

Buying Darts/Dartboard Set-up

Buying darts

The following is a checklist of what you should pay attention to when shopping for a set of darts:

- Buy dart equipment from a retailer that specializes in darts.
- If this is your first set of darts, use the standard flights and shafts that are included. If replacing your darts, bring your usual flights and shafts with you.
- Practice with the darts before you buy them and try different shapes and weights of darts.
- Concentrate on the feel of the darts, not the accuracy.
- Start with several sets and narrow it down by half each time. Even after all this, if you are not comfortable, don't buy!
- Ensure the barrels are compatible with normal shafts and tips.
- Weigh each dart on a scale to ensure consistency between darts (in a set of darts, there shouldn't be more than 0.2g difference from the lightest to heaviest dart).
- Expensive darts are not always the right darts. Base your purchase on what feels the best when practicing with each set of darts.
- If buying your first set of darts, don't go overboard purchasing all of your accessories at once.

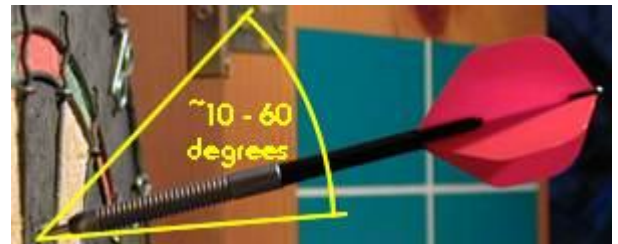
Dart tuning

The main parameter for determining the correct flight/shaft system is the angle at which the dart sticks in the board. The correct angle is within 10° to 60° . The more consistent, the better. For instance, if every dart of your 3 dart series sticks in a different angle then something is wrong.

Generally, larger flights will give a greater angle, while smaller flights will give smaller angles. When you are doing dart tuning always use the same shaft for comparison between flight shapes. Shaft length and shaft material also have a strong effect on the flight/shaft system.

Also note that shaft weight (or even flight weight!) also have influence on this angle. The heavier the shaft or flight is, the smaller the angle will be. This is important when you decide whether you will use nylon or the heavier aluminum or titanium shafts. The shaft rings can also influence this, as they make the shaft heavier.

Dart tuning needs work and patience. It should be done over a couple of days to eliminate possible daily variances in your throw. A good starting setup for dart tuning is middle length nylon shafts with 'standard' size flights. From this initial setup you can continue working, depending on whether your angle is too big or too small.

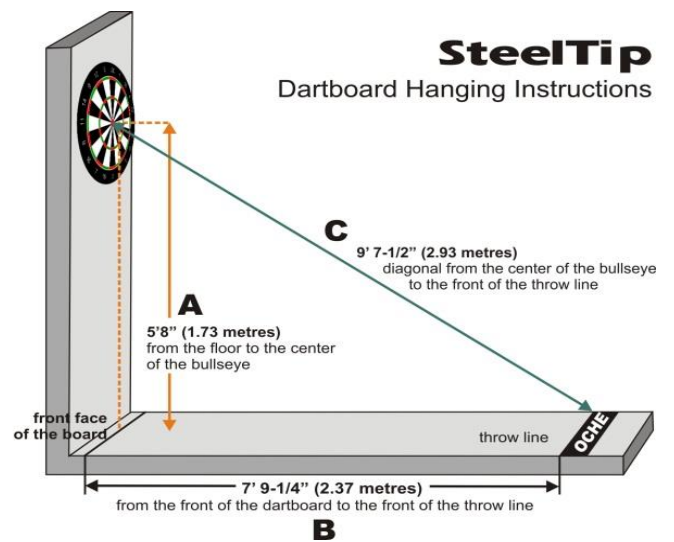


Buying and setting-up a dartboard

When purchasing a dartboard, choose a bristle board for durability. The board needs to be hung at exactly 5 foot 8 inches from the floor to the CENTER OF THE BULLS-EYE. Good quality boards are hung from the centre, making measurement easy.

The oche (also known as the throwing line or toe-line) must be placed exactly 7 foot 9¼ inches from the FACE of the board for a standard steel-tipped setup and should be approximately 3 feet wide. The oche may be made of tape, a store bought throw-line sticker, or a piece of wood or metal. If a carpeted area is being used for the dartboard set-up, use a strip of wood or metal with the "hook" side of a piece of Velcro attached to the back as your throw line. You can stick it to the carpet when in use and it won't move. Then just rip it up when you're done.

To measure from the face of the board, have someone hold a plumb line or piece of string with a pencil from the bottom-front of the board to the floor. Make sure the throw line is exactly perpendicular to the face of the board and centred with the board. This can be accomplished by measuring from the bulls-eye to each corner of the line. A diagram is included to provide you with measurements from all perspectives.



Lighting

Proper lighting of the dartboard is critical. It is important to be able to tell exactly where each dart lands without the player moving from the oche. The ideal lighting is from 2 lamps mounted from the ceiling to the left and right of the board. The main goal is to light it reasonably bright and create as little shadow as possible.