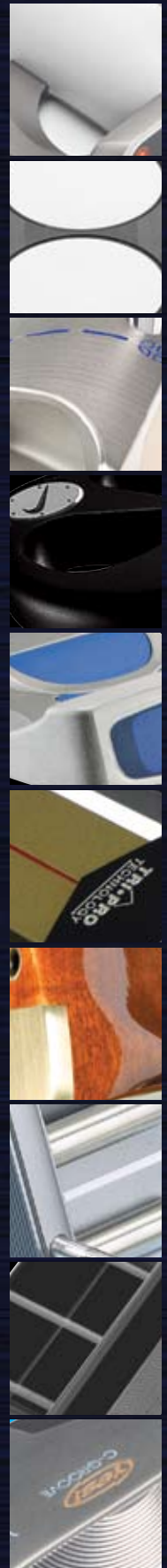


TESTED & PASSED NEWEST MALLETT PUTTERS

By WAYNE WILLIAMS
with TYLER HENNING

With about 30 percent of the strokes in a round of golf coming from around the green, golfers everywhere have joined the craze to try out mallet putters. Some feature better alignment aids, some have a more solid feel than a blade and some just offer a look that might match a golfer's flair for the unusual or unique.




THE TEST

As usual, GolfTest USA put 27 mallet putters to the test, of which we'll report on a sampling of 10 putters. The test was conducted by evaluating six or seven putters at a time, by 60 golfers with handicaps that ranged from scratch to 25. The order in which a putter was used was randomly rotated for each tester. Testers were asked to be fair and unbiased in their evaluations. Along with the feel, distance control and accuracy of a putter, golfers were asked to pay particular attention to the alignment devices that make these mallet putters unique. 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 Control** – Testers rated how much distance control they felt they had.
- Alignment** – Each tester was asked to rate the alignment characteristics of the putter.
- Accuracy** – The accuracy of the putter was rated.
- Forgiveness** – Testers rated their impression of the forgiveness of the club.
- Sound** – Each tester assessed the sound of the putter at impact.
- Appearance** – This rating included only the appearance of the putter.
- Feel** – Players judged how the putter felt during the putting stroke.
- Design** – The design features of the putter were rated.
- Recommendation To Others** – This was based on how strongly the tester would recommend the putter to a friend.
- Overall Testers' Rating** – Testers were asked to take into consideration what is important to them in a putter and give it an overall rating. (This is not an average of other criteria.)

For results on all 27 putters tested, visit golftestusa.com. Included in the 27 putter test were the Mitchell Studio Fit Brass Cup BC330, Aserta Eclipse, Nickent PIPE, Dead Straight SharpShooter, Pinfire Eagle-DB, Talon Series TS2 by FisherGolf, Rife Putters Two Bar, Louisville Stimp, TaylorMade Monza Corza, Odyssey Tri-Ball SRT, Wilson Kirk Currie KC III, Gaim G360, Carbite Tri-Weight, Yes! Olivia, Ping Craz-E G5i, Dead Straight Middleweight, Optix MIR-1, Nike OZ Black T100, Daito Genesis, Kane Classics Bamboo, Yes! Victoria II, TaylorMade Mezza Monza, Aserta Monster, Daito Stealth, Kramski HPP 325, Mentor Sports V-MOI Duet and Founders Club Tour Tuned B-2.



Nickent PIPE

Design Notes:
The solid block of "pipe" used as the alignment aid in the Nickent PIPE is three-dimensional and mimics the shape, size and color of the golf ball. This easily aligns putter to ball and ball to hole.

Distance Control	8.2
Alignment	8.4
Accuracy	8
Forgiveness	8.5
Sound	7.5
Appearance	7.4
Feel	8.2
Design	7.8
Recommend	8.1
Overall Testers' Rating	7.9

NICKENT
1-888-NICKENT
www.nickentgolf.com

Overall Average
8.0



Odyssey
Tri-Ball SRT

Design Notes:
The newest putter to the White Steel line, the Odyssey Tri-Ball SRT uses Saturn Ring Technology and the Tri-Ball alignment system to sink more putts.

Distance Control	8
Alignment	7.7
Accuracy	8
Forgiveness	8.1
Sound	8.1
Appearance	7.6
Feel	7.8
Design	7.2
Recommend	7.5
Overall Testers' Rating	7.8

ODYSSEY
1-800-588-9836
www.odysseygolf.com

Overall Average
7.8



Daito
Genesis

Design Notes:
With an alignment system that gives golfers a visual confirmation of the ball's path to the hole, the Daito Genesis' concentrated center weighting allows for solid feel.

Distance Control	8.2
Alignment	7.9
Accuracy	7.9
Forgiveness	8.1
Sound	8
Appearance	7.9
Feel	8.1
Design	7.8
Recommend	7.8
Overall Testers' Rating	7.9

DAITO GOLF
1-866-773-GOLF
www.daitogolf.com

Overall Average
8.0



Wilson Staff
Kirk Currie III

Design Notes:
Wilson Staff's Kirk Currie models all use BalanceFit, a system in which weight portals in the shaft's end cap and sole of the putter-head allow players to transfer the club's balance point to match green conditions.

Distance Control	8.4
Alignment	8.1
Accuracy	8.2
Forgiveness	8.2
Sound	8.3
Appearance	8.3
Feel	8.1
Design	8.4
Recommend	8.5
Overall Testers' Rating	8.3

WILSON STAFF
(773) 714-6400
www.wilsonstaff.com

Overall Average
8.3



Nike
OZ Black T100

Design Notes:
The 100-gram tungsten plug at the back of the putter helps alignment while reducing skid. All OZ Black putters are face-balanced to promote a square putterface at impact.

Distance Control	8.6
Alignment	8.7
Accuracy	8.7
Forgiveness	8.4
Sound	8.3
Appearance	8.6
Feel	8.7
Design	8.7
Recommend	8.7
Overall Testers' Rating	8.4

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

Overall Average
8.5



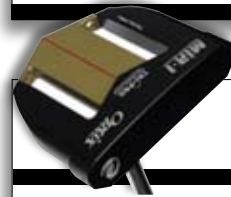
Louisville
STIMP

Design Notes:
Adjustable weight ports in the face offer three variations to match the green speed you are playing. The STIMP's previous models were based on the Stimp measurement of green speeds. Now golfers can enjoy three putters in one.

Distance Control	8
Alignment	6.8
Accuracy	7.8
Forgiveness	7.2
Sound	8.1
Appearance	8.6
Feel	8.1
Design	8.5
Recommend	7.4
Overall Testers' Rating	7.6

LOUISVILLE GOLF
1-800-456-1631
www.louisvillegolf.com

Overall Average
7.8



Optix
MIR-1

Design Notes:
Billed as the "most interactive, ergonomically correct putter," the Optix MIR-1 is part putter, part training aid. A mirror insert allows golfers to see their eyes lined up over the putter, a key fundamental to good putting.

Distance Control	8.2
Alignment	8.4
Accuracy	8.2
Forgiveness	7.9
Sound	7.8
Appearance	8.1
Feel	7.9
Design	7.9
Recommend	8
Overall Testers' Rating	8.1

OPTIX
(330) 644-8054
www.optixgolf.com

Overall Average
8.1

THE QUESTION: DO YOU FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT FOR A PUTTER TO HAVE SOME TYPE OF ADJUSTABLE WEIGHT SYSTEM?
75% OF TESTERS DID NOT FEEL THAT ADJUSTABLE WEIGHTS WERE IMPORTANT TO THEM WHEN SELECTING A NEW PUTTER.



Rife Putters
Two Bar

Design Notes:

Rife Putters' Two Bar mallet putter may have it all. Included with the putter is a speed weight kit, instructional DVD and the RollGroove Technology that keeps appearing more and more on professional tours.

Distance Control **8.2**

Alignment **8.6**

Accuracy **8.4**

Forgiveness **8.4**

Sound **8**

Appearance **7.9**

Feel **8.2**

Design **8.2**

Recommend **8.2**

Overall Testers' Rating **8.1**

RIFF PUTTERS
1-800-496-9373
www.rifeputters.com

Overall
Average
8.2



Ping
Craz-E G5i

Design Notes:

The new G5i version of the popular Craz-E putter uses a dual durometer insert that combines a soft perimeter with a firmer impact surface to provide feel and feedback for optimal distance control.

Distance Control **8.4**

Alignment **8.1**

Accuracy **8.2**

Forgiveness **8.2**

Sound **8.6**

Appearance **7.9**

Feel **8.8**

Design **8.4**

Recommend **8.6**

Overall Testers' Rating **8.5**

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

Overall
Average
8.4



Yes!
Victoria II

Design Notes:

Yes! Golf's C-Groove technology is catching on in the golf industry. The Victoria II is blessed with a C-Groove, which achieves forward rolling motion immediately after striking the ball. Skidding, sliding, back spinning and hopping are eliminated.

Distance Control **8.3**

Alignment **8.3**

Accuracy **8**

Forgiveness **8.3**

Sound **7.8**

Appearance **8.6**

Feel **8.4**

Design **9**

Recommend **8.7**

Overall Testers' Rating **8.5**

YES! GOLF
1-800-845-4327
www.yesgolf.com

Overall
Average
8.4