

On a cue there are several things you do not want to do - don't bang it on the table. You see, some people break the ball, start at the 9 ball, and - wham- they're down here like this (demo) - just scar the daylights out of the cue, they wind up like this, and maybe leaning on it in both directions.. Great way to kill a cue. I know I don't have to tell anyone - don't throw your cue. Surely no one would get mad about not making a ball. (laughter). I've also seen people get hot and want to bend it! Don't. Here's another thing - a lot of people will see you tap your cue to applaud somebody - they made a good shot, or whatever - what about the guy who misses his shot and goes - wham - down like that (demo). He says I didn't throw my cue. No he just took the rubber bumper in the bottom of it and blew it open, and where's the butt plate going to go ? It's going to blow wide open, too.

I think the best case for a cue is the George because they're virtually air-tight, heavy PVC walls inside, heavy leather, heavy sheathing. If I've got to leave my cue in the car, that's what it's going to be in, but you don't want to leave a cue in a car. If it's like today - 100 degrees out there - you're looking at 200+ degrees inside the car. That eats into the glues, the wood, everything, and it's hard to go in and start playing with a cue that's had every piece of glue just softened up. Anytime you go into a radical temperature change and you want to use your cue, give it a chance to get acclimated. That may be 15, 20, 30 minutes, depending on how bad it is, but it's brutal on a cue to leave it in a car. You go in in the winter time from the cold into a warm room, you have to do the same thing - you have to let your cue warm up, slowly - not fast. You go up there and you start pounding on the cue in a 9-ball game, or something, from the cold - then the glues are brittle, just frozen solid. You pop on that thing, and the glue breaks. I don't care if it's in the very heart of the cue, it's still brittle as it can be. So don't leave it in the car, and when you do, out of necessity, just give it a chance to get back.

I know you've all seen people rack the balls by putting the cue between their legs and coming over and leaning on it. If you really need a wash-board, that's a great way to get it. You'll just destroy the lower part of your shaft. When you're racking the balls, lay your cue out on the table, or if your opponent has rolled the balls up against your cue and you don't like it, then lean it up against the wall. Get it out of the way, but don't lean on it while you're up against the table.

Something else I don't think anyone should do is loan their cue. There are a couple of reasons: One is, the other guy doesn't have his money invested in it; he's not going to be as careful with it as you are. He won't intentionally hurt it, but it happens - whether it's up into a light fixture, or leaning on it while racking the balls - whatever - and