



**NAIL THE BASICS**

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**Tom Stickney**  
Top 100 since 2007

# SHAPE SHOTS WITH YOUR TEE

*Alter its height to exert more control over your drives*

**THIS STORY IS FOR YOU IF...**

1. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MORE CONTROL OVER YOUR DRIVES.
2. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HIGH TO TEE THE BALL.

## THE FAULT

Whether or not you're trying to hit a high bomb off the tee or a low fairway-finder, you tee it up the same way. Trying to control the type of drive you hit simply by altering your swing or "thinking" of a shot isn't the way to get it done. You need to make slight

changes to your setup position if you want to successfully control your driving trajectory.

## THE FIX

You need one type of setup and tee height for max distance, and a slightly different setup and tee height for a lower, more controlled shot. Follow these simple rules and you should quickly find more success off the tee:

### FOR MAX DISTANCE...

...tee the ball high, so that about half the ball is above the crown of your driver. Play the ball off your

left instep, or even your left toe, and take a slightly narrower stance. This combination will help you create an ascending hit on the ball and will create maximum launch and carry distance. Be aware that this type of shot is for maximum distance in most situations, and is not always the most accurate option.

### FOR MAX CONTROL...

...tee the ball significantly lower, so that all of the ball sits below the top line of your driver. Play the ball a bit farther back in your stance, about two inches inside your left instep. Take a wider, more stable stance—this will help you make a shorter, more controlled backswing. Use this combination to hit mid-trajectory drives and you'll get the ball in play when you need to.

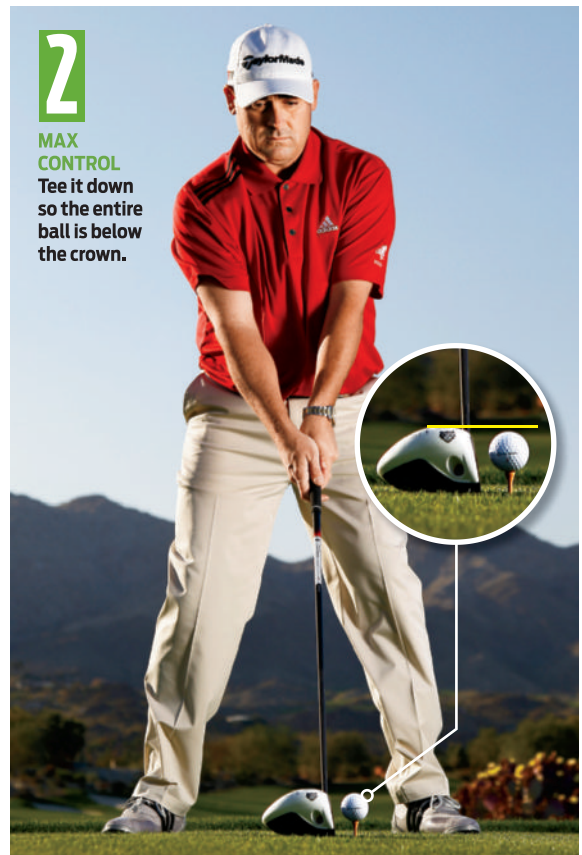
**1**

**MAX DISTANCE**  
Tee it up so half the ball is above the crown of the club.



**2**

**MAX CONTROL**  
Tee it down so the entire ball is below the crown.



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Learn more about all the driving basics in a bonus video lesson with Top 100 Teacher **Tom Stickney**