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# Bunker Magic

Understanding my  
tour-proven technique for  
higher, softer, spinning  
sand shots.

*Tour players love greenside bunkers. The consistency of the sand, coupled with their fabulous techniques, allows them to hit high and spinning bunker shots that stick like lawn darts next to the flag. For you to do the same, you must throw out your old notions of how to get the ball out of the sand and trust your setup, wrist set and early club release to allow the flange (the trailing edge of the sole of the sand-wedge) to do the work for you. You too can learn how to play great bunker shots with ease using the following three fundamental keys and my bonus extreme key.*

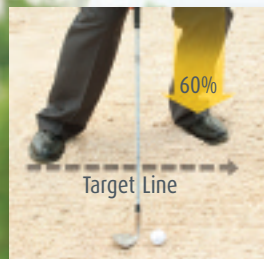
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**THE SETUP:****1. The Chin Secret**

The ball position should be forward in your stance and 60 per cent of your weight should be on your front side. This places your chin over top of the ball throughout your swing, which is the key to

placing your sand splash in a consistent spot. There's no need to try to hit the sand at predetermined spot. The club-face should be very open and you should have slightly open body lines with your hands held lower than normal to maximize flange contact with the sand.

**THE TAKEAWAY:****2. Quick Wrist Set**

This is the most critical part of the movement. Try to use as little arm swing as possible. Your back elbow should remain tight to your body throughout your backswing

and should never rise much higher than the bottom of your ribcage. The feeling you want is one of moving the club away with just the wrists and some body turn. Keep the body centred over the ball with no weight shift.

**THE DOWNSWING:****3. Early Release**

Releasing your wrists early in the downswing with your body still leaning slightly into the lead leg is the move you want here. Allow the club-

head to really swing around and past the hands into the sand. This early release creates great speed and is vital in allowing the flange to splash the sand, which lifts the ball high and out of the trap on a thin sliver.

*To take this shot a step further learn my bonus tip on the next page.*





**THE BONUS:****4. EXTREME Key**

To take this shot to a whole new level, try these modifications: The overall movement remains the same but if you cup your lead wrist in the backswing and lean toward the target, this will create an even higher and softer trap explosion. You will have to swing much more aggressively than normal to move the ball the correct distance but the ball will go straight up and down with very little roll. The cool thing about these modifications is that you can apply them to your greenside flop shot as well.

