

DIAMONDS

IN THE ROUGH AND FAIRWAY

Women's clubs increasingly match the high-tech advancements of their men's counterparts.

By Scott Kramer

Like their men's counterparts, **Callaway women's X Hot fairway woods** (\$230) sport special clubface technology that revs up ball speed from anywhere across the clubface, a versatile sole shape, and a precisely positioned CG that boosts distance. That said, the woods have lighter shafts and weigh less than the men's versions.

A set of **Cobra Women's AMP Cell irons** (\$1,125/set) includes the 5-iron through sand wedge. It showcases the identical hot clubface, sole shape, and perimeter weighting as the men's models, but with offset clubheads that help get the ball up, and softer color options.

Cleveland's 460cc for women comes with a 14.5-degree High Launch angle. It will get tee shots a significantly lighter touch and s





When it comes to women's golf clubs, equipment manufacturers have collectively upped their game. Several major brands now unveil two new sets of women's clubs annually. Typically one is your basic women's-only, all-inclusive set that includes either 14 clubs or a reduced number of sticks — and in some cases, a bag and matching head covers.

They're well-made and convenient for those wanting a one-stop shopping experience.

The other women's offering, however, is a premium line bearing the same selection and key technologies as top-of-the-line clubs for men, but adjusted to female-friendly specs. Cosmetics are, of course, more fashionable, feminine, and sophisticated. While the clubhead sizes are generally identical to the guys' versions, they weigh a tad less so they're easier to swing. The lofts are slightly higher, as well, to help ease the ball into the air.

As for handles, a women's standard grip has a diameter approximately 1/32-inch smaller than a men's. A woman's hands tend to be smaller, so the size decrease makes the grip easier to hold. It weighs virtually the same as a men's. The shafts are lighter, have more flex, and are slightly shorter. For example, on the driver, the women's shaft is usually about an inch shorter than on the comparable men's version. Overall swing weight is a few points lighter for women, too. That makes them ultimately easier to boost both clubhead speed and distance.

Classic XL driver (\$250)
in two lofts, including
Trajectory model that
airborne in a hurry. It's
than the men's version,
shorter.

Known for its easy-to-hit hybrids, Adams is touting the **Idea Super S women's hybrid** (\$200). The club helps launch the ball high without more spin — helping shots soar — while its cut-through sole slot also boosts distance.

TaylorMade's Rocketballz Stage2 Ladies Rescue (\$200) comes in three lofts. Its shallow clubface and low-profile clubhead ease getting the ball airborne. Meanwhile, the lightweight shaft and soft grip make it a snap to generate extra clubhead speed.

