

A HIGHER WEDGE-U-CATION FOR LOWER SCORES!!!

Written by: John Carpineta

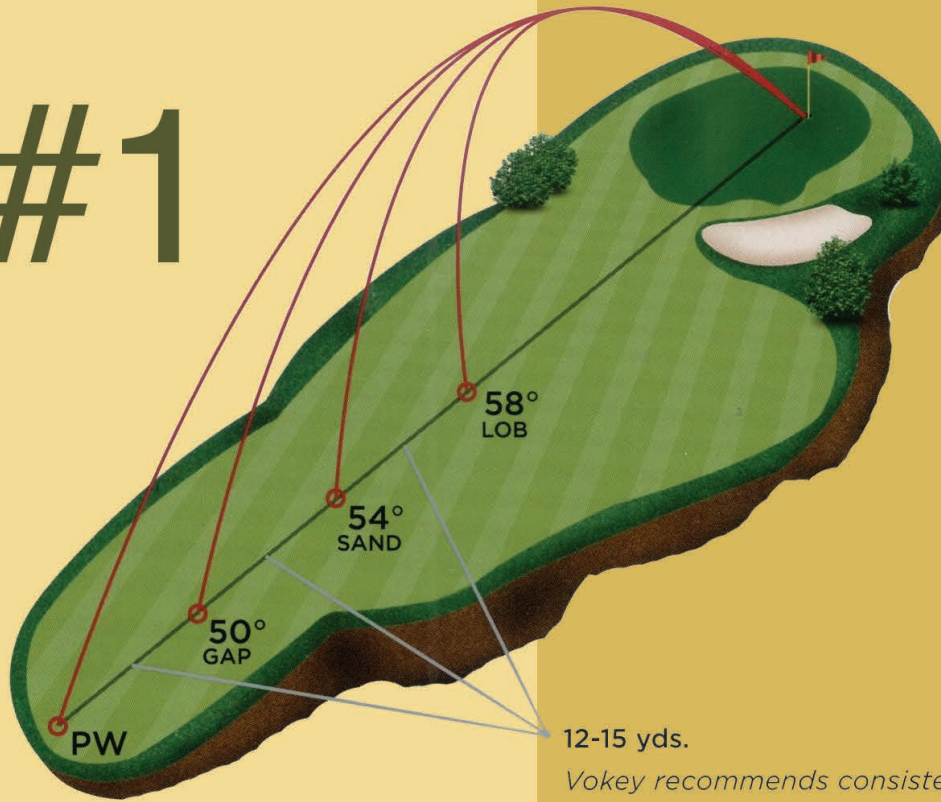


It all started in the 30's, when PGA Pro Eugenio Sarazcini (aka Gene Sarazen) found himself struggling with his wedge play. So, Gene came up with an idea: taking his Niblick to a machinist, who welded metal to the sole, and then did some custom grinding. During this process, Sarazcini took a lot of criticism from his peers. His determination resulted in the prototype for all of today's wedges. His passion is now carried on by many, but Bob Vokey stands alone with his new line of SM5 wedges, which are second to none. How proud Gene "The Squire" would be to see "VOKE'S" innovations, including collaboration with the Tour's finest players. This brought a wide selection of lofts and grinds to meet the needs of all golfers and conditions.

Let's get onto the "Wedge-U-Cation" portion. OK, OK..We are all convinced that we need to buckle down on our play from 60 to 125 yards in, also agreeing that this is the "Red Zone". First, consider getting rid of your #2-, #3-, and possibly #4-iron, in order to make room for some additional wedges. With all the options now available for wedges, how does one make a proper selection? Don't get nervous! Your PGA Pro/Titleist Rep will be right there to help guide you along the way. SHARE with him your strengths and weaknesses.

Next, let's familiarize ourselves with some of the "Vokey-cabulary" words you will be hearing during a wedge fit, some of which will assist your Rep in the process.

#1



12-15 yds.

Vokey recommends consistent yardage gaps between wedges.

Establishing which one of the three swing types you fall into will narrow the process down. Determine if you are a slider, digger, or neutral-type player. A slider is a player who has a shallow approach angle with little or no divot. This player requires less bounce and narrower sole. The digger, on the other hand, has a steeper approach angle and full divot. This will need more bounce and a wider sole. Neutral is right in the middle, with a moderate approach and medium divot. This, then, would match with medium bounce and medium sole. FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO TURF CONDITIONS AND GRINDS WILL BE DETERMINED BY YOUR TITLEIST REP.

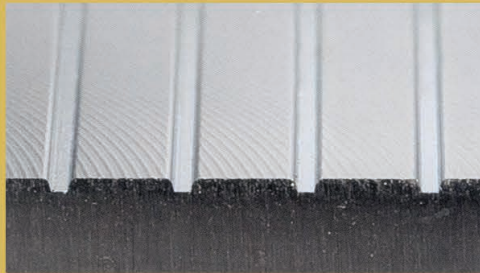
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In closing, I wish to thank my head pro, Jim Bogan, assistants Tom Hueston , Bill Fox, Matt Faust, Kelly Newhouse and Ray Guim for their support. Also, the help of the Philly PGA Section Office crew, along with help from Jason Krier, Mike Lane [Golf Galaxy], Tom and Frank Craig, Dave Lewis, Brendan Richter, Dave McNabb, Tom Gilbert, John-Screen's crew and, especially Bob Vokey and David Neville (Welcome home, David, and thanks for coming out to Commonwealth CC with host Pro Patrick Shine!) Great day!

All right, gang. We have had a history lesson, and a Voke-cabulary lesson so the bottom line is that there is help for you- no matter what type of 'wedge-u-cation' you need. Put your heart and your "sole" into it, as did Mr. Sarazen, Mr. Vokey and Mr. Neville have, and remember... BOUNCE AND CAMBER are your friends!

This article is dedicated to the Memory of my/our friend Ron Rolfe PGA "Hall of Fame Pro". Many thanks to PGA Pros Mike Reilly, Jack Connolly , John Boyd, Kurt (Caddy Master), along with all the "Hard Workin'" staff at North Hills C.C., as they hosted the 5th Annual Ron Rolfe Memorial Tournament... A great day for a GREAT GUY...



Above: Titleist® sm5 wedge close up.
Designed by Bob Vokey.



PICTURED BELOW:
Titleist wedge guru Bob Vokey (left) with PGA Professional John Carpineta (right). Picture was recently taken at Commonwealth National GC when "The Voke" visited the Philadelphia area for a wedge seminar.

