Diagram 1 shows the setup for Drill S5 in the Masters level of Exam II. The goal is to hide the 1 ball from the cue ball (CB) using the cluster of nine balls as blockers. You are allowed to contact the rack of balls, but all of them must remain within or overlapping the rectangle target. A template for the target can be printed from the BU website. You get two attempts from each CB position. There are five different CB positions in the Masters version of the exam, for a total possible number of points of 10 (1 for each of the 2 shots at each of the 5 positions). There are fewer CB positions in the Bachelors version of the exam, and there are additional (and more challenging) CB positions in the Doctorate version.

Diagram 2 shows the recommended shots for CB positions 1 and 2. The natural-english rolling-CB shot shown for CB position 1 is definitely the most natural approach. The thin cut on the second shot, with a significant amount of sidespin, might not be the most reliable for all people (especially those who don’t have much experience using sidespin), but it is also fairly natural. FYI, all of the shots recommended in this article are
demonstrated in Youtube video [youtu.be/PRC-jFHQaf4](https://youtu.be/PRC-jFHQaf4), which a recent attempt of mine at the complete Exam II. Check it out. I wasn’t perfect on the safeties, but I did fairly well.

**Diagram 2** Recommended shots for CB positions 1 and 2

**Diagram 3** shows the recommended shots for CB positions 3 and 4. These are both natural-angle rolling-CB shots. All you need to control and focus on is the shot speed, which is often the case with safety shots. The shot from position 3 requires about a 1/4-ball hit to get the best angles and ball-speed proportions.

**Diagram 4** shows the recommended shot for CB position 5. Here, you don’t want the CB to be rolling completely, because if it were it would head in the 30º rule direction. Here, the CB must swing out wider than the natural-angle direction to hide behind the ball cluster. An above-center hit is required, but not high enough to create full CB roll. The cut is about a 1/2-ball hit. If you are not familiar with the 30º rule, see the 30º rule resource page in the FAQ section at [billiards.colostate.edu](http://www.billiards.colostate.edu). This is a very-important and easy-to-apply principle of pool.
You should try different options for each shot to determine which might be more reliable and consistent for you. And if you are ready for an additional challenge, try the Doctorate-level CB positions. Online video NV D.12 demonstrates several options for each shot in each version of the exam. Try them all, and try to think of alternative approaches. This will help you improve your safety skills along with the decision-making judgment required in defensive game situations.

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

Diagram 4  Recommended shots for CB position 5

You should try different options for each shot to determine which might be more reliable and consistent for you. And if you are ready for an additional challenge, try the Doctorate-level CB positions. Online video NV D.12 demonstrates several options for each shot in each version of the exam. Try them all, and try to think of alternative approaches. This will help you improve your safety skills along with the decision-making judgment required in defensive game situations.

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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

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 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.