

# Let the Toe Go

When it comes to putting there are many different philosophies. I have spent decades studying the best putters throughout the history of golf such as Brad Faxon, Loren Roberts, Ben Crenshaw, etc. I have discovered a common trend...they all allow the toe of the club to release just as an iron does on the follow thru. This is contrary to Dave Pelz's approach to "Straight Back, Straight Thru". The physics of Pelz's approach have never made sense to me. I have said since High School that in order for this approach to work you would need to bend 90 degrees from the waist. Michelle Wei, one of his students, has now implemented the approach. Doesn't look very comfortable to me!

Why would we swing 13 clubs one way and then change the approach with a putter? It is much more natural for the path of the putter to travel on a slight arc. When the club head travels "Square to the Arch" the toe of the putter will pass the heel on the follow thru. This allows the ball to skid for a few inches and then roll end over end after that creating a tight roll. By getting the ball rolling as soon as possible your distance control becomes much more consistent. In addition to distance control, if you don't allow the toe to release you create slight side spin. This leads to right handed players to miss left to right putts on the low side of the hole.

The first thing you need to watch for is to make sure you have selected the right putter. In order to implement this philosophy you need a putter that has what is called "Toe Droop". That means that when letting the shaft rest in your hands the toe of the putter hangs below the heel.

When making the stroke, the best advice I was ever given was to feel that the butt end of the grip remained pointing at my belly button throughout the entire stroke. This was way before the invention of the now banned belly putters which applied this same principle. By using this simple thought you will notice below that the putter head has a natural up swing on the follow thru and the toe of the club is releasing naturally.

So when you're ready to learn a more natural putting stroke and stop throwing away shots on the greens please visit [www.brianflugstad.com](http://www.brianflugstad.com) to book your next lesson!