



Putter Buying Guide

Here are six considerations Miles of Golf feels are important when choosing a putter:

Alignment is key.

Aligning the putter to the target is the top priority when selecting a putter. For each individual player, the design and markings on the putter make it easier to line up one putter versus another. Things like your dominant eye and ball position may affect a player's ability to properly align a particular putter. Putter fitting technology will tell you when a putter is properly aligned.

Proper length.

Putters come in multiple lengths, typically between 33-36". The correct length for a golfer will depend upon the height, arm length, and putting posture of the golfer. Generally, if a putter is too short you may be too on top of the ball and your eyes will be outside the ball, if a putter is too long your eyes may be too far inside. Specialty putters, such as the armlock style, are 40-42" long.

Putter balance.

Most putters are either "face balanced" or "toe weighted". To determine if a putter is face balanced, lay it on a flat surface with the head free to rotate. If the head rotates so the putter face is parallel to the ground, it is face balanced. If the toe droops, it is considered to be toe weighted. There are varying amounts of toe weight, and not every putter will behave the same. Face balanced typically works well with golfers that have a minimal arc ("straight back - straight through") to their stroke. Toe weighted putters typically work well for golfers with a bigger arc to their stroke. Once you know your preference, you can eliminate many putters from your selection process.

The sole must be flat to the ground.

If a putter is not flat to the ground, it will be difficult to start the ball on its intended line, and to see your intended line. If the toe is up in the air the putter needs to be flattened, heel in the air it needs to be bent upright. Before making any changes, be sure your eyes are over the ball when you putt.

Get the ball rolling.

Putters have loft just like other golf clubs. In general, most putter lofts are 2-4 degrees. You need some loft to get the ball out of the small depression it rests in to get it rolling. If your hands are in front of the ball at impact, loft needs to be added to the putter. Conversely, if your hands are behind the ball at impact, the putter loft should be reduced. Putters can be bent to different lofts. We use a Mitchell Digital Lie/Loft machine to adjust putters for each individual.

Grips: Thick vs Thin.

Putting usually involves feel for rolling the ball the precise distance, and control to send it on the correct line. The grip on the handle of your putter can affect both. If you are struggling on the greens, you may need to examine an alteration in grips. Thicker grips may lead to increased control, while thinner grips may lead to an increase in feel.