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

Recently, I spent some time with pro player Demetrius Jelatis of the Minnesota Pool Boot Camp to record several YouTube instructional videos together. The one I feature in this article presents 10 useful game-winning shots (see online video **NV J.104**). Last month, I covered shots 1-5. This month, I feature shots 6-10, plus a bonus shot.

6. Frozen Rail Cut Shot

Rail cut shots (see **Image 6**), where the object ball (OB) is frozen to the cushion are common, especially in ball-box 8-ball. This shot looks difficult, but if you hit the rail first with running spin, it is much easier than it might seem. Although, if you are not good at adjusting your aim for cue ball (CB) deflection when using sidespin, you will not be very successful. In the video, I use the System for Aiming With Sidespin (SAWS) to get an accurate aim. For more information, see the SAWS resource page at **billiards.colostate.edu**.

As shown by the white lines in Image 6, the CB heads in very different directions depending on the timing of the hit. If you hit the OB first, the running spin takes after hitting the ball, causing the CB to go more forward. If you hit the cushion first, the running spin will take before hitting the ball and the CB will come off closer to the tangent line. If you hit the OB and cushion close to the same time, the CB will go somewhere in between the two directions shown. If you are worried about scratching, you can add backspin to help prevent the CB from going forward. The running spin, cushion-first technique works even at very steep angles. As demonstrated in the video, with a little practice, you can even reverse-cut the ball with a cut angle greater than 90°.

Image 6 Frozen Rail Cut Shot

7. Small Gap Rail Cut Safety

In **Image 7**, the OB is off the cushion a little. In this case, the previous technique can be used, but the shot is a lot tougher. It is easy to sell out the game if the aim isn't perfect. A better approach here might be to play safe. You just need to aim to barely miss the 8 for a rail-first hit. As demonstrated in the video, the shot can result in a good safety, with distance between the balls and no easy bank.

Image 7 Small Gap Rail Cut Safety

8. Avoiding a Bank Shot Double Kiss

With the cross-side bank shot shown in **Image 8**, a double kiss is a concern. If you hit this shot at the correct angle to pocket the 8, the 8 will kiss the CB after rebound. Many people would try to avoid the double kiss by using speed to shorten the bank, allowing for a bigger cut, but this technique is not very effective with this ball layout. Although, a creative option is to go three-times across, as demonstrated in the video.

A much better approach is to use transferred spin to shorten the bank. Right spin on the CB transfers left spin to the 8, which makes it bank short, allowing for a bigger cut for the 8 to clear the CB after rebound. You don't want or need fast speed or a lot of spin here. Spin transfer is more effective at slower speed with a medium amount of spin. With a little practice, this shot is very easy to execute.

When this technique still doesn't give you enough room for the OB to clear, especially when the OB is closer to the rail, another approach is to hop the OB over the CB. You just need to elevate the back of the cue a little to hop the CB into the OB, which makes it hop into the cushion nose, allowing it to easily clear over the CB. Another option, which isn't as good, but is fun to try anyway, is to jump the CB more so the OB can clear underneath the CB. This technique can work even if the OB is frozen to the cushion. Both approaches are demonstrated in the video. The OB-hop-over-the-CB technique is not very practical in game situations, but it is a fun proposition or trick shot. Hopping the OB over the CB is much easier and more effective as a practical game-situation shot.

Image 8 Avoiding a Bank Shot Double Kiss

9. Avoid Double Hit with Jump Cue

Image 9 shows a situation, shooting stripes, where a double-hit foul is a concern since the CB is so close to the OB (the stripe behind the 8). Demetrius would like to hold the CB behind the 8 for a safety, but he also needs to drive the OB to the rail for the shot to be legal. Many people would try to elevate the cue to attempt this shot, but it is difficult to control. It is also easy to double hit the ball, which is a foul. On the double hit fouls resource page at *billiards.colostate.edu*., I show many ways to avoid and detect double hits, but a good approach with this shot is to use your jump cue. Because the jump cue is so light, if you use a short stroke, it is very easy to avoid the double hit. It helps to use a loose grip and wrist, holding the cue in your fingertips. With the CB frozen to the 8 after the hit, your opponent shooting solids is in big trouble.

Image 9 Avoid Double Hit with Jump Cue

10. "Tin Man" Double Frozen Rail Send

Image 10 shows another frozen-ball shot I learned from Demetrius (AKA "Tin Man" on AZBilliards) many years ago. You are playing 8-ball, shooting solids, and you're on the 8. Both balls are frozen to each other and the cushion. The "Tin Man" option is to use inside spin, hitting the 8 and cushion at very nearly the same time. In the video, super-slow-motion replay clearly shows the CB hitting the 8 with the CB barely in contact with the cushion. As the CB compresses the cushion, the sidespin takes, causing the CB to push the 8 forward after the 11 is already gone.

Image 10 **"Tin Man" Double Frozen Rail Send**

BONUS SHOT – Frozen Proposition Shot

I'll end with another frozen ball shot shown in **Image 11**. This is a proposition shot suggested to me by Jay Helfert. The 13 is on the foot spot and the 11 is frozen behind it. The proposition is: Putting the CB anywhere you want without moving the OBs, pocket the 11 directly into the corner pocket with a legal hit. Can you figure out how to do it? Spoiler Alert … here comes the answer. The trick is to freeze the CB to the side of the 13 and stroke toward the 11 as if the 13 were not there. Under the WPA "official rules of pool," you are allowed to hit into a frozen CB with a normal stroke. This shot would not work like this if the balls were not frozen.

The shot is very difficult if the CB does not start frozen to the 13. With the CB frozen, it can go forward of the tangent line off the 13, allowing for the required timed secondary hit on the 11. That helps the shot go a little straighter than it would otherwise. Now, you need to use a short stroke. Otherwise, you will double hit the CB, which would be a foul. In online video **NV J.105**, I demonstrate 35 different options for dealing with this frozen-ball situation. I love when a simple setup like this can result in so many options and so much creativity.

Image 11 Frozen Proposition Shot

Check out online video **NV J.104** to see everything in the article brought to life. And if you want to add these useful shots to your pool arsenal, be sure to practice each of them. Demetrius and I hope you can learn a new trick or two from the video.

Good luck with your game,
Dr. Dave

normal video

NV J.104 – Top 10 Useful GAME-WINNING SHOTS You Need to Know
N**V J.105** – FROZEN BALL Spot-Shot OPTIONS

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 Master 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.