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How To Make A Yardage Book



Synopsis

Complete instructions for creating your very own Yardage Book just like the ones you see PGA Tour pros use on TV. Imagine being able to whip out your yardage book before a shot, pin point your landing area, dial in your exact yardages, and even nail down your club selection. Includes step-by-step instructions, helpful pictures, and pre-formatted downloadable templates. The book shows you how to take screen shots of actual holes using Google Earth, how to crop images to the correct size, and how to insert them in the template. Then you'll learn how to measure key landmarks, how to identify hazards and obstacles, and how to read and mark the greens. You'll play with a lot more confidence when you customize your yardage book to fit your game.

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Customer Reviews

"No plan survives contact with the enemy." Well, that might be the case, however by putting the plan together, the planner learns about himself and the enemy he faces. I can make a case that putting together a yardage book is the equivalent to a war plan. Eric Jones and Dick Barry authored an excellent book that allows you to put together a plan to attack the golf course. The book lays out a

methodical and relatively simple means to create a more than functional yardage book with accurate measurements using Google Earth. The book helped with the following prior to playing: Identifying landing areas. Identifying hazards and carry distances to avoid them. Depth and width of greens. Approach angles. Elevation changes. Aim points. By knowing this information beforehand I can combine it with my known strengths and weaknesses to create a plan. I'm currently a 15 handicap, but practice diligently year round. My goal this year is to break par and this book will be a big part of achieving my expectation. Heads up! If you will be using Power Point 2016, there are two print options when printing double-sided. Choose "Flip pages on the long end." Choose otherwise and you'll find your pages in incorrect order. Save your ink and paper based on my lesson learned. Great job Eric and Dick!

I've always been interested in tracking my game, and I've experimented with various paper and smartphone mechanisms for doing that. Similarly, I have the usual collection of smartphone course guide apps. All of these tools are useful; none really fit the (my) bill. Although it's a bit of work to create the guides, I find it very much worth the effort (note that a guide from the course, either on paper or on the internet, can simplify creating the guide). This book does a number of things for me. Although I could have figured out how to get the back to back printing to work (when cut up, etc.), but I can't imagine how much ink and time I would have wasted (and I probably would have given up). I use the yardage books in different ways. For an unfamiliar course, the book gives me confidence in my target, distance, and swing, which makes a huge difference in results. Otherwise I tend to be a bit tentative, which rarely leads to a good result. It's even more useful for those courses I play often. On my home course, which I know well, I use it to identify key locations to hit to (or not hit to), and perhaps more importantly I use it to track results. For example, #6 is a long dogleg par 5 (two shots to the corner, which slopes away to the right from the golfer and the green). About 100 yards from the green there's a big tree on the right side of the fairway. I've always known there's a go/nogo zone, but now I've got it measured and I track the result of various clubs for the second shot into the corner to understand how much they run away from me and from the green. I also use it to map the greens' slopes and fall lines, and then I continually update the results of different putts (and then I update the book on the computer). At key points I also map the height of some trees (with a range finder and the Pythagorean theorem), mostly to remind myself that I can't hit over them. That brings me to the second use I have for the yardage book, which is tracking my game. I've got enough room on the guide to track what I was thinking, shot shape, results, etc. Overall, Eric's book was a great way to create a solution that I can personalize and extend over time.

I had no experience with yardage books before reading this book, but I will probably never play another course without first making a yardage book using this method. I have already made three yardage books for nearby courses, plus one for the Jubilee Course at St. Andrews (for the fun of it), for which I recorded an overview of the process in a YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/iC12gQZbcOAB> Benefits of the yardage book made with the templates provided when buying this book: 1. Fits in your back pocket 2. Very quick to take it out and check yardages 3. Can add handwritten notes as you play 4. You can record yardages to all landmarks of interest using Google Earth and the provided templates (Power Point, Word, etc.) 5. Improves confidence and ball striking, especially off the tee in front of hazards. Drawbacks of the yardage book: 1. If your handicap is as bad as mine, you may wonder if it will do you any good 2. When you first start to use it, your buddies may laugh at you and tell you it's unnecessary (mine did...but a few holes later, they were looking over my shoulder to get a better idea of bunker shapes and distances off the tee...everyone agreed later that one feels better about club selection when you have the club in one hand, the yardage book in the other, and the fairway in front of you...and nobody debates how important it is to 'commit to your shot') 3. It does take some time to make a yardage book, as opposed to just using your smart phone golf app. Personally, the greatest benefit was curing my fear of going over water, gorges, and other hazards right off the tee. Although I do fine at the driving range, until last weekend, my success rate over a hazard right in front of the tee was probably only 10-20%, I guess due to lack of confidence or mental preparation. I found that by making the yardage book, somehow my brain comes to the conclusion that the 'problem' is solved. When I played a new course last weekend, I cleared every hazard in front of the tees (two lakes, one thicket, two gorges) without thinking twice. Amazing!!! When playing a new course, the yardage book seems to help my mental game most (better commitment to the club and shot). When playing a course I am already familiar with, I use the yardage book mostly for checking yardages before and after the shot, recording my clubs and distances, seeing what I did last time, understand my tendencies from different lies under different conditions, and thinking about how to better focus my practice time.

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