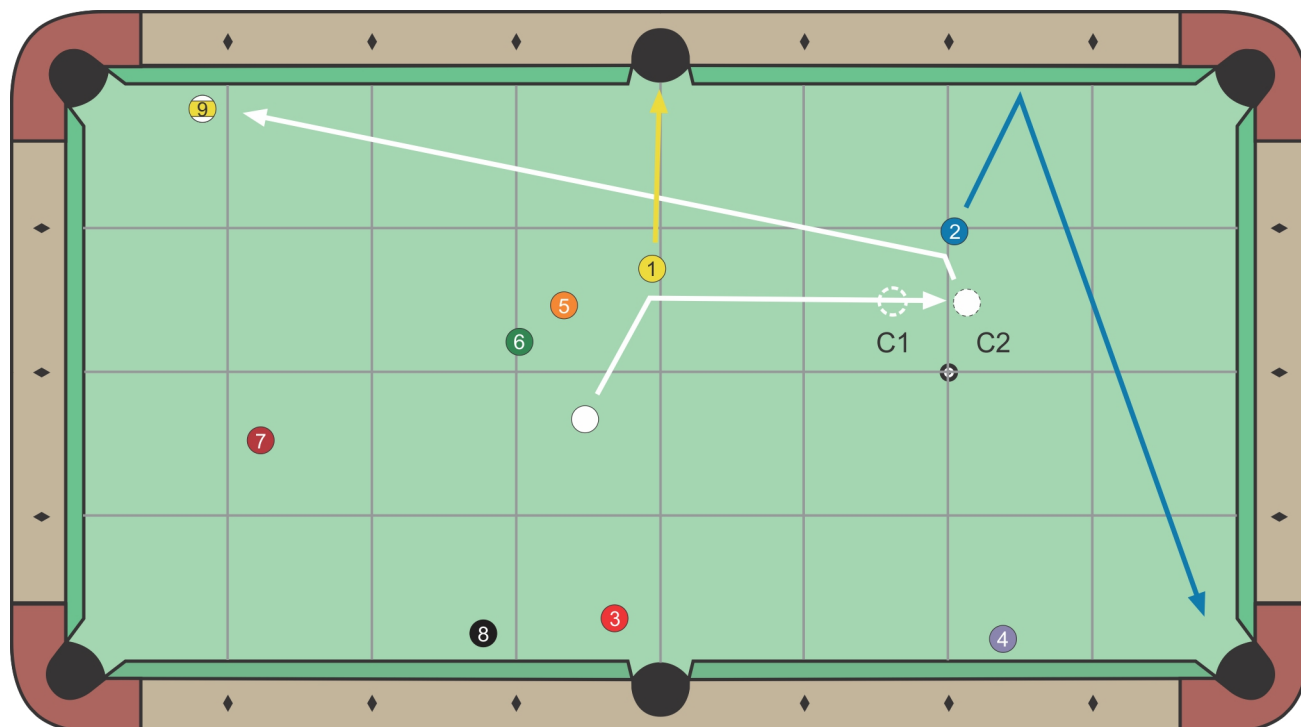


Diagram 1 First ball layout

Diagram 2 shows the ball layout for the 2nd shot in online video [NV I.4](#). The gray grid and dotted lines show the exact ball positions, alignments and angles so you can accurately judge shot options. Study the ball layout and ask yourself what you would do in this situation. Also, how many different ways do you think you could play this shot? Five ... seven ... ten? I came up with 21 different options! And four more were suggested by others after I posted video demonstrations online. Here's a list of all of the 25 different shot options:

- (1) 1 in side with long-side shape on 2
- (2) 1 in corner with short-side shape on 2
- (3) 1 in corner, playing for bank on 2
- (4) 1 into 3-4, hide behind 2
- (5) 1 down table, hide behind 8
- (6) kiss 1 off 9 into corner
- (7) combo 1 into 9 for win
- (8) combo 1 into 9, with possible kiss off 7
- (9) hide behind 8, send 1 into 3-4
- (10) hide 1 behind 3-4, with distance
- (11) hide 1 behind 3-4 with slight break out
- (12) hide 1 behind 3-4 with slight break out and roll forward
- (13) 1 in corner, follow to break out 3-4
- (14) 1 in corner, draw off cushion to long side of 2
- (15) 1 in corner, draw off cushion to short side of 2
- (16) 1 in corner, draw off cushion to short side of 2 for follow forward
- (17) hit 1 into 3-4 cluster and hide behind 7-9
- (18) hide CB from 1 using 7-9 blockers
- (19) 1 in corner, follow for shape on 2
- (20) after 1 and 2, kiss 3 off 4 to pocket 3-5 combo
- (21) after 1 and 2, play safety on 3
- (22) bank 1 into 4 to throw 3 into corner
- (23) 1 in corner, follow with inside to break out 3-4 rail first for better shape on 2
- (24) 1 into and/or behind 8, CB by 5
- (25) 1 in corner, play safe on 2 (CB behind 9 and/or 2 behind 3-4)

Option 4 is illustrated in the diagram. Watch online video [NV I.12](#) to see demonstrations of options 1-21. After you watch all of the options, which do you think is the best? And did your choice change after watching the video? The best choice will obviously depend on the person.

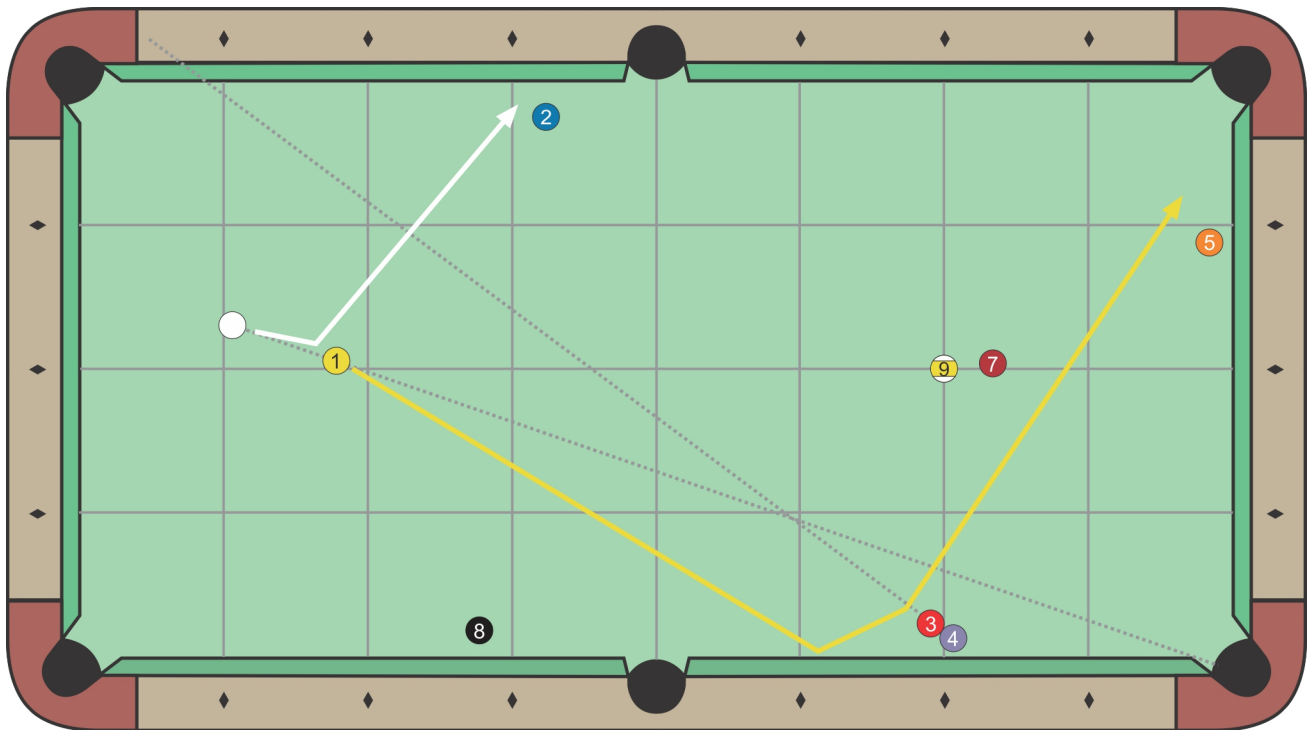


Diagram 2 Second ball layout

I hope you are enjoying my series of articles dealing with the “Video Encyclopedia of Nine-ball and Ten-ball (VENT).” If you want to view video excerpts from the entire DVD set, check out online videos [NV I.1](#) through [NV I.11](#). Enjoy!

Good luck with your game,
Dr. Dave

[NV I.1](#) – Video Encyclopedia of Nine-ball and Ten-ball (VENT) Instructional DVD Trailer

[NV I.2](#) – 9-ball Side Soft Break, and Corey Deuel Pattern Racking, an excerpt from VENT-I

[NV I.3](#) – How to Train a Pool Table for Accurate and Consistent Ball Racking, an excerpt from VENT-I

[NV I.4](#) – How to be Creative and Consider Various Options in 9-ball and 10-ball, an excerpt from VENT-II

[NV I.5](#) – Defensive Strategy in 9-ball and 10-ball, an excerpt from VENT-II

[NV I.6](#) – Common Two-Rail Position Plays in 9-ball and 10-ball, an excerpt from VENT-III

[NV I.7](#) – Common End-Game Patterns in 9-ball and 10-ball, an excerpt from VENT-III

[NV I.8](#) – 9-ball/10-ball Object Ball Hide Safety Examples, an excerpt from VENT-IV

[NV I.9](#) – 9-ball/10-ball Ball-In-Hand Shot Option Examples, an excerpt from VENT-IV

[NV I.10](#) – 9-ball/10-ball Rail Cut Shot Principles and Examples, an excerpt from VENT-V

[NV I.11](#) – 9-ball/10-ball Advanced Herd and Cushion-Compression Shots, an excerpt from VENT-V

[NV I.12](#) - VENT-II 9-Ball Layout With 21 Different Shot Options! Which Do You Like Best?



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 don't fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](#) at billiards.colostate.edu.

Dr. Dave is a PBIA Advanced Instructor and author of the book: [The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#) and the instructional DVD series: Video Encyclopedias of [Pool Shots \(VEPS\)](#), [Pool Practice \(VEPP\)](#), [Eight Ball \(VEEB\)](#), and [Nine-ball and Ten-ball \(VENT\)](#), [How to Aim Pool Shots \(HAPS\)](#) and [Billiard University \(BU\)](#), all available at: [DrDaveBilliards.com](#).