



SWING SEQUENCE DANNY WILLETT

ANALYSIS BY BARNEY PUTTICK

There's something of the old and new about the way Masters Champion Danny Willett swings the golf club. It has all the power of a modern-day

move, while retaining some of the age-old principles that make for a sound technique.

Just by looking at his address position, you can tell that Danny's a real professional. His posture and

alignment angles are perfect, but he also looks athletic, ready to make a powerful swing. Interestingly, he starts his swing with a very early wrist hinge. This was something that Seve used to do, and it allows the player to get the club working on the right plane before he begins his upper-body rotation.

In Danny's case, it works well as the club is on a great line throughout the swing and you could see him working the ball beautifully both ways at Augusta. The only problem with this technique is that there can be a

Photography Kevin Murray

tendency to flick the wrists at the ball through impact and hit a hook.

This is a trap Danny avoids, however, thanks to a fantastic movement through the ball. He flattens the swing plane out as he starts his downswing and the clubhead attacks the ball from slightly inside the target line. This is coupled with a very fast body rotation which leads the arms and clubhead through impact. His body is the engine of the swing and ensures the arm swing is very consistent. Also, because he is relying on his core muscles so much,

this is an economical movement that delivers genuine power without costing control.

What's really impressive, however, and is the master move you should be trying to copy, is how he maintains his spine angle through impact. Look at the fifth picture on the bottom row and you'll notice how his right shoulder is pointing towards his divot. As his arms extend through impact, his upper body rotates without a hint of lifting. This is an incredibly powerful move, and by retaining his spine angle, Danny knows his ball

striking will be consistent – from driver through to wedge. This was the key to his Augusta triumph. He is, of course, perfectly balanced.

Try to copy Danny's spine angle retention, especially if you have a tendency to come up and out of your shots. On occasion, we are all guilty of getting caught up in our backswing position, but this illustrates how crucial a good upper-body rotation, together with a full extension of the arms through impact, can be. Get this part of the swing right and you'll improve your power and accuracy.



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