

Fake Eye Alignment

By

Jordan Nassberg & Alan Grobmeier

Document Purpose

The purpose of this document is to explain, in detail, the fake eye alignment system.

Target Audience

Bowlers who are over 200 in average and those that have an understanding of the Early Eye Alignment system. The Fake Eye Alignment system is a building block on the Early Eye Alignment System. It would be like trying to learn Geometry without knowledge of Mathematics. If you do not understand the Early Eye Alignment system, please go back and review.

FAKE EYE ALIGNMENT

Fake eye alignment is similar as early eye but has a number of differences.

Many times, when using Fake Eye Alignment, the mark at the arrows may NEVER change throughout a night (league condition). In addition, there are defined 'zones' that are used with the Fake Eye Alignment system. For those of you that are religious, the Fake Eye Alignment system is kind of like faith. It is to believe in something which you are unable to see (oil/dry on the lane).

At the start of a league, we may be looking at 8 board at the arrows. The spot we are standing may be around 22 board and the dot location would be the 4th dot (12 board). So we are all consistent, it is written as 22 - 8 - 4. Stand - Arrows - Dots

The lanes will give us immediate feedback if we do not strike. Since we are talking about LEAGUE, I am going to use a house condition as my example.

My target at the arrows does not change!

Fake eye is just like early eye with regards to technique. Look at the arrows during your first step. After your first step, look at the dots.

For example, let's say I leave a 3-6 on a strike shot and I have been striking. My move would be 2 left with my feet.

I draw a line from the arrows to the dots to me and see that my new target at the dots is either the 4th dot or the 5th dot. For the sake of this example, I am going to use the 5th dot.

My new stance is written as follows:

24 – 8 – 5

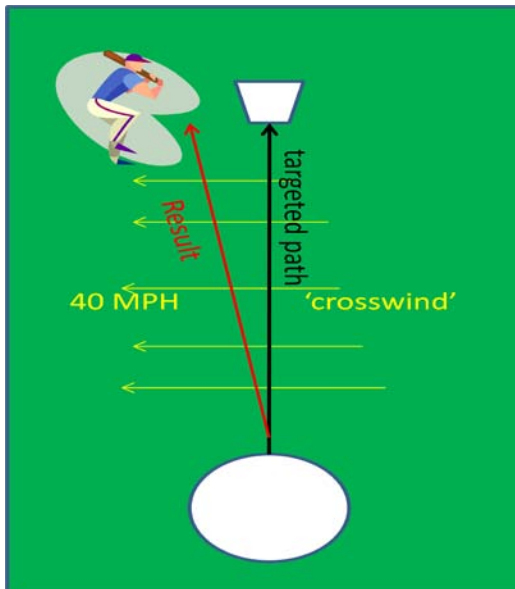
2 board move with feet, 0 at arrows. The dot location is determined where my eyes 'fall' (on a straight line) when looking from the arrows to me.

And we can, depending on the lane condition, continue to move left the WHOLE night with our eyes at 8 board at the arrows!

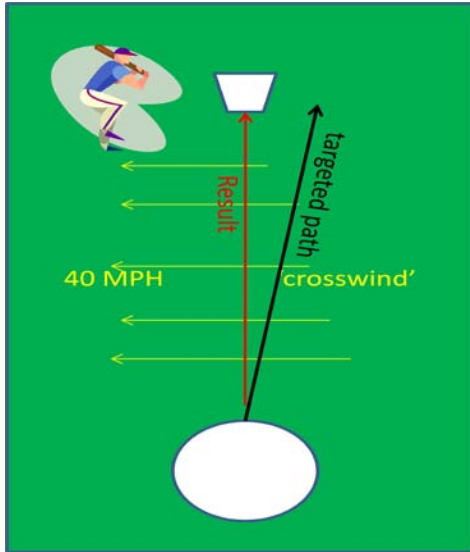
Eventually there will become a time in the evening when you are no longer 'hitting' the location which you are targeting. That is why we call it 'Fake Eye' instead of 'Early Eye'. In some cases, you will not be even close to where you are targeting.

The reason this system works is the same reasoning as a baseball pitcher pitching with a 40 MPH 'crosswind'. In order to get the ball to the desired location, home plate, the pitcher has to look at a spot that is going to be different than the actual flight of the ball.

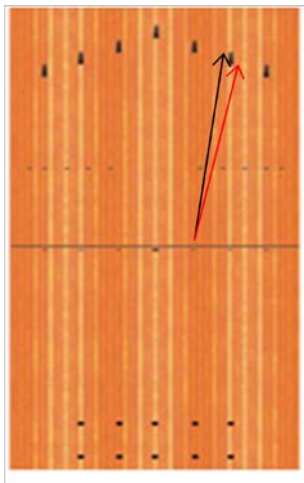
Below is a picture showing what happens when a baseball pitcher spots an 'intended path' in a 40 MPH crosswind. Not only does the ball miss the plate, but it almost hits our batter!



By looking to the right of our target, home plate, we will 'use' the 40 MPH crosswind to blow the baseball back over the plate.



Think of friction on the lane as our 'crosswind' in bowling. This person, who moved to 24-8-5, will probably not hit 8 at the arrows. This is just like the baseball pitcher who is targeting to the right of the plate. We may not hit 10 at the arrows and the actual path could easily be left of the 2nd arrow. The bottom line is that if we are lined up properly (striking), it doesn't matter that the ball does not follow the targeted path. After all, we want to strike!



_____ Targeted Path
_____ Probable path

I have, for example, spent a WHOLE evening looking at 8 board at the arrows. Here is a list of my moves on one evening. It is attached as an embedded xls spreadsheet.



feet and eyes.xlsx

Note, that at the END of the evening, I am standing on 29 board with my feet. At the arrows I am still looking at 8 board! In reality, the ball is probably travelling somewhere around 14-17 at the arrows. I really don't care where it is travelling as I am lined up properly and striking. At this point in time, the end of the evening, I am moving $\frac{1}{2}$ board or 1 board increments on every frame. This allows me to stay ahead of lanes getting drier. My only leaves over the last 2 games were 1 ringing 10 and 2 weak 10's. My games were 268 & 279.

In addition, I probably NEVER hit 8 board at ANY point DOWN the lane in time during games 3 and 4. And I probably missed it consistently by over 5 boards left.

Changing Eyes at the Arrows

Eyes should change at the arrows in zonal increments. The reason we change our eyes at the arrows is that we have determined that the lanes are no longer playable at our previous scoring pace.

Angles may also seem 'larger' than which you are comfortable. That is another reason to make a zonal change at the arrows. In some cases you may feel that you can't get the ball 'back' from a specific zone, even with an aggressive change in hand positions.

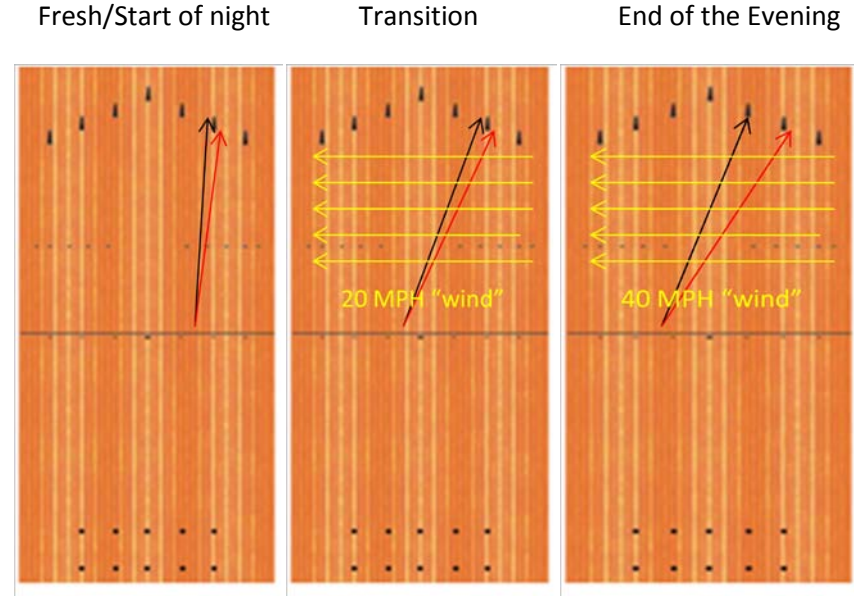
On a house condition, your eyes at the arrows can change from 8 board to 11 board to 14 board to 17 board. Generally speaking, there is no reason to look to the right of 8 board on a house condition. This gives you 4 specific zones to play throughout an evening, as needed. Most of the time your eyes will not end left of 14. Your eyes at the arrows have NO OTHER locations/choices than 8, 11, 14, & 17. The move with your eyes is NOT incremental, 1 or 2 boards, but zonal ONLY.

The changes in these zones will be what most of you see in a league condition.

On sport patterns/PBA patterns, 1, 3 board and 6 board are added to the mix. In addition, we can now use dots 1, 2, & 3. On house conditions there is not usually any need to look at the first 3 dots. So we have 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, & 17 as our target areas at the arrows. Using Fake Eye Alignment system we NEVER look at anything left of 20 board and rarely look left of 17 board.

Early eye should NEVER be used when your eyes reach 20 at the arrows. Once your eyes reach 17+, there should be a conscious effort to not use 'early eye'. Fake eye can still be used by looking at some point RIGHT of 17 board at the arrows (for a righthander).

Basic Fake Eye "Examples"



_____ Intended Path
_____ Probable path

The idea here is to compare freshly oiled lanes to 'no wind', transitioning lanes to a 20 MPH 'breeze' and drier lanes to a 40 MPH 'wind'. Note that the intended path and actual path are sometimes close together (beginning of the evening) and USUALLY become farther apart as the night progresses.

This may or not be the case for you. If your target at the arrows was to stay at 8 board, you could stand 30-35 board and hit INSIDE of 15 at the arrows. Despite this disparity of where you are targeting, you would still strike! If you were to move your eyes to 15 at the arrows, after being properly lined up using Fake Eye', you would probably leave a split, go 'Brooklyn' or possibly miss the headpin completely.

This concept goes against what most of us have been taught with regards to bowling. We are taught to hit our marks and move accordingly to what we hit. As a result, since we are unable to see the oil on the lane, we can easily get 'trapped' in a part of the lane that is unplayable. Numerous frames or even games are bowled before we "find" something new that works. In the meantime, the rest of the league has caught up or even 'lapped' us. The Fake eye alignment system can help to remove that guesswork. In addition, Fake eye alignment system shows that we don't even care if we hit the marks which we are shooting. Our moves are based ONLY on results! How much easier is that?

So, to review, at the beginning of the evening we are probably looking at 8 at the arrows and standing somewhere around 20. That 'trajectory' puts our eyes around the 4th dot. So that will be written as follows:

20 - 8- 4

Later in the evening we could be standing around 30 and still looking at 8 board at the arrows. Since we do have any dots to assist us, we will try to find a dark board or target around the 14th board. This would be written as follows:

30 – 8 – 14 OR

30 – 8 – 5+

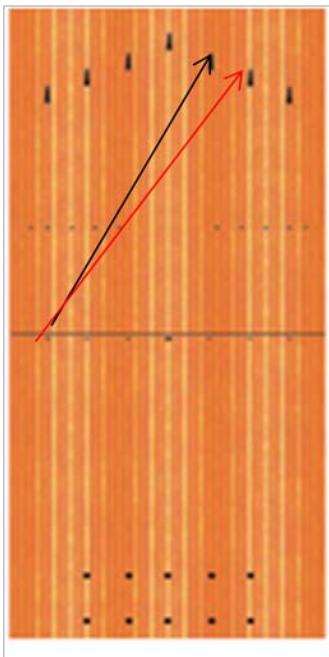
At the end of the evening we could be standing around 35 board and still looking at 8 board at the arrows. Since we do not have any dots to assist us, we will try to find a dark board or target around the 18th board. This would be written as follows:

35 – 8 – 18 OR

35 – 8 - 5+

The MAIN thing with fake eye is to NOT look for 'exactness' with regarding to early eye location at the dots. Also, do not 'force' the ball to 8 board at the arrows by looking further left at the dots. Look at the location at the dots that is comfortable for you based on where you are standing. If you feel you need to look further left at the dots, you are probably not lined up properly. Your feet need to probably move further to the left.

With Fake Eye Alignment it can sometimes be 'easier' to get deep into the lane. Here is an example of using early eye while standing on 42 board and looking at 11 board at the arrows:



_____ Intended Path

_____ Probable path

The would be written as follows:

42 – 11 – 6

Note that we can now spot at a dot. It is on the left side of the lane and located at 26 board. It is the 6th dot from the right side of the lane.

“ADVANCED” FAKE EYE

Thus far we have used the dots as a ‘rangefinder’ for us when we use the Fake Eye Alignment system. The dots, because of the fact they are closer to us, can assist us in not trying to ‘throw’ the ball or ‘hit up’ on the ball.

Sometimes, when the lanes are difficult or lower scoring, spotting at the dots does not help us and can actually hurt us. In situations like that, we spot at the arrows. Early eye is no longer used.

Our moves, however, are the same. Move our feet according to what the lane ‘tells us’ to do.

As you can see, Early Eye and Fake Eye alignment systems are both similar but have a number of differences. Fake Eye, when using the dots as their target, uses the Early Eye technique. But we can use Fake Eye without Early Eye. We can spot at the arrows at 8 board (for example), never hit it, and strike all day!

Benefits of Fake Eye Alignment

1. By using fake eye alignment we can see the lanes change, be ahead of the change, and continue to strike. We can CONFIDENTLY make small moves OR large moves to adjust to the pocket based on our past success.
2. Fake eye alignment works off of STRAIGHT lines between the dots and the arrows, just like early eye. Like the baseball pitcher in the crosswind, we MUST look at a different location than the path of the ball as the night progresses.
3. Breakpoint theory does not apply. Many bowlers use breakpoints as a target or reference point. And breakpoints, by definition, are ALWAYS in a friction zone or drier part of the lane. As a result, breakpoints can change dramatically in a very short period of time. These changes can EASILY confuse a bowler. And adjustments become more difficult. By using fake eye alignment system we do not CARE about breakpoints. We don’t even care if we hit our mark! Our only concern, after setting up our feet and angles between the dots and arrows, is if we threw a strike.

4. Once learned, practiced and properly used you will be able to shoot higher scores and sets.