

## The 90° Rule

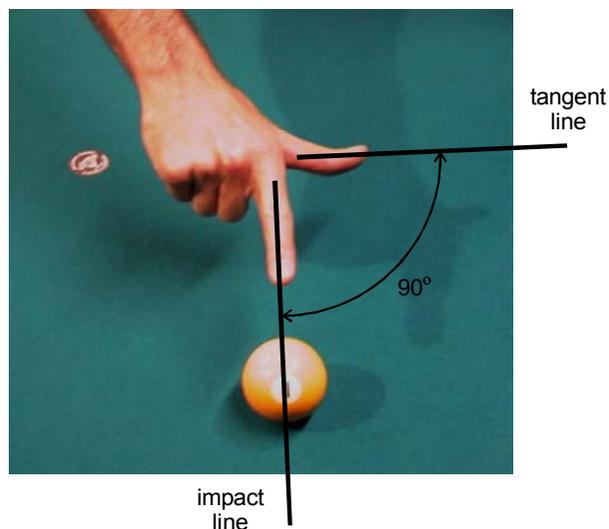
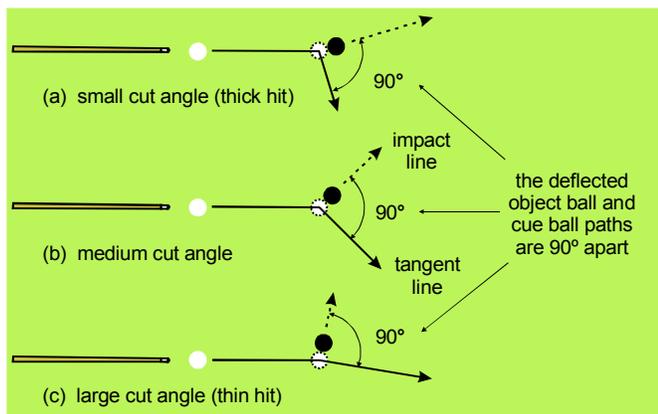
from the book: "The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards"

[billiards.colostate.edu](http://billiards.colostate.edu)

*When the ball has stun,  
this is something you should not shun:  
Point your finger, and the cue ball will follow the thumb.  
If you do this, nobody will think you are dumb.*

The 90° rule helps you predict the path of the cue ball after impact with an object ball. This is a very important skill to have for helping you prevent scratches, plan break-up and avoidance shots, and execute carom and billiards shots. It is also critical in being able to play precision position ... the skill that separates the great players from the good ones.

**When the cue ball is sliding when it hits the object ball (i.e., for a "stun" shot), the cue ball and object ball paths will separate at 90° (i.e., the paths will be perpendicular).**



For more information, see the January-March and July '04, and Feb-June '05 instructional articles and the following video demonstrations on the website:

 normal video	<p><b>NV 3.4</b> 30° rule with various cut angles <b>NV 3.5</b> Using your hand to visualize the 90° rule impact and tangent lines <b>NV 3.10</b> Using the 90° rule to check for and prevent a scratch</p>	 normal video
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