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The cutter, short for cut fastball, is a pitch that has mystified batters and served as an ace in the hole for pitchers across generations of baseball. Mastering the mound. This pitch uniquely blends the fastballs velocity with the sliders lateral movement,
deceiving batters and leading to critical in-game victories. In this guide, well walk you through the fundamentals of throwing a cutter, from grip to execution, ensuring you have the tools needed to refine your pitching technique and dominate the game. Whether youre a budding amateur or a seasoned player, understanding how to effectively throw a
cutter could be a game-changer in your baseball career. A cutter, or cut fastball, is a pitch in baseball that combines the plate. This makes it particularly challenging for batters to hit squarely, leading
to weak contact or missed swings. The cutter is unique because it doesnt require the dramatic grip change or arm action that other breaking balls do. Instead, its about a subtle shift in grip and a slight wrist turn upon release. This pitch can be a potent weapon in a pitchers arsenal, especially when used to complement their fastball, as it keeps hitters
off balance and guessing. To begin throwing a cutter, start with how you grip the baseball. Hold the baseball with your middle finger for added friction. Your thumb should rest comfortably underneath the ball, aligned with your middle finger for
balance. The grip shouldnt be too tight; a relaxed grip will facilitate the slight wrist movement needed to impart the cutting action. Unlike the fastball, for a cutter, you slightly shift your index and middle fingers towards your glove side on the ball. This off-center grip is crucial as it allows you to put pressure on one side of the ball during the pitch,
which is essential for creating the cutting motion. Remember, the adjustment should be minimal; even a small shift can significantly impact the ball, slightly turn your wrist and fingers towards your thumb side (glove side for right-handers and arm
side for left-handers). This motion is subtle and quick think of it as turning a doorknob. This wrist and finger motion at the point of release is what imparts the lateral movement to the ball, giving the cutter its name. One of the keys to effectively throwing a cutter is to maintain the same arm speed as your fastball. This deceives the batter into thinking
a fastball is coming, making the cutters late break even more difficult to handle. Consistent arm speed across your pitches contributes to a seamless pitching strategy, keeping hitters off balance. Like any pitch, mastering the cutter requires consistent practice. Work on the grip, finger placement, and release technique in your training sessions. Pay
attention to the balls movement and make slight adjustments as necessary. Pitching in different scenarios during practice will help you understand how to use the cutter effectively in games. After throwing the cutter, analyze the pitchs movement and the batters reaction. If the movement is too pronounced or too subtle, adjust your grip or release
slightly. Feedback from your catcher can also be invaluable in fine-tuning your technique. Remember, subtle changes can make a big difference in the pitchs effectiveness. By following these steps and incorporating feedback into your practice, youll develop a cutter that can complement your pitching arsenal and keep batters guessing at the plate. To
throw a cutter, start by gripping the baseball with your index and middle fingers positioned across the seams, similar to a four-seam fastball grip. However, slightly offset your fingers to one side of the ball. As you release the ball, focus on applying pressure with your index and middle fingers to create a cutting action. Aim to keep your wrist stiff and
your arm slot consistent with your fastball delivery. Practice this grip and release motion to develop control and consistency with your cutter pitch. Mariano Riveras cutter was renowned as one of the most effective pitches in baseball history for several key reasons. Firstly, its deceptive late break mimicked a fastball until the final moment,
confounding hitters and limiting their reaction time. Additionally, Rivera delivered the cutter with remarkable velocity, often exceeding 90 mph, intensifying the challenge for batters. Moreover, his exceptional command over the pitch allowed him to consistently locate it within the strike zone, adding to hitters frustration in anticipating its trajectory.
These elements culminated in Riveras cutter being an almost unhittable pitch, playing a pivotal role in his success as one of the premier closers in baseball history. Mariano Rivera used a unique grip for his cutter, different from the common grip mentioned earlier. He gripped the ball with his fingers slightly off-center and applied pressure with his
middle finger, creating a specific spin that caused the ball to cut late in its trajectory. Its important to note that not everyone. Experiment with different grips and find what feels comfortable and allows you to achieve the desired movement. A cutter
typically moves laterally or diagonally across the plate, breaking in toward the pitchers arm side for a right-handed pitcher (away for a left-handed pitcher). The movement is less pronounced than that of a slider but sharper than a fastball, making it challenging for hitters to make solid contact. No, a cutter is not a two-seam fastball. While both pitches
involve gripping the ball across the seams, they differ in their intended movement and grip orientation. A cutter is thrown with a grip similar to a four-seam fastball but with slight finger placement off-center, resulting in lateral movement. In contrast, a two-seam fastball is gripped along the seams and typically produces sinking or arm-side
movement. The main difference between a cutter and a slider lies in their movement and grip. A cutter moves laterally with minimal vertical drop, while a slider breaks more sharply with significant downward and horizontal movement. Additionally, the grip for a cutter is similar to a fastball, with slight finger placement off-center, whereas a slider is
gripped further off-center with more finger pressure on one side of the ball. Yes, you throw a cutter with a grip and arm motion similar to a fastball. The key difference lies in the placement of your fingers on the ball and the amount of pressure applied during release to create the cutting action. Maintaining consistency in your arm slot and release
point is crucial for effectively disguising the cutter, two-seam fastball, and slider is essential for both pitchers and batters. Each pitch type, from the cutting fastball to the breaking slider, offers its unique challenges and strategic advantages on
the baseball diamond. Mastering the art of pitching, including the effective use of cutters, not only requires precise finger placement and pressure but also a deep knowledge of how each pitch behaves in flight. The cutter, with its subtle yet deceptive movement, remains a valuable weapon in a pitchers arsenal, blurring the lines between a fastballs
velocity and a sliders break. By harnessing the cutters potential, pitchers can keep hitters guessing and off-balance, showcasing the perpetual chess match that is baseball. Download Article Download Article Download Article The cut fastball, or cutter, is a variation of either a two- or four-seam fastball. When thrown as a right-handed pitch, it moves from right to left,
almost like a curveball, but with later, less severe break. The mechanics of the pitch, however, are still pure fastball. A two-seam fastball is a devastating pitch, designed to draw off-balance contact. 1Start off by gripping the ball as you would a two-seam fastball. A two-seam fastball is
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both fingers. Experiment with what works best for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed to your top two fingers in the same direction, they would eventually form a perfect circle. Think of the ball like a clock. If your thumb on a normal two-
seam grip is at 6 o'clock, your thumb now should be at a 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock position.4Turn in your wrist slightly to the left. For left-handed pitchers, this means turning your wrist slightly to the right.5Lead with the middle finger. When throwing a two-
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of the baseball in four places: the bottom of both fingers and the top. 2Move your two fingers together and slightly to the right, placing extra pressure on your middle finger. This will help create the cut in your fastball, as the last finger that touches the ball will be the middle finger. 3Keep your thumb in the bottom position, or perhaps up on the inside
of the ball, anchoring. Your thumb and your top fingers may not be exactly diametrically opposed, but they should be pretty comfortable. Advertisement 1Hide the cut grip in your glove going into the windup. You don't want to telegraph your pitch until the exact moment you release the baseball. Tipping the hitter off early could ruin the surprise of
the pitch.[3]2Think "fastball" all the way. The cutter is a fastball, after all.[4] You want a simple up-and-down motion with your fastball arm-speed. Extend your arm fully as you deliver the pitch. 3Follow through, and snap your wrist down while applying slight
pressure with your middle finger for slight spin.[5] This will cause the ball to move away from a right handed batter and in on a left handed batter. Advertisement Add New Question Is it okay to throw a cutter if I'm a youth pitcher? (I'm 11.) Yes. Throwing a cutter will not torque your wrist or violently turn your thumb and fingers, both of
which stress the tendons. A fastball/cutter is a clean throw. Your arm will last longer if you continue to pitch as you age. Question Will throwing like this help me to throw with. Throwing this way will give you a tactical advantage but your speed will stay the
same. Question How do I throw a knuckle curve? For the grip its just a regular curve ball, but you put your middle finger's knuckle against the ball. For the delivery, it's a fastball delivery, but experiment and figure out which is best for you. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Thanks Thanks Show More Tips Advertisement This
article was co-authored by Jim Price. Jim Price is a Baseball Coach and the Founder of Bash Sports Academy, Jim served on the Board of Directors of Welles Park Youth
Baseball, the largest youth baseball organization in the city of Chicago. This article has been viewed 219,541 times. Co-authors: 40 Updated: June 13, 2025 Views:219,541 times. "I had already known how to throw a cutter, but this
article made my cutter good enough to take me to the all-stars." Share your story Welcome to Part 6 of our How to Throw series! In our final segment, we will conclude with a discussion and analysis of cutters. What is a Cutter Pitch? A cutter also known as a cut-fastballis a pitch that is thrown at a high velocity and moves with sharp, horizontal
movement, or cutting action. This pitch type is similar to a four-seam fastball due to its grip and release but differs from a four-seamer in that it has a slightly lower velocity and moves glove side instead of arm side. Normally a cutter will contain predominantly backspin and gyro spin, with a slight amount of sidespin. The backspin on the pitch allows it
to move like a four-seamer, while the slight side spin helps produce a small element of glove-side action, as a slider would have, thus producing a higher velocity pitch that cuts rather than runs. This pitch type is used differently amongst big-league pitchers depending on their intent. For some, a cutter becomes their primary fastball, while for others it
can be used as a putaway pitch similar to a breaking ball or a platoon neutralizer. Either way, an effective cutter can give you an edge when you step on the mound. Cutter GripIn our grip tracker database, we have three primary grip types for cutters. Shown below is CT 1, which 80% of our athletes use. Gripping a cutter is similar to gripping a four-
seam fastball. The index and middle fingers are used to import force onto the baseball, which results in high velocity and spin. In this grip example, the finger pads are placed directly onto the seams. The most important factor is that these fingers are off-set on the pinky side of the ball,
which helps induce backspin with a slight degree of sidespin. This is the core component of how this pitch creates vertical movement with cutting action. Position the thumb underneath the ball for control, although its placement can be modified based on comfort. We see most pitchers either put their thumb directly just off-center or underneath the
ball. Place the ring finger on the side of the ball in order to help maintain control, while leaving the pinky finger completely off. But this grip isnt a one size fits all approachyou should hold the ball with a good amount of
pressure between your thumb, index, and middle fingers. How to Throw a CutterTo throw a cutter, we want to think Fastball and pull down on the seams using your index and middle fingers as you get closer to release. A cue we like when throwing the pitch is to yank the ball down on the seams using your index and middle fingers.
from a lower arm slot you can expect to have greater horizontal movement and decreased vertical lift, as opposed to a pitcher who throws from an over the top release. How Does a Cutter Move? Using a Rapsodo, we can analyze the movement profile of our pitches. Cutters, which are highlighted in brown, possess a positive amount of vertical
movement, mostly live to the left of the y-axis and have a small degree of horizontal break. Youll notice cutters are in between fastballs and sliders. Intuitively, this makes sense as this pitch type has the traits of both those pitches. When a cutter has a high degree of run and little lift, it may be considered a slutter. This nickname is given to a pitch that
orientation. Place the index and middle fingers are placed farther up the ball, closer to the horseshoe. Once again, youll find in both examples how the fingers are off the middle of the ball. We recommend testing out different grips in order to
ChangeupRead How to Throw a Sinker or Two-Seam FastballRead How to Throw a Four-Seam Fastball Download Article Download Article The cut fastball, or cutter, is a variation of either a two- or four-seam fastball. When thrown as a right-handed pitch, it moves from right to left, almost like a curveball, but with later, less severe break. The
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grip its just a regular curve ball, but you put your middle finger's knuckle against the ball. For the delivery, it's a fastball delivery, but experiment and figure out which is best for you. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Th
 Baseball Coach and the Founder of Bash Sports Academy based in Chicago, IL. Jim has over 20 years of baseball coaching experience and specializes in hitting, defense, and mental game management. Prior to founding Bash Sports Academy, Jim served on the Board of Directors of Welles Park Youth Baseball, the largest youth baseball organization in
the city of Chicago. This article has been viewed 219,541 times. Co-authors for creating a page that has been read 219,541 times. "I had already known how to throw a cutter, but this article made my cutter good enough to take me to
the all-stars." Share your story The cut fastball can be a great change-of-pace pitch, especially for coaches wary of teaching the curve to young pitchers. Here is a step-by-step approach to teaching the curve to young pitchers. Here is a step-by-step approach to teaching the curve to young hurlers of all ages. What is the Cut fastball can be a great change-of-pace pitch, especially for coaches wary of teaching the curve to young pitchers.
that of a slider. However, the cut fastball is different from the slider because it doesn't break as much, and I will share the one that I prefer and have had most
success with. Grip a ball along the most narrow seams, like a 2-seam fastball. Now move your index finger and lessen the pressure with your middle finger. As you release the baseball, you are going to allow your fingers to slightly go along the side of the
baseball. Unlike the fastball, where you try to stay behind it and release it off both the index and middle fingers, this pitch a step further with my pitchers, and you can as well. I try to create some more break using some physics laws. I have my athletes
move their thumb about a half-inch towards their pinky. This puts more ball towards the inside and with the physics laws of centripetal and centrifugal forces, will create a little more break in your cut fastball. Cutter pitches are one of the most effective tools in a pitchers arsenal. Theyre not as common as other pitches, such as fastballs and
curveballs, so they can be an especially nasty surprise for batters. In this article, well teach you how to throw a cutter pitch that is intended to break right before the pitch reaches home plate. It is also referred to as a cut fastball
The reason pitchers throw a cutter is to fool hitters into thinking they are seeing a regular fastball, then at the last minute, the ball breaks. It is not a widely used pitch in MLB, but for those pitchers with an effective cutter, it is a difficult pitch to hit. A cutter is a variation of a fastball that involves using a slightly different grip that makes the pitch
fingers slightly off center to apply more pressure to the outer edge of the ball with firm pressure coming from the tip of the middle finger. Pressing the finger tight to the ball with no snapping or turning of the wrist or elbow, the cutter can be thrown from a fastball with no snapping or turning of the wrist or elbow, the cutter can be thrown from from the tip of the middle finger.
pitchers natural arm angle as long as the motion is not a 12-to-6 arm motion. The spin movement on a cutter is intended bitcher throws a proper cutter, the ball will break away from a right-handed hitter and towards a left-handed bitcher throws a proper cutter, the ball will break away from a right-handed bitcher throws a proper cutter, the ball will break away from a right-handed bitcher throws a proper cutter.
pitchers. The balls spin comes from the placement of the fingers and the firm pressure of the middle finger on the ball. When the pitcher releases the ball, the release point at which their hand releases the ball should be in the exact location of the fingers and the firm pressure of the middle finger on the ball. When the pitcher releases the ball should be in the exact location of the fingers and the firm pressure of the middle finger on the ball. When the pitcher releases the ball should be in the exact location of the fingers and the firm pressure of the middle finger on the ball.
think that a fastball is coming. One additional point when release should be identical to that of the fastball. To see the mechanics of a proper cutter, watch the video above to see a breakdown of how New York Yankees Hall of
utilize the cutter pitch if they are right-handed and facing a left-handed hitter or the other way around. A cutter is intended to begin its path to home plate traveling straight, but at the last second, the ball can differ due to a pitchers arm
angle or the velocity of the pitch, but they all break in the same direction towards the pitchers glove hand. A cutter is faster than a slider or curveball, it is well known as a pitch that breaks baseball bats. When hitters swing at a cutter that is
highly effective pitch for generating a ground ball. If the opposing team has a runner on base, then it is in the best interest of the pitcher to entice a ground ball double play. According to most baseball historians, the origin of the cutter goes to New York
Yankees prospect Gil Patterson in 1977. However, the real development and wide use of the pitch did not come until the late 1980s with Roger Clemens and eventually Curt Schilling and Mariano Rivera, who later perfected the pitch. It is widely agreed that New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera had the most effective cutter in major league
history. He threw the pitch almost exclusively and ended up in the hall of fame. The cutter, or a variation of it, has only been in baseball for about 40-50 years. Other notable pitchers with dominant cutters were Kenley Jansen of the LA Dodgers, Yu Darvish of the Texas Rangers, and Jon Lester of the Boston Red Sox. Here, you will see Alex Rodriguez
David Ortiz, and Frank Thomas discuss the challenges facing Mariano Rivera and his cutter. Pay special attention to what Ortiz says about the adjustments he had to make as a hitter to be prepared for Riveras cutter. A baseball bat is at its thinnest where the hitter grips the bat. When a cutter is thrown with speed and breaks in, the odds of a batter
hitting the ball close to the bats grip increase if he swings. When hitters hit a pitch off the bats handle, the likelihood of the bat breaking is significantly increased. Emmanuel Clase of the Cleveland Guardians is credited with throwing the fastest cutter on record at 101.7 mph during a regular season game in May 2021. Clase is recognized as having
the fastest cutter in the history of baseball. Of the top 10 fastest cutters ever recorded, Clase owns 9 of them, each going over 101 mph. The main difference between a cutter and a fastball is how the pitcher grips the baseball. There are many different grips for a fastball, but when a pitcher changes to a cutter, they begin with a fastball grip.
Consequently, they will move their fingers towards the outer edge of the ball rather than gripping it across the center of the ball. The cutter is a deceptive pitch that can be used to confuse batters. It has the same motion as a fastball, but it breaks towards the batter instead of away. Cutters are most effective when they break towards the plate, and
they can be thrown to both left and right-handed batters. Now that you know how to throw a cutter, go out and give it a try! A cutter, or cut fastball. The pitch moves from right to left for right-handed pitchers and left to right for left-handed pitchers. This may make you
think it acts like a curveball, but the cutter doesn't have such a severe break to it, plus the break happens much later than with a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with similar mechanics to that of a fastball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with a curveball than a curveball. In addition, the pitch is thrown with a curveball than a curveba
change-of-pace pitch that has breaking movement to it but doesn't cause nearly as much stress on a pitcher's arm, elbow, or shoulder because it's thrown much more like a fastball. The other nice part when learning how to throw a cutter is that it can be thrown either like a two-seam fastball or a four-seam fastball. Let's take a look at both variations of
the pitch in this step-by-step guide. To start, you want to grip the cutter just as you would a two-seam fastball. This means placing your index finger and your middle finger on the two narrow seams on the ball. This means placing your index finger and your middle finger on the two narrow seams on the ball. This means placing your index finger and your middle finger and your middle finger on the two narrow seams on the ball. This means placing your index finger and your middle 
adjustment to where these two fingers are placed. You want to move the fingers pretty close together. You have two choices for where you ringers, or your middle finger can run along the seam. It doesn't really matter where you choose to position your
fingers. As with any pitch, you want to play around with both options and choose the one that's most comfortable for you - and that results in the best outcomes for your particular pitch. The positioning of your thumb will be different with a cutter than it is with a two-seam fastball as well. You want to slide your thumb out so that it would form a circle
 with your middle and index fingers if both of those fingers were extended in the same direction. With a two-seam fastball, your thumb to be at either the 4:00 or 5:00 position. With a cutter, you want your wrist to be turned ever so
slightly toward your thumb. This is yet another slight variation from a normal two-seam fastball. If you're a right-handed pitcher, you'll then turn your wrist to the left slightly. When you're throwing a cutter like a two-seam fastball, you want to ensure that you
put extra pressure down on the middle finger. This, combined with the positioning of your fingers and wrist, will help create a spin that's natural on the baseball, helping create that cutting motion. Again, the first step to gripping a four-
two-seam fastball version of the cutter. With the four-seam fastball version, you want to also move the two fingers close together and slide them to the right. Again, place extra pressure on the middle finger. It'll be the last finger that touches the ball as you release it so that extra pressure is what will help create the cut you're looking for. Finally, you'll
position your thumb at the bottom of the ball to anchor your grip. With a four-seam fastball version of the cutter, it doesn't need to be out as far on the ball as with a two-seam fastball version of the cutter you decide you want to throw.
 whether it be like a two-seam fastball or a four-seam fastball - youll throw the pitch in the same way. And like every other pitch, the key to keeping hitters guessing as to which pitch is coming is by hiding your grip. It's pretty easy to spot a cutter grip since your two fingers will be positioned so close together and your thumb will be off to the side. There
aren't any other pitches that will have this distinct positioning of fingers on the ball. So, it's extremely important that you get the grip of your cutter down in practice before trying to throw it in a game. If a batter knows what pitch you're about to throw, he can easily anticipate where the ball is going to end up, making it that much easier to hit. When
you're throwing a cutter, you want to make sure that you're thinking fastball, fastball forward. You don't want your wrist to have any spin or snap to it at all. It should be up-and-down all the way. You also want to throw a cutter with a similar arm speed as your two-seam or four-seam fastball
 (depending on which version you've decided to throw). Finally, you want to make sure that your arm extends out completely, just as you would with your fastball. Ithe one main difference to the release of a cutter is that you'll be applying as you would with your fastball. Ithe one main difference to the release of a cutter is that you'll be applying as you would with your fastball. Ithe one main difference to the release of a cutter is that you'll be applying as you would with your fastball. Ithe one main difference to the release of a cutter is that you'll be applying as you would with your fastball. Ithe one main difference to the release of a cutter is that you'll be applying as you would with your fastball. Ithe one main difference to the release of a cutter is that you'll be applying as you're about to release of a cutter is that you'll be applying as you're about to release of a cutter is that you'll be applying as you're about to release the baseball.
that extra pressure with your middle finger. This is what will create a slight spin on the baseball, which will cause it to have late-breaking movement from one side to the other. A cutter should move away from a same-handed batter (right-handed batter (right-handed batter) and in toward an opposite-handed batter (right-handed batter).
pitcher and left-handed batter, for example). Finally, make sure to follow through all the way through the pitch, with your arm going all the way down and crossing your body to your opposite knee. This will ensure that you get the proper power on the pitch. Youll be learning a devastating pitch if you learn how to throw a cutter properly. It has side-to-
side movement as a curveball does, but it doesnt break as dramatically and does so late instead of early. Because it a very challenging pitch to hit. You can throw a cutter just like a two-seam fastball or a four-seam fastball, as well. It doesn't
matter which version you choose. You just want to make sure that your grip is comfortable and you're able to throw the pitch with breaking movement to their arsenal without causing too much stress on their developing arms. Download Article Download Article The cut
fastball, or cutter, is a variation of either a two- or four-seam fastball. When thrown as a right-handed pitch, it moves from right to left, almost like a curveball, but with later, less severe break. The mechanics of the pitch, however, are still pure fastball, so you won't have to throw the pitch like a curveball. When thrown correctly, the cutter is a
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together. Your fingers can either be positioned so that your middle finger runs along the seam, or so that it's diametrically opposed to your top two fingers. Experiment with what works best for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed to your top two fingers. Diametrically opposed just means that if you
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in your fastball, as the last finger that touches the ball will be the middle finger. 3Keep your thumb in the bottom position, or perhaps up on the inside of the ball, anchoring. Your thumb and your top fingers may not be exactly diametrically opposed, but they should be pretty comfortable. Advertisement 1Hide the cut grip in your glove going into the
windup. You don't want to telegraph your pitch until the exact moment you release the baseball. Tipping the hitter off early could ruin the surprise of the pitch.[3]2Think "fastball" all the way. The cutter is a fastball, after all.[4] You want a simple up-and-down motion with your hand, not delivering any spin with your arm-speed is fastball.
similar to your fastball arm-speed. Extend your arm fully as you deliver the pitch. 3Follow through, and snap your wrist down while applying slight pressure with your middle finger for slight spin. [5] This will cause the ball to move away from a right handed batter and in on a left handed batter. Advertisement Add New Question Question Is it okay to
curves inside or outside depending on what arm you throw with. Throwing this way will give you a tactical advantage but your speed will stay the same. Question How do I throw a knuckle curve? For the delivery, it's a fastball delivery, but experiment
and figure out which is best for you. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Thanks Thanks Show More Tips Advertisement This article was co-authored by Jim Price. Jim Price is a Baseball Coach and the Founder of Bash Sports Academy based in Chicago, IL. Jim has over 20 years of baseball coaching experience and specializes in
fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 219,541 times. "I had already known how to throw a cutter, but this article Download Article Download Article Download Article The cut fastball, or cutter, is a variation of either a two- or four-seam fastball. When
thrown as a right-handed pitch, it moves from right to left, almost like a curveball. When thrown correctly, the cutter is a devastating pitch, designed to draw off-balance contact. 1Start off by gripping the
ball as you would a two-seam fastball. A two-seam fastball is gripped with the index and middle fingers over to the right. Make sure your fingers are relatively close together. Your fingers can either be positioned so that your middle finger runs
along the seam, or so that the seam runs directly in the middle of both fingers. Experiment with what works best for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed to your top two fingers. Diametrically opposed to your top two fingers. Diametrically opposed for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed to your top two fingers. Diametrically opposed for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for you.[1] Advertisement 3Move your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed for your thumb over so that it's diametrically opposed 
circle. Think of the ball like a clock. If your thumb on a normal two-seam grip is at 6 o'clock, your thumb now should be at a 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock position. 4Turn in your wrist slightly to the left. For left-handed pitchers, this means turning your wrist slightly in the direction of your thumb.
to the right.5Lead with the middle finger. When throwing a two-seam fastball,[2] put extra pressure on your middle finger. This will create a natural spin on the ball that will help it cut. Advertisement 1Start off by gripping the ball as would a four-seam fastball. A four-seam fastball is gripped with the index and middle fingers going perpendicular
across the U-shaped seams. Your two fingers should touch the seams of the baseball in four places: the bottom of both fingers and the top. 2Move your two fingers together and slightly to the right, placing extra pressure on your middle finger. This will help create the cut in your fastball, as the last finger that touches the ball will be the middle
finger. 3Keep your thumb in the bottom position, or perhaps up on the inside of the ball, anchoring. Your pitch until the exact moment you
release the baseball. Tipping the hitter off early could ruin the surprise of the pitch.[3]2Think "fastball" all the way. The cutter is a fastball, after all.[4] You want a simple up-and-down motion with your fastball arm-speed. Extend your arm fully as you deliver the
pitch.3Follow through, and snap your wrist down while applying slight pressure with your middle finger for slight spin.[5] This will cause the ball to move away from a right handed batter and in on a left handed batter. Advertisement Add New Question Is it okay to throw a cutter if I'm a youth pitcher? (I'm 11.) Yes. Throwing a cutter will not
torque your wrist or violently turn your thumb and fingers, both of which stress the tendons. A fastball/cutter is a clean throw. Your arm will last longer if you continue to pitch as you age. Question Will throwing like this help me to throw faster? No, this is just a pitch that curves inside or outside depending on what arm you throw with. Throwing this
way will give you a tactical advantage but your speed will stay the same. Question How do I throw a knuckle against the ball. For the delivery, but experiment and figure out which is best for you. See more answers Ask a Question
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Sports Academy, Jim served on the Board of Directors of Welles Park Youth Baseball, the largest youth baseball organization in the city of Chicago. This article has been viewed 219,541 times. Co-authors: 40 Updated: June 13, 2025 Views:219,541 Categories: Pitching PrintSend fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has
been read 219,541 times. "I had already known how to throw a cutter, but this article made my cutter good enough to take me to the all-stars." Share your story Ill bet you are a good fastball pitcher, but you just cant seem to find a good change-up to mix in with your fastball. Now it is time to learn how to throw a cutter. Youve heard about the pitch
Mariano Rivera (the great reliever of the New York Yankees) throws to gets batters out and you want to learn more about throwing a cutter like his. With the success he has I dont blame you. The cutter, also called a cut fastball, is a fastball with movement, not a breaking pitch. It will only be a few miles per hour slower than a fastball, and it should
have a slight late break. Hitters may hit a well thrown cutter, but usually only with the bottom of the bat. A harmless groundball is the expected result. Mariano Riveras Favorite Pitch is a Cutter Mariano Rivera throws a nasty cutter, which is why he is headed to the Hall of Fame. And his cutter is so good he can throw it from the start of his
appearance. For most pitchers they first need to establish their fastball, and then mix in the cutter should also include learning and a miss or harmless dribbler. Learning how to throw a cutter should also include learning
when to throw a cutter. The fastball may be working and you are hitting your spots. But good hitters will adjust and start to pick up the timing needed to hit your fastball. This is when the cutter, or a good change-up, will be most effective. Like I said above, the cutter looks like a fastball to the hitter, and the late break allows him no time for
adjustment. The Cutters GripThere are different variations of a cutter or cut fastball pitching grip. So as it goes with most pitches, learning how to throw a cutter means playing around with different grips. The cutter is more like the fastball than any other pitch, so start out using the four seam fastball grip, only move the grip a little off center. Your
thumb comes up just slightly on the inside of the baseball, and the index and middle fingers rotate just slightly to the outside. Upon release you will put most pressure on the ball. If there is still no movement, then twist the
wrist upon release ever so slightly. Much twisting at all will turn the pitch into a slider. Remember to apply the most pressure with the term cut fastball is one and the same. But there are some baseball people who think that a cutter is thrown
with a four seam fastball grip, and a cut fastball grip, and a cut fastball is thrown with the two seam grip. Again, like the cutter, the grip is held just slightly off center away from the body. And upon release the most pressure is applied with the middle finger. How to Throw a CutterThe arm motion and
arm speed for the cutter are just like for a fastball. You are coming over the top with a good stride and letting the baseball fly. At the point of release, with the grip slightly. This off center grip and slight turn of the wrist will result into a pitch with lots of velocity and a late
downward break. Would you like to be the hitter trying to hit this? Me neither. Good luck and practice hard. Here Are All Our Pages on Pitching GripsHow to Throw a Four Seam Fastball How to Throw a Fastball How t
to Throw a Curveball How to Throw a Baseball Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter to Baseball Pitching Grips Return from How to Throw a Cutter from How 
fairly simple and, unlike other pitches, allows a pitcher to maintain a good grip on the ball, and therefore, control. But while speed is important to the pitch movement. It doesn't matter how fast a fastball goes. If it goes straight as an arrow, hitters at all levels will
likely catch up to it at some point. It's all about how a pitcher holds and releases the ball. If it's released with the fingers pointed straight up, the pitch isn't likely to move much. But if the fingers are to one side or the other, the ball will get some different spin and move a little more. There are two basic fastballsthe four-seam fastball and the two-seam
fastball. And there are some specialty fastballs: The cut fastball or cutter and the split-finger fastball or splitter. And each does something different. Fingers and the palm of the hand. Bruce Leighty/Getty Images The two-seamer is designed to move a little more than a four-
seam fastball. Grip the ball along the seams, at the part of the ball where the seams are closest together, with your middle and index fingers and put your thumb. A two-seamer is gripped a little tighter and deeper in the
throwing hand than the four-seamer. If you're right-handed pitcher typically wouldn't throw this to a left-handed hitter. Vice-versa for lefties. A pro right-handed pitcher typically wouldn't throw this to a left-handed hitter. Vice-versa for lefties. A pro right-handed pitcher typically wouldn't throw this to a left-handed hitter.
fingers and the palm of the hand. Bruce Leighty/Getty Images This is the basic fastball that just about every pitcher throws. Grip the ball with your top two fingers across the seams and with your finger throws. Grip the ball with your fingers across the seams and with your finger across the seams at the ball's widest point. But don't grip it like an egg in your finger throws. Grip the ball with your finger across the seams at the ball's widest point. But don't grip it like an egg in your finger throws. Grip the ball with your finger across the seams at the ball's widest point.
ball to leave your hand without much friction. Put your thumb under the ball across the bottom seam. Your index finger should be about a half-inch apart. Too close together, and you're throwing a weak slider. Too far apart and it will cost you speed. If you move your fingers slightly off-center, the ball should break a bit. There should
be a little bit of a gap between the palm of your hand and the ball. When you release the ball, let your fingertips roll off the laces. Toto-artist/CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikimedia Commons The cut fastball is thrown similar to the four-seam fastball, across the seams. It's a little more advanced pitch. The difference: Rotate your middle and index finger and bring
them together, leaving your middle finger along the seam of the U-shaped seam. Bring your thumb slightly up the inside of the ball. When you follow through, snap your wrist down while applying pressure with your middle finger. Fingers rest along and outstide the seams with the baseball squared up against the palm of the
hand. Bruce Leighty/Getty Images The split-finger fastball is a much more advanced pitch than the other three fastballs. It varies slightly from the forkball in that it's thrown with more velocity and generally replaced it as part of a pitcher's repertoire in the 1980s and 1990s. It dives when it reaches the plate. To throw a splitter, split the middle and
index fingers and grip the ball along the widest point of the ball. Don't jam the ball past the midway point of your fingers, but the grip is firm. The thumb is along the seam of the bottom, on the back seam. Children generally can't throw split-finger fastballs because their hands aren't big enough. Your index and middle fingers should be placed on the
outside of the horseshoe seam. The grip is firm. When throwing, throw the palm-side wrist of the throwing-hand directly at the target while keeping your index and middle fingers extended upward. Your wrist should remain stiff. As it is with all pitchingin baseball, keeping your intentions secret is a big part of the battle. Keep the ball hidden in your
glove when you're throwing, or you might tip off the batter (or a baserunner or base coach) what pitch you're throwing. Wind up normally and throw. Don't follow through, the ball will likely stay high. Nate and I are going to spend the next 2 weeks to a month and talk about how to throw off-speed pitches.
Today is the cut fastball. Enjoy! And as always if you have questions please dont hesitate responding to this message. The cutter really acts as two pitches in one slider and fastball The ball has a fastball rotation, around 60 feet it cuts. For a right handed pitcher it cuts into a left handed batter. Just opposite for a left handed pitcher. The grip on the
cutter is similar to that of a regular four-seam fastball. Grip it like you do a four-seam and bring your thumb up the baseball in half) The cutter is like throwing an off of center fastball. The index and middle fingers are
close together. Throw a cutter like a fastball. The purpose of throwing a cut fastball is to make the hitter will see a fastball and will not expect the ball to move. Isnt that the intent for most off speed pitches anyway? Cutter Tip#1: Make sure you dont place
the ball deep into your palm. All pitches eventually leave your fingertips, but you want to keep the ball moving quickly like your fastball. Cutter Tip #2: Like a lot of off-speed pitches, this pitch takes awhile to get used to. You will experiment with different amounts of pressure on the ball to get a feel of what is going to work best for you. But if you want to keep the ball moving quickly like your fastball. Cutter Tip #2: Like a lot of off-speed pitches, this pitch takes awhile to get used to. You will experiment with different amounts of pressure on the ball moving quickly like your fastball.
dont ever get used to it its okay. Remember, you only need three great pitches to become successful. Learn more pitches that will keep your competition thinking. Get your copy of Pitching Grips & workouts today!
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What is a cut fastball. How do you throw a cut fastball. How does a cut fastball move. How to throw a cutter ball. How to throw a cut fastball in baseball. How to throw a cutter fastball.

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