

SELECTING A CUE THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU

I would suggest you take a cue that feels good to you and go to a pool table, making a normal bridge stroke with the cue. If the cue feels excellent to you, then the next thing to do is examine the cue starting with the tip, to see that there is a very fine glue line, making sure the tip is adhered well. Next, check the ferrule to make sure it has been installed properly, and that it is made of material that the glue will hold well to. Check to see that there are no openings or gaps between the wood and the ferrule. Check the shaft to make sure it is straight and smooth. The taper of the shaft should meet your requirements. The joint should fit together so that it is very smooth and all inlay work is smooth, tight and no fills are in the work. There are solid wood butts as well as wrapped butts. The kind of wraps used today is nylon, cork, leather or linen. The linen is the most commonly used, as it is a natural fiber and it does absorb perspiration from the hands when you are using it. Linen is used in three ways: just as it comes from the spool, pressed, or with a finish added. Choose the one that pleases you most.

Why should I have a personal cue?

With a quality cue, your game will improve because you are shooting with the same cue day after day, always using the same shaft. If you play with a cue from the wall, you will have a different weight, different tip, and different millimeter shaft, which will throw your game off. As to the type of joint used – that is basically up to the individual. The plastic joint material gives you a more flexible joint, which allows the vibration to travel through the cue to your hand. The stainless steel joint gives a stiffer and more durable joint. It seems to give a softer hit. A cue should be protected from extreme changes of temperature. This can be accomplished by keeping the cue in a good case when moving it from your home to the tavern or pool room.

Extreme humidity changes: in the winter as the humidity in many areas will go down to 10%, while in the summer may go as high as 100%, keeping the cue in your home where you have a constant temperature by using a humidifier in the winter and a dehumidifier in the summer helps. By doing these two things, you will help keep the wood stable. There is absolutely no way to prevent wood from warping, so basically there is no guarantee against warpage. Most cues do not carry any type of guarantee with them. Your quality cues have a finer grain shaft than the cheap cues. The shaft size should be chosen according to the size of the hands the player has, and also the length of the fingers. A player must choose a shaft which feels comfortable in his bridge. As pool cues are made with 11mm to 15 mm shafts, the larger millimeter shaft does seem to give the player better control of the cue ball. This is particularly true on coin operated tables where the cue ball is heavier. Minor cue repairs are not costly, and it is better if the manufacturer does the work. The better you care for your custom cue, the longer you will enjoy it.

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