

PUTTERS TO COMPLEMENT YOUR SUNDAY DRIVE

By SCOTT KRAMER

Think of fine engineering, sleek lines and luxurious finishes, and you're probably conjuring up thoughts of some of the Motor City's finest new automobiles. But these are the same adjectives that grace many recently introduced putters. As with the latest cars, this year's putter crop is built with top-quality steel and titanium, space-age composites, and all with incredibly tight tolerances.

One of the trends you'll notice in this year's putter market is a general tendency away

from the loud, high-MOI mallets of the past five years and towards more classic-shaped models. Lines are softer and clearly defined, while looks are sexier and simpler.

And as comes naturally with custom fitting—which virtually all manufacturers and pros now recommend—putters can be customized more than ever to the exact specs, detailing, colors, logos, length, shaft and grip that you want. Absolutely nothing is out of reach these days.



TITLEIST

Scotty Cameron by Titleist's **California Hollywood** (\$325-\$350/depending on weighting) epitomizes elegance. Its stainless steel body is milled, and its lines are refined with soft contours. The neck sports a 3/4 shaft offset and helps alignment. It's also honey-dipped, for a timeless look. titleist.com/golf-clubs/putters

NIKE

Several Tour pros have already put in play some of the five models of Nike Golf's new **Method CORE** putter (\$130). That should be no surprise: Each version has a milled face that bears a red-and-white face pattern and produces a satisfying feel at impact. nike.com

BETTINARDI

Bettinardi's always been known for its exceptional quality putters. Take this one, for example, its new face-balanced **BB27** (\$275) that sports a heel-toe design with a custom double-bend shaft, perfectly flat Honeycomb face and a silky smooth metallic fog finish. bettinardi.com/product/bb_series

NEVER COMPROMISE

Never Compromise's four new **Gambler Series** putters prove that the brand has aged gracefully. Case in point: The **Boat** (\$299.99) is a simple, toe-down blade with smooth shaping. At the end of the plumber-neck hosel, the head is forged from soft stainless steel. nevercompromise.com

PING

PING does putters right. Such is the case with the six new **Karsten 1959 Series** models. One of those is the **Anser 2** (\$110), a stainless steel model with a solid face and elastomer cavity insert that allows you to achieve consistent distance control, feel and sound. ping.com/clubs/putters

ODYSSEY

The **Odyssey White Ice D.A.R.T. mallet** (\$179) sports a dart-like pattern on top of the putterhead, for alignment purposes. It sets up nicely behind the ball, thanks to the full-shaft offset, double-bend shaft, dark nickel finish, and multi-layer White Ice face insert. odysseygolf.com