

THE FIVE PILLARS OF SHEARING



Version 1.0



Australian Wool
Innovation Limited



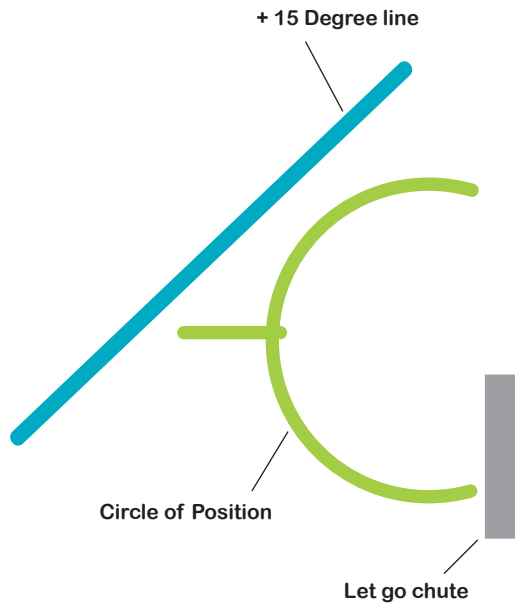
WOOLMARK®

USER GUIDE

This shearer training resource has been developed by members of the AWI Shearer and Wool Handler Training Program with input from all shearer trainers who attended the AWI sponsored National Consistency Workshops in 2007. It's the first resource based on the "Five Pillars of Shearing" also developed with input from all shearer trainers that when used correctly will encourage trainees to identify and embrace the pillars.

The resource is designed so that the photos appear on the left hand page while on the opposite page there are diagrams of the Circle of Position, 15 Degree Line and or 1st hind leg and the last side leg of a sheep.

Trainers or students are able to use white board markers on the pages to draw shot placements as well as position of the sheep and / or feet and body positioning of the shearer to explain how best to shear.



TRAINERS WILL USE THE RESOURCE TO:

- To explain the Five Pillars of Shearing, how they were developed and how they are an excellent self diagnostic learning tool for all shearers from trainees to professionals.
- Visualise the points being discussed and taught when delivering regional in-shed coaching by using the photos to instantly show the correct technique.
- Easily explain and ask questions in relation to the pillars being used in each photo and to emphasise to shearers being coached the importance of the pillars in the correct execution of the shot or section of the sheep under discussion. These questions may be:
 - a. What grip is used and how has the grip changed from the last shot?
 - b. What is the shearer's position in relation to the sheep, the 15 degree line and the downtube?
 - c. What is the free hand doing?
 - d. What is the entry point?

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIVE PILLARS OF SHEARING

FOREWORD:

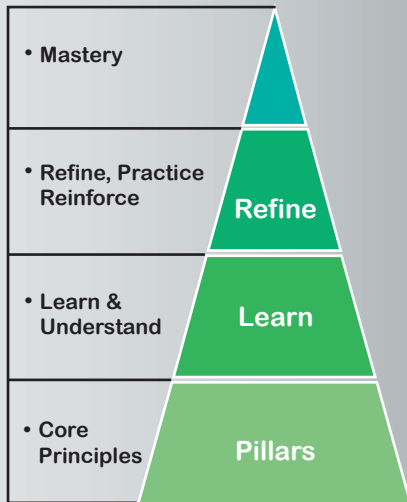
The Five Pillars of Shearing are the core underlying principles of shearing that you can use to develop an efficient shearing style that is suited to you personally.

These core principles were developed by shearing coaches from around Australia.

Once these core principles are clearly understood; then the next step is to develop a sequence of steps that will lead to a more proficient method of shearing.

The Pillars are a diagnostic tool to overcome any problem you may be having with your shearing.

KEY LEARNING STRATEGIES:





Gear & Cut

GEAR:

- Keep handpiece well lubricated and maintained
- Regularly check plant & equipment
- Set height of downtube

SHARPENING NOT GRINDING:

- There is no in between, tools are either sharp or blunt!
- Don't use dull papers
- Change papers regularly
- Clean discs
- Tighten nuts on the discs
- Find the radius and set the height of the pendulum

COMBS:

- Comb selection & maintenance
- Keep wet and dry paper on stand at all times
- Check the throw and the lead

Position

POSITION

- Transition between sections
- Feet position
 - Direction
 - Feet in relation to sheep
- Timing of footwork
- Knee pressure position
- Position from drag
- Sheep position
 - Balance
 - Comfort
 - Height
 - Angle
- Position of shearer/sheep to downtube
- Sheep dispatch

SHEARER POSITION [BODY]

- Position of shearer to sheep
 - In line [shoulders, hips, knees, feet, head]
 - Weight transfer
 - Height
 - Weight distribution
- Eye use
- Handpiece return
- Never stop thinking

DOWNTUBE POSITION

- Too close
- Too wide
- Angles [sheep]
- Height of cogs

Comfortable Sheep – Comfortable Shearer - Spine in Line

Freehand

FREEHAND

- Pressure points
- Manipulate skin
- Feed wool
- Position sheep
- Grips and angles of freehand
- Placement
- Timing
- Roll wool, don't pull

Grip

GRIP POINTS

- Forward
 - Back
 - Tight
 - Loose (release the back of the handpiece)
 - Thumb position
 - High
 - Low
 - Forward
 - Back
-
- Point index finger for blows that run away from body
 - Point thumb for blows that run across the body

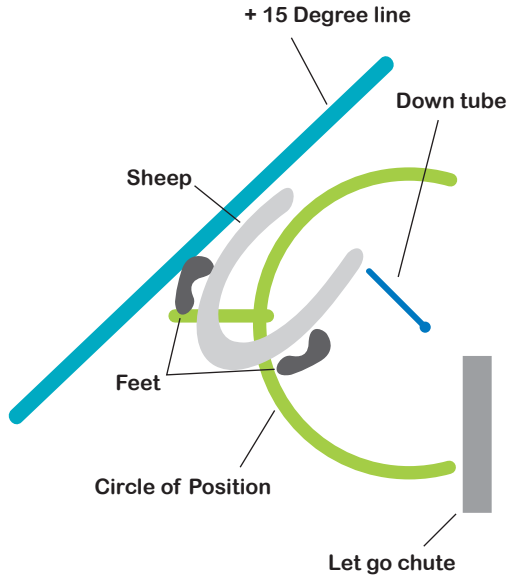


Entry

ENTRY

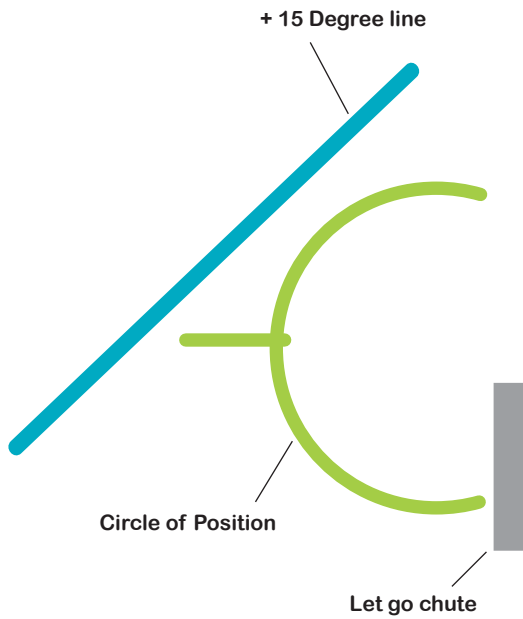
- Look for bare surfaces
- Leading tooth on skin
- Start blow slightly back from wool line
- Full comb
- Flat comb
- Single tooth entry (where necessary)
- Angle
- Look for the entry point
- Finish of blows
- Under tail right side in crutch (alternative for learners)

POSITION EXPLAINED



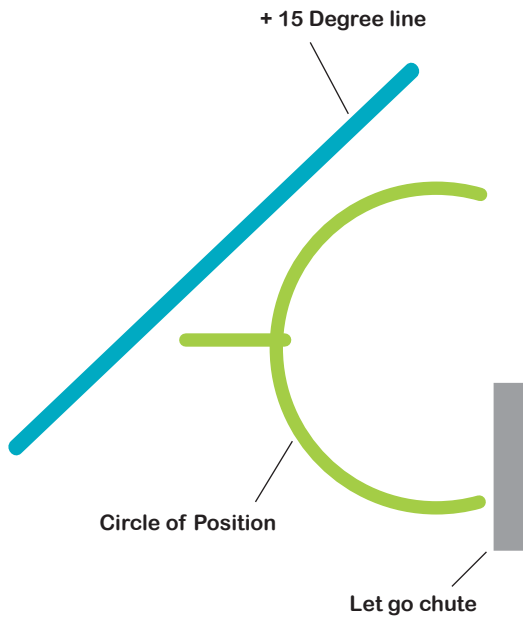


BELLY 1



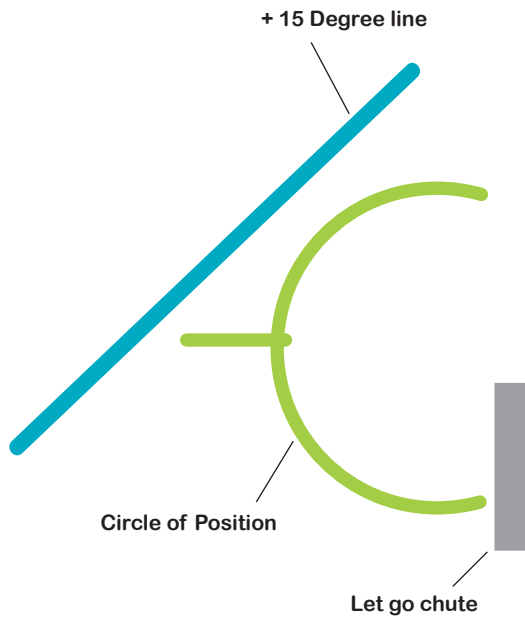


BELLY 2



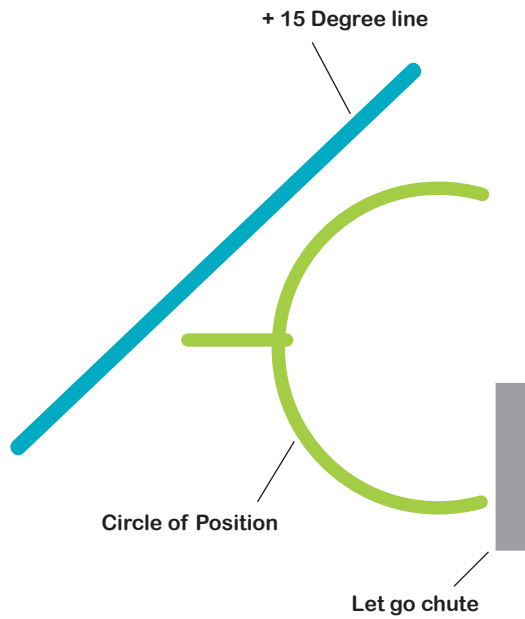


BELLY 3



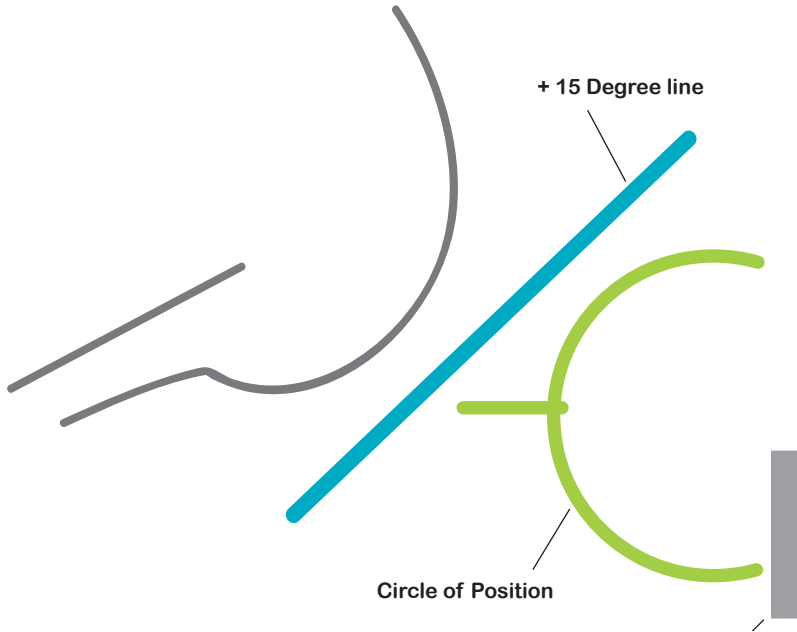


CRUTCH 1



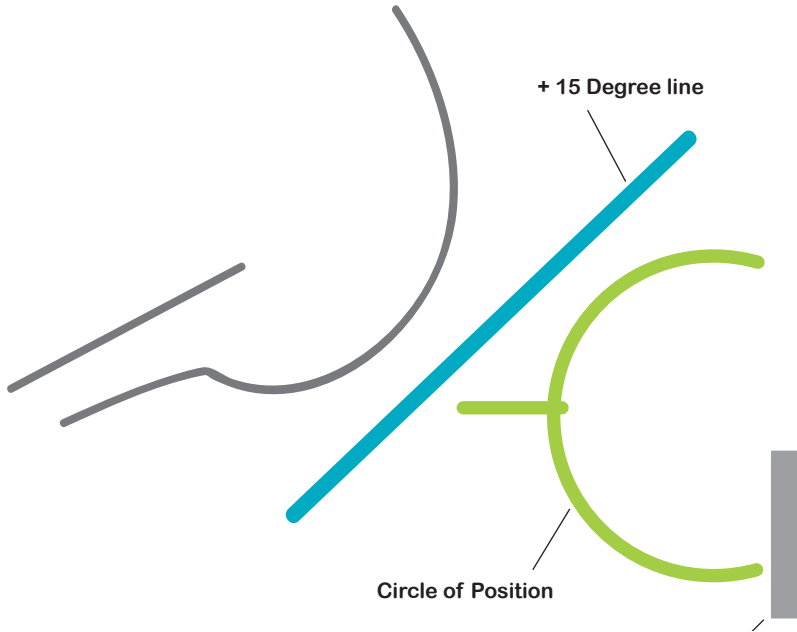


CRUTCH 2



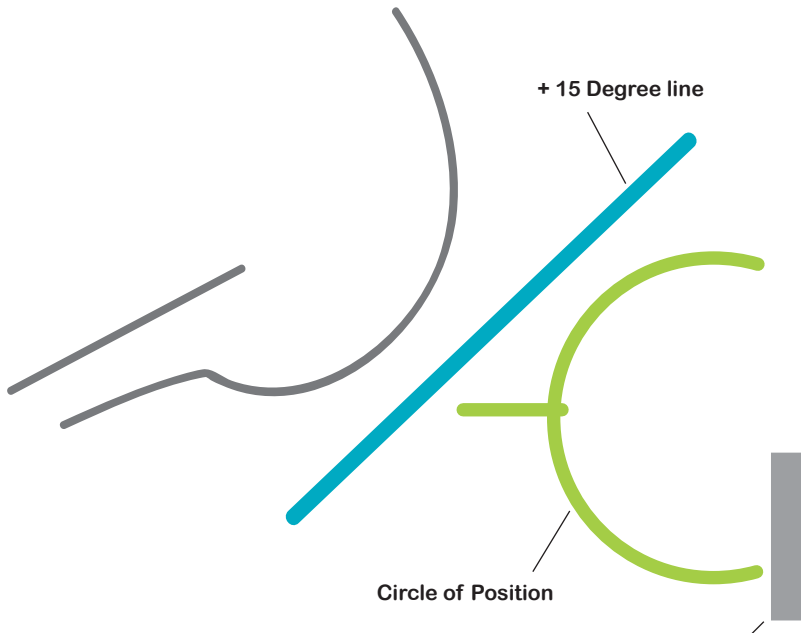


FIRST HIND-LEG 1



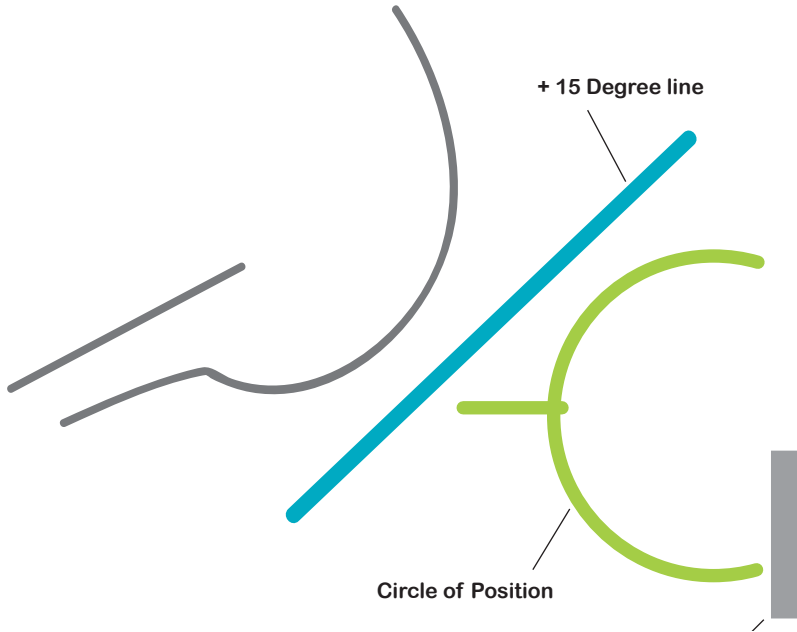


FIRST HIND-LEG 2



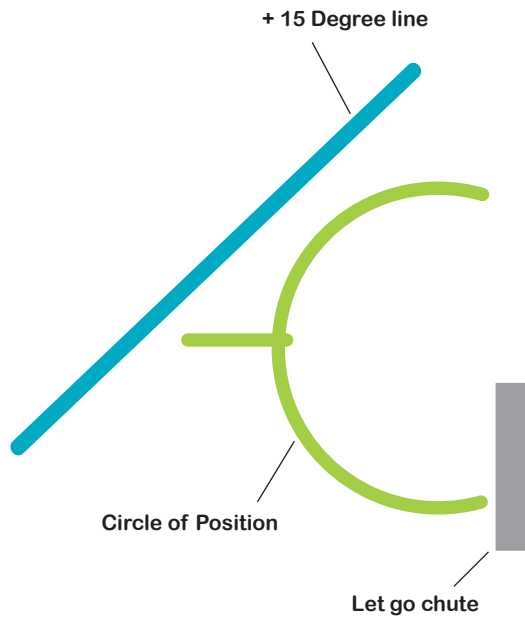


FIRST HIND-LEG 3



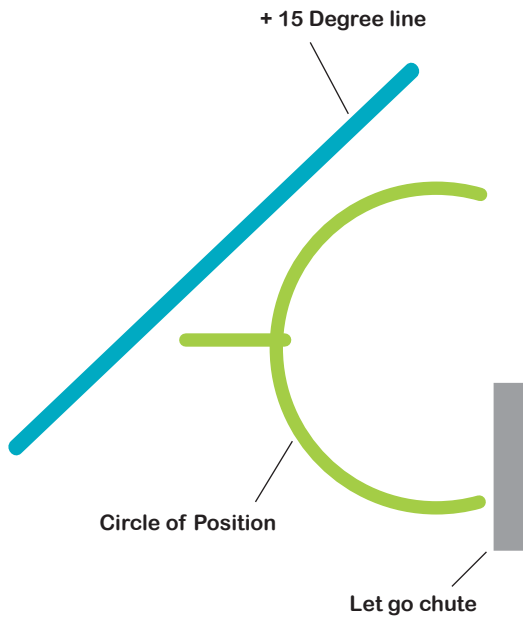


UNDERMINE 1



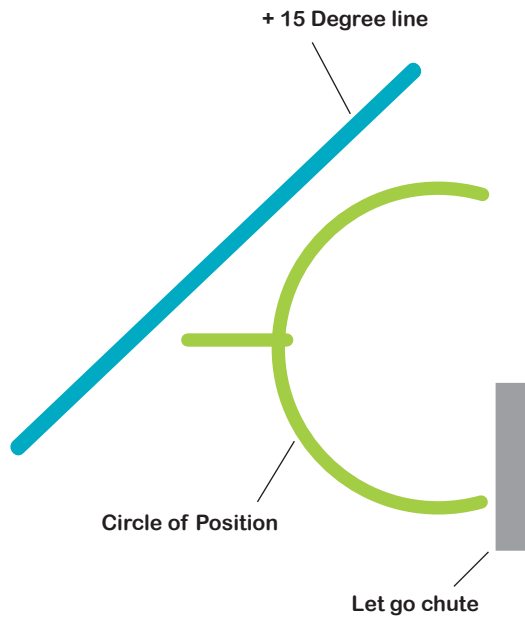


UNDERMINE 2



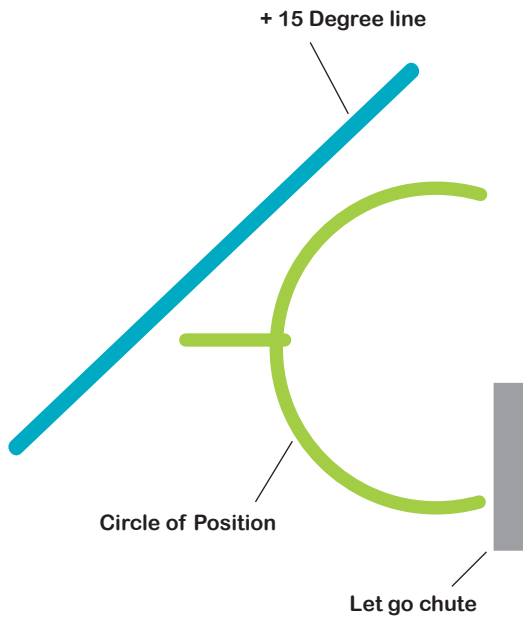


TOPKNOT / TRANSITION



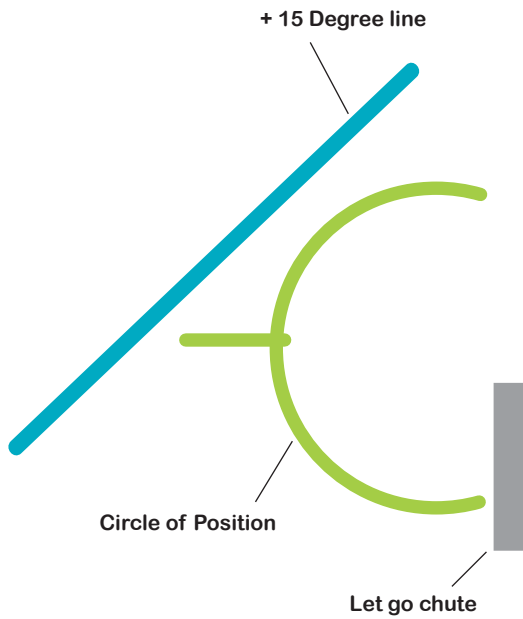


NECK 1



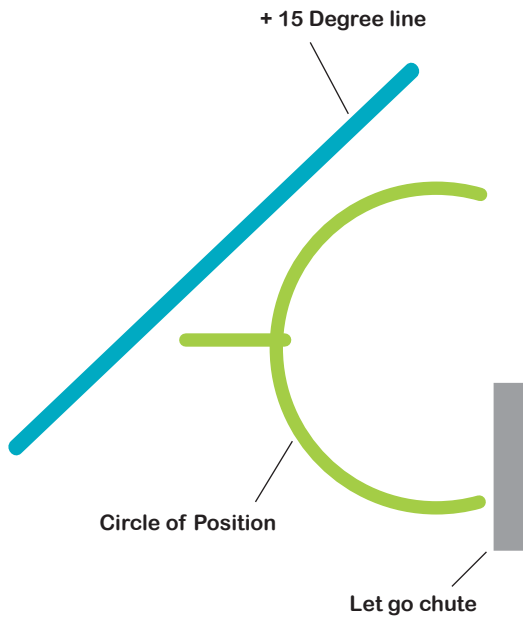


NECK 2



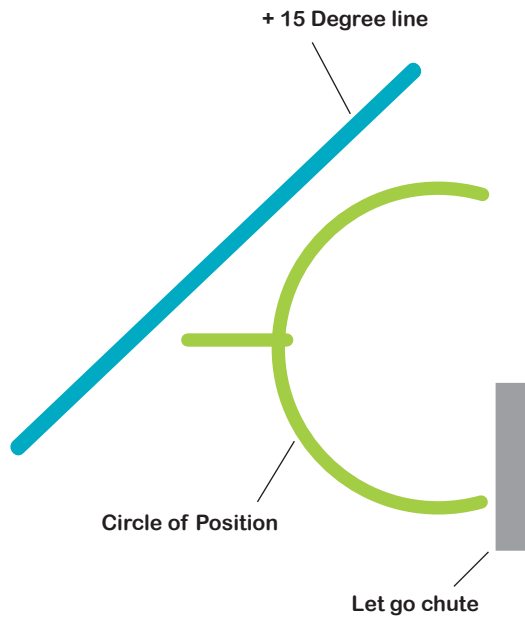


NECK 3



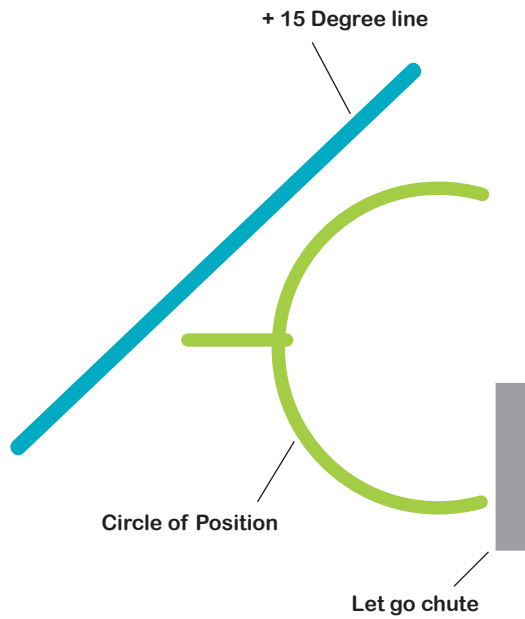


SHOULDER 1



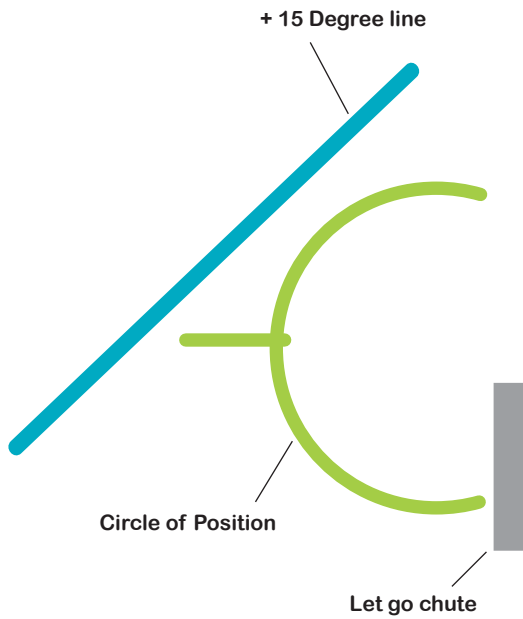


SHOULDER / TRANSITION



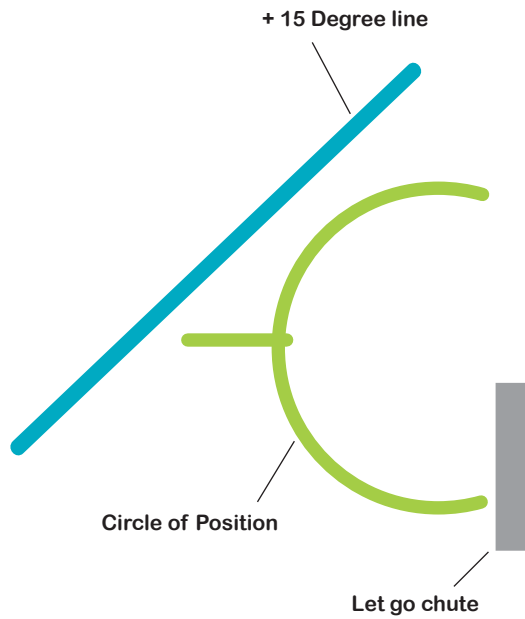


LONG BLOW 1



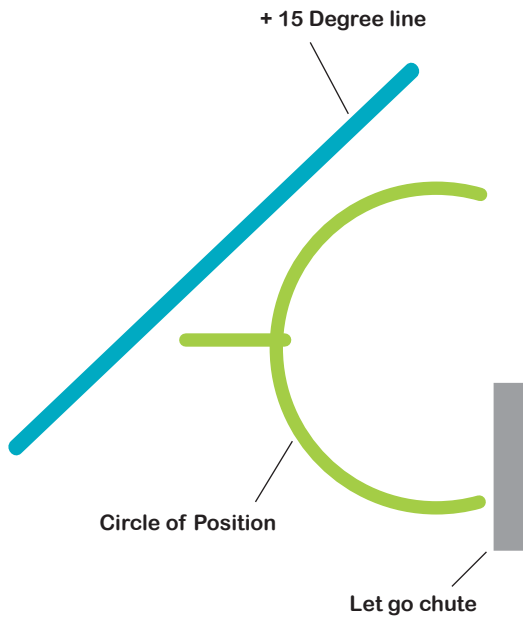


LONG BLOW 2



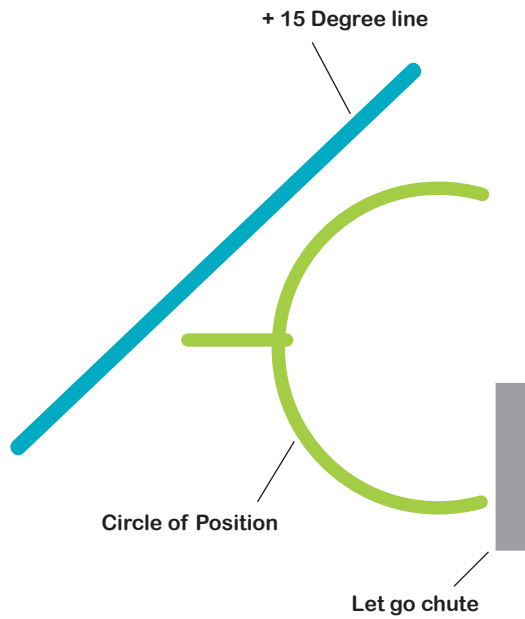


LASTSIDE NECK



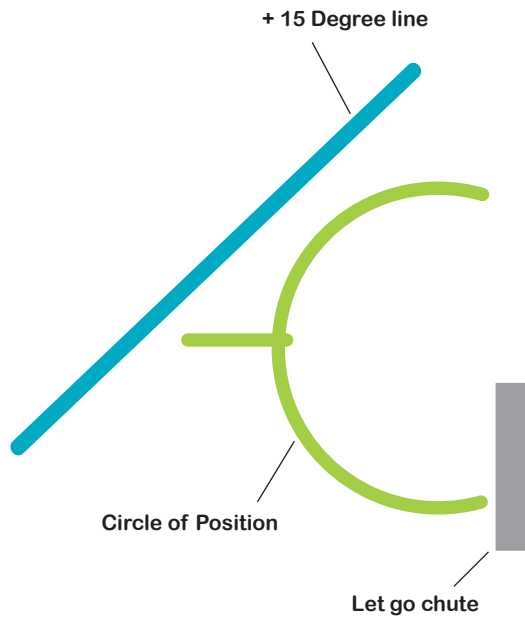


SHOULDER 2



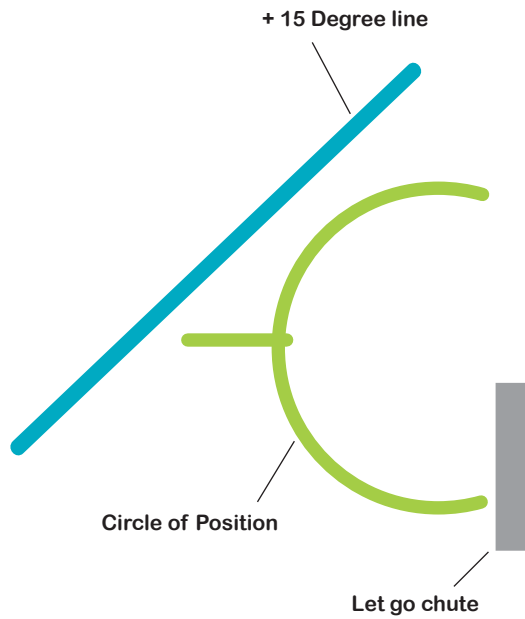


FRONT LEG



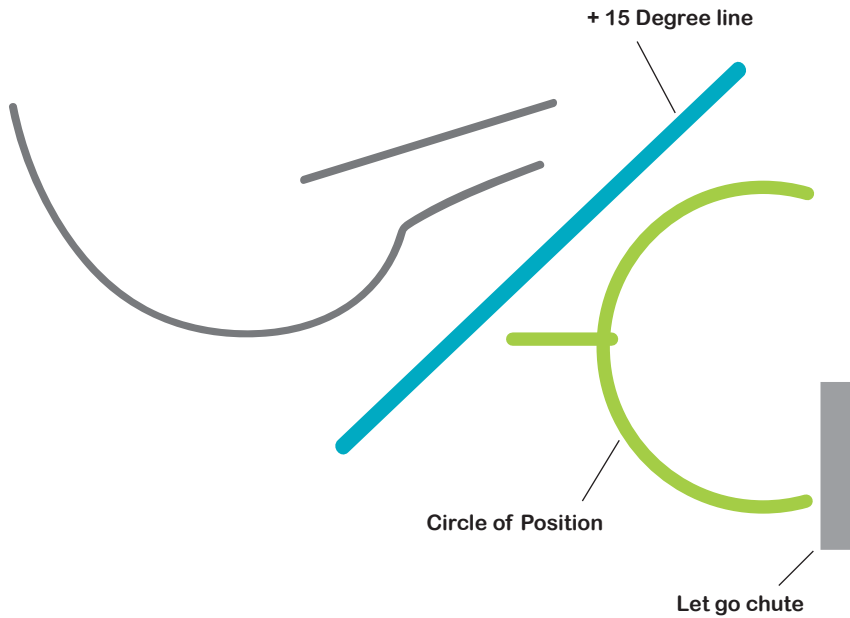


LAST SIDE TRANSITION



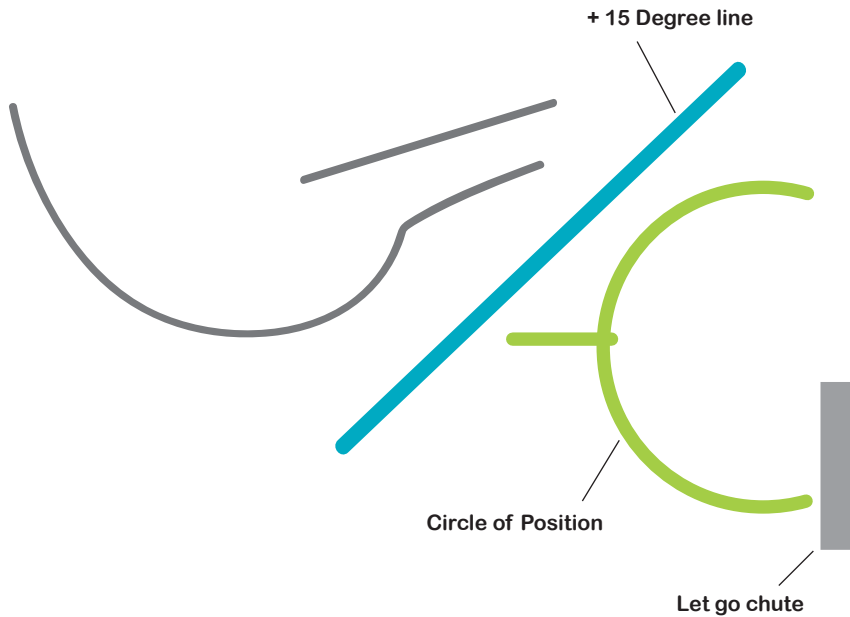


LAST SIDE HIND-LEG





LAST SIDE HIND-LEG



DVD TRAINING RESOURCES



Six free DVDs are available from Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) that show the correct techniques and best practices of shearing and wool handling. The DVDs are designed to be used as a trainer's aid and also as a learning tool for individual shearers and wool handlers.

- Novice Shearing – Training for your future
- Improver/Professional Shearing – Refining your skills
- Wool Handling and Shed Skills – Making it easier
- Experting and Grinding – Obtaining the best from your gear
- Wool Industry Workouts – Exercise for shearers and wool handlers
- Crutching Techniques – Improving productivity

To obtain any of the DVDs, call the AWI Helpline on 1800 070 099.

Contact Information:

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