

## AccuPutt: Laser guidance

**The skinny:** Ralph Blanchard is an airline and airport consultant. While dealing continually with objects that fly, Blanchard is obsessed with putting.

"The inconsistencies in my stroke were driving me crazy," Blanchard said. "I figured if I could deal with complex airport issues, I ought to be able to figure out how to putt."

The result was AccuPutt, also known as 3-2-1 Putt. The centerpiece of Blanchard's invention is a putter with an adjustable aperture in the middle. The putter is swung along the line of a laser beam. If the stroke remains square, the beam passes through the aperture. Once the putter head moves



inside or outside the line, it contacts the laser beam, resulting in a flashing red light and an audible beep.

Today, there are two primary putting methods: straight back/straight through (the AccuPutt method) and the arc philosophy as exemplified by the Putting Arc training aid and

*A laser beam travels through the gap in the AccuPutt's clubhead.*



the teaching of Stan Utley.

AccuPutt is particularly effective for practicing short putts. It is interesting to note that while Blanchard was exhibiting AccuPutt at the PGA Merchandise Show, putter designer Scotty Cameron of Titleist was addressing a packed auditorium and explaining how the putter blade should remain basically square on putts inside 5 feet.

Even for golfers who believe the putter head should open as it follows its natural arc, AccuPutt can be extremely helpful in tracing the path of the putter and making a repetitive stroke.

**Cost:** \$250 with a 33- or 34-inch putter (MSRP)

**Availability:** Immediate