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

This is the second article in a series dealing with the “System for Aiming With Sidespin” (SAWS), a full-length instructional video I released recently on DVD and for stream or download. SAWS covers a new system to compensate your aim for cue ball (CB) deflection and object ball (OB) throw when using sidespin. It is based on using combinations of Back Hand English (BHE) and Front-Hand English (FHE), and it can be applied to any cue, bridge length, and shooting style. A detailed table of contents of SAWS along with a video overview can be found at DrDaveBilliards.com/saws. This month, I will cover the basics of sidespin (AKA english) terminology which is presented in detail early in SAWS.

Diagram 1 illustrates basic sidespin terminology and effects. Hitting the CB to the left of center creates clockwise spin that causes the CB to rebound to the left when it hits a cushion (see shot “b”). Hitting the CB to the right of center creates counterclockwise spin that causes the CB to rebound to the right when it hits a cushion (see shot “c”). The CB’s initial path after hitting the OB is not affected by sidespin, and the OB’s direction is affected very little (by throw, which we will look at more in a future article).

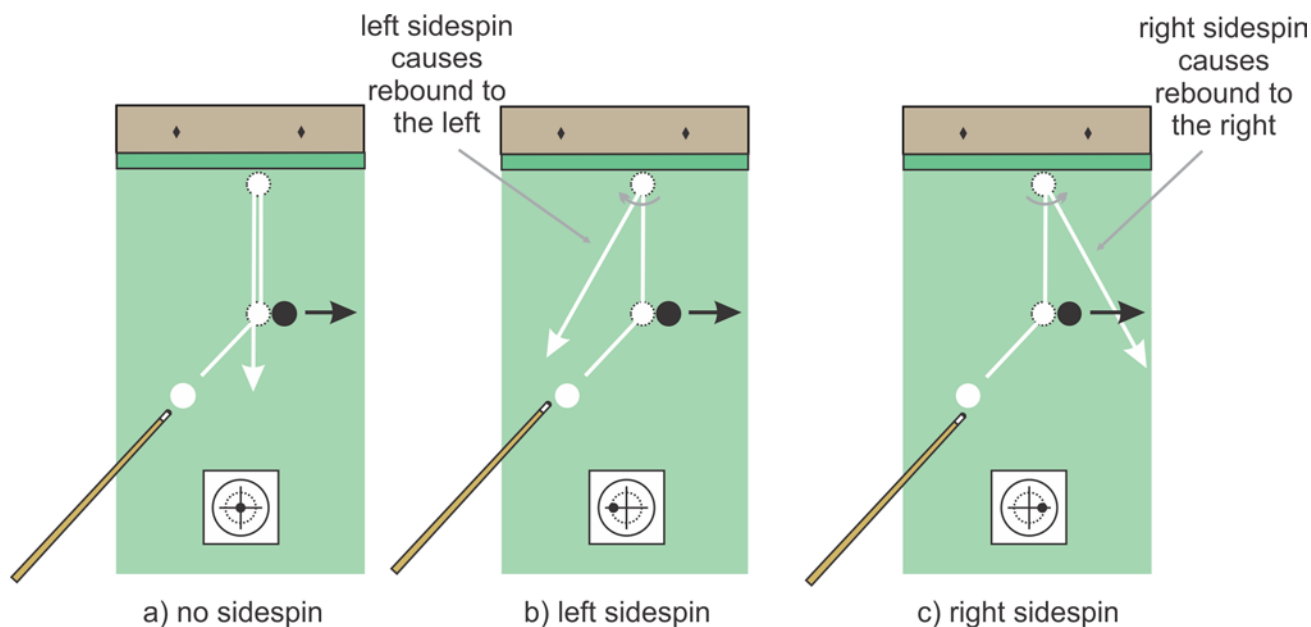


Diagram 1 Basic sidespin terminology

As illustrated in **Diagram 2**, sidespin is also given special names (besides left and right) in different situations. When the spin is in the same direction the CB is heading into a cushion it is called natural or running english because the spin helps the CB maintain (or sometimes increase) its speed with the rebound angle being lengthened. When the sidespin is in the opposite direction as the motion, it is called reverse or check english because the spin opposes the motion, slowing the CB and shortening the rebound angle. In the diagram, both shots have right sidespin, but the top shot has running english and the bottom shot has reverse english.

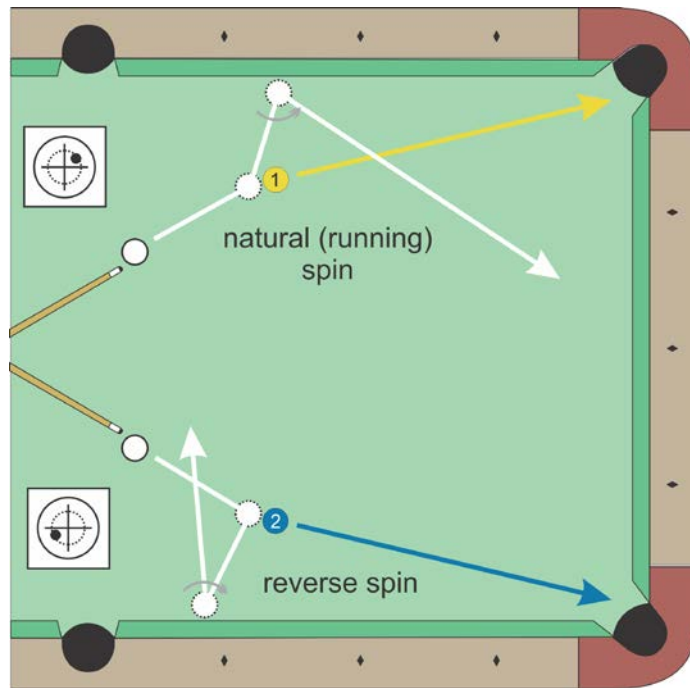


Diagram 2 Running and reverse sidespin

As illustrated in **Diagram 3**, when the tip hits the CB on the same side as the direction of the cut, it is sometimes called inside english. And when the tip hits the CB on the opposite side as the direction of the cut, it is sometimes called outside english. In the diagram, both shots have right sidespin, but the top shot has inside english and the bottom shot has outside english.

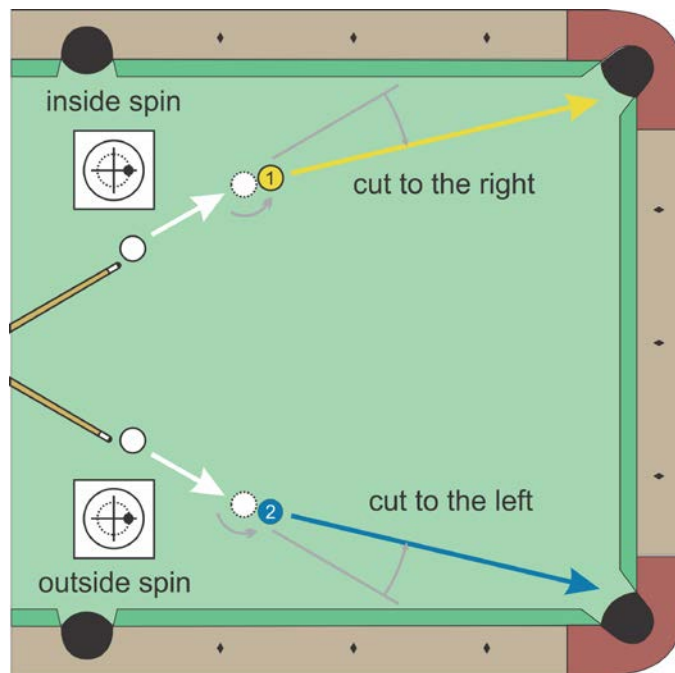


Diagram 3 Inside and outside sidespin

Demonstrations of many interesting game-situation examples of all types of sidespin shots can be found in SAWS. All of the shots are also diagrammed in a PDF file available on the "[sidespin examples](#)" FAQ page at billiards.colostate.edu. **Diagram 4** shows two example pages from the document.

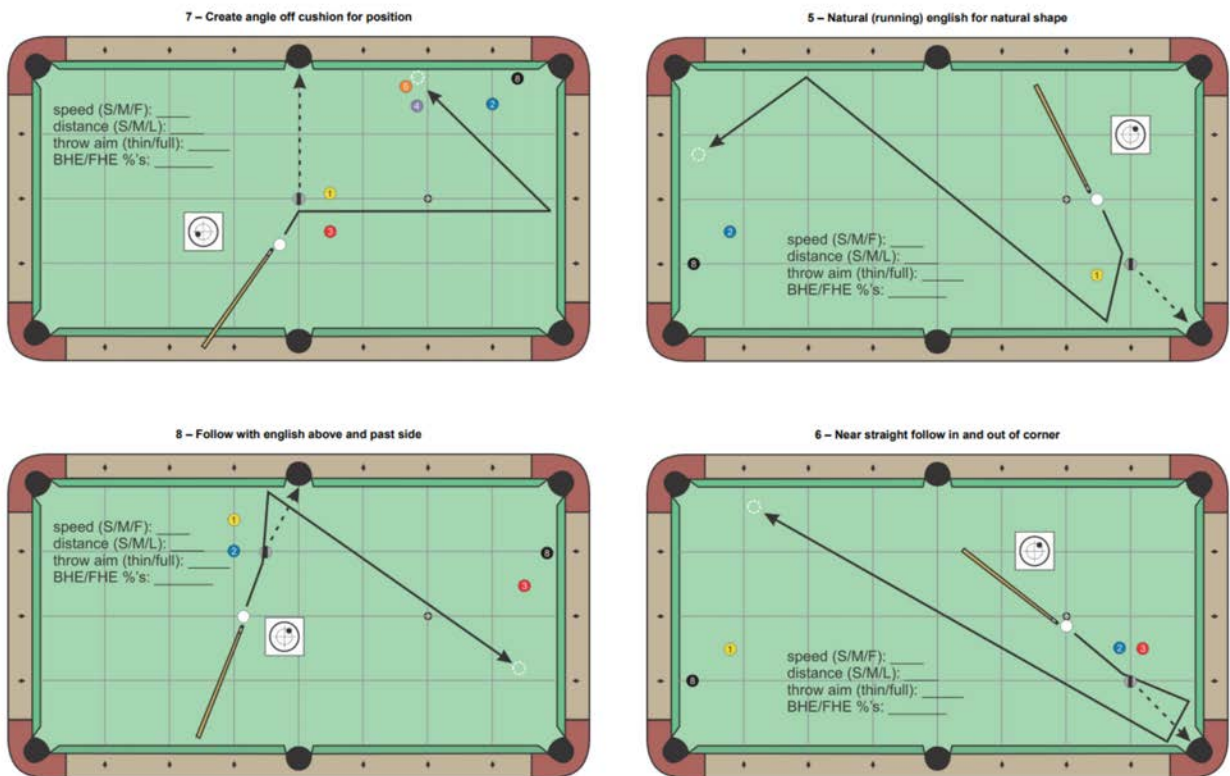


Diagram 4 Pages from the "Sidespin Game-Situation Examples" document

I hope you are enjoying and benefiting from my series of articles dealing with the "System for Aiming With Sidespin" (SAWS). If you want to learn more, visit DrDaveBilliards.com/saws. Also check out online video [NV J.9](#) that shows examples of the SAWS system being applied to a wide range of interesting game-situation examples.

Good luck with your game,
Dr. Dave



[NV J.9](#) – "Got English?" – How to Aim Using Sidespin, With Game-Situation Examples

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 PBA 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](#).