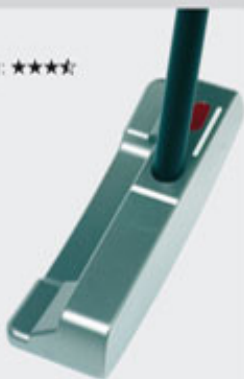


The others in this test...

SeeMore M1 £199

01432 880510, www.seemore.com TG rating: ★★★★★

Zach Johnson and Payne Stewart have won Majors using SeeMore putters, so there's no doubting their quality. But this divided our test team, prompting us to dub it the Marmite putter: some people will love it, while others will hate it. The alignment system uses a red dot on the heel, which you cover with the shaft: do this and you are correctly aligned. But we spent so much time setting the putter up, we forgot about pace and line. If the theory works for you, this is a nicely made putter.



MacGregor Response Face Off £129.99

01491 843970, www.macgregorgolfeurope.com TG rating: ★★★★★

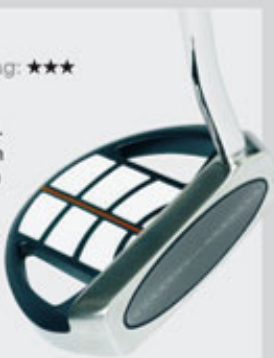
A massive-headed remake of the putter Jack Nicklaus favoured. Extra rear weight increases MOI (resistance to twisting on off-centre hits) and interchangeable faces allow the club to be tailored to personal preference or the speed of greens. The thing we like best, though, is its 'distance corrective technology', which helps to ensure long putts reach the hole even if they are hit off-centre. Very impressive, but the big head may not find fans across the board.



Benross VMC SV2 £69.99

01932 821200, www.benross.co.uk TG rating: ★★★

Variable weights allow you to tailor this to personal preference or different green speeds. The alignment system is something we've seen a lot before, and it is reliable. But at nearly £70 the VMC is up against stiff competition from ingenious, great-looking putters that cost less. Performance-wise this is solid without being exceptional (apart from the superb Winn grip). Maybe this is more of a purchase for Benross fans, rather than a must-have piece of kit for those seeking superb value for money.



MD Golf Rio £79.99

02894 460333, www.mdgolf.co.uk TG rating: ★★★

The Rio comes with two different faces tucked into its headcover, which allows feel to be tailored to your liking or the speed of greens. But in our opinion the Rio doesn't quite deliver when it comes to performance. The narrow face and unusual body shape didn't inspire confidence when taking the putter away, and just felt unstable. Anything other than a solidly grooved stroke, and the putter wavered around in a motion resembling the stirring of tea.



Heavy Putter A3-M £149

01582 570094, www.heavyputter.co.uk TG rating: ★★★★★

The extremely heavy, chunky A3-M means hitting putts gives the sensation of knocking in a nail with a sledge hammer. But it's a design that makes sense, particularly if your putting is in the doldrums. The heavier weight means the body's larger muscles are used to control and swing the putter, which helps to eliminate wristy pokes at the hole. We loved ramming putts into the centre of the hole from eight to 10ft, but lagging putts from longer range proved tricky to control.



MD Golf Players Stardust £49.99

02894 460333, www.mdgolf.co.uk TG rating: ★★★★★

If toe-and-heel weighted putters are your thing, you must take a close look at the Stardust. This baby is an absolute steal. Seen from more than 10 yards, most golfers would think it's a classic Scotty Cameron. It's also a strong all-rounder that feels soft and silky, and rolls putts smoothly off the face. The classy satin finish means it won't glare just as you are addressing a match-winning putt. We reckon you will not find a better looking putter for less money.



Cobra Optica SL-06 £133

01480 301114, www.cobragolf.co.uk TG rating: ★★★

Our pro tester picked this up and laughed at its frying pan-sized head. Then he holed six consecutive putts from 18ft. The Optica can't be described as a thing of beauty, but it can help golfers to hole putts. The wide, stable head has glow-in-the-dark alignment dots that point the way clearly to the hole, providing you don't let the head fall shut like it wants too. We don't like the centre shaft, but that's a personal preference, and doesn't cloud our conclusion that there are better putters available for less.



Odyssey Black Series £189

020 8391 0666, www.odysseygolf.com TG rating: ★★★★★

We've never had a tougher decision than deciding whether or not the Odyssey Black should have finished on the TG podium. It is a great looking club, and as close as golf clubs will ever come to being art. We danced around the green like awe-struck kids, hitting this beautiful putter. But once we'd done the deed, we realised it was no better than many other top putters. It lacked a bit of feel when compared to the opposition. But you can't argue against how good this looks.



Tad Moore Hotblade 'The Rudder' £79.99

08700 131010, www.direct-golf.co.uk TG rating: ★★★

The Rudder is the epitome of a simple, unfussy, easy alignment putter. The milled, T-shaped head and centre shaft mean everything is right behind the ball, making alignment as simple as setting up a T-square on a drawing board at school. If you see putting as a game of straight lines – as those who have a straight back-and-through stroke often do – the Rudder could be a good option. Failing this, it is a pretty ordinary design.



Never Compromise GM2 Exchange 3 £159

01252 761300, www.nevercompromise.com TG rating: ★★★★★

An unconventional design whose wings divided our test team. They locate weight in the rear of the head, helping to keep it stable. This, in turn, helps you to rock your shoulders and sweep putts away confidently. All the lines of the head have been designed to point towards the hole, so setting up to hit putts on a particular line is a doddle. Although our test pro appreciated the club's benefits, he wasn't keen on the design. But we'd say this is still well worth a try.

