

# Golf Digest

The #1 Golf Publication

## HOW TO HIT THE CLUTCH SHOTS

BY TIGER  
WOODS

**HOT  
LIST**  
NEW  
BALLS  
WHAT  
YOU  
SHOULD  
PLAY

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A DREAM  
U.S. OPEN  
TRIP  
P. 148

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# HOT LIST

EQUIPMENT

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## NIKE PD SOFT

**PRICE** \$18/dozen  
**CONSTRUCTION**

Two-piece  
**TECH STORY** It has the second-softest compression in the Nike line (only the women's Karma is lower), and the ionomer cover features a softness rating in line with the Nike One Tour balls.

**VERDICT** It's not for players with fast swing speeds, but with high launch and soft feel it does more than enough for the rest of us.

**PERFORMANCE**  
★★★★

**INNOVATION**  
★★★★

**FEEL**  
★★★★½

**DEMAND**  
★★★★



NIKEGOLF.COM



## PINNACLE PLATINUM FEEL

**PRICE** \$18/dozen  
**CONSTRUCTION**

Two-piece  
**TECH STORY** The large 1.59-inch core is designed to increase ball speed, and the ionomer cover has been softened to provide optimal feel.

**VERDICT** Resist the temptation to dismiss a ball based on name. This is nothing like yesterday's Pinnacle: It tested near the top in half-wedge spin, but it still has the traditional distance.

**PERFORMANCE**  
★★★★½

**INNOVATION**  
★★★★½

**FEEL**  
★★★★½

**DEMAND**  
★★★★



PINNACLEGOLF.COM



## TITLEIST DT ROLL

**PRICE** \$22/dozen  
**CONSTRUCTION**

Two-piece  
**TECH STORY** To produce a low trajectory, the ball has 392 dimples in five shapes and a 1.56-inch core that is firmer than the core of the DT Carry. The cover is made of a soft Surlyn.

**VERDICT** Titleist player testing revealed that some want distance on the ground. Our testing confirms that's exactly how this ball works.

**PERFORMANCE**  
★★★★½

**INNOVATION**  
★★★★½

**FEEL**  
★★★★½

**DEMAND**  
★★★★



TITLEIST.COM



## WILSON ZIP

**PRICE** \$22/dozen  
**CONSTRUCTION**

Three-piece: core, mantle layer and ionomer cover  
**TECH STORY** The Zip features a soft core with a compression that has been measured at "zero" on typical gauges. It also has a resilient DuPont HPF mantle layer. The flat-bottom dimples are designed for less resistance.

**VERDICT** High launch on the driver and wedge makes this ideal for medium-speed swings.

**PERFORMANCE**  
★★★★

**INNOVATION**  
★★★★½

**FEEL**  
★★★★

**DEMAND**  
★★★



WILSON.COM



## HOW LONG SHOULD A BALL LAST?

In short, a lot longer than you can likely keep hitting it and finding it.

Ball cores are commonly designed to withstand at least 100 strikes at 125 miles per hour before cracking. That's seven rounds of Tiger-like drives.

Of course, the cover will often go first, especially if you have a steep angle of attack or fresh grooves or tend to rely on cartpaths for extra distance. But these minor scuffs won't affect performance. "As long as the cover is relatively smooth, maybe a little paint missing, you're fine to play it," says TaylorMade's Dean Snell. Still, our testing showed that a serious scuff could cost you six yards on a tee shot.

A urethane cover's durability comes from being soft with an elastic memory. Ionomer covers are more durable because they're firm.

**Tip** To minimize scuffing, dry your irons and wedges with a towel. A wet clubface increases the shear force, causing the ball's cover to slide over the grooves and tear, instead of gripping and rolling like it would on a dry face. —MAX ADLER