

MONBILLIARD

April 29 2010

As in many sports, the world of billiards is bombarded every year by a host of new gadgets claiming to improve your game significantly. Many are unnecessary, but occasionally a little gem stands out. CueTrack is one of them.

After more than 4 weeks of testing, here is my assessment of this product courtesy of Billiard Dynamics.

Product Name: CueTrack

Price: U.S. \$189

Target: Billiard Players of all levels

Website: <http://www.cuetrack.com>

Preview

Whether you play pool, golf, or even tennis, a basic principle remains: your level of play is always in relation to the quality of your swing. If, despite all the practice in the world you can no longer improve your game, it might be time to review your technique. If this is the case, CueTrack could be very useful. This is a device that develops a fluid, uniform, and perfectly straight stroke.

Simply place the CueTrack on any hard surface, insert your cue into the aluminum sleeve and take a position so that the sleeve is between the posts of CueTrack. Execute several practice strokes and you're done. Repeat a few minutes a day and you will be able to improve your stroke like never before.

Equipment

As is reasonable to expect for a product at this price, you will be happy with its quality. The CueTrack is made of metal and aluminum and the assembled product weighs 1.3 kg (~ 3 lbs) which makes it very stable. Of the four small posts that must be screwed into the base, two have a small white dot on top. The latter should be tightened using an Allen wrench (included) and depending on where the white spots are located, the space between the posts will be more or less. It is therefore possible to adjust everything so that there is as little friction as possible. The underside of CueTrack is made of rubber. The surface used to secure the base is stable.

To avoid damaging your pool cue, an aluminum sleeve is slid over it. This sleeve will be in contact with the posts during the movement. The inside the sleeve is made of foam rubber. There is no danger of damaging the cue.

The CueTrack also comes with a comprehensive user's manual. It explains how to assemble the product, and provides some technical advice on how to execute the best stroke. To top it off, the company has even had the good idea to include some circular stickers to mark the location of the ball during a practice on a pool table.

Evaluation

As is the case for the majority of pool players, I learned to play by myself, without an instructor, observing the best players and practicing countless hours at a time when video

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cameras were not very popular. Result: Without realizing it, I have developed very bad habits!

A perfectionist by nature, I recently decided to rework my stroke and that's when I came across CueTrack. From the first glance, I knew this product would not disappoint me. So I immediately contacted the manufacturer to get one. The first time I used CueTrack it was quite a shock! For the first time in my career as a pool player, I could finally feel very clearly what it was like to have perfectly straight stroke! It was nice to get feedback that our arm is not perfectly straight as we stroke. It is very difficult to correct these bad habits based solely on verbal advice. The CueTrack may not talk, but believe me, it will give you the right path. Whether on the coffee table or billiard table it is truly an ideal tool.

With CueTrack, it is impossible to execute a stroke that is not right because there is not any gap between the aluminum sleeve and the posts. In addition, the sleeve increases the weight of the stick in our hand and contrary to what one might think, this is not a problem, but an advantage. The extra weight permits one to have a better feel of the stroke in addition to helping the muscle memory of movement. Assimilation is therefore faster.

At home, the sessions of approximately 15 minutes per day to perform the movement back and forth is enough. The purpose of this exercise is to allow your muscles to memorize the movement. Of course, for best results, it is important to do these movements slowly and focus on the location of your arm during each phase of the stroke. If you have the chance, I recommend you install a mirror in front of you to better see your movement. On the pool table CueTrack functions very well, but for pocketing balls, set up is a little tedious. Make sure to properly align the balls and CueTrack with the pocket. The stickers that are provided are almost indispensable. Otherwise, you can always shoot down the rail. This will make it very easy to line up everything without having to make marks on the table.

The designers have thought of everything and it is even possible to install the CueTrack on a tripod. So you can practice the shots where the cue ball and object ball are close and perhaps even become the god of the Jump Shot! I tested this configuration and with the CueTrack in the air, I must admit it is very difficult to line up the balls.

At the risk of repeating myself, the CueTrack is really an excellent product. I just wanted to find faults, but there is nothing to find, I'm addicted! Obviously, in my case, I will work extremely hard to one day be able to perform under pressure without my bad habits resurfacing, but failing to have a personal trainer, I am confident that with this product I'll finally get there.

Final verdict

To develop a straight and consistent stroke, CueTrack is definitely one of the best products on the market. Its production is flawless and very high quality. Its price may seem high to some, but for a product of this quality it is amply justified. Of course, it will never replace a qualified instructor, but combine the two and this could produce some impressive results in your game!