

[Ski Condo](#) [SugarSki](#)

Skiing Moguls

I put this guide together to assist people in learning to ski moguls so they can enjoy the beauty that Winter Park has to offer as I have over the years. I gleaned this information over the years from many different sources and compiled it here and I hope by studying it you find that going down Outhouse is as easy as skiing a Green\Blue. Good Luck!

If you can ski an un-groomed blue run, I believe that following this guide will facilitate you in skiing black diamond mogul runs. If you can't ski an un-groomed blue run then you need to work on that task first. So if you are still reading I'm going to assume that you can ski un-groomed blue runs and thus control your speed and have the necessary balance.

Mogul Technique - There Are Four Primary Ways To Ski A Mogul Run

Zipper Line: this mogul technique is where you ski directly down the fall line in a straight run (this is how they do it in the Olympics). This method of mogul skiing is typified by bouncing off the top of every mogul and the skier's knees are going up and down like pistons. The technique requires rapid lightning-fast reflexes and excellent balance.

Trough Line: this mogul technique is where you ski down the troughs that surround each mogul making quick turns that connect one trough with another. The method also requires fast reflexes and excellent balance.

Blue Line: this mogul technique is where you initiate your turn on the flat top of a mogul, but then the skiing the ridge line of the mogul that is directly adjacent to the mogul where you initiated your turn while staying high above the trough of the mogul you initiated your turn on and drift down to the next flat mogul top where you intend to make your next turn. You can think of the Blue Line mogul technique as skiing the adjacent mogul spine or ridge.

Green Line: this mogul technique is where you both initiate and complete each turn on the flat top of a mogul and then "drift" (on soft edges with your skis perpendicular to the fall line) down the secondary fall lines and/or spines to the next flat mogul top that you have chosen as the spot where you plan to make your next turn. You can think of the Green Line mogul technique as skiing the flat mogul tops.

This guide gives instruction on the Blue and Green line

The Anatomy of a Mogul

An understanding of mogul skiing terrain makes it much easier to learn how to ski moguls.

Moguls are formed by a succession of skiers turning at the same places on a run. The repeated paths, where turns are made, form troughs from skiers scraping off the snow. Moguls typically start out with rounded tops but over time they tend to become elongated in a teardrop shape.

If you examine a wide range of mogul runs you will find a common set of terrain characteristics across all of them.

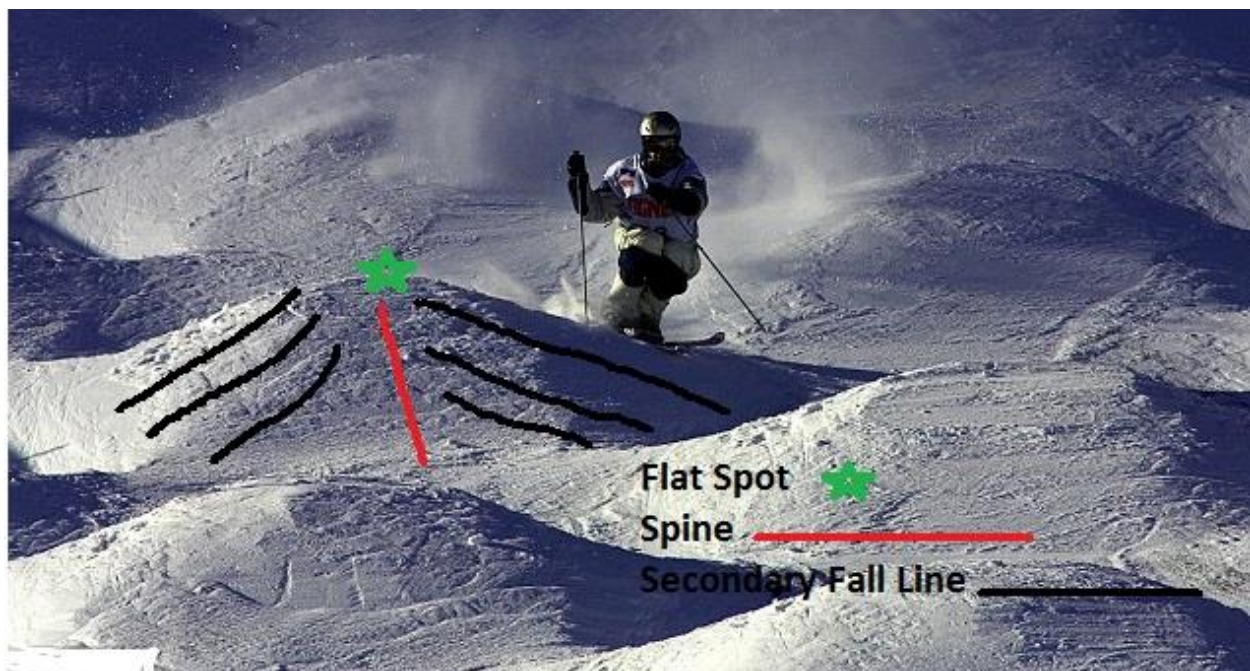
(1) **Flat Top of Mogul:** virtually every mogul has a top that is flat and the top is often covered with a soft pile of snow.

(2) **Spine:** nearly every mogul has a spine or pointed ridge line that runs from the top of the mogul to the bottom of the mogul.

(3) **Secondary Fall Lines:** on each side of every mogul spine there are angled slopes. Think of these slopes as secondary fall lines because the terrain slopes down at angles that are different from the overall fall line of the mogul run and different from the slope of the mogul spine. Each secondary fall line has its own unique slope angle and the slope angle typically varies across the length of the spine.

(4) **Trough:** troughs run between moguls and those troughs are at the base of the secondary fall lines that come off the mogul spines.

To better visualize study the picture below.



Mogul runs are comprised of repeating patterns of the terrain elements shown above. If you study mogul terrain, you realize that all moguls have flat tops (think of the flat top as a green run). And a mogul run consists on a series of flat tops, much like a staircase, which you can use to walk down the mountain. Even more to your advantage, the tops of most moguls have clumps of snow on them, which represent friction, which will slow you down. If you turn on the tops of the moguls, drift with a soft edge from one mogul top to the next, you can change the rules of the game.

Your best mogul technique for the least amount of speed is to turn on the mogul tops and stay out of the troughs. Using this strategy will turn a black mogul and powder run into a green run which is a much more manageable, safer and a fun experience.

Proper Stance and Technique – I list these because they are different than the norm.

- 1) How close to have skis. -Back in the day the skiing stance was to keep your skis as close together as possible. However with the new cambered skis one should use what is known as the athletic stance which is shoulder length apart. However, for moguls you want to keep them a bit closer so they maneuver easier on the moguls. Personally I have mine about 4” narrower than shoulder width.**
- 2) Turning. – Normally to initiate a turn you carve which is to put your skis on edge and this increases speed as well which you don't want when skiing moguls. Skiing moguls you want to turn on the flat\bottom of the ski and slide\twist to initiate the turn.**
- 3) Looking down the run. – Your vision should be focused at no more than 2 moguls ahead however you do need to glance down at the entire run from time to time and to avoid pitfalls.**

Choosing The Width Of Your Skiing Corridor

The width of the corridor you elect to ski within a mogul run is an important decision that influences your ability to control your speed. If you ski a narrow corridor - e.g. only one or two moguls wide - your skis will spend more time in the fall line and therefore you will ski faster. If you ski a wide corridor - e.g. four to six moguls wide - your skis will spend more time out of the fall line and therefore you will ski a slower route.

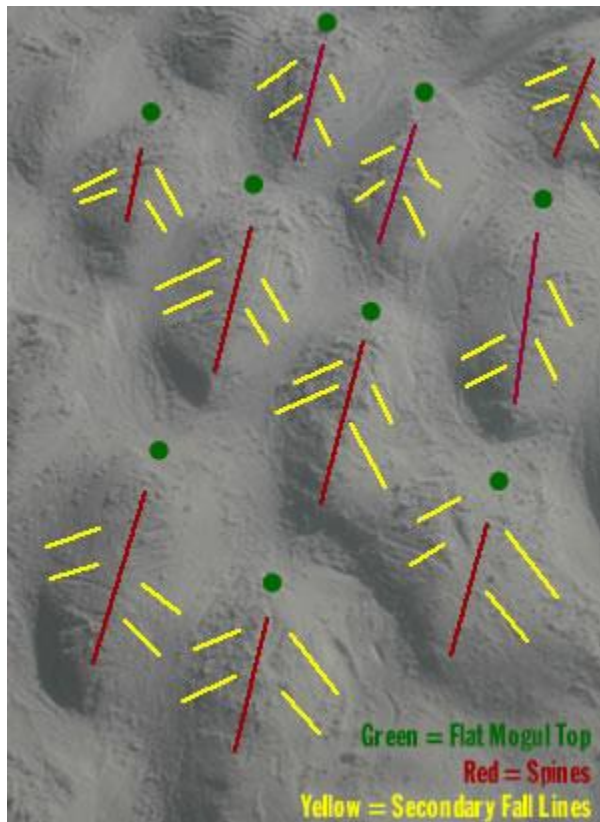
So, before you ski a mogul run and as part of your mogul skiing tactics, think about the width of the corridor you intend to ski in ... because it has consequences.

At Top Of Mogul Run View The Terrain

When you stand at the top of a mogul run your eyes should focus upon, three things:

- (1) the flat tops of the moguls;
- (2) the spines that run down from the mogul tops to the bottom of each mogul and
- (3) the secondary fall lines that come off the spines.

Remember, don't focus on the troughs. Instead focus on the flat mogul tops, ridge lines and secondary fall lines because those are the areas you want to ski as they are much friendlier than the troughs. This skiing route and turning locations will enable you to avoid locations where high-speed skills and lightning fast reflexes are required to remain upright.



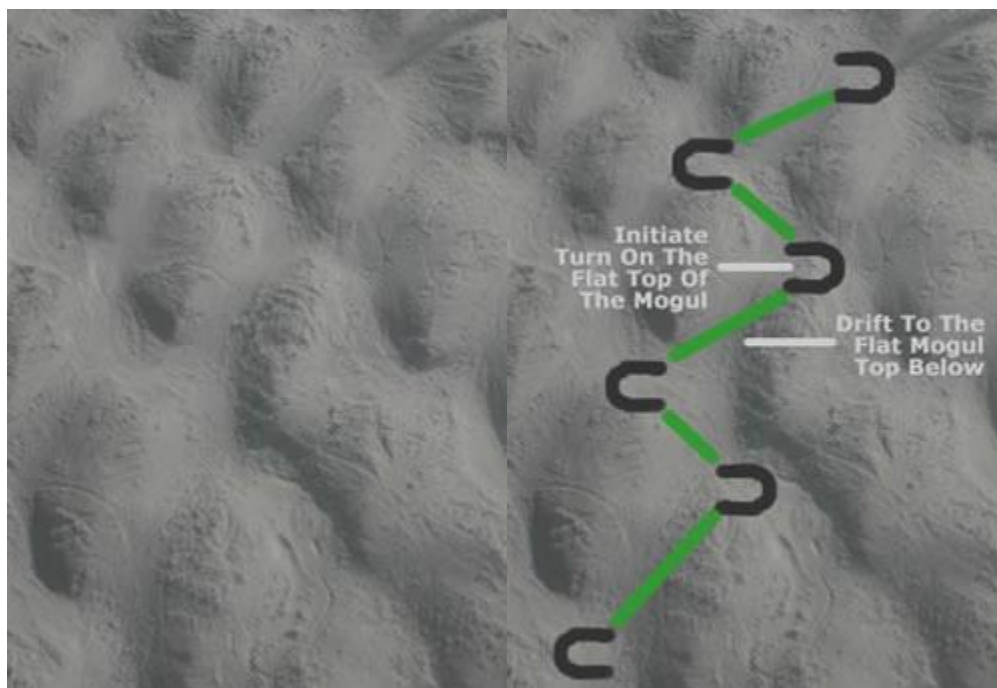
Now that I have given you a basic introduction and have you at the top of the hill I'll inform you how to ski the "Green Line" mogul technique and follow up with the "Blue Line" technique. You should ski the "Green Line" until you perfect it and then move onto the "Blue Line".

The Green Line Mogul Technique Can Make A Black Diamond Bump Run Ski Seem Like A Green Beginner Run

The Green Line is the slowest and most controlled way to ski a mogul run.

Green Line Skiing Tactics: First, familiarize yourself with the previously mentioned "Anatomy of a Mogul" You initiate your turn on the flat top of a mogul and then "drift" (on soft edges with your skis perpendicular to the fall line) down the secondary fall lines and/or spines of that mogul to the next flat top of a mogul below where you intend to make your next turn. **Remember --- Don't put your skis on edge and carve!**

Visualize the Green Line as skiing from one flat mogul top to another flat mogul top. And, since you are initiating each turn on a flat mogul top, you can think of it like making turns on a green beginner ski run.



Mogul Run

The Green Line

The Green Line is the slowest line that you can use to ski a mogul run and it gives you the best chance of staying in balance and remain in maximum control. As such it is the best technique to use when first learning how to ski bumps.

As your confidence and skill grows by skiing the Green Line you may choose to advance to the Blue Line which I also explain next.

The Blue Line Enables You To Ski A Black Diamond Mogul Run Like It Is A Blue Intermediate Run

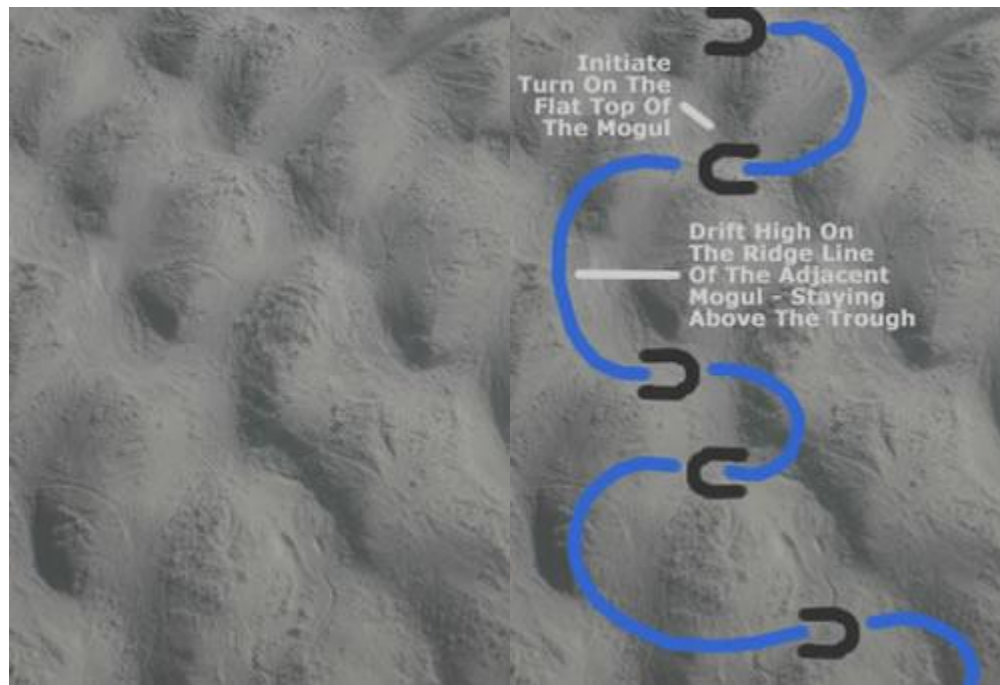
Skiing the Blue Line is where you initiate each turn on the flat top of a mogul - but rather than the Green Line where you ski on the same front face of the mogul that you initiated your turn on - you complete your turn by skiing on the high side of the ridge line of the mogul that is **ADJACENT** to the mogul that you initiated your turn on.

Visualize the Blue Line as similar to skiing on the high side of a banked Nascar oval race track. You want to stay high above the trough which is to the inside of your turn. This enables you to do a better job of controlling your speed in two ways:

First, you are not stuck in, and at the mercy of, the trough ... which is like a high-speed bobsled run.

Second, when you ski near the ridge line of the adjacent mogul you can drift on a soft edge (less edge angle) which slows you down and enables you to avoid carving (which will generate speed).

The Blue Line Is The Second Slowest Way To Ski A Mogul Run



Mogul Run

The Blue Line

The benefits of the Blue Line are as follows:

(1) The Blue Line is a slightly faster line than the Green Line but it still provides you an alternative method of staying balanced and remaining in good control.

(2) It gives you an alternative mogul technique (another tool in your toolbox) to skiing moguls and you can inter-mix the Green Line and the Blue Line in a single mogul run for greater flexibility to adopt to the specific mogul terrain you encounter.

When thinking about proper ski technique for moguls the Blue Line is the next step beyond the Green Line.

Planning Your Turns When Skiing Bumps

There are 2 techniques to plan your turns

(1) Pick a line. – This one is usually used for speed. This method requires more complex planning, more expertise and more mogul skiing experience to do it well. And, if you invest in planning a specific route, and then you miss a turn, or in mid-stream choose to turn at a different spot, you end up throwing your plan away.

(2) Connect the dots. – Here you make practical decisions 1-2 turns at a time. As you complete one turn you only need to decide where you will make your next turn. Think of this method as "eating the elephant one bite at a time". With this method you only need to focus on making just one turn at a time rather than viewing a mogul run as requiring a large number of turns, the decision process becomes exponentially less complicated and this, in turn, reduces both the perceived challenge and the fear factor. This is the method I recommend.