

PRO SHOP

Equipment and Instruction

The Magic Touch

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Feel has always been putting's holy grail. To improve it, manufacturers have been working on impact sound—and thus feel—through clever use of materials and weighting. Putters now offer a range of “feel profiles” from buttery-soft blades to firm and clicky mid-mallets to Anser-style heads that ring like well-tuned bells.



**1. Scotty Cameron by Titleist
Studio Select Squareback 1**
\$325; scottycameron.com
MOI: 3,753

**2. Rife Two Bar
Hybrid Tour Blade**
\$200; rifeputters.com
MOI: 4,192

MID-SIZE MALLETS

Scotty Cameron Studio Select Squareback 1 The latest from Titleist should appeal to mallet and blade users alike. The Squareback's mid-mallet design is compact from heel to toe and features a double-bend shaft with a slight offset. The view at address is cleanly framed, and impact produces the firm click many better players seek. Cameron has also improved its custom options, as factory-installed sole plugs allow players to select from five length and weight options.

Rife Two Bar Hybrid Tour Blade This putter's face sports milled Roll Grooves designed to get the ball on track instantly without skidding. We noticed this early roll, coupled with a solid feel, on putts of various lengths and on balls struck all over the face. The black matte finish reduces glare and looks great behind the ball, and the club's weight tubes and alignment stripe are helpful visual aids. The head weight can be altered by fifteen grams to compensate for fast or slow greens. ►

*ALL PRICES ARE MSRP. STREET PRICES MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER. MOI STATS PROVIDED BY HOTSTIX GOLF (HOTSTIXGOLF.COM)

BLADE-STYLE PUTTERS

Miura Golf Series 1957 KM-350

This blade may boast the tiniest putter head you'll ever see. Katsuhiko Miura, who has hand-forged some of the world's finest irons for Tour pros, applied the same forging process to his inaugural putter line, yielding a soft-but-solid impact. Weighing 350 grams, it has a pleasing heft. Emphasizing feel over forgiveness, this is a great choice for skilled players.

DGD Golf C-4 The C-4 is both elegant and heavy—its 395-gram head might take you aback at first. But when you putt with it, you'll see (or, rather, hear) the beauty of the design. A Sweet Slot milled through the head fine-tunes

feel by acting as a sound chamber. The satisfying metallic ring is reminiscent of the original Ping putters. In our testing, the C-4 produced a very true roll, thanks to twenty-eight computer-generated score lines on the face.

Sizemore Artisan Collection KB-1

The KB-1, gold-plated with a copper insert, is more than a pretty face. Designer Bruce Sizemore claims his putters have the flattest faces on the market—the KB-1 is cross-milled in twenty-seven different directions to enhance its reliability on any hit. Curiously, the putter was almost completely silent when struck dead center, but the roll still felt fantastic. ➤

1. Miura Golf Series 1957 Blade KM-350

\$390; miuragolf.com
MOI: 2,774

2. DGD Golf C-4

\$325; dgdgolf.com
MOI: 5,238

3. Sizemore Artisan Collection KB-1

\$499; sizemoregolf.com
MOI: 4,483





1. SeeMore SB1 Black Mallet

\$225; seemore.com

MOI: 3,656

2. Ping iWi Series Craze-E

\$220; pinggolf.com

MOI: 5,732

3. Odyssey White Hot XG 2-Ball F7

\$169; odysseygolf.com

MOI: 4,774

LARGE MALLETS

SeeMore SB1 Black Mallet The SB1 uses SeeMore's RifleScope alignment system, in which players center the lower part of the shaft between two white lines and then cover the red dot on the putter's head. This center-shafted mallet offers good distance control and a soft feel, but if you're used to a hands-forward position with your current putter, you'll need to adjust.

Ping iWi Series Craze-E This adjustable version of the popular Craze-E comes with a pair of twelve-gram sole weights, and you can buy a kit that allows you to install heavier ones. It's face-balanced and, because of its

shape, is best for golfers who make a straight back-and-through stroke. The sound and feel are solid, and for a putter with no face grooves, it provides a true roll.

Odyssey White Hot XG 2-Ball F7 The latest 2-Ball has weighted "wings" that raise the moment of inertia by 40 percent over the original model's MOI. They also seem to effortlessly find the ideal pendulum pathway as you make your stroke. The White Hot XG face insert, a hold-over from 2007, is designed to harmonize with modern multilayer balls. It produces a pleasantly hollow click at impact and a pillowy soft feel. ➤