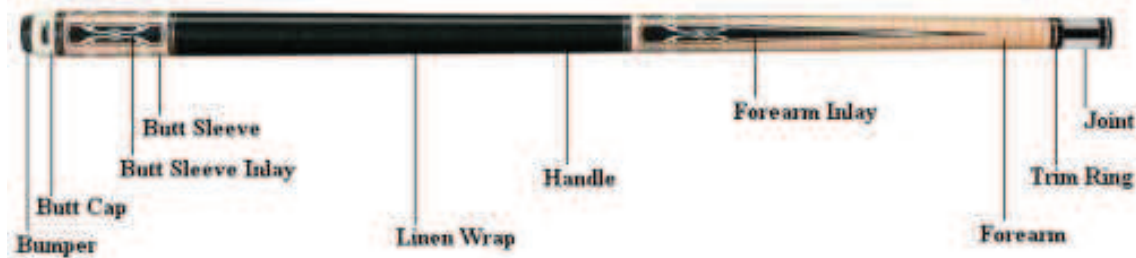


Eight Ball Equipment ‘ The Cue Handle’

The majority of the weight of the snooker cue or pool cue is carried in the Handle (aka butt). Butts come in many different designs and materials with the finest snooker cues and pool cues being constructed from exotic hardwoods and hand spliced to the shaft of the cue. At the end of the butt is the bumper constructed from either wood or leather and designed to protect the cue from impact with the ground.



- Bumper:** The bumper protects the bottom of the cue.
- Butt Cap:** The butt cap protects the cue when you are chalking.
- Butt Sleeve Inlay:** Again, the inlay on the butt sleeve is where the money is.
- Butt Sleeve:** The butt sleeve usually has a good looking piece of wood. Again, more expensive cues use more exotic woods.
- Linen Wrap:** A lot of cues have the handle area covered with a Linen material. Some more expensive cues use a Leather wrap and some cheaper cues have the handle wrapped with Nylon.
- Handle:** The handle is where you put your hand.
- Forearm Inlay:** The inlay in the forearm also contributes to the price of the cue. Exotic materials and intricate work makes the cue more expensive. Cheaper cues use decals
- Forearm:** The forearm of a cue is usually where the money is. Cue forearms can use Birds Eye Maple or Ebony, Cocobolo, some other exotic woods.
- Trim Ring:** The trim ring is used to protect the wood at the joint. The trim ring is usually made from high impact plastic or stainless steel and if you hit the edge of the joint you do not dent the wood and damage the shaft.
- Joint:** The joint is used to take the cue apart for carrying. Joints come in many different styles and configurations. The object of all the different types is to join the 2 cue pieces firmly and accurately.

Eight Ball Equipment ‘The Cue Shaft’

Shafts are generally constructed from straight grain hardwood such as maple or ash and a tapered towards the tip. The two most common types of taper being the pro taper and the European taper. The pro taper has the same diameter from the tip to 30-35 cm (12-14 inches) toward the joint, at which point it begins to widen. The European taper widens continually and smoothly from the ferrule toward the joint.



When making a cue the choice of timber for the shaft is paramount. Most factory made cues use poor quality ash that can warp and deform over time whereas quality handmade cues, such as those from Wright Cues, are constructed from hand selected hardwood so only the straightest grained wood is selected.

Tips are constructed from leather and glues onto the ferrule. Tips vary between 9-14mm in diameter dependent upon player preference. The tip is designed to transmit the power of the shot to the cue ball with the greatest friction which also allows the ball to be struck off centre in order to spin the ball. Chalk is generally used to improve the contact friction between tip and cue ball.

- Tip:** The pool cue tip is made of leather.
- Ferrule:** The ferrule protects the wood on the top of the cue. The ferrule material can range from Ivory to a specially engineered material that the manufacturer uses to give the cue a special hit.
- Pro Taper Shaft.** The shaft of the cue is usually made of maple. Maple is very hard and is used because it can take years of use without damage.
- Trim Ring:** The trim ring is used to protect the wood at the joint. The trim ring is usually made from high impact plastic or stainless steel and if you hit the edge of the joint you do not dent the wood and damage the shaft.
- Joint:** The joint is used to take the cue apart for carrying. Joints come in many different styles and configurations. The object of all the different types is to join the 2 cue pieces firmly and accurately.