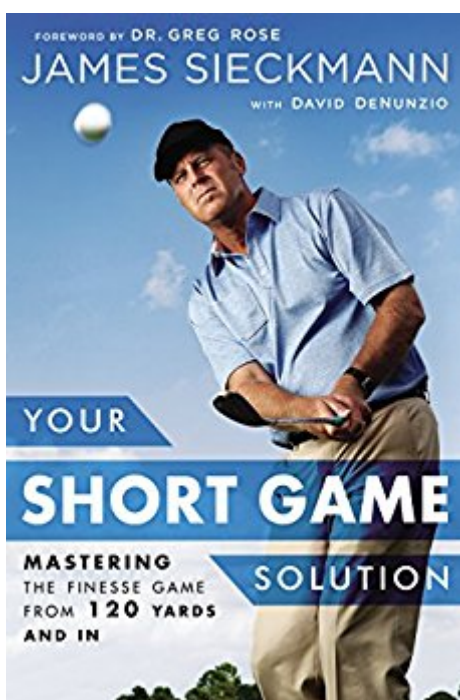


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Your Short Game Solution: Mastering The Finesse Game From 120 Yards And In



Synopsis

Supported by state-of-the-art motion analysis research, "short game guru to the pros" James Sieckmann unveils his "finesse wedge" swing -- a proven and pragmatic way to learn, practice, and perform with each wedge in the bag in every situation -- and shows players that upgrading their short game is possible. Since James Sieckmann first revealed his short-game methods two decades ago, he has amassed a cultlike following of more than seventy PGA and LPGA Tour disciples and has been dubbed the "short-game guru to the pros" (GOLF Magazine). Using his system, several of Sieckmann's students have become some of the best short-game players of the modern era. A two-time winner on the PGA Tour jumped 117 spots in the Sand Save rankings in one season; another client quickly jumped 81 spots in Scrambling percentage. The benefits of a good short game are undisputed. Unfortunately, players at all levels fail to develop effective short-game skills because instructors teach the exact opposite of the correct technique. Sieckmann studied the greatest short-game players in recent memory -- including Seve Ballesteros, Corey Pavin, and Raymond Floyd -- to develop a proven and pragmatic way to learn, practice, and perform with each wedge in every situation. His unique observations, which were later verified by motion capture technology, work equally well for amateurs and pros. In his long-awaited first book, Sieckmann opens up his vault of secrets for all golfers. After breaking down the basics, he presents a session-by-session training and practice guide -- the same one he creates for his tour clients -- to help the reader develop and sustain correct habits, avoid common flaws, and master essential skills. Next, Sieckmann explains how to optimize a player's wedge swing for every scenario. An easy-to-learn and easy-to-use system, Your Short Game Solution will be the go-to guide anywhere golf is played.

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Customer Reviews

When executed properly, one of the "finesse wedge" shots described in this book is a thing of beauty. It flies high, lands softly and checks up like a horse coming across a rattler in its path. It is also very good off a tight lie "I now use this technique successfully off hardpan near the green or in bunkers with sand that's like concrete. And as others have mentioned, the outcome is generally forgiving and pretty consistent. But at the same time I haven't found this technique to be useful in all cases. Even with changing ball position and degree of openness of the clubface, I can't get a low trajectory. My 54 degree sand wedge flies like a lob wedge, and, unless I take a whole lot of clubs with me near the green and learn/practice how to hit a low "finesse wedge" shot with an 8 or 7 or 6 iron, I'm better off with my old technique for lower shots. Also, for the resulting height and spin of the ball, the club-head is moving fast with the finesse wedge swing and it is still possible to hit it thin although this likelihood will decrease as you get better. When the ball is sitting up a bit in the rough, it is very easy to go underneath it because you have become used to hitting the ground with the bounce of the club. So I would say that this technique is a very useful tool to put in your bag, but it hasn't resulted in a complete overhaul of my short game. There's also a question of deciding when you are confident enough in this new technique to replace your old, well-worn reasonably-good technique. There's nothing more frustrating than blading it across the green when even a mediocre shot with your old technique would have left you with a chance at holing a putt. Instead of forcing the new technique into play, I look at the situation and decide what type of shot is called for and then use that shot. Off a tight lie over a bunker to a close pin? Finesse wedge no doubt. A ball sitting up in the rough with a good bit of green to work with? My old-faithful lower-trajectory descending blow. And I'm sure Seve would agree "there's no one way to approach all short game shots. It wouldn't be called creativity if was. And a final point, this book is worth buying just because of what it says about practicing with a purpose. But for that I also

recommend The Practice Manual by Adam Young.

Seickmann has done his homework over the years and in this book provides an excellent guide toward achieving mastery of the short game. Along with Dave Pelz and Stan Utey I would consider him the most expert in the short game area. He clearly lays out the fundamentals of the short game and how they differ from the "power game"-----the "finesse swing" is NOT just a "mini" regular swing but has critical differences. If golfers just learn his set up position they will see immediate results in perfect contact and the resulting benefits for distance control, which as, Pelz, points out is the greatest determinate of low scoring. The beauty of this is that it requires little of the natural ability that is essential to the "power game".

Bought this after reading an excerpt in Golf Magazine and glad I did. I had become a decent short game player. I was using what the author called a chip-putt and it worked fine but I longed to be able to use the bounce of the club, hit higher lofted finesse shots, and spin the ball more. My method, as taught by many pros had too much rollout and didn't help me when I was in the bunker. Siekmann's method produced great results but of course took a little time on the range to hone. I am now starting to produce that "thump" sound at impact with very shallow to minimal divots. Besides the technical aspects, what I liked best about the book is it talked about how best to practice and keeping a practice journal. I practice frequently but poorly. James' book showed me the right way to practice as well as teaching me the correct technique to use my wedges the way they were designed.

Very informative book. Very focused on 100 yards and in and provides a clear rationale for the strategies that he proposes. Further, there are specific practice regimens proposed to fix specific flaws in ones game. The oversell practice plans are valuable for those of us who only have sporadic time and range access for practicing. I would give it 5 stars except for two shortcomings. Chapter 8 is superficial and of little help. There are complete books on this topic and it is not only relevant to the short game. Secondly, there is no discussion of putting!

I am reviewing this without the benefit of fully implementing all of the info, drills, theory and practice. I live in New England and cold weather set in as the book arrived. However I can comment on what I feel are the Plusses, based on a thorough reading (3 times) and some implementation. The theory is eminently sound. I am quite knowledgeable about this subject, though I am NOT a golf professional.

JS fleshes out the theory in 2 ways: by giving his own history and how his own shortcomings with his own short game spurred him to examine what the very top short game players he rubbed shoulders with were actually doing when they executed various shots (chips, pitches, finesse wedges, etc). He then identified what was common to all and formulated his unique theories. He then honed it all to simple principles, understandable to all SERIOUS golfers. He did not stop there. He then formulated VERY IMPORTANT drills to implement these theories. If my review doesn't motivate you to explore this thoughtful author/professional golfer's excellent book, maybe you should question how badly you want to improve this crucially important phase of the game we all love. I have not taken a lesson with James but he was working with Dave Pelz when I took a 3-day total immersion short/putting school many years ago. I was impressed with his obvious love for the game and his ability to communicate with students. He has taken himself to the next level with this spectacular book.

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