

READER GEAR REVIEWS

Three readers test out new gear and give their feedback. This month's equipment is the PING i15 driver, Cleveland Launcher DST fairway wood and MD Golf's Blackhawk set



PING

i15 DRIVER

PRICE: £289

W: pingeurope.com

FEATURED IN GM: New Arrivals – Oct '09



Compared to previous Ping drivers this has improved forgiveness levels and while the head seems bigger it sits well at address.



Name: Gerrard O'Farrell
Handicap: 6 **Age:** 43
Home club: Galway

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: It sat beautifully at address and inspired confidence. It made you feel like you wanted to hit the ball.



The design on the top of the driver made it very easy to line up square to the ball, which I liked. The shaft did not feel as stiff as my current driver, which is the same spec. With this driver I was inclined to swing faster due to the shaft not being as stiff as my current model.

STAYING IN THE BAG? Maybe, need more time.



CLEVELAND

LAUNCHER DST FAIRWAY WOOD

PRICE: £129

W: clevelandgolf.com

FEATURED IN GM: New Arrivals – Feb '10



Like the DST driver this is a great-looking club that produces a powerful sound at impact.



Name: Calum Forbes
Handicap: 6 **Age:** 24
Home club: Aboyne, Aberdeenshire

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: The head appeared small – this made it seem more compact than other clubs. This gave me a lot of confidence.



Overall this is an aesthetically pleasing club, which worked well from the fairway and particularly off the tee. I found the club very forgiving and long off the tee, not flying too high and thus travelling distances of around 250 yards. This distance inspired more confidence. Off the fairway, the sole design sat well, but I did struggle to gain elevation off the tighter lies.

STAYING IN THE BAG? For tee shots alone.



MD GOLF

BLACKHAWK SET

PRICE: £274

W: mdgolf.co.uk

FEATURED IN GM: N/A



Hard-to-hit long irons are replaced by forgiving hybrid clubs. The irons have a thick sole and top line to help provide maximum forgiveness.



Name: Zac Pin
Handicap: 26 **Age:** 31
Home club: Silvermere, Surrey

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Solid cavity-backed clubs with lots of forgiveness. The Irons have a sizeable sweet spot – ideal for my standard.



Silvermere is renowned for its tight fairways, however playing with my new set of MD clubs I kept well away from the water hazards and trees either side of the course. On the odd occasion when I was caught out, the recovery clubs helped me get back onto the course with minimum effort. Replacing my graphite-shafted irons has given me more power and stability.

KEEP ON USING? Definitely!

LONG-TERM FEEDBACK Readers give their long-term thoughts on products they tested in previous issues



WILSON STAFF TOUR SERIES BAG

TESTER: Josh Street, March '10
STILL USING? Yes

WHAT I LIKED: The impressive comfort.

LONG-TERM REPORT: I have played a lot of rounds with this now and it is still in immaculate condition with no wear and tear. It is still the most comfortable bag I have used and is also extremely strong with a style that I really like.



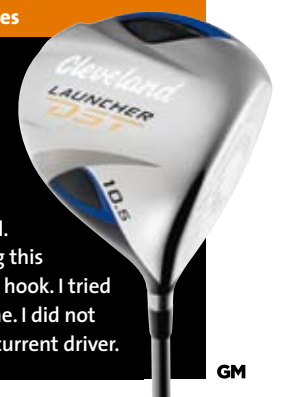
CLEVELAND LAUNCHER DST DRIVER

TESTER: David Halliday, March '10

STILL IN THE BAG? No

WHAT I LIKED: The classical look of the head.

LONG-TERM REPORT: When initially testing this club I liked the looks, but struggled with a hook. I tried it again but it is a fraction too light for me. I did not have as much control compared to my current driver.



GM