

## Chipping and Pitching with Phil Mickelson and Stan Utley

Phil Mickelson has a book (2009) and DVD called "Secrets of the Short Game".

Stan Utley has several books including "The Art of the Short Game" (2007), "The Art of Scoring" (2009), and "The Art of the Swing" (2011), all about the short game.

All of these books and dvds are available at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) , and I would encourage you to buy them to learn their ideas about the short game.

Phil Mickelson says that every shot he hits from within 50 yards is played with the same method, called HINGE AND HOLD. He says that HINGE AND HOLD applies to chips, pitches, sand shots, flop shots and lob shots. You hinge your wrists early in the backswing, while limiting how far back you swing your arms. On the downswing, you maintain the hinge in your wrists and accelerate through the ball using your arms. For a right handed golfer, the left wrist will stay flat and the right wrist will stay bent backwards on the downswing and after impact. The hands lead the way on the downswing, with the club trailing behind. Phil describes many kinds of shots in his DVD and book, but the HINGE AND HOLD method is his basic technique.

For a chip shot, Stan Utley has his feet about 4 to 5 inches apart. Unlike some teachers, Stan recommends a square stance (or even a little bit of a closed stance), instead of an open stance. He starts with the weight favoring the left leg, and he keeps the weight over the left leg throughout the swing. Ball position is just forward of the middle of the stance. The hands are ahead of the ball, and are further ahead of the ball on a chip shot compared to a pitch shot. Shoulders are level due to a slight tilt of the spine toward the left. On the backswing, the wrists hinge, and the clubhead moves quite a bit compared to the arms and hands, which do not move very far. The right elbow folds on the backswing and the club swings around behind you, not straight back. After impact, the left elbow folds and the club swings around to the left, and the chest faces the target. Stan likes to feel like he is posting up on the left leg, and pivoting around it during the swing, with the weight never leaving the left leg. Stan says the pivot and the bent right wrist allow him to "pinch the ball". Stan prefers a 58 degree wedge for most of his shots. Be sure to pick a specific spot where you want the ball to land.

For a pitch shot, Stan Utley has his feet about 8 to 10 inches apart. Stance is still square. The hands are slightly ahead of the ball , but not as far ahead as with a chip shot. On a pitch shot, the left wrist will be cupped at the end of the backswing. What surprises most amateurs when they watch Stan chip or pitch is how little the grip end of the club moves compared with the clubhead. Remember to maintain the backward bend of the right wrist as the club swings through impact, and pivot around your left leg with the weight staying on the left leg during the entire backswing and forward swing.

In the 2011 book "The Art of the Swing", you will see a series of bar codes throughout the book. If you download the free app and then aim your smartphone with internet access at the barcode and take a picture of the barcode, a video of Stan Utley will pop up on your screen that describes some aspect of the short game. Amazing !!!