

There are some specific parts of the cue that are made differently and with different materials that affect how they play and how they feel.

1. **WRAP.** The most important aspect of the wrap or butt of the cue is that it feels comfortable in your hands.

Consider the size of your hand- If you have very large hands you may not do so well with a small diameter butt. Smaller hands will feel more comfortable around a smaller diameter grip.

If you have hands that sweat profusely you most likely should choose an Irish Linen wrapped cue. They are best for absorption.

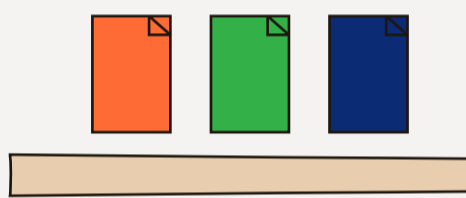
Many cues are available with leather wraps. These would be a good choice if you prefer the smooth feel it provides. More and more cues are manufactured with **no wrap at all.**



2. **SHAFT AND SHAFT TAPER**

The shaft of a pool cue is generally made with a high grade of North American maple. Your comfort as a player can be affected by the diameter of the shaft as well as the type of shaft taper. Most cues have a shaft diameter between 12 mm and 13 mm.

Keep in mind that a smaller shaft diameter does make it easier to perform English on a cue ball, but it also can impart too much spin on the cue ball and be harder to control. Many manufacturers offer sizes in 1/4 of a mm increments such as 12.25 mm, 12.5mm etc. If you have small hands you might select a diameter smaller than 13mm so you are comfortable with your bridge hand. 13mm is the most common size selected. Find the size that you feel best with and you will have more success.



3. The cue you select will have a joint pin in the middle that connects the butt and the shaft. There are many different pins used to thread the pieces together.

Yet there are really only 2 different joint types. Wood to wood- Cues that are primarily a wood to wood joint have more of a natural softer feel to them. Metal joint collar- Cues with steel collars feel stiffer and the feedback from the cue seems a little more direct, almost quicker.

There are many different styles of collar and pin combinations today. They have all proven to be durable, and they all have slightly different characteristics.



4. **WEIGHT.** Cue weights range from 17 to 21 Ounces. There are exceptions for special ordered products from manufacturers like Viking Cue and McDermott Cue . There is not one correct weight for every player.

For pool players though it seems cues in a 19 to 20 ounce range fit best for the style of play and the size of the balls used in pool games.

In snooker games the balls used are smaller and lighter so the cues are also lighter, often in the 15 to 16 ounce range.



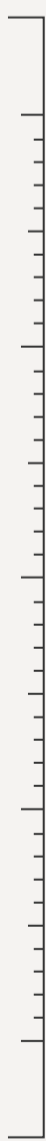
5. **LENGTH.**

Standard cue lengths are 57 inches for one piece house cues. Standard two piece cues are 58 inches long with the butt and shaft an equal 29 inches.

There are options for players who are extra tall or those who are not. If you are 6'5" tall and you cannot extend your bridge hand and have room to stroke the cue, there are options for a better fit.

Many cues can be special ordered as long as 61 inches. Junior cues are available today in 48" and 52" lengths. These cues are also a good choice in areas where you have space limitations.

Recently more cue extensions have become available for those shots that are hard to reach. They are made to attach to the butt end of the cues.



6. **TIP** **What kind of tip should I use?**

A well shaped and scuffed tip is crucial to your success with cue ball control and consistency. Tips vary in their composition relative to how hard and soft they are. This affects how long they will last, how often they need to be maintained and how they feel to a player.

Most cues come with a tip that is rated medium to hard such as a Le Pro or Triangle tip. One common element of tips is that they are all made of leather. Most tips are a solid piece of pressed and tanned leather. Some tips today are a stacked leather like the Moori.

The only exception to tips made of leather are used on Break and Jump cues. These tips are extremely hard and are made with phenolic resins or Bakelite materials. These tips are far too hard to be used during normal play.



BUDGET:

One question we always get is **"How much do I need to spend to get a good cue?"**. The answer is usually somewhere around \$150 to \$300 for a good quality cue that could last a lifetime. If you are looking for something that has more appeal and inlays with points etc you can find hundreds of cues for sale on our site from \$300 up to \$1,000.