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Why Select Two Strokes?

By Thomas Yoon

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In our previous publication, we touched on the subject of 2-stroke diesel engines. <http://www.free-engineering.com/fwezine26.htm> . Today, we ask why we choose to use 2-strokes?

As you might remember, for a 2-stroke engine, the piston has to move up, and then down to complete one cycle of the engine. In those 2 strokes of the piston, the crankshaft will have turned 1 revolution. In those 2 strokes of the piston the engine has also completed 4 stages of the combustion cycle – air intake, compression, combustion and exhaust.

Now, compare that with a 4-stroke engine. The piston moving down will complete the air intake stroke. When it moves up again, the piston completes the compression stroke. Next comes the injection of fuel. Combustion takes place. The piston is forced to move down by the pressure of the gases. When the piston moves up again, it drives out all the exhaust gases in the exhaust stroke.

The piston in a 4-stroke engine will move 4 strokes in order to complete the 4 stages of the combustion cycle – air intake, compression, combustion and exhaust.

The power developed in a 4-stroke engine is based on the formula, $Power = PLAN/2$, where,

P is the mean effective pressure inside the cylinder,
L is the stroke length of the piston travel,

Why Select Two Strokes?

A is the cylinder bore or the area of the piston top,
N is the number of revolutions per unit time.

In a 2–stroke engine, because the power is developed in the same revolution, the formula for Power becomes,
 $P = PLAN$

This means that with the same mean effective pressure, stroke length and bore (area), the 2–stroke engine can develop twice the power of a 4–stroke engine!

If size, weight, and material cost are causes for

concern, the 2–stroke engine has the clear advantage.

Well folks, 2–strokes have the advantage of higher power with small size. However, there are some disadvantages too. That could be discussed later...

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Many years of working experience in Marine, Facilities, Construction has given the author material for writing e–books and articles related to engineering, and management.

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Golf Handicap Systems Help Even Out Scorecards For Competitive Golf Play

By George Gabriel

The golf handicap system is implemented at golf courses, for golf tournament play. Trophies and prizes are awarded at the end of golf tournaments, based on golf scores. In order to make the golf game fair play, the handicap system is based on the ten lowest differentials of the last twenty games on an eighteen–hole course in one season. Some golf associations will accept fewer golf games. It can also be used for fair play outside of golf tournaments. The following is a short guide on how the golf handicap system works.

Handicap numbers are recorded for golf players numbered one through thirty–six, the number one being the lowest handicap, and the number thirty–six being the highest handicap. A scratch golfer has

Why Select Two Strokes?

no handicap, better known as a scratch player.

Now let's take a look at how these numbers come into affect. If a player's handicap is ten, and another player's handicap are twenty. The difference between the two players is ten golf strokes. Therefore, to even up the match, the player with the lower handicap, which in this case is the ten-handicap golf player, has to give out ten golf strokes to his opponent on eighteen holes, to make the golf game fair play. How do you identify on which golf holes they are going to be given out?

Typically on most, if not all golf scorecards, you will find numbers 1 through 18 near the bottom of the scorecard beside Men's HCP and Ladies HCP. The numbers 1 through 18, you will also find out of order. The reason for the disorder of numbers is, the number 1 being the hardest golf hole, and the number 18 being the easiest golf hole. The golf course, or architect of the golf course, determines the order of numbers on any given golf hole, by the yardage and slope rating, and or other difficulty of the golf hole.

Now that we have determined how many golf strokes are to be given out, and where they are to be taken. The higher handicap in this case, which is the twenty handicap golf player, gets ten golf strokes for eighteen holes, on holes numbered 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, and 10. This should make the match a lot closer, if both players are playing within their game. It typically works out to one golf stroke on every other golf hole in this example, depending on how the golf course is laid out. Another example would be a scratch player and a thirty-six-handicap player, the scratch player having to give out two golf strokes on every hole.

Keeping track of your handicap, and using a handicap system, will help make the game fair play in a lot of golf matches, when playing against other opponents.

Check with your local golf pro, or golf association, on an official guide for the golf handicap system, and for maintaining a legitimate handicap. If you belong to a golf course, they should have a system in place to use for tournament play, which is recognized by most golf courses and golf associations. You can also find golf handicap software on keeping track of a golf handicap.

Learned to play golf as a caddie. Now running a tee time site at

and a golf

site at

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