

TESTED & PASSED THE NEWEST 460CC DRIVERS

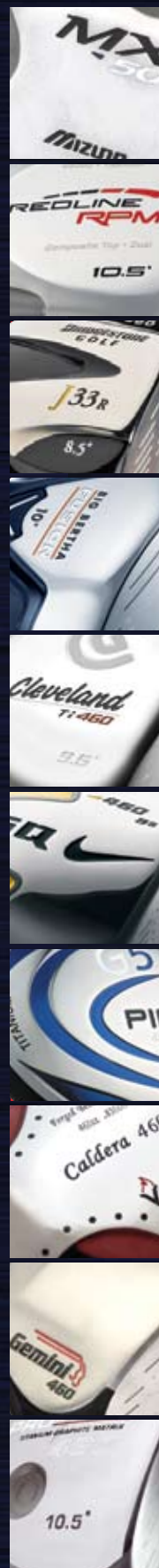
By **WAYNE WILLIAMS**
with **TYLER HENNING**



Nothing is more exciting than taking a good rip from the tee box and watching the ball carry for 260 yards before it rolls for another 40 yards. Most golfers know that the best way to fire a ball down the fairway is to pull out a big gun — a 460cc driver. These “Volkswagens on a stick” have allowed club designers to forge new ground in playability, distance and accuracy.

There’s a reason why players such as Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, John Daly and others use a 460cc driver. The question for the amateur golfer is “which one’s right for my bag?”

Independent tester GolfTest USA reports on 10 460cc drivers currently on the market. The final group of 10 tested clubs provides a mix of top clubmakers, as well as up-and-coming companies.





THE TEST

The 10 drivers were divided into two different groups. Golfers then hit five shots with each driver and evaluated 10 criteria after hitting each driver. The order in which each driver was hit was randomly rotated for each tester. In past tests, it's been found that testers' best swings come in their first 30 shots. After that mark, quality shots become harder to come by.

The nature of these tests is based on a group of golfers who may or may not be swinging their best at the time of the test. However, with a minimum of 50 golfers testing a club, the tests provide a fair representation of how golfers in general would rate the club. Each tester was asked to be fair and unbiased in their evaluations and not to let favoritism or prejudice affect the evaluations of each driver.

Sixty golfers from 0 to 25 in handicap participated in each group. Afterward, the 50 tests with the fairest and most consistent evaluations were selected. Those tests created the compilation of the final results. The results were based on 10 categories, each of which was scored on a one to 10 system, with 10 being the best possible score.

Distance – Each tester rated how far they hit each driver.

Control – Testers were asked how much control they had while hitting each driver.

Accuracy – Testers scored each driver's accuracy performance.

Forgiveness – The rate of how forgiving the driver was on off-center hits.

Sound – How the tester rated the sound of the club.

Appearance – How appealing the look of the club was to the tester.

Feel – How the club felt at setup and during the swing.

Ball Flight (Trajectory) – Testers rated how the ball came off the club.

Recommendation To Others – How strongly would they recommend the club to friends.

Overall – Testers took into consideration what is important to them in a driver and gave it an overall rating. (This is not an average of the other criteria.)

Besides numerical data, the testers also provided comments on each club they tested, offering what they did or didn't like about the club.

All of the tested drivers incorporate the latest technology and are designed to offer the best performance available to golfers looking to improve their game. Just a few years ago, the sweet spot on a driver was the size of a dime or quarter. These new 460cc drivers have a sweet spot that's the size of a silver dollar, although many clubmakers claim their driver has a hot spot the size of a large grade A egg. We'll leave it up to golfers to make their own determination as to the validity of that claim. **GI**

For more independent testing results, visit [GolfTest USA at www.golftestusa.com](http://GolfTestUSA.com)

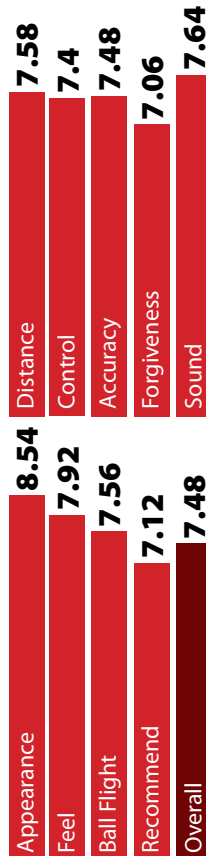


PING G5

Design Notes:

- Available in 7.5-, 9-, 10.5-, 12- and 13.5-degree lofts. Also in 9-, 10.5- and 12-degree lofts in the offset version.

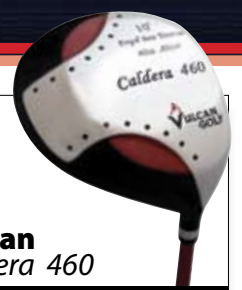
- Weight from low-stress areas of the crown is repositioned into the sole to lower the center of gravity and reduce spin rates.



The Consensus:

Just about all the testers approved of the sleek appearance. Several testers liked the solid feel, and many found the club easy to hit.

PING Golf, 1.800.4.PING.FIT, www.pinggolf.com



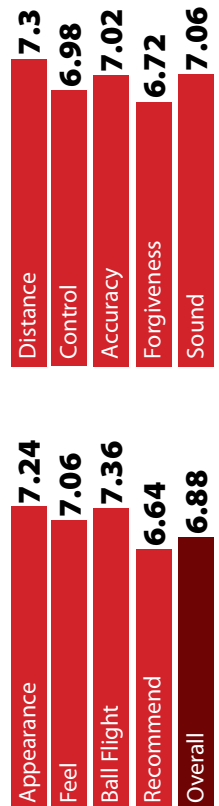
Vulcan Caldera 460

Design Notes:

- Available in 9-, 10-, 11-, 12-, 13.5- and 15-degree lofts. Also in 11-degree offset versions.

- For maximum distance, Vulcan offers the driver with an extra-long 47-inch UST V2 shaft.

- A hot SP700 beta titanium forged face and repositioned center of gravity give the Caldera 460 optimizing launch for improved accuracy and feel.



The Consensus:

Many testers were ecstatic about the feel and sound of the Vulcan 460.

Vulcan Golf, 1.800.842.1836, www.vulcangolf.com



Mizuno
MX500

Design Notes:

• Available in 8.5-, 9.5-, 10.5- and 11.5-degree lofts. Also comes in left-hand versions at 9.5 and 10.5 degrees.

• An innovative graphite toe insert helps redistribute weight low and toward the heel to more easily square the face at impact, which explains easy-to-hit testing results.



The Consensus:

Nearly every tester commented on the appearance of the new Mizuno driver. The club had excellent feel and was exceptionally easy to hit.

Mizuno, 1.800.966.1211,
www.mizunousa.com

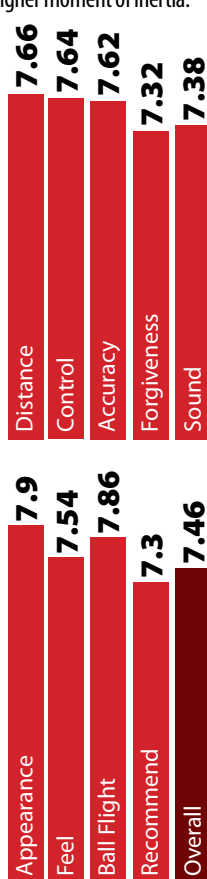


Adams Redline
RPM 460 Dual

Design Notes:

• Available in 8.5-, 9.5-, 10.5-, 11.5- and 15-degree lofts. Left-hand models come in 9.5 and 10.5 degrees.

• RPM stands for RePositioned Mass technology — a process by which Adams removed weight from the crown and repositioned it to the sole plate with tungsten inserts. The process increases ball speed, improves launch angle and creates a higher moment of inertia.



The Consensus:

Testers enjoyed the trajectory and control that the Redline RPM 460 Dual offered. The adjustable weights allowed golfers to test at their personal weight preference.

Adams Golf, 1.800.709.6142,
www.adamsgolf.com



Nike
SasQuatch

Design Notes:

• Available in 8.5-, 9.5- and 10.5-degree lofts. Also comes in Lucky 13 and Sweet 16 special degree lofts.

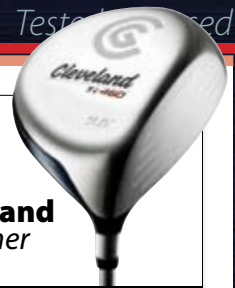
• With the largest “footprint” in golf, the driver incorporates the Nike PowerBow, which pulls the center of gravity deeper and lower into the clubhead.



The Consensus:

The feel and distance of the SasQuatch were the main points of interest. A majority of the testers didn't like the initial appearance of the huge clubhead, but felt they could get used to it over time.

Nike Golf, 1.888.799.6453,
www.nikegolf.com

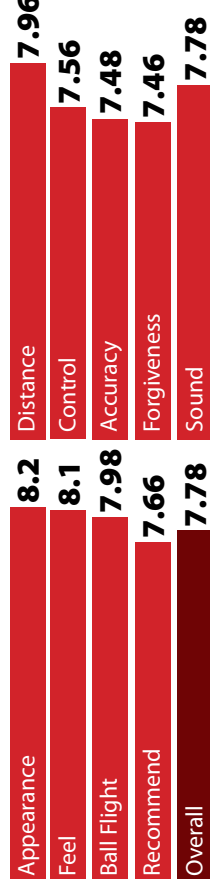


Cleveland
Launcher Ti460

Design Notes:

• Available in 7.5-, 8.5-, 9.5-, 10.5- and 11.5-degree lofts.

• Thin Crown Technology has moved 15 percent of the weight from the top crown of the clubhead and redistributed it into lower and deeper locations around the perimeter.



The Consensus:

Most testers were impressed with all aspects of the Ti460 from Cleveland. The company's claim that the face is forgiving held true among testers' opinions.

Cleveland Golf, 1.800.999.6263,
www.clevelandgolf.com

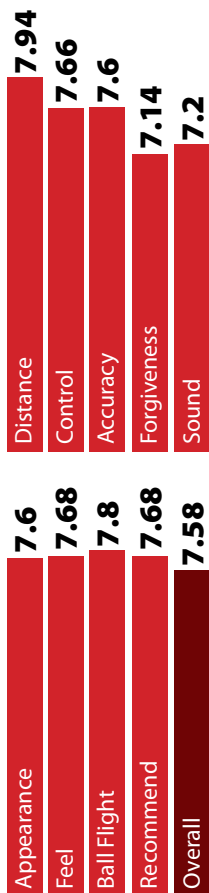


Callaway
Big Bertha
Fusion FT-3

Design Notes:

- Available in 9-, 10-, 11- and 16-degree lofts, in draw, neutral and fade weight configurations.

- Callaway has moved a large amount of discretionary weight and put it where golfers need it the most. Each weight/loft combination is uniquely designed to influence the perfect ball flight for the golfer using it.



The Consensus:

All of the optimizing choices of the driver gave testers what they wanted – distance, feel and accuracy.

Callaway Golf, 1.800.488.9836,
www.callawaygolf.com

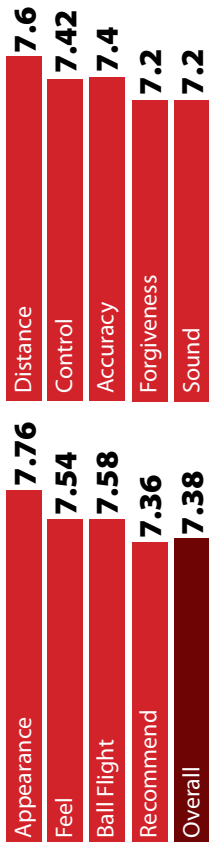


KZG
Gemini 460

Design Notes:

- Available in 9-, 10.5-, 12- and 14-degree lofts. Left-hand model comes in 10.5 degrees.

- The Gemini 460 features exclusive twin-face technology that is patent pending. The second “face” adds stability and rigidity to the hot outer face. With this technology, even off-center hits go straight and long.



The Consensus:

A few testers believed the Gemini 460 had the best accuracy of any driver they tested, with excellent feel and distance.

KZG, 1.800.200.8800,
www.kzggolf.com



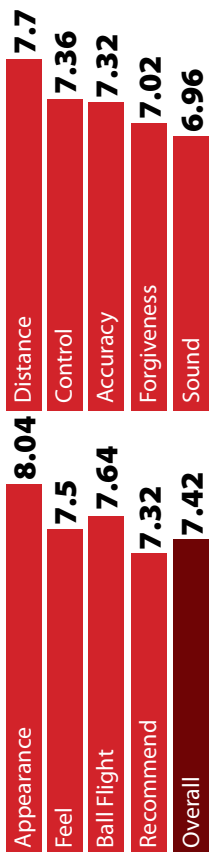
Bridgestone
J33

Design Notes:

- Available in 8.5-, 9.5- and 10.5-degree lofts.

- Coming standard with Aldila NV65 shafts, the J33 driver features 6-4 titanium construction and a tungsten weight in the trailing edge. Many custom options are available.

- Targeted for low-handicap amateurs and professionals.



The Consensus:

Many testers felt it had a solid feel and was very forgiving, although it didn't rate that highly in those categories.

Bridgestone Golf, 1.800.358.6319,
www.bridgestonegolf.com

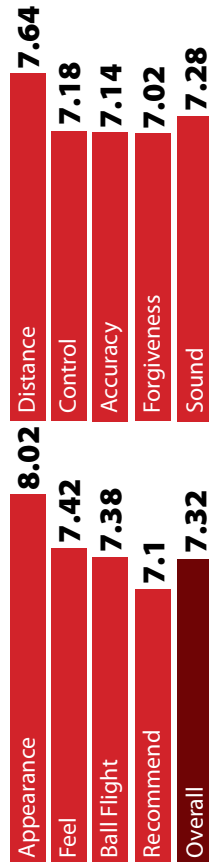


Infiniti
PROPushion

Design Notes:

- Available in 10.5- and 14-degree configurations, as well as an 11-degree offset model.

- The construction of the driver boasts a thin beta titanium face and high-strength aerospace-metal-mesh reinforced graphite crown.



The Consensus:

Testers enjoyed the solid feel and found the driver to be very accurate, straight and long.

Infiniti Golf, (630) 916.0600,
www.infinitigolf.com