**"Corey Deuel's Famous Draw Shot"**      **ILLUSTRATED PRINCIPLES**
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*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.*

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There are a few famous shots that live forever in the memories of pool fans. One such shot is Corey Deuel's famous power-draw shot against Mika Immonem at the 2004 US Open. Anyone who saw the shot live, on ESPN, or via YouTube will know what shot I am talking about. If you don't remember the shot, or never saw it, you can view it online at: https://youtu.be/VVDrZK6VpuU. The shot is also illustrated in **Diagram 1** (see the black ball path). If you are a die-hard pool fan, you probably recognize the ball layout and remember the shot. Corey was shooting the 4-ball up table, needing to get shape on the 5 down table. This type of shot is possible only with an awesome power-draw stroke like Corey's. It also requires really slick and fast conditions like the new Simonis 760 cloth under bright TV lights that Corey faced. Both Corey and the announcers were a little surprised by the action of the shot. In a later interviews, Corey implied that he didn't expect to get quite that amount of draw or have it be delayed that much. He was probably expecting something more like the red path in Diagram 1. Notice that slight outside (right) spin is used to help send the cue ball (CB) more down table off the first cushion.
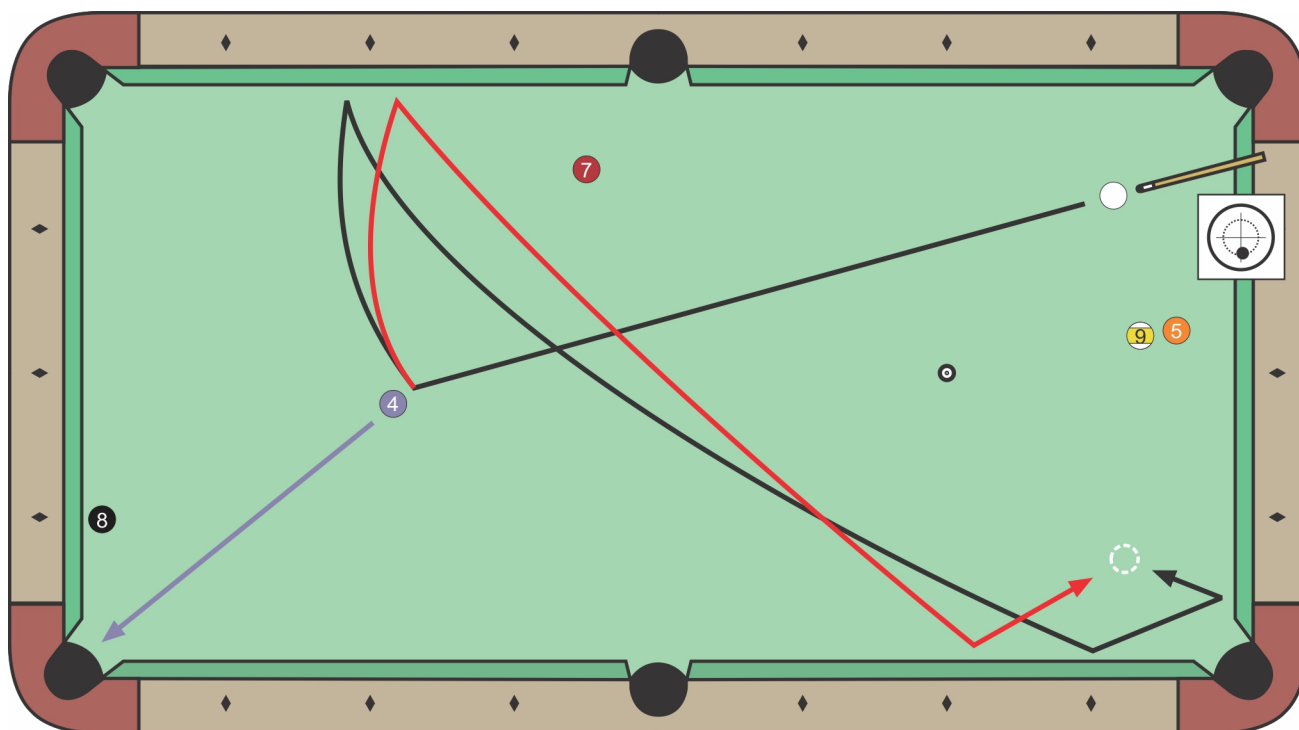


**Diagram 1  Corey's famous draw shot**

Recently, I acquired a new pool table (a 9' Olhaussen, which I purchased from Robert Byrne) to replace the 8' Connelly I have used for years to produce all of my instructional videos. I got new Simonis 860HR cloth installed really tight, resulting in conditions much slicker and faster than my previous table. The new conditions inspired me to give Corey's shot a try. My best attempt, which is very similar to the red path shown in Diagram 1, is shown in online video **NV H.6**. I'll be honest and admit that I didn't succeed on the first attempt like Corey. Also, I didn't get quite as much backspin as Corey, and the draw action on Corey's shot was delayed more than with my shot, partly because my table conditions are not quite as slick and fast as the Simonis-760 TV table on which Corey was playing.

After discovering how difficult this shot was, I wondered why Corey chose the power-draw option when other options were clearly available. The best answer I could come up with is that he just wanted to show off on the slick and fast conditions of the TV table. Maybe ESPN offered him extra cash if he pulled off some impressive crowd-pleasing shots. I'm just kidding. Corey probably chose the shot because he knew he could pull it off with realistic confidence in his ability. However, his choice would probably not have been the best option for most players.

**Diagram 2** shows two of many possible shot alternatives demonstrated in **NV H.6**. The path shown in black is a fairly natural option using outside (right) english to go off two rails. The red path shows another good option if you are comfortable with inside english and you are playing on fast cloth and with cushions that react to the english without killing the CB too much. The inside (left) english shot was fairly easy for me to execute compared to Corey's shot. To see additional shot options, watch **NV H.6** online. Which shot option would you choose? Would you go for Corey's shot? Try all of the options like I did. It's good practice.
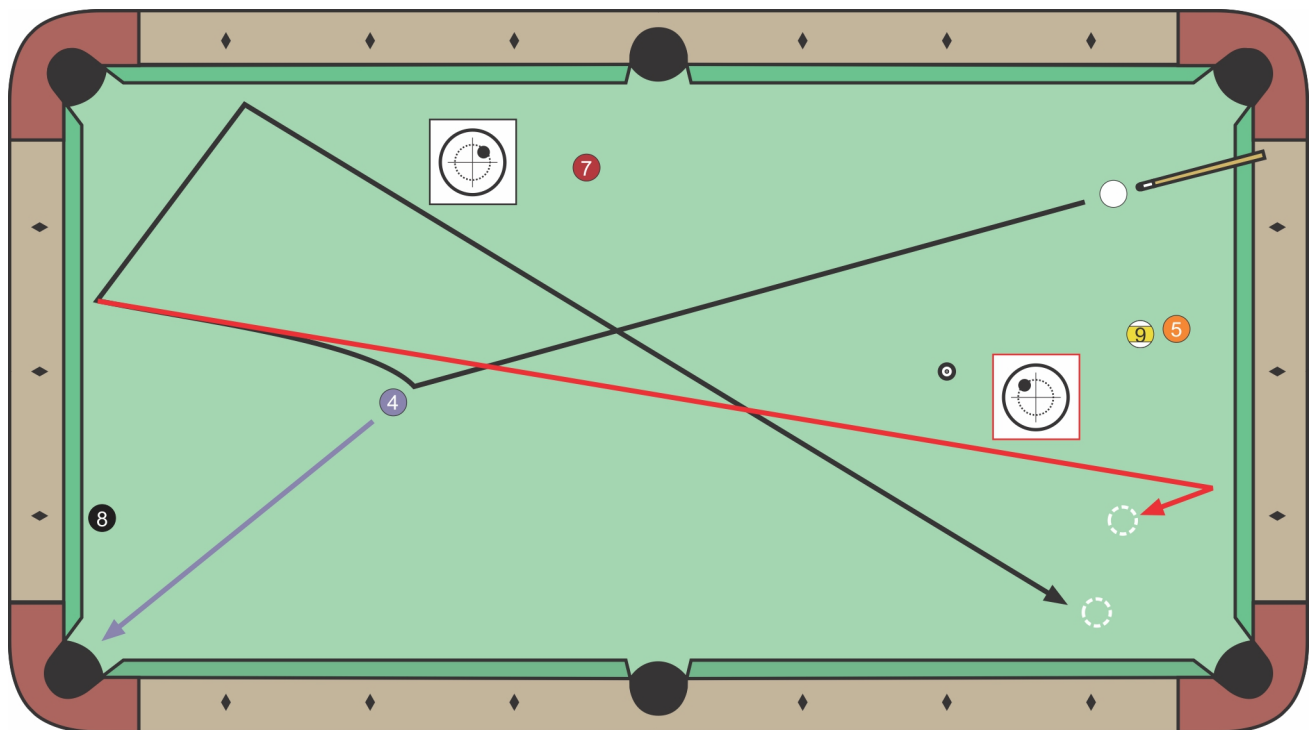


**Diagram 2  Two alternatives to Corey's shot**

If you watch the Youtube video of Corey's shot (https://youtu.be/VVDrZK6VpuU), you will see that Corey got into the 4-ball-shot position by mistake after fluking in the previous 3-ball shot on an attempted kick safety. And if you saw the entire original match, you will also know that Corey dogged an easy shot at the 9-ball, and lost the game. He probably had too much adrenaline flowing after executing such an amazing draw shot on the 4. The whole sequence demonstrates that even top pros like Corey are human, even if they do execute seemingly super-human shots at times.

The next time you're at a table, give Corey's shot a try. If you want to come even close to pulling it off, you will need to find really slick and fast conditions (e.g., new Simonis 760 cloth in hot and dry conditions) and/or polish-up or Silicone-spray the CB to simulate the conditions Corey faced. With slick conditions, very little backspin is lost on the way to the object ball, and draw curve is delayed more, as with Corey's shot. You can make the shot a little easier by putting the CB closer to the 4 like I demonstrate at the end of **NV H.6**. Regardless, it is important to have good technique and a strong draw stroke. For advice on how to improve your power draw shots, see the "power draw" resource page in the "draw shot" FAQ section at **billiards.colostate.edu**. Have fun with your attempts at Corey's shot! I think you will appreciate even more what Corey did after you give it a go yourself.

Good luck with your game,
Dr. Dave


**NV H.6** – Corey Deuel's famous draw shot analyzed by Dr. Dave

normal video


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 author of "The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards" book and DVD, and co-author of the Video Encyclopedias of "Pool Shots (VEPS)," "Pool Practice (VEPP)," and "Eight Ball (VEEB)," and the "How to Aim Pool Shots (HAPS)" and "Billiard University (BU)" instructional DVD series, all available at: **dr-dave-billiards.com**.*