

# The Equipment Buyer's Guide

86,000 TEST SHOTS HIT BY PLAYERS LIKE YOU

# GOLF<sup>®</sup>

A SPORTS ILLUSTRATED<sup>®</sup> PUBLICATION

MAGAZINE



## ClubTest 2008

**TESTED:** 24 Drivers

8 Fairway Woods 9 Hybrids

26 Iron Sets 8 Wedges

8 Putters *including...*

- The Longest and Best Driver for You
- The Hottest Fairway Wood off the Face
- The Most Forgiving Irons

SPECIAL BOOK EXCERPT  
*Carl Haasen's*  
**Confessions  
of a Hacker**  
"I SUNK  
MY CART  
IN THE  
LAKE"

MAY 2008  
\$3.99 CANADA \$5.99



GOLF.com

## THE WINNER!

BEST FOR  
LOOK



BEST FOR  
FEEL

"Lets you know  
where the clubhead  
is at all times."

—Robert Record

## Wilson Ci7

\$499, steel; \$599, graphite;  
wilsongolf.com

**WE TESTED:** 3-9, PW, GW in True Temper TX-105 steel shaft

**SHAFT LENGTH/LOFT (6-IRON):** 38"/29°  
**COMPANY LINE:** "Our midsize head delivers the look of a Tour iron with the forgiveness of an oversize iron. Its central notch accentuates perimeter weighting and the thin face delivers maximum power. Elastomeric paint in the cavity reduces vibration by one-third."

### OUR TEST PANEL SAYS:

**PROS:** Terrific combo of tour-style feel with game-improvement forgiveness; medium-low, controlled flight still provides plenty of carry; equally easy to dial in off a short tee or around greens; powerful head frames the ball nicely; mis-hits are clearly felt; adequate distance forgiveness; lets you use whatever skill you have; cuts through rough like butter.

**CONS:** Some might be put off by enhanced feedback on poor contact; more suited to player who requires only a little forgiveness than someone who needs maximum help.



### TESTER SPOTLIGHT

**ROBERT RECORD**

**Handicap** 15 **Age** 33

**Height** 5'8" **Weight** 150 lbs.

**Occupation** Physician

**Residence** Birmingham, AL

**CURRENT DRIVER:** Swing speed 96 mph

**Distance (carry + roll)** 237 yards

**6-IRON (CARRY):** 165 yards

IRONS  
GAME-IMPROVEMENT

## Wilson Ci7

\$499, steel; \$599, graphite; wilsongolf.com

Plain and simple, these clubs have your back. Average Joes are delighted by the instant feedback, above-average carry distance and sporty amount of helpfulness. Testers are also pleasantly surprised by their ability to hit the longer irons. At the same time, these are precision tools that would allow better players to attack tough pins.



Redistributing mass  
through the use of an  
undercut cavity  
builds in stability.



### TESTER'S COMMENT

"Very good distance on  
misses plus clean escapes  
from rough make these a  
pleasure to play."

Dave Daumit (handicap 15)

## TaylorMade Burner XD

Built for the average player, Burner XD provides improved distance forgiveness and more draw bias than its predecessor, the r7 XD. A bigger body with livelier 'inverted cone' clubface technology (0.79 COR vs. 0.76 COR) means more of the face produces "faster" ball speeds. Company testing shows you'll get five yards more on center and mis-hits. Its thinner, lighter face (than the r7 XD) contributes to higher inertia (by 11 percent) and more directional help on misses. Lastly, a metal badge in the cavity manages impact sound. \$899, steel; \$1,099, graphite; [taylormadegolf.com](http://taylormadegolf.com)



Elastomeric paint in the cavity limits shock that you feel in the hands.



Burner XD comes with a 65-gram graphite shaft or a 90-gram steel with soft tip for higher shots.

## Wilson Ci7

These sticks offer a nice blend of sporty good looks, feel, forgiveness and playability. When you set them in the playing position, they take on the appearance of a traditional blade. Yet the midsize heads offer the kind of help that's synonymous with maximum game-improvement clubs. Notch weighting along the sole pushes mass to the club's perimeter, while the undercut further enhances head stability. A subtle amount of offset gives you the freedom to maneuver shots, if desired. \$499, steel; \$599, graphite; [wilsonstaff.com](http://wilsonstaff.com)

## Titleist AP1

Titleist irons are generally for "better players," but we can see 15-handicappers swinging the AP1 with success. The firm's first cast stainless steel iron in five years has an 80-gram tungsten-nickel slug that's welded to the soleplate. This contributes to a ball flight that's in line with game-improvement clubs. The tungsten also filters unwanted low frequency vibration. A horizontal central bar provides rigid structural support, for shot-to-shot consistency. Wedged between the bar and clubface is a dampener, made of elastomer. Compared with AP2 irons, the AP1 has a longer, wider blade, stronger lofts, and softer tip—and butt—shafts for higher ball flight. \$699, steel; \$899, graphite; [titleist.com](http://titleist.com)



The non-chromed heads can be bent 4-degrees for loft or lie.