

# POTTER MALLET

Email; [pottermallets@gmail.com](mailto:pottermallets@gmail.com)

Phone; 03 4433 8617

Unit 217/Bendigo Domain Village,

336-380 Mclvor Hwy

JUNORTOUN 3551

---

## Which mallet should I buy?

Answer; A Potter Mallet (of course!)

Yes, but how heavy and how high and which handgrip and which wood and what colour, etc etc?

I have been playing golf croquet and making mallets since 2008 and have been asked these questions many times, so let me explain my viewpoint on such a leading question for us golf croquet players. In choosing a mallet suited to you, the first and foremost concern is the height, from floor to top of handle. The second is the weight and the third is its attractiveness or cuteness, (well, it is a weapon after-all).

Let's look at the height in three parts; basic styles, the science of each and lastly which is best for you. Believe me in the years of dealing with this question, I have heard them all;

“our Captain says it has to be up to your belly button.”

“its got to be 2 inches above your wrist.”

“but Joe reckons it has to be to the top of your hip.”

Well, I am 6 foot 3 (190cm) tall and my mallet is 32 inches high (81.5cm), which, if you take the above as being the approved ruling, then I must be a freak as my belly button must be half way up my thigh or my wrists hang down below my knees. But I am on a handicap of 5, so obviously, something is amiss with what those know-alls say.

**Basic styles-** there are three styles and these are best described by considering the position of the thumbs and naturally, the reference to long, medium and short mallets is relative to your own height. Style 1- grip the mallet with both thumbs facing up with knuckles to the front, holding the mallet near the top and with both hands close together. This is called the Soliman grip. To do this you tend to stand almost vertical otherwise there is too much strain on the wrists- thus necessitating a long mallet. Style 2- grip the mallet with one thumb up and near the top and the other thumb facing down and lower down the mallet. This is common with new players. However, because one hand is lower down the handle one must stoop a little and therefore the mallet must be a little shorter for it not to hit you in the chest when you swing.

Style 3- grip the mallet with two thumbs facing down and both hands together, this is called the Irish grip. To ease the strain on the wrists the mallet is gripped very low thus necessitating a short mallet.

### **The science-**

Style 1 is the most accurate for direction and distance as both hands are working with the same action and pivot about the top of the mallet. Most of the swing is in the wrists for short hits and also the shoulders for longer hits. A lot of players ‘cast’ the mallet to their target making minor adjustments until it is ‘perfect’ in direction and then concentrate on the degree of hitting power. It is difficult to get very powerful hits with this method.

Style 2, although popular, is less accurate because the arms are doing different actions, ie one arm is acting as a pivot while the other is applying most of the power. Casting for direction is more difficult as one is stooped over more than in Style 1.

Style 3 can be done by allowing all the swing to be in the wrists and elbow or be entirely in the shoulders with both arms swinging together, ie with stiff wrists and elbow, and along the line drawn in your mind from target to ball as you lower your head. The latter allows for very strong hitting as all the force comes from the shoulders which is parallel to the stance. This is the method that I use hence my short mallet as I like to have power to get rid of the opposition, for long jumps, and other special hits. This method is probably the second most accurate as both arms or wrists are executing the same movement.

### **Best for you.**

If you wish to be the king or queen of the club and vying to be in the state team then without doubt style 1 is the way to go, but if this is causing discomfort then it's going to be under sufferance. Most of us, however, wish only to enjoy the game, have a 'hit and giggle' and try and better Fred or Mary.

The best style for you then is whatever you are comfortable with. That is the most important factor to consider when choosing a mallet and can only be found out by trying all combinations with different height mallets, it's a matter of trial and error. The reason for this is that us 'mature people' have Life impairments accumulated over time, ie a weak wrist due to a fall, crook shoulders/neck due to a car accident, back problems, arthritis in certain joints, tennis elbow, netball knees etc etc. So, you may find Style 1 uncomfortable because of a broken wrist of 10 years ago or Style 3 because of shoulder or back problems developed over time but somewhere there is a style that is most comfortable to you and all your aches and pains. The highest mallets I have made have been 1.2 metre for players with back problems and by adjusting their stance they could play, and play up to competition standards. The shortest is about 75 cm (30 in.).

But, and it is a big But, don't be disheartened because you can only feel comfortable with a 'less accurate' Style because, believe me, there is a lot more to croquet than hitting the target. Sure, it helps but bring in strategy, chess play, billiard play, jumps, special hits, competitiveness etc and you will beat that Fred and Mary, maybe not trounce them but give them a good run for their money. I know several players using the unpopular Irish grip and they, like myself, are high in the handicap order.

### **Weight.**

Don't become pedantic about getting a mallet of a specific weight as you adjust very easily. You really should only be concerned about the mallet being light-weight (less than 2lb 6oz), medium weight or heavy (greater than 3lb 2oz). Which you choose depends on whether you play quietly around the court by tapping here and there or whether you are aggressive and need some weight to get rid of the opposition or do extra-long jumps.

### **Attractiveness or cuteness.**

Although low down on the list of features, a mallet that is visually appealing to you will add to the comfort of your play. With the Potter Mallets there is a wide choice of woods such as dark or light coloured, straight grained or pattern, heavy or light weight as well as a variety of handgrips, some which are very colourful. Each is unique as the wood dictates the final product bringing out its intrinsic character and beauty to be topped by a vibrant handgrip. Each mallet is truly one of a kind.

### **Recapping.**

Understand where your sore points or weak points are, then try various grips to find which you are most comfortable with, then select height of mallet relative to your own height, then select the weight and then the adornments. Then buy a Potter Mallet and go and challenge that Fred and Mary, to a friendly game of golf croquet, and have fun! That's what sport is all about.

I hope that eases the confusion about what mallet to buy, at least you should be more aware of things.  
Terry Potter

