

BATTING SKILL 1 - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MOVING OUT TO DRIVE

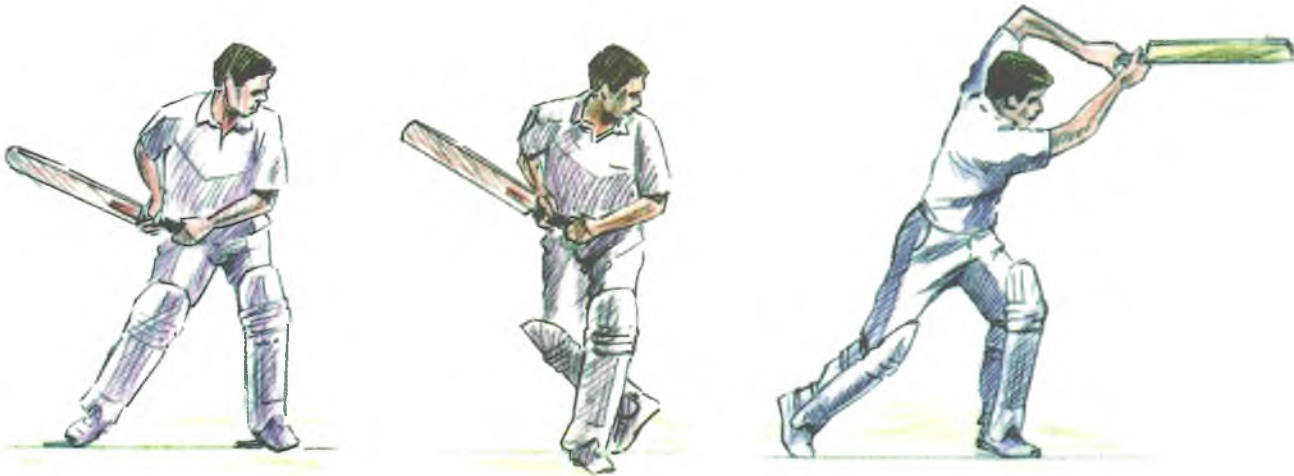


Fig.3 When batting against spin and some medium paced bowlers, a batter may wish to advance down the pitch to create scoring opportunities or doubt in a bowler's mind. Although this movement needs to be pre-planned, it is important that it occurs late enough to ensure the bowler is not able to change the delivery.

The keys to successful execution are:

1. **Late commitment**
2. Head and shoulders movement and **significant 'step'** towards the appropriate line.
3. Head and eyes steady and level and smooth footwork. This usually means the back foot 'passing' closely behind the front foot. Some batters prefer to slide the back foot up too but not behind the front foot (the Click). Either method is acceptable and, provided the **eyes and head remain steady**, effective. Although the intention is usually to attack, batters also need to learn to defend from a position down the pitch.

LOFTED DRIVE

Fig.4 Batter may deliberately play the ball in the air either **to clear the infield or to hit a 'six'**. The ball is played slightly earlier and the body weight remains slightly behind the point of contact. Otherwise all the principles of Batting Skill 1A apply. Deliberately hitting the ball in the air does introduce a greater element of risk and this stroke, therefore, is usually played only once a batter is established. "Hit **out**, not **up**."

