
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.

If you have watched any Billiard Network matches commentated by Earl Strickland on YouTube recently, you probably heard him mention “placement pool.” If so, you probably wondered what he meant by the phrase because he doesn’t really explain it fully. In placement pool, the balls are placed on the table in the same positions for each player, testing their ability to run out different ball layout patterns. There is no break shot, which can sometimes involve luck and racking issues, which seems to bother Earl.

I recently posted a Placement Pool Challenge in online video [NV J.85](#) to test your run-out ability and give you a chance to win prizes. It is called PPC 100 and it consists of eighteen 9-ball and 8-ball runout layouts. Detailed rules and ball-layout diagrams are available via the [PPC resource page](#) linked in the YouTube video description. PPC 100 is the fifth of the [Billiard University \(BU\) Playing-Ability Exams](#).

Here’s a quick summary of the PPC 100 rules:

- consecutively attempt to run each of the 18 layouts in order.
- Each runout attempt ends with a miss or foul.
- For scoring, you start with 100 points and deduct points for any balls not pocketed legally.
- With any 9-ball layout, standard rules apply so slop counts as long as you hit the lowest numbered ball first with a legal hit; and pocketing the 9 at any time with a legal shot is a win giving you credit for all balls in that layout.
- Balls pocketed on a runout-ending foul shot (e.g., a scratch) do not count.

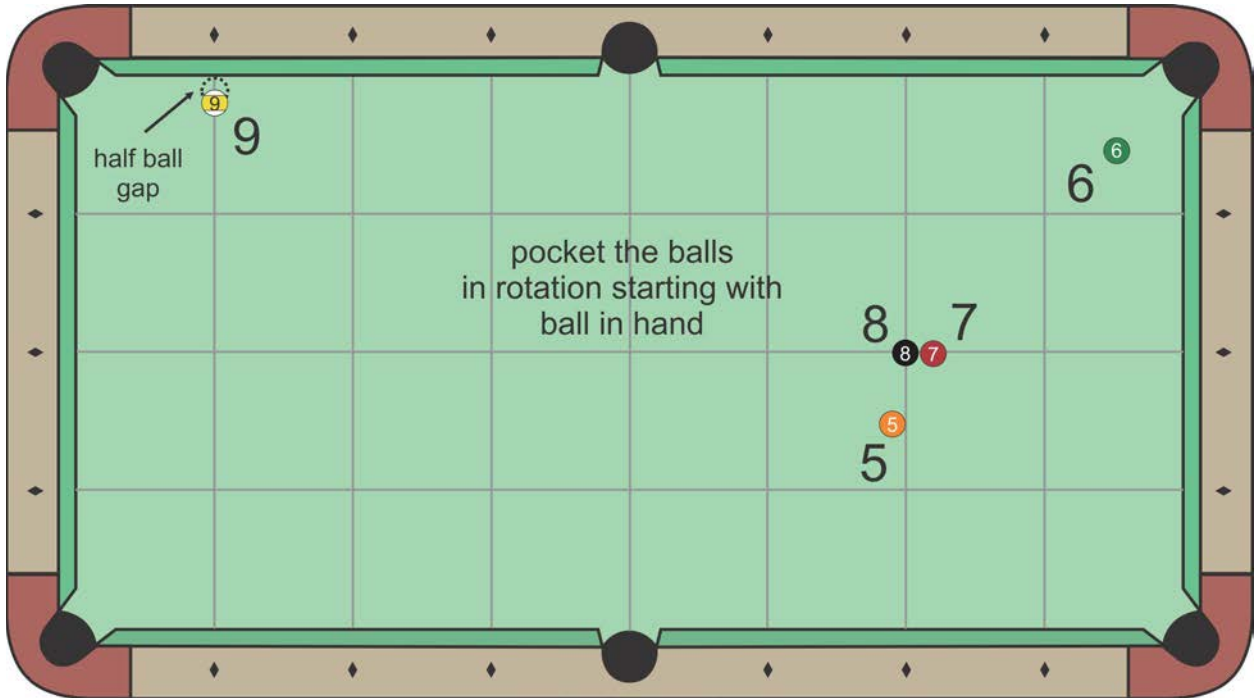
To enter the Challenge, just post your name, score, and video link in the comments section of the YouTube video. Each of the top 3 players will win a \$30 gift certificate that can be applied to any shirt, poster, cap, or mug purchase at DrDaveBilliardTshirts.com. To encourage participation by all, in addition to prizes for the top 3, there will also be a random lottery drawing from all non-winning participants for the same prize.

Diagrams 1-4 show four of the most challenging layouts in the PPC 100 Challenge. Study these layouts and ask yourself what patterns and cue ball (CB) position control options you would use to run them out. The best approach will depend on the individual and their skill set; but in online video [NV J.86](#), I discuss and demonstrate what I think are the best ways for a good player to run all layouts in the Challenge. I don’t want to show you all the “answers” here because I want you to first think about the layouts and ideally try them out at a table, but I’ll give you a few useful hints from the online video. SPOILER ALERT – here they are:

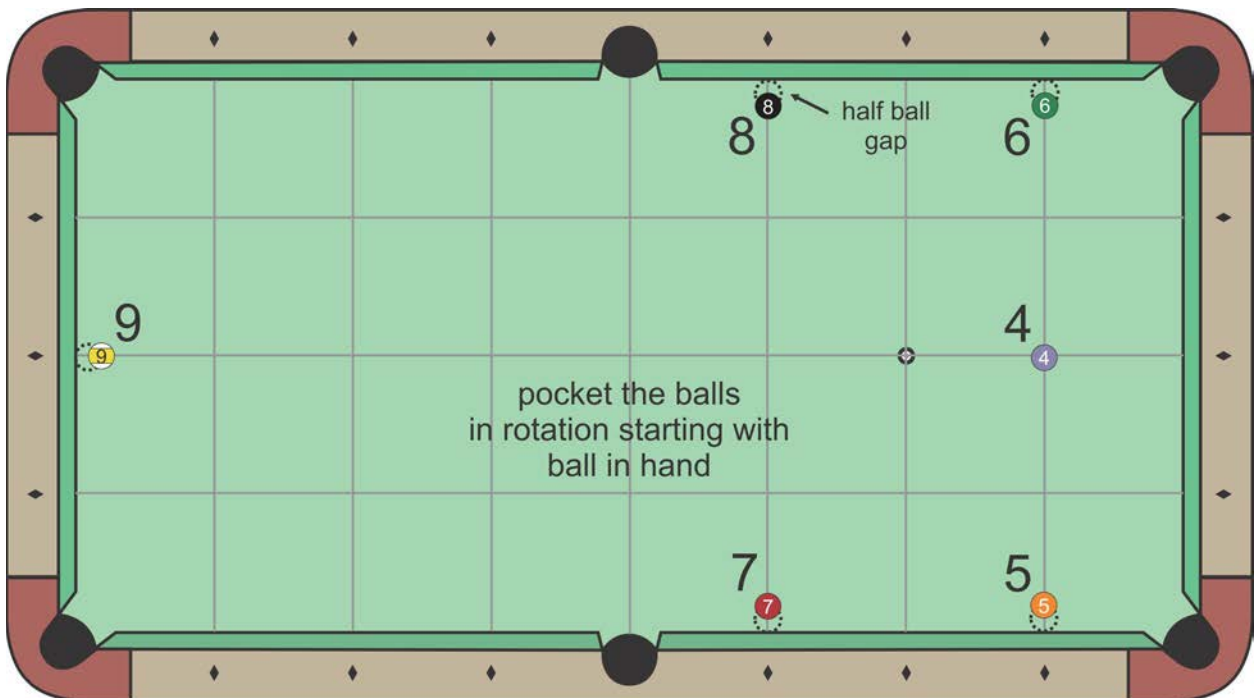
- In Layout 3 (**Diagram 1**), place the CB to pocket the 5 in the upper side and softly roll the CB into the 7 ball, ideally hitting the 7 a hair to the right of its center. This guarantees a shot at the 6 and keeps the 7 and 8 close for an easy pattern.
- In Layout 8 (**Diagram 2**), place the CB to pocket the 4 in the bottom-right corner and softly roll the CB into the 7, thinly cutting it into the rail to attempt to leave the 7 in front of the side pocket. This makes it much easier to get from the 6 to the 8 later with many CB control options.
- In Layout 11 (**Diagram 3**), shoot a stop shot on the stripe in the middle of the table, shooting it into the bottom-left corner. This leaves a perfect angle on the bottom-middle stripe to leave a perfect angle on the top-middle stripe to roll into perfect shape for the right-middle stripe.

- In Layout 18 (**Diagram 4**), shoot the second stripe from the left into the upper-left corner from the short side, rolling forward off the end rail to leave an angle on the left stripe to go off two rails to try to leave the middle stripe as straight as possible.

Again, these hints and many others are demonstrated in [NV J.86](#), so be sure to watch the video after you think about and try the layouts some yourself.



[Diagram 1](#) Layout 3



[Diagram 2](#) Layout 8

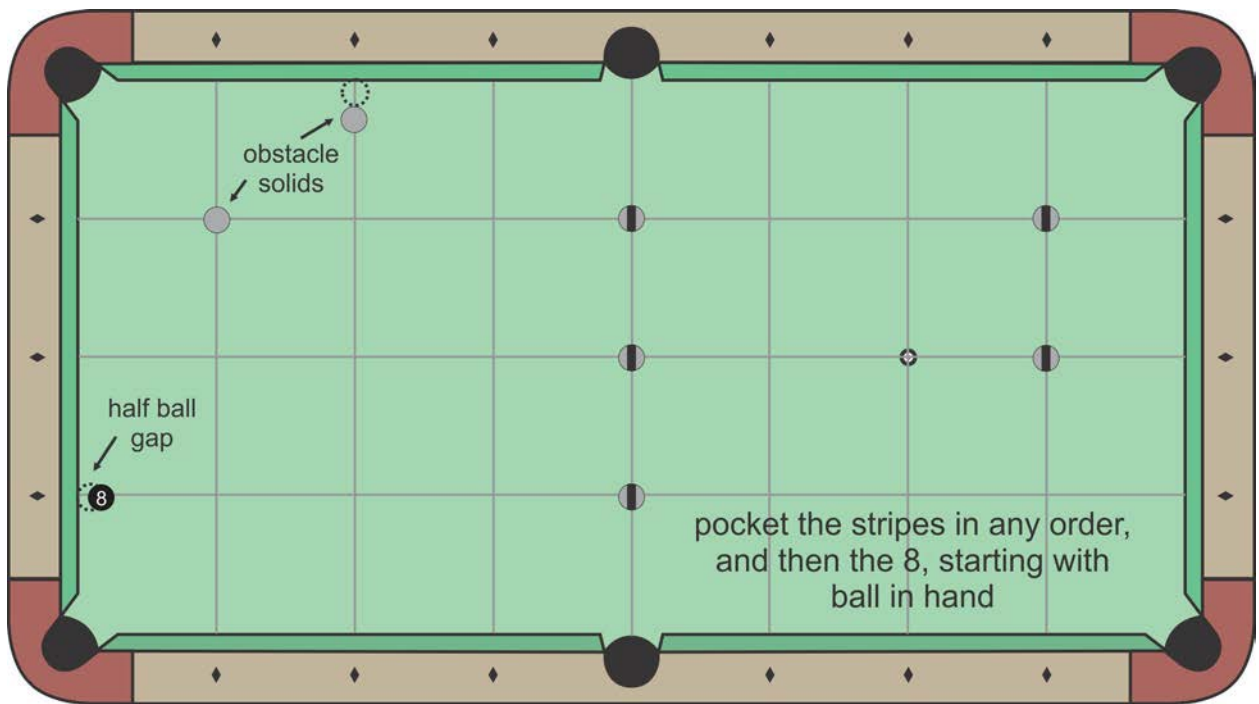


Diagram 3 Layout 11

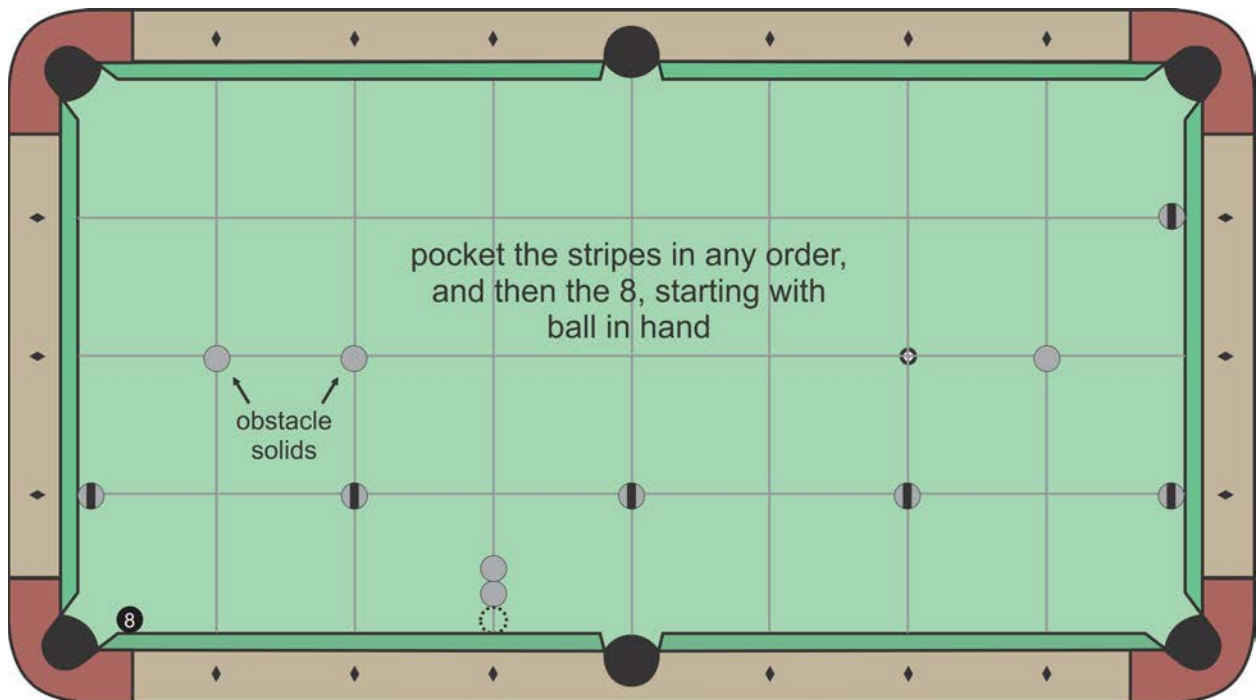


Diagram 4 Layout 18

Give the Placement Pool Challenge a try and see how high you can score. Again, the detailed rules, ball-layout diagrams, and online videos can be found on the [PPC resource page](#) linked in the YouTube video descriptions of [NV J.85](#) and [NV J.86](#). Have fun and good luck with the Challenge!

Good luck with your game,
Dr. Dave



[NV J.85](#) – Placement Pool Challenge (PPC 100)

[NV J.86](#) – SMART RUNOUT POOL – Pattern Play and Position Control

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 PBIA 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.