

Don't Get Too Comfortable!

by [Bob Menzies, PGA Professional](#)

All too often I see golfers practicing with their "favorite" club, and completely neglecting their "trouble" club. For most golfers, their "favorite" club is one of their short or mid-irons, and their "trouble" club is a long iron or their driver. And, all too often we don't take the time to practice our "trouble" club. When you are on the course, you face a multitude of various shots, distances, lies, weather conditions, etc. So, why not practice some of them on the driving range prior to playing on the course?! Typically, you will use most of your clubs when you play, so why not use most of your clubs during your practice time?! **Don't get too comfortable with your "favorite" club! Start practicing different shots, with different clubs!**

You can practice in a variety of ways. For example, besides switching your club selection on the range (hitting everything from your wedges to your Driver), you can change the lie of your shots. Practice shots that you might not necessarily ever practice: buried lies, shots from divots, etc. In addition to practicing "trouble" shots, also try altering the trajectory and curvature of your shots. Try hitting the following types of shots: high, low, slices, hooks, punch-shots, etc. Just as important, change your target often. Again, don't get too comfortable by hitting to the same target over and over (hit no more than 5 or 10 shots with any particular club), or by hitting balls from flat lies (e.g. driving range mats).

Lastly, when you are on the driving range before going out to play, **anticipate the types of shots that you may encounter during your round, and practice with those specific clubs.** Many top PGA Tour professionals prepare for tournaments by hitting the exact type of shots that they will need to hit during the tournament. Tiger Woods has often mentioned that he uses this type of approach as he practices.