



Wedge Buying Guide

Here are the key factors in choosing the right wedge:

Loft and Gapping

Making sure your wedges have the proper loft is critical to maintaining consistent distance spacing, or gapping. A wedge set should have 4-6 degree spacing between each wedge. Pitching wedges have anywhere from 42-48 degrees of loft, gap wedges have 48-52 degrees of loft, sand wedges have 54-56 degrees of loft, and lob wedges have 58-64 degrees.

Bounce

Bounce is measured by the height of the leading edge above the ground at the address position. The bounce angle will influence how a wedge interacts with the turf and sand. Generally, players fall into one of three categories when hitting wedge shots:

1. **Pickers/Sweepers** have a shallower attack angle and shallow divots (if any at all) and require less bounce.
2. **Diggers/Drivers** have a steep attack angle and take deep, long divots and require more bounce.
3. A player who feels they are neither type or who wants the most versatility with their wedges should opt for a medium bounce option.

Grind

The grind of a wedge is a term meant to explain the grinding of wedge sole material to give the wedge a more “playable” bounce when the face angle of the wedge is altered. If a golfer opens the face of a wedge to hit a flop shot, the

grind will assist in giving the golfer a more playable golf club for that shot.

The term can also be used to describe a style of bounce. For example, a very wide sole wedge may be marketed as having a specific "grind". However, in this case there was never any "grinding" done to the wedge, and the term is simply used as another way to describe the golf club.

Spin

The spin of the golf ball is created by the friction caused by the golf ball contacting the metal surface of a wedge. Nearly every shot has some sort of debris between the club face and ball; water, grass, sand, etc. The grooves provide a place for this debris to go so the golf ball can contact the metal club face. The USGA has restricted how the grooves on a wedge are designed. This limits the size the grooves can be, thus limiting how much spin a wedge can produce. Different companies have explored various options such as adding more grooves, milling the face of the club, or even adding laser-cut grooves, all with the intent to create more friction and maximize spin rate.

Wedge Specs

The specs wedge should closely resemble the fitting specs of a player's irons. Common exceptions include a softer shaft or a flatter lie angle.