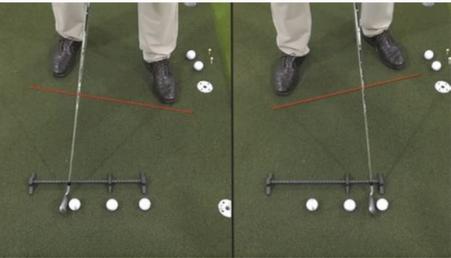


**Golf ball position at address**

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**The Single Plane Address Position  
Face-on View**



Proper golf ball position at address. Golf ball position at address video.

The "feathery" was the first purpose-built golf ball. Prior to featheries (the singular is also frequently spelled "featherie"), people playing golf or its antecedents used wooden spheres. But such wooden balls were also used in other stick-and-ball games; the same balls, in other words, were used by people to play different games. The feathery arrived on the scene probably by the mid-1500s, although the first definitive reference to featheries comes from the early 1600s. The feathery was the first true golf ball, in that it was created specifically for golfers. Featheries remained the standard golf ball until the mid-1800s. It was time-consuming to create a feathery ball, which meant they were expensive in their own time. Today, featheries are highly sought and very valuable as collectibles. Yes, featheries were stuffed with feathers. No, they were not soft — at least not so long as they stayed dry. The cover of a feathery typically consisted of three pieces of leather stitched into a sphere. The feathers stuffed inside were typically goose feathers, sometimes chicken feathers. First, the feathers were boiled for several hours to soften them. Then they were tightly packed into the leather ball before the wet leather was sewn closed. As the feathers inside dried, they expanded; as the leather cover dried, it contracted. The result was a very hard ball. Every feathery golf ball was handmade, and it could take a couple of hours or more to make just one. Therefore, they were quite expensive — much more expensive for their time than today's golf balls are for our time. According to the book *Golf: The Science and the Art*, the price of a single feathery ball from a reputable maker could range from \$10 to \$20 in today's terms. The longest recorded drive ever hit with a feathery golf ball was 361 yards. It was blasted by a golfer named Samuel Messieux in 1836. There's a catch: The ground was frozen, helping the ball slide and skid for a very long distance. The average driving distance of top golfers with featheries, however, was little more than half that record distance. The most commonly cited range for feathery driving distance is from 180 yards to 200 yards for the most skilled golfers. Featheries were the best golf ball technology of their time. But they also were frequently out-of-shape — not perfectly round — from the start, depending on the quality of the maker. Even those featheries that began their lives round could get knocked out of shape. The seams busting open was another issue. And so was wet weather — common in Scotland and England where almost all featheries were in use — that caused the balls to soften and fly shorter distances. Then there was the cost, which limited the number of people who could afford to play golf. The "guttie" was an upgrade on all those issues. Gutties, or gutta-percha golf balls, were invented in 1848. They were made from the rubber-like sap of the gutta percha tree, and gutty (or guttie) golf balls could be made from molds, made much faster and much cheaper than featheries. After the invention of gutties, featheries faded from golf very quickly. No, the feathery ball and the avian scoring terms birdie, eagle and albatross have nothing to do with each other. The bird connection isn't a connection at all, but a coincidence. In fact, featheries were long gone from golf before the term "birdie" was even invented. Featheries are very expensive today as collectibles. Feathery balls that can be dated to the 18th century or earlier are exceedingly rare; most available for sale today are from the 19th century. The older they are, the more expensive they are; those that can be tied to famous makers — such as Allan Robertson, Old Tom Morris or the Gourlay family of ball makers — are much more expensive. As with any collectible, condition also greatly affects value. An unmarked feathery (meaning one that does not have a maker's name or mark or otherwise can't be linked to a specific maker) might fetch more than \$1,000. Ones in top condition can go for multiple thousands; auction prices in the \$4,000 to \$6,000 range are not uncommon. Those that can be tied to a "name" maker can reach into the five digits. So collecting featheries is not a hobby for those without a lot of money to spend. Where to find featheries? The best places are auction houses (and their websites) that deal in golf collectibles, sports memorabilia or historical artifacts of Scotland and England. One should never buy featheries unless one is confident in the reputation of the seller. Reproductions are very common. There's an old (very old) and worn-out joke among golfers, in which one says to the other, "Address the ball," and the other says, "Hi ball!" "Address the ball" — and variants such as addressing the ball, taking your address, the address position — are now just a vernacular term in the golf lexicon. It used to be an important term in the golf rules, however, and the governing bodies of the game (the R&A and USGA) included "address the ball" in the definitions section of the official Rules of Golf. As of 2019, that is no longer the case. Veteran golfers know that when you've stepped up to your golf ball and set your golf club down behind the ball, you have "addressed the ball." This is also called being in the address position. While "address the ball" is no longer included in the definitions of the Rules of Golf, the term's usage by golfers will probably take decades to fade away — if it ever does all. Many golf instructors, and everyday golfers, will continue using the phrase long-term because "address the ball" or "take your address" or "get in the address position" can all, colloquially, be used as synonyms for "stance" or "setup position." As noted above, prior to the 2019 edition of the Rules of Golf, "address the ball" was included in the official definitions of our sport. The term was part of the rules, which meant it had a specific meaning and that it was important for golfers to know that specific meaning. The definition of "address the ball" as it appeared in the official Rules of Golf prior to the year 2019 was this: "A player has 'addressed the ball' when he has grounded his club immediately in front of or immediately behind the ball, whether or not he has taken his stance." "Grounded his club" refers to the golfer setting the bottom of his or her club on the ground — the sole of the club is touching the ground. Once a golfer did that, with his club on the ground immediately behind or ahead of the golf ball, he had "addressed the ball." (One might ask why someone would ground the club in front of the golf ball. That sometimes happens on the putting green. It's not that common anymore, but golfers sometimes first set the putter head down in front of the ball, then move it behind, as part of a putting routine.) So why was "address the ball" removed from the Definitions section of the rule book? Because one of the changes to the rules that went into effect in 2019 made the definition superfluous. Prior to 2019, if your golf ball at rest moved after you took your address position, you, the golfer, were assumed to have caused it to move. And that resulted in a penalty stroke. However, in the rules edition issued in 2019, if a ball at rest on the putting green is accidentally moved by the golfer, there is no penalty so long as the ball is replaced. When that specific penalty went away, the governing bodies removed the definition of "address the ball" from the rule book. However, penalties may still apply if a ball at rest moves somewhere other than on the putting green, and those situations are now covered in Rule 9 (Ball Played As It Lies; Ball at Rest Lifted or Moved). In that rule, and elsewhere in the rule book where the term "address" might have been used in the past, the rules now use the beginning of one's stroke, or prior to the beginning of one's stroke, as the starting points. Trebuchet made from bmx bike frame Components used:BMX bike frame (From the seat back)BMX rear axle,bearing nuts and axle nutswoodPvc electrical conduit Small sledge hammer headcar exhaust clampsmall medicine cupscrews, nails and boltsWindow lock (trigger)golf ballGolf Ball TrebuchetGolf Ball Trebuchet. Not so long ago in golf history, balata golf balls were the ball of choice for low-handicap golfers, and something the rest of us aspired to play. But what is balata? Why did balata balls disappear from golf? Can you buy them anywhere today? "Balata" refers to a naturally occurring, rubber-like material that was once used for the cover on golf balls. "Balata balls" were used by professional golfers and low-handicappers because the soft, balata cover allowed for much higher spin rates on iron and wedge shots, and greater control over ball flight by those highly skilled golfers. Balata is one of the names of a tree that grows in Central and South America and the Caribbean. The tree is tapped and the soft, viscous fluid that later hardens into the rubber-like material of golf ball fame is harvested just as one would harvest sap from a rubber tree or maple tree. In the timeline of golf balls, balata balls arrived on the scene in the early 1900s. Spalding began producing golf balls with balata covers in 1903. One of the main reasons balata was thought of as a "pro's ball" or "low handicapper's ball" was because that soft, balata cover cut so easily on mishits. Mid- and high-handicap golfers don't make good, proper contact on a regular basis. If you bladed a balata ball, that cover was sure to cut, rendering the ball unplayable. Nicks, dents and scratches were common, as well, on mishits, or, for example, as the result of a balata ball bouncing off a paved cart path or into rocks or smashing into trees. In my earliest days as a golfer, a relative bought me a dozen personalized golf balls with my name emblazoned on them. But, not a golfer, he bought balata balls — thinking the pricier balls were naturally the best balls. But they definitely weren't for a beginning golfer like me. That dozen balls was cut up in no time. I probably scuffed, dented and cut a ball per hole until the balls ran out. So balata balls were used by better golfers, while recreational golfers used golf balls made with harder, cut-resistant cover materials (Surlyn, a trademarked name and material developed by DuPont, is often remembered as the alternative to balata). Balata balls eventually disappeared when golf manufacturers began developing alternative cover materials (such as urethane) in the 1990s, materials that offered the soft feel of balata but were far more durable. No, as far as we know there are no golf ball manufacturers, large, small or specialty, that make new golf balls today using balata covers. Why would you want to? Current golf balls are several orders more advanced technologically than the last generation of balata balls. But maybe you're just curious and want to know what a balata ball felt like. Or maybe you have some vintage golf clubs and want to go all the way with some vintage balls, too. Unused, still-in-package balata balls are difficult to find, but not (for now) impossible. But your best bet is eBay or other online auction sites or retailers of vintage sports equipment. We recently noticed Titleist itself selling stock of Titleist Tour 100 balata balls on Amazon. They were asking \$40 for a sleeve of three, so if you do find any they'll be pricey.

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