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Edited by
**David DeNunzio &
Michael Chwasky**



GET UP AND DOWN

with **Tom Stickney**, Bighorn G.C.,
Palm Desert, Calif. (Top 100 since 2007)



FLOP IT HIGH AND TIGHT

Keep the face open all the way to carry any obstacle around the green

THIS STORY IS FOR YOU IF...

1. YOU OFTEN BLADE OR CHUNK YOUR FLOP SHOTS.
2. YOUR SCRAMBLING ABILITY NEEDS AN UPGRADE.

THE FAULT

When you attempt to hit flop shots around the green your results are inconsistent at best. You're not sure what technique to use, and as a result you often blade the ball across the green or stick your clubhead straight into the ground. Your inability to execute these shots is costing you valuable strokes.

THE FIX

Most golfers worry too much about opening and closing the clubface when trying to hit high short shots, and they end up flipping the club past the hands through impact. This shot is actually very easy once you know the basics and put in a bit of practice. As long as you have a relatively decent lie, all you have to do is follow the simple keys below to become the best flopper in your foursome.



WATCH IT!

Learn more about this tip in a special video lesson with Top 100 Teacher **Tom Stickney** on golf.com/shortgame or on our tablet editions.



KEY MOVE

Holding the face open through impact is the secret to good flop shots. You'll know you're doing it right when you feel like you could balance a glass on the clubface at the end of your swing.

Stance

Set up parallel left of your intended target—the ball is going to want to go a bit right.

Address

Open up your L-wedge so it's facing the sky—you should be able to see all of the scoring lines on the face.

Swing

Make your normal swing, but with slightly more wrist cock in your backswing. The feeling you're after is that you can balance a glass on the clubface all the way through the shot. This will help you keep the face open without allowing the clubhead to pass your hands.

ANGUS MURRAY