

# GOLF EQUIPMENT CHALLENGE

## The PROS



These guys know golf. Let's see what they think about this issue's crop of golf goodies!

## The STUFF Wedges

Part One of wedges, more to come!

### ALPHA GOLF FORGED WEDGES

Alpha Reaction Pro Tour wedges, available in 52°, 56° and 60° lofts are made from soft 3230 stainless steel, giving them forged feel and consistency with the milled grooves. It's a classic teardrop look with a high toe and shallow heel.



Our test club shipped with their high-end Platinum graphite shaft in 56° fitted with a custom for Alpha grip by Winn. It's a very solid club, even with the graphite shaft, and provides nice spin with very little effort. Along with the pitching wedge supplied with their set, the pair performed well. \$95. [www.alphagolfclubs.com](http://www.alphagolfclubs.com)

### KZG FORGED WEDGES

KZG's 9500R forged wedges are designed with a slightly larger body and wider sole that gives them better stability. KZG uses a proprietary steel with milled grooves for "9500 revolutions per second spin".



*Pro's Pick!*

Our test clubs shipped with Rifle Precision FCM 6 stepless steel shafts in 52° and 56° lofts and a custom Lambkin grip that's really sticky. These wedges instantly imparted the "forged" feel, meaning shots that don't make the mark go astray. They offer a soft feel and tremendous spin. \$95. [www.kzg.com](http://www.kzg.com)

### LOVETT WEDGES

Dr. Bill Lovett, a practicing Florida dentist, got tired of conventional wedges and set out to build the better mouse-trap, so to speak. The Lovett wedge features a huge head with a leading edge far out in from of the hosel to get the ball up quickly.



Our test clubs shipped with True Temper steel shafts in 59° and 50° lofts and Golf Pride customized grips. The Lovett wedges do everything they say they'll do. Get the ball airborne from the rough or the sand easily, with the ability to impart incredible spin. Need help from the bunkers? This is it. \$100. [www.lovettgolf.com](http://www.lovettgolf.com)



#### Paul Leahy

Director of Golf  
Tan-Tar-A Resort  
State Rd KK  
Osage Beach  
Woods: Wilson  
Irons: Wilson  
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Pro since 1991



#### Mike Cummings

Head Golf Professional  
Eldon Country Club  
35 Golf Course Rd  
Eldon  
(573) 392-4172  
Woods: Titleist  
Irons: Mizuno MP33  
Lessons available  
Pro since 2000



#### Larry Salsman

Director of Golf  
Sycamore Creek  
1270 Nichols Rd  
Osage Beach  
Woods: Titleist  
Irons: Titleist  
(573) 348-9593  
Lessons available  
Pro since 2000



#### John Crane

Head Professional  
Club at Porto Cima  
POB 1690  
Lake Ozark  
Woods: Titleist  
Irons: Titleist  
(573) 964-3100  
Lessons available  
Pro since 1998



#### Nate Boeh

Asst. Professional  
Osage National  
400 Osage Hills Rd.  
Lake Ozark, MO  
Woods: Titleist  
Irons: Mizuno MP-32  
(573) 365-1950  
Lessons available  
Pro since 2005

"It looks good, it looked good when it sat down there. It's very much a feel club, it felt pretty good. It's all right."

★★★★

"Extremely pleased, the way it sets up and looks. Solid off the face, I'm really impressed. The weighting of the club is great. Tempted to put them in my bag, they come off really solid."

★★★★★

"I like the wedge— it is soft. I like the face. A good feel to it. The leading edge gets through the grass quicker."

★★★★-1/2

"Good feeling wedge— sets up nicely behind the ball, easy to lay it open. But when you want to turn it down, it feels like the toe is a little long. It makes it feel like the toe wants to dig. But a good feeling wedge."

★★★

"Trajectory is great, good workability. It's a very forgiving feel. I'm not a graphite shaft fan, maybe with a steel shaft I'd rate this one higher."

★★★★

"When I hit it it's solid off the club. Every bit as good as Mizuno. The club has a nice clean look. A nice thin top line. That's important when it's the club you're using for accuracy."

★★★★★

"Very good to look at. Being a forged blade guy, I really like the look down on them. The ball came off the face consistently. The entire product line gets a five out of five."

★★★★★

"Nice wedge. Solid feel, forged steel is always nice. Some good spin, but not the most. Good trajectory. I would rank it for the mid to lower handicapper. Probably one of the most solid wedges I've hit- for not being a name brand."

★★★★★

"Good looking, good feeling set of clubs. Those are good sticks. Definitely pro level. For a low handicapper, definitely. Really easy to work the golf ball with them. A good club."

★★★★★

"I like the wedge— it looks good, feels good. Nice thin top line, good spin. A great club."

★★★★★

"The performance is good— the look may turn some folks off unless they hit it. Felt good coming off the face. With the curvature of the sole it was great out of the bunker. I think he's got something there. For the average player."

★★★★

"Phenomenal for hitting bunker shots. it digs into the bunker and get the ball up out of the sand. With these, they should be able to get to the green and have the spin effect that they want."

★★★★-1/2

"I like the feel of it. I think it will do everything it's said to do. It cuts through everything better— hits the ball before the hosel hits the grass, so there's less chance of the club face opening. I would recommend it to a high handicapper."

★★★★-1/2

"I don't know that it's something I would ever play with. But it's definitely shank-proof and fat-proof, so if you've got a problem hitting, this would do it. You'll never have a problem getting it out of the sand. High handicappers."

★★★★

For the higher handicap golfer out of the sand- the leading edge really gets through there. It'll save some shots around the green. It's heavier- it'll automatically swing through it for you. The heavier weight is great for higher handicap."

★★★★★

# A better way to get the distance - and a new rule

**Press Release**

Madison, WI— Laser Link Golf would like to extend congratulations to both the USGA and the R&A for their latest alteration to the Rules of Golf. After much consideration, The R&A, in conjunction with the United States Golf Association, has reached a decision regarding the use of electronic measuring devices (EMD's) during a stipulated round of golf.

The rule change was recently announced in a joint announcement on September 27, 2005. Broken down into its simplest terms, electronic measuring devices will be allowed during all play. The USGA and the R&A have recognized the potential benefits of distance measurement systems, and have made a choice that will be of great benefit to the game. Players of all skill levels will now have the ability to obtain accurate yardages in a timely manner, allowing for increased pace of play and better golf shots.

"We couldn't be more excited about the announcement," said Rob O'Loughlin, President, Laser Link Golf. "It has been a long time coming, and it is the right thing to do for the game of golf. This type of technology can only

speed up play and improve scores for the average player. My personal congratulations to both



The Laser Link QuickShot™

the USGA and the R&A for making a change that will have a positive effect on millions of golfers around the world."

The basics of the revision to Rule 14-3b are simple. New Decision 14-3/0.5 allows a committee to permit the use of distance measuring devices by Local Rule. This applies to devices that

measure distance only, not any other conditions that might affect a player's game such as wind or gradient.

"I'm extremely pleased with the way the USGA and the R&A are handling the change. They've

done the right thing for the game of golf," stated O'Loughlin. "This will help to eliminate any confusion, and allow players to use our product to help speed up play and improve their rounds."

**About Laser Link Golf**

Laser Link Golf is the producer of the Laser Link Distance System, the revolutionary distance measurement system designed specifically for golf.

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# Wedges - a crucial accuracy element in your game

by Darrel Willman

Next to the putter, solid skill with your wedge will lower your score quicker than anything. Being able to drop the ball close to the hole means fewer putts and more birdies.

## The Lovett Wedge

Dr. Bill Lovett, a practicing Florida dentist, got tired of conventional wedges and so, modeled one himself out of dental



compound. The rest is history, as they say. The Lovett wedge features a huge head with a leading edge far out in front of the hosel to get the ball up and out quickly. It has a almost hemispherical sole, which glides easily through sand or rough. Lovett advocates playing the club from the center of your stance, more like a 5-iron than a wedge. We found the club to work as promised, popping the ball quickly out of traps. It is a very heavy club. This fact, along with the leading edge, convinced us anyone could hit this club and get out of trouble easily— with some practice. Our pros were able to put phenomenal spin on the ball with it, and agreed it was

a “no-brainer” for the weekender looking for some help out of tough lies. Scratch golfers, tournament players and others limited to 14 clubs may not replace their wedge with it, but the rest of us can add it- and another dimension to our games. \$100. [www.lovettgolf.com](http://www.lovettgolf.com).

## Alpha Golf

Alpha Golf included their Reaction Pro Tour wedges with the set of irons sent out for testing. Made from proprietary 3430 high grade stainless steel, they give the classic thin top line teardrop look on setup you're used to. They have a nice, shallow heel and radiused sole for performance when opening the face. They glide through the grass and sand. The milled grooves give good spin— not the most ever, but solid. They earned Editor's Choice for the combination of a quicker leading edge and a slightly more slippery tran-



sition from hosel to heel, getting to the ball quicker. At \$95, they're a solid value in the forged wedge market, and worth a look at [www.alphagolfclubs.com](http://www.alphagolfclubs.com).

## KZG Golf

A golf company from Hollywood, California has quietly begun making believers out of players on the professional golf tours. Once a component custom club manufacturing firm, KZG Golf now custom manufactures technologically-advanced, clubs through its distribution chain of more than 2,000 custom-fitting centers in pro shops and retails outlets worldwide. They sent us a couple sets for testing this year, and included



their forged wedges.

The pros loved these wedges, their soft S20C steel and rigid shafts made them ideal for pinpoint accuracy and good stopping power. They were backing the shots up easily. They also have a great leading edge, a contoured sole and tapered heel. KZG “double forges” their blades then chromes them for an incredible look down with a thin edge. \$95.



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I like the course I've selected because...

Must be 18 to enter. Winners selected at random March 31, 2006. Mail entries to: Lake of the Ozarks Business Journal, Editorial Offices, Golf Challenge, 306 East Second St., Eldon MO 65026

**GOLF EQUIPMENT CHALLENGE**

**GOLF GEAR EXTRA CREDIT**

**Fairway and Greene**

If you've been into a pro shop recently, chances are you've seen Rick Martin's wares. You don't know Rick Martin? He's the head of Fairway & Greene, one of golf's hottest apparel brands. His distinctive shirts are a favorite at better



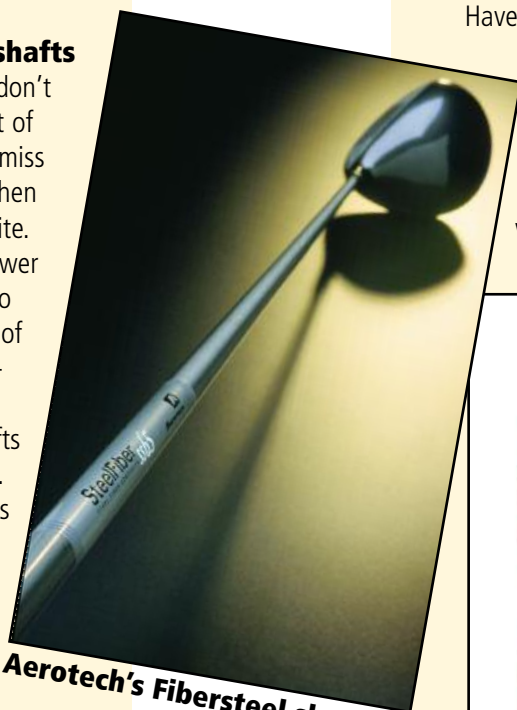
**Fairway and Greene**

pro shops because of the good looks and unbelievable quality. He started the brand in 1995 as a direct to the consumer company, but word-of-mouth quickly landed him placement in pro shops nationwide. They now provide their shirts to sportscasters from networks, outfit the Ryder Cup team and sell to over 3700 courses all over the world.

Fairway and Greene uses only alpaca and cashmere in its sweaters and Pima cotton for the shirts. These "luxury" fibers were chosen because they feel better and keep their looks better during play. This uncompromising quality delivers unequalled comfort. [www.fairwayandgreene.com](http://www.fairwayandgreene.com)

**Aerotech SteelFiber shafts**

Let's see. You don't like the weight of steel, but you miss the feedback when you use graphite. There's an answer for players who want the best of both technologies—the SteelFiber shafts from Aerotech. This new line is the first shaft design that incorporates the best of both graphite and steel. They use a high-modulus graphite inner core surrounded by a complex stainless steel fiber surface



**Aerotech's Fibersteel shaft**

layer. The diameter of the more than 50 miles of stainless fiber is less than 1/10th that of human hair. The graphite core dampens vibrations, increases club head speed and maximizes distance with the spun high density steel around it adding stability and control—with the feel players look for in steel. And, they're affordable. Re-shaft your driver for less than \$40, or your irons for less than \$30 each.

**Dockers Tour**

When you think of Khakis, do you automatically think of tan slacks? Most do, but these are taking khakis - around since 1848- to a new level with the Dockers Tour collection. Both long and short sleeve shirts and classically tailored slacks in wrinkle resistant cotton and treated with Dockers Tour's famous Spot Lifter® finish. Gone is the requisite bland tan and in are colors like Rust, Navy, Terra, Stone, Black and more. The collection also features sweater vests, mock neck shirts, knit polos and jackets for all-weather wear. Dockers Tour is the affordable way to look good on the course any time of the year. Most are priced under \$50.

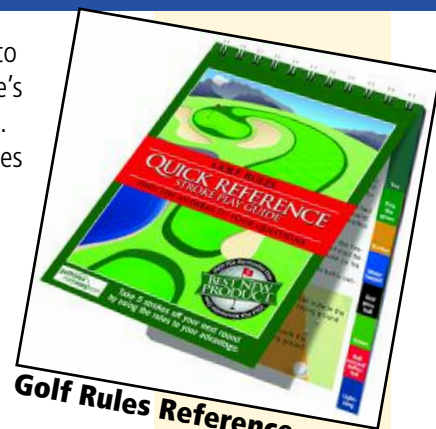


**Dockers Tour**

**Golf Rules and Etiquette Crystal Clear**

Have you ever been on the course, hit a bad shot, and wondered what the rules would allow? A lot of us think we know the rules, but may only know the basics. Of course there are times when the rules don't have much to do with a friendly game on the weekend. But for those times when you need

quick access to the rules, here's just the ticket. The "Golf Rules Quick Reference Stroke Play Guide" while quite a mouthful is one very useful little bag or pocket-sized answer to course rules, questions and situations. Situations and relief procedures are quickly explained with simple language and illustrations, giving you a quick read that is tabbed by subject. Better players say this little book can save you five or six strokes in competition by advising you when you can take relief without it costing you a stroke. Laminated for durability, this handy reference is affordable at \$8.95.



**Golf Rules Reference**

**The Zen Oracle Tour Works Putter**

Think you've seen everything? Nope—check this one out. This milled aluminum putter/training aid has a golf ball-sized cavity in the center of the mallet that allows you to swing through on your line, and as the head is lifted, the ball is released along the line you've swung. This, its creator Bob Hannington says gives instant feedback. The club also incorporates three separate weight ports—two in the rear and one on the underside, to create multiple weight configurations depending on the conditions. The weights can be setup unequally - creating the "toe hang" preferred by some professionals. Additionally, the shaft is bent into a unique configuration, which takes it out of the alignment picture. The putter comes standard with the Zen Oracle putting training system with a card set, manual and instructional video featuring instructor Rick Smith. Just \$299.



**The Zen Oracle Tour Works Putter**