

# NEW IRONS

TESTED & PASSED

By Wayne Williams with Kartik Rajendran

## WHAT BETTER WAY

to lower your handicap than a new set of high-performance irons? Whether you want to replace a worn down 3- or 4-iron or just start fresh with a whole new set, narrow down your choices with our guide to this fall's hottest new irons. >>



# THE TEST

GolfTest USA recently tested 27 iron models. We will report on a sampling of 10 irons. Golfers of specific handicap levels were used to test each club, as some of the irons are designed for different skill levels. For example, game-improvement irons were tested by golfers with handicaps of 15 and above, while other iron models were tested by players with handicaps of 9 or below. The testers, who had handicaps ranging from 0 to 25, were asked to be fair and unbiased in their evaluations. The results are based on 10 categories, each of which was scored on a one to 10 system, with 10 being the best possible score. The overall average is a compilation of all categories combined. **GI**

**Distance** – Testers rated how far they hit each iron.

**Control** – Players assessed the control they experienced with each iron.

**Accuracy** – The accuracy of the iron was rated.

**Forgiveness** – Golfers judged how forgiving each iron was on off-center hits.

**Sound** – Each tester ranked the sound of the iron at impact.

**Appearance** – This rating was based on how appealing the look of the club was to the tester.

**Feel** – Testers were asked to rate how each iron felt during the swing.

**Ball Flight** – Testers rated how the ball came off the club.

**Recommendation To Others** – This was based on how strongly the tester would recommend the iron to a friend.

**Overall Testers' Rating** – Testers were asked to rate each iron by what they feel are the most important factors to them. (This is not an average of other criteria).

For results of all 27 irons tested, visit [www.golftestusa.com](http://www.golftestusa.com). Included in the test were the KZG OC-x1, MacGregor MACTEC NVG2, MacGregor M685, Callaway Big Bertha Fusion, Alpha RX-1, Infiniti Assure, Infiniti AW-3, Tour Edge Bazooka QL, Feel Pro-Am II, Feel Competitor, Mizuno MX-900, Mizuno MP-60, TechPower Pro Series, TechPower Black Shark MX-7, KZG Forged CB III, KZG Evolution, Yonex Cyberstar C280, Adams Idea a2, Adams Idea a2 OS, Nickent 3DX Hybrid, TaylorMade CGB Max, TaylorMade r7 XD, Nike SlingShot OSS, Wilson Ci6, Wilson Di5, Ping G5 and Ben Hogan Apex.

## MacGregor MACTEC NVG2

**DESIGN NOTES:** By using Cup Face technology that negates face welds and enlarges the sweet spot, MACTEC NVG2 irons provide for greater distance and forgiveness, even on mishits. They also feature progressive tungsten weighting, making for higher launch with long irons and greater control with short irons.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.2 |
| Control                 | 8.1 |
| Accuracy                | 8.1 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.2 |
| Sound                   | 8.3 |
| Appearance              | 8.5 |
| Feel                    | 8.2 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.2 |
| Recommend               | 8.3 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.3 |

MACGREGOR  
1-800-841-4358  
[www.macgregorgolf.com](http://www.macgregorgolf.com)

Overall  
Average  
**8.3**

## Callaway Big Bertha Fusion

**DESIGN NOTES:** Superior weight-shifting Fusion technology and a distinct clubhead design make these irons unique and effective. The titanium clubface is 35 percent lighter than a standard steel face and provides for an increased hitting area and more forgiveness. These irons also feature the TPU SenSert technology that reduces vibration at impact.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.4 |
| Control                 | 8.3 |
| Accuracy                | 8.3 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.2 |
| Sound                   | 8.3 |
| Appearance              | 8.4 |
| Feel                    | 8.3 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.2 |
| Recommend               | 8.6 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.5 |

CALLAWAY GOLF  
1-800-588-9836  
[www.callawaygolf.com](http://www.callawaygolf.com)

Overall  
Average  
**8.5**

## Infiniti Assure

**DESIGN NOTES:** An oversized clubface and high-polished wide sole allow the Assure to be the most forgiving irons made by Infiniti. The recessed cavity on the back enables better flight from almost any lie, proving to be quite handy for a high-handicap player.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.1 |
| Control                 | 8   |
| Accuracy                | 7.9 |
| Forgiveness             | 8   |
| Sound                   | 8.1 |
| Appearance              | 7.9 |
| Feel                    | 8   |
| Ball Flight             | 7.9 |
| Recommend               | 7.9 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8   |

INFINITI GOLF  
(630) 916-0600  
[www.infinitigolf.com](http://www.infinitigolf.com)

Overall  
Average  
**8**

## Adams Idea a2 OS

**DESIGN NOTES:** The Idea a2 OS iron features a CG that is 11 percent lower and 2.5 times deeper than a conventional iron. The CG also flows evenly throughout the set and delivers high launch, greater distance and pinpoint gapping. The wide sole design and a 30-percent increase in MOI allow for playability from all lies and added forgiveness.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.4 |
| Control                 | 8.1 |
| Accuracy                | 8.2 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.4 |
| Sound                   | 8.1 |
| Appearance              | 8.1 |
| Feel                    | 8.2 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.4 |
| Recommend               | 8.3 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.3 |

ADAMS  
1-800-709-6412  
[www.adamsgolf.com](http://www.adamsgolf.com)

Overall  
Average  
**8.3**



**Mizuno**  
MX-900

**DESIGN NOTES:** Considered to be Mizuno's most technically advanced game-improvement iron, the MX-900 features the highly touted H.E.M.I. Hybrid COG technology. These irons are especially useful for players with a high handicap.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.4 |
| Control                 | 8.3 |
| Accuracy                | 8.2 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.3 |
| Sound                   | 8.4 |
| Appearance              | 8.5 |
| Feel                    | 8.4 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.3 |
| Recommend               | 8.6 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.5 |

MIZUNO  
1-800-966-1211  
www.mizunousa.com

Overall Average  
**8.5**



**Yonex**  
Cyberstar C280

**DESIGN NOTES:** Equipped with a Centrifugal Force System (CFS) shaft, the Yonex C280 irons provide excellent clubhead speed for longer distance. To add to this technology, these irons offer an oversized SUS630 steel head and face with a carbon graphite cavity molding for great feel and forgiveness.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.2 |
| Control                 | 8.3 |
| Accuracy                | 8.1 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.2 |
| Sound                   | 8.3 |
| Appearance              | 8.3 |
| Feel                    | 8.3 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.1 |
| Recommend               | 8.3 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.4 |

YONEX  
1-800-44-YONEX  
www.yonex.com

Overall Average  
**8.3**



**Nickent**  
3DX Hybrid

**DESIGN NOTES:** Already considered to be the longest 5-iron on the market, the 3DX Hybrid is the bridge between the 4-hybrid and the 5-iron. With an extra 35 grams of weight in steel plugs at the bottom and back, this hybrid iron launches the ball 20 to 25 yards longer than most long irons and shares many characteristics of a fairway wood.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.5 |
| Control                 | 8.3 |
| Accuracy                | 8.3 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.4 |
| Sound                   | 8.3 |
| Appearance              | 8.5 |
| Feel                    | 8.4 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.4 |
| Recommend               | 8.5 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.5 |

NICKENT  
1-888-NICKENT  
www.nickentgolf.com

Overall Average  
**8.5**



**Nike**  
Slingshot OSS

**DESIGN NOTES:** This oversized slingback design, the second wave of the oft-mentioned SlingShot line, features an even wider Dual Glide sole and a lighter Cryo Steel face. The CG position, which is the lowest and deepest of any Nike iron, launches the ball higher and makes it easier to square the clubface.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.3 |
| Control                 | 8.2 |
| Accuracy                | 8.2 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.2 |
| Sound                   | 8.2 |
| Appearance              | 8.3 |
| Feel                    | 8.3 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.2 |
| Recommend               | 8.3 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.3 |

NIKE  
1-888-799-6453  
www.nikegolf.com

Overall Average  
**8.3**



**Wilson**  
Ci6

**DESIGN NOTES:** Especially designed for the mid-level player, Wilson's Ci6 irons provide for increased control and extra distance for golfers with 10 to 16 handicaps. Featuring a more traditional clubhead, the Elastomeric Damping layer adds one-third more vibration damping and lowers overall resonant frequency, similar to a forged blade.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.2 |
| Control                 | 8.2 |
| Accuracy                | 8.1 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.3 |
| Sound                   | 8.1 |
| Appearance              | 8.2 |
| Feel                    | 8.3 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.3 |
| Recommend               | 8.3 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.2 |

WILSON  
(773) 714-6400  
www.wilsongolf.com

Overall Average  
**8.2**



**PING**  
G5

**DESIGN NOTES:** These irons feature a deeper parallel cavity design that widens the sole and expands perimeter weighting, thereby resulting in higher launch and more accurate ball flight. A larger, slimmer Custom Tuning Port (CTP) stabilizes the face and lessens vibration for a solid feel.

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Distance                | 8.2 |
| Control                 | 8.3 |
| Accuracy                | 8.3 |
| Forgiveness             | 8.4 |
| Sound                   | 8.4 |
| Appearance              | 8.4 |
| Feel                    | 8.4 |
| Ball Flight             | 8.3 |
| Recommend               | 8.5 |
| Overall Testers' Rating | 8.4 |

PING  
1-800-4-PING-FIT  
www.pinggolf.com

Overall Average  
**8.4**