

Taylormade M1 Driver Review

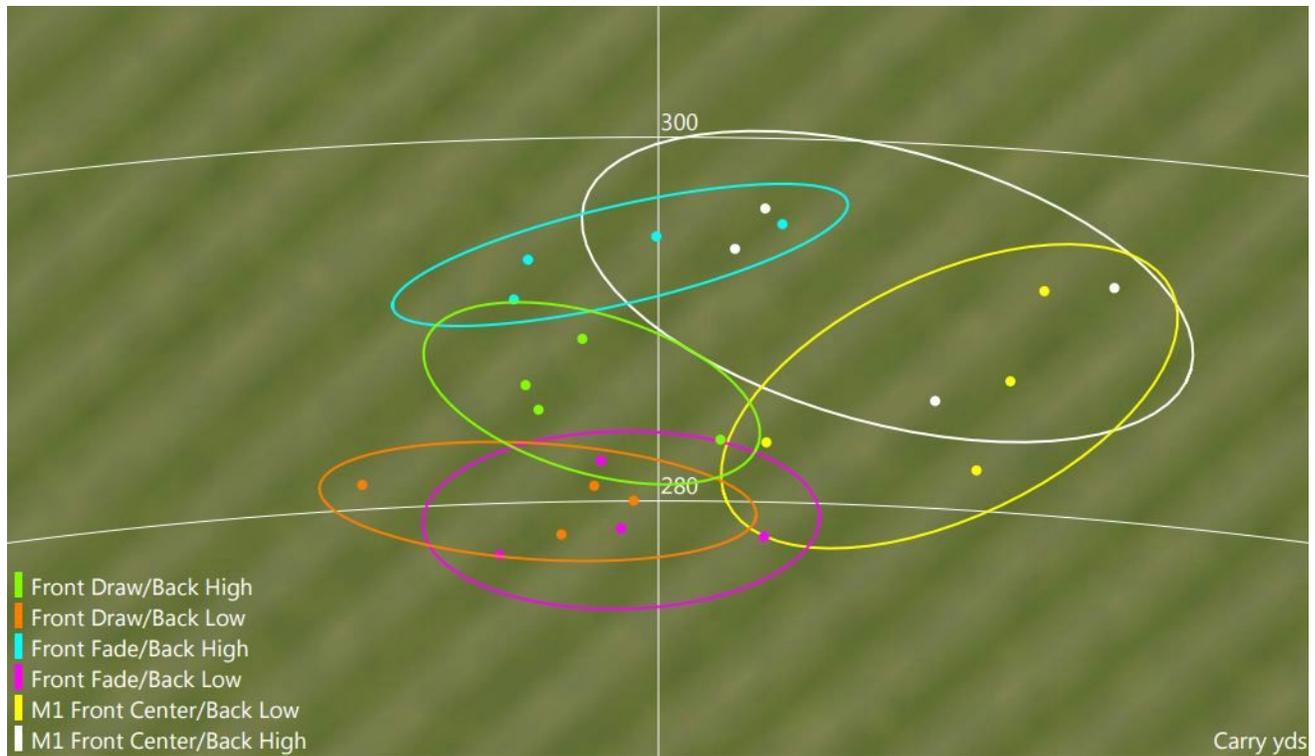
by Derek Skidmore, Club Fitter

Is that Carbon Fiber? This seems to be the number one question when you first see TaylorMade's new M1 driver. According to TaylorMade, the crown of M1 is an ultra thin, ultra light carbon composite, allowing them to provide better weight distribution to produce very high MOI (Moment of Inertia). M standing for multi-material producing a 7 layer proprietary crown allowing TaylorMade to build a weight loaded sole with a new track system. The new T-Track system, has 25 grams of adjustable weight to optimize ball flight. The front track has a 15 gram weight, to produce a draw, neutral, a fade bias settings. The back track has a 10 gram weight to adjust launch and spin conditions to high or low.

Unlike recent models TaylorMade has done away with offering a standard and TP (Tour Preferred) model. Now TaylorMade is offering multiple shafts at no-upcharge for the consumer to maximize the fitting experience. Two heads (460cc and 430cc) are available. The M1 also features a 4 degree (+/- 2), 12 position sleeve for the golfer's preference of face angle, loft and lie. Available Lofts in each head are: 8.5, 9.5, 10.5, 12.

To put this driver to the test in The Cluboratory at Miles of Golf - Cincinnati, I used a no-upcharge shaft option with multiple settings to see how the numbers differ. I hit the 8.5 430cc head with a Aldila Rogue Silver 70 gram, X-Flex. For all shots, I set the sleeve/hosel position at neutral, and focused on the new T-Track system to see how much it could change launch and spin conditions. The results from Trackman are as follows:

	<u>Ball Speed</u>	<u>Launch Angle</u>	<u>Spin Rate</u>	<u>Carry Distance</u>	<u>Spin Axis</u>
Front Center/Back High	166.3	15.4	1901	292.2	-0.5
Front Center/Back Low	165.5	14.0	1699	286.3	0.9
Front Fade/Back High	166.8	15.3	1979	293.6	6.0
Front Fade/Back Low	165.9	11.9	1587	279.0	0.1
Front Draw/Back High	165.2	13.9	2207	286.0	-1.9
Front Draw/Back Low	166.3	12.4	1457	280.1	-9.9



From the results, it is easy to see that the 10 gram weight in the “high” position produces higher launch and spin. The average of all three with the back weight on “high” is 14.9 degrees of launch with 2029 rpms of spin. With the back weight on “low” (all the way forward) the average was 12.8 degrees of launch and 1581 rpms of spin. Having the weight in the “high” position produced almost 10 more yards of carry for my swing.

When we take a look how the settings from center, draw and fade differ, it is quite telling. When the weight was in the draw setting the ball's spin axis (lateral ball movement, left & right) moved left very easily.

For me, the M1 worked best with the front weight set on fade(all the way towards toe) and the back weight on high(all the way back). As it provided for a longer and straighter shot pattern. Knowing that there are more shaft options and an adjustable hosel, maximizing this driver's performance should be a fun task.

The look is not the only thing creating the buzz around this driver, the performance and numbers tell the true story. As the years keep passing, technology seems to keep improving and as usual, TaylorMade is at the forefront.