



**BUNKER SHOTS
FROM SOFT SAND**

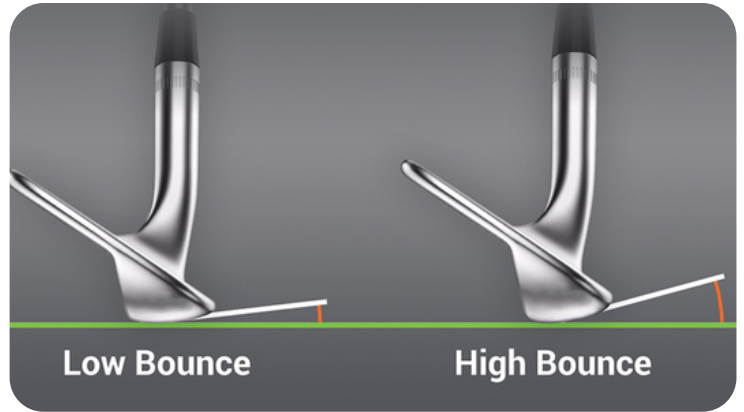
**FREE TRAINING
GUIDE**

Use The Bounce



Our first piece of advice is to ditch the lob wedge. The majority of lob wedges don't have enough bounce for soft sand.

You are much better off with a sand wedge, with at least 10° of bounce, preferably more than that! Bounce helps to prevent the sharp edge of your wedge from digging into the sand.



So, what is bounce and how is it measured?

Bounce is the angle of the sole of the club. As illustrated here, the trailing edge of most clubs is lower than the leading edge. Manufacturers have discovered that increasing bounce and widening the sole of the sand wedge is ideal for playing from soft conditions.



It's not only equipment, which determines how much bounce is presented to the sand. The shaft and clubface angles also greatly affect the bounce of the club at impact.

If you play the shaft forward or close the clubface, you reduce the effective bounce of the club.



When playing from soft sand, increase the bounce by tilting the club's shaft backwards slightly. Also, keep the clubface square or even slightly open to add even more effective bounce to the bottom of the club.

It's important that we want to achieve these conditions at impact with the sand, not just at setup.



How Deep Is Your Divot



When splashing from soft, deep sand, it is very easy to dig too deeply. There are many different factors, which affect the depth of your divot in the sand. In addition to the aforementioned bounce, these include ball position, amount of wrist hinge and angle of attack.



The divot above is far too deep. Glen hit down into the sand too deeply for this soft sand. He would have been fine with this steep angle of attack, if he was playing from firm sand. When the sand is soft, it tends to 'grab' the sand wedge and divots can become enormous.



Next time you have the opportunity, practise your splash shots without the golf ball. Obviously, you are not permitted to do this in competition. However, it's a great way to learn how to take the ideal amount of sand with your swing. Try to splash some grains of sand onto the green. This is a great visual for bunker shots.



Glen's divot is shallower here, at about 1/2 inch deep. You can see some sand heading towards the green, propelling the golf ball forwards, towards the flag. As long as the golf ball was positioned directly in the middle of the splash mark, then the sand wedge will not contact the golf ball. We only want to hear the sand being splashed, not the golf ball being hit!



The Follow Through



Quitting on a golf shot is rarely conducive to success, except for maybe from a plugged lie. Up to 3/4 of your swing's energy is absorbed by the soft sand, so commitment to the shot is essential. If you don't follow through sufficiently, then the golf ball will not make it out of the bunker!



A long, flowing golf swing with a full, committed follow through will ensure acceleration through the shot. Many golfers are surprised by how much swing is required from soft sand, to achieve enough forward momentum to reach the target.

The Long Bunker Shot



For longer shots from soft bunkers, then consider using less loft. Glen is using a pitching wedge from 30 yards here. The bunker lip isn't particularly high, so he doesn't require the loft of his sand wedge. To add bounce, he sets up with the shaft leaning backwards and the clubface slightly open.



Once again, the full follow through is necessary. With the pitching wedge, the golf ball will fly further and lower, than it would with the sand wedge. The size of the divot should be the same as for the shorter shot. For even longer shots, you can use your 8-iron or 7-iron. Be aware though, these clubs aren't generally built with much bounce on the sole.



THANK YOU



Welcome to the team at **Aussie Golf Pros.**

Great to have you on board!

Steve and Glen are here to help you
make the most of your golf game.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

If you love our content, have a question,
or just want to say '**G'day**'

please go to our YouTube channel to comment.

