

**“VENT – Part V: Two-Rail Position Plays”
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ILLUSTRATED PRINCIPLES

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

This is the fifth article in a series dealing with the “Video Encyclopedia of Nine-ball and Ten-ball (VENT),” a five-disc instructional DVD set I recently created with fellow Billiards Digest columnist Bob Jewett. VENT teaches all of the skills, knowledge and strategy one needs to excel at 9-ball and 10-ball. Topics include break shot strategy and effects, game planning, position play and english, safety play, and advanced principles, shots, and strategies. An outline of the entire VENT series along with video excerpts from each DVD are available online at DrDaveBilliards.com/vent.

The topic for this month is important and common two-rail position plays, featuring shots demonstrated in online video [NV I.6](#) (an excerpt from Disc III of VENT). **Diagram 1** shows the layout for the first shot where the goal is to pocket the 8 and get position on the 9. Here, a good option is the shot illustrated in the diagram, where the cue ball (CB) goes across the table twice in a pattern shaped like the letter “Z.” This is a good play because the CB heads right into the line of the 9 ball shot, providing a large margin for error with shot speed. As illustrated in **Diagram 2**, a wide range of speeds will result in a good shot at the 9.



Diagram 1 “Z” shot two-rail position play



Diagram 2 “Z” shot large margin for error with speed

Diagram 3 shows the layout for the second shot, where the goal is to pocket the 6 and get shape on the 7. Online video [NV I.6](#) demonstrates several reasonable options for this layout. One shot option is illustrated in the diagram, where running english and draw are used to come off two rails into the line of the 7. Another good option is illustrated in **Diagram 4**, where inside follow is used to go two rails beneath the 8 and 9. This option is natural, and the braking action off the last cushion helps provide a good margin for error with shot speed. Check out the online video and try the shots yourself to see what might be your preferred choice. It is important to practice a wide range of position play shots and options so you will be more likely to make smart choices when you play.

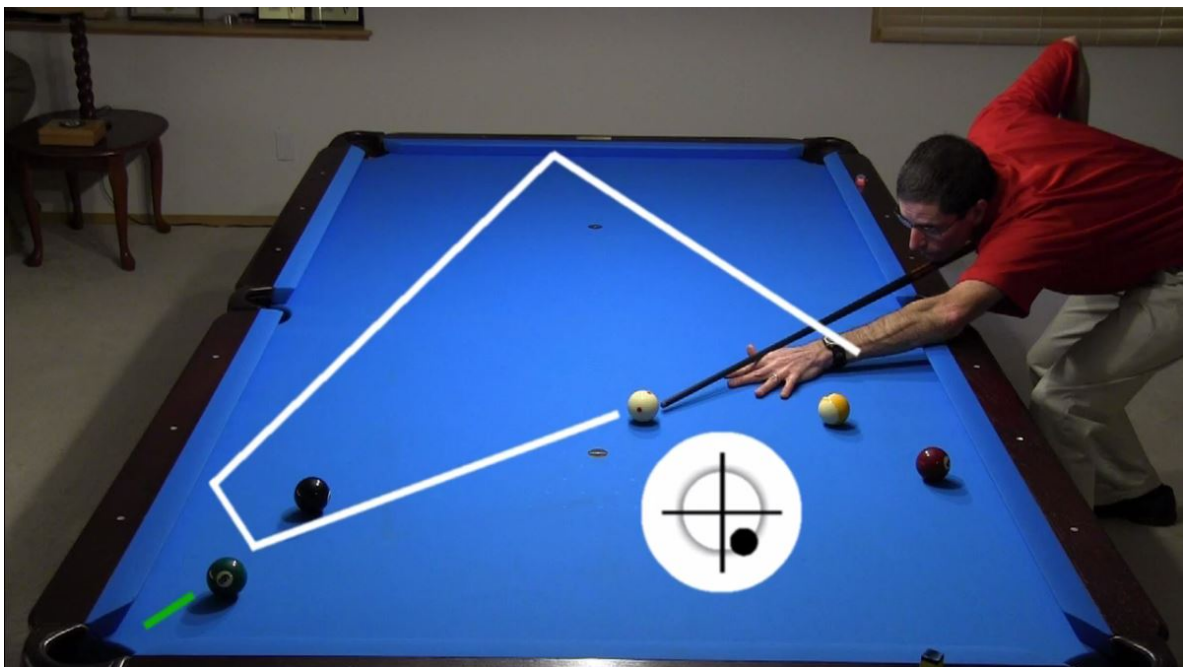


Diagram 3 Two-rail shape into the line of the next shot



Diagram 4 Natural two-rail shape underneath a blocker.

Many more examples of a variety of common and useful two-rail position plays are presented in [NV I.6](#) and on Disc III of VENT. The categories and approaches covered on VENT-III (“Position Play and English”) include no-rail shape, one-rail shape, two-rail shape, three-rail shape, position off pocket hangers, straight-in shot options, and end-game patterns.

I hope you are enjoying my series of articles dealing with the “Video Encyclopedia of Nine-ball and Ten-ball (VENT).” If you want to view video excerpts from the entire DVD set, check out online videos [NV I.1](#) through [NV I.11](#). Enjoy!

Good luck with your game,
Dr. Dave



- [NV I.1](#) – Video Encyclopedia of Nine-ball and Ten-ball (VENT) Instructional DVD Trailer
- [NV I.2](#) – 9-ball Side Soft Break, and Corey Deuel Pattern Racking, an excerpt from VENT-I
- [NV I.3](#) – How to Train a Pool Table for Accurate and Consistent Ball Racking, an excerpt from VENT-I
- [NV I.4](#) – How to be Creative and Consider Various Options in 9-ball and 10-ball, an excerpt from VENT-II
- [NV I.5](#) – Defensive Strategy in 9-ball and 10-ball, an excerpt from VENT-II
- [NV I.6](#) – Common Two-Rail Position Plays in 9-ball and 10-ball, an excerpt from VENT-III
- [NV I.7](#) – Common End-Game Patterns in 9-ball and 10-ball, an excerpt from VENT-III
- [NV I.8](#) – 9-ball/10-ball Object Ball Hide Safety Examples, an excerpt from VENT-IV
- [NV I.9](#) – 9-ball/10-ball Ball-In-Hand Shot Option Examples, an excerpt from VENT-IV
- [NV I.10](#) – 9-ball/10-ball Rail Cut Shot Principles and Examples, an excerpt from VENT-V
- [NV I.11](#) – 9-ball/10-ball Advanced Herd and Cushion-Compression Shots, an excerpt from VENT-V

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 don't fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](#) at billiards.colostate.edu.

Dr. Dave is a PBIA Advanced Instructor and author of the book: [The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#) and the instructional DVD series: Video Encyclopedias of [Pool Shots \(VEPS\)](#), [Pool Practice \(VEPP\)](#), [Eight Ball \(VEEB\)](#), and [Nine-ball and Ten-ball \(VENT\)](#), [How to Aim Pool Shots \(HAPS\)](#) and [Billiard University \(BU\)](#), all available at: DrDaveBilliards.com.