



By cutting the ferrule off the bottom of a flagstick, photographers can easily move the pin wherever they want on a green. Photo by Darren Davis.

Place an Instant Flag!

By Darren J. Davis

Like many Super Tips, I stumbled upon the following idea while visiting one of my peers, Kyle Sweet at the Sanctuary Golf Club on Sanibel Island.

I wanted to take photographs of the golf course to accompany an article I was writing. Since Sweet was nearing the end of a complete golf course renovation, and the club was closed, I had a problem – there were no pins set in the greens!

I knew the challenge of finding photogenic pin locations and up until now I hadn't developed a solution other than to set a pin myself, or have an employee perform the task.

Fortunately, on this particular day Sweet came to the rescue.

After explaining my predicament he said, "No worries, I can take care of that." I knew he was a nice guy, but I was a little surprised at how calm Sweet appeared with my nuisance problem.

When he returned, he brought with him what appeared to be a regulation flagstick with an embroidered Sanctuary logo flag attached. However, he didn't have any of the necessary tools to set the pin. Sweet had taken a saw and cut the ferrule off the bottom of the flagstick so I could simply insert it into any green, wherever I wanted.

The tip worked beautifully and from a distance you couldn't tell there was no cup set in the green.

When I finished the shoot and reconnected with Sweet to thank him, I complimented him on his resourcefulness. Sweet quickly admitted that, like me, he gained a lot of knowledge from visiting his peers and he would have to give credit where credit was due.

He said, "One day I was visiting my good friend Bob Wagner at Coral Creek Club in Placida, and while touring the golf course, Bob mentioned that the (Tom) Fazio group had been doing a lot of photo shoots on his golf course. Bob added that one of the photographers was very particular and continually wanted the flags moved to different locations on the greens. So after moving the pin several times with a cup-cutter, Bob realized there had to be an easier way to do this... which is when he thought of cutting off the ferrule."

Sweet said that Wagner had also taken a double-sided logo flag and installed a thin piece of wire in the interior of the flag. The idea was to bend or curl the wire so if there was no breeze, the flag could be manually positioned to see the logo. Or, if it was a windy day, the wire could be used to keep the flag fixed in one location.

Sweet remarked, "In the past I had been faced with the same predicament as Bob, and although this idea was so simple, it was one of those things that I had never thought of." He added, "I certainly can't take the credit for it, but I sure have used the tip!" Sweet said that he has used Wagner's innovation when taking personal pictures and when taking photographs for the club newsletter. ■



Did you ever hard-wire a flag? A thin wire can help position the logo for a photo. Photo by Darren Davis.



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