



GOLF NOTEBOOK

James Stammer

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Have the right tools to work on the short game

This week, we again return to the PGA Merchandise Show a short time ago in Orlando.

Most golf instructors will say that the very best way to improve your score is to work on your short game. Improve your wedge play and putting, and your scores will drop considerably.

Before you can work on that short game, you must have the right tools. A putter that fits your eye and stroke is important, as are wedges that work for your style of play.

David Pelz has joined forces with Jesse Ortiz to make the first line of wedges from the Bobby Jones Golf Co., www.BobbyJonesGolf.com.

The wedge system is one of the most exciting performance-enhancing sets in modern history.

Ortiz uses a facing material design to create a wedge that keeps its spin characteristics for years rather than months. The body is cast from soft 302 stainless steel, then a pocket and deep set channels are milled to accommodate the clubs' wear-resistant Cronidor 30-face material.

This German alloy is remarkably wear resistant and will maintain both face friction and groove integrity far longer than conventional wedges.

Tour Edge has added a very sweet wedge to its Exotics (www.exoticsgolf.com) lineup for 2008. The Xtreme Spin wedge features a 1025 milled forged face that is only 1.5 mm thick. The super-thin face, combined with the TPE Gel-filled hollow design, delivers exceptional feel and feedback.

The grooves on the Xtreme Spin wedges are milled to create the best surface for striking the perfect wedge shot. To allow the golfer to customize the wedges, Tour Edge has added a removable weight screw that allows you to adjust the swing weight to obtain the perfect feel, weight and performance.

Srixon Golf's (www.srixon.com) new satin-finished W-706 wedge features a press-milled clubface. The club is forged from soft 1025 carbon steel with USGA conforming U-

grooves for ultimate spin and control. The sole's trailing edge is trimmed back to reduce heel bounce making it very easy to set the club in an open position.

Putters can be very personal. Golfers likely spend too little time getting the right putter.

Making a putter can be a work of art and technology. No one is better at creating a beautiful, technologically advanced putter than Bruce Sizemore (www.sizemoregolf.com). He uses what he calls a total club approach, taking every aspect of putting into consideration.

Bruce uses premium materials, incorporating a customizable insert system, weighting system and tolerances less than 1/1000 of an inch in his designs. His IND-X face finish is the world's flattest and most accurate. The cross milling process goes 27 different directions ensuring true roll with mild and controlled feel no matter where you strike the ball on the face.

Guerrin Rife's (www.rifeputters.com) latest offering combines the best features of his two most popular putters, creating the 2-Bar Hybrid.

This beautiful mallet is perfectly balanced and comes with the LieAline fitting system allowing the golfer to easily customize the loft and lie to his or her liking. The putter also features adjustable speed weighting along the golfer to adjust the weight and feel of the putter. The Hybrid also incorporates the company's patented Roll Groove technology providing one of the truest rolling putters in the game.

Paul Hurrion, golf guru and putting coach to British Open Champion Pdraig Harrington introduced an exclusive line of putters for GEL (www.gelgolf.com).

The line reflects Paul's many years of experience working in the game. His first foray into club design came when he co-designed the Torpedo putter shaft, which Harrington used to win the Irish Open last year.

GEL's putter lineup uses a unique groove technology, which incorporates horizontal aluminum grooves in the face of each putter. The grooves provide the desired topspin roll on every putt, insuring accuracy and maximizing the potential of every putt going in the hole.

Yes! Golf (www.yesgolf.com) debuted the Donna, which is a hybrid between a mallet and a cavityback blade. The high MOI design is face balanced and features a heavier 304 stainless steel body with a lightweight aluminum face. Like every Yes! putter, the Donna features the company's signature C-groove section for a true roll.

James Stammer has been an avid golfer and golf enthusiast for 30 years. He hosts the Tuesday Night Golf Show on WPSL 1590-AM radio station. Contact him at jstammer@yahoo.com.