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**Maruman, Yonex and KZG offer the latest in quality and performance**

Aug. 31, 2005

By **Chuck Stogel**  
GolfWeb Equipment Correspondent

Maruman and Yonex are equipment makers that have built a reputation for developing clubs infused with the latest in high-tech designs and materials, and sold at the premium end of the pricing spectrum. Meanwhile, KZG also has its own proprietary technology, with a positioning that offers performance along with a value-priced proposition.

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AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 5

All three companies have introduced clubs this season that may merit consideration by golfers seeking the latest in quality and performance.

For Maruman, the company is on the cutting edge of a growing interest in nanotechnology with its Exim Nano woods and irons.

At Yonex, one of the pioneers in using graphite in driver heads, its latest move takes Cyberstar to the max at 460cc, along with the introduction of VX irons.

KZG, whose Gemini drivers offer twin-face technology, has extended the design to fairway woods, along with introducing a cast counterpart to its forged performance irons.

Here's a closer look at the newest products from these companies.

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**MARUMAN**

Maruman's Exim Nano Composite driver, in lofts

of 10 and 11 degrees, integrates a thin titanium face with a "fullerene" titanium body. According to the company, fullerenes are carbon-cage molecules found to exist in interstellar dust and in some geological formations on earth.

Proponents of nanotechnology assert products comprising these miniscule particles bond and respond better when applied to golf clubs.

"With the combination of the lightweight composite material and 'fullerene' titanium in the driver and maraging steels in the fairway woods, [the Maruman Exim Nano woods] series provides low centers of gravity and ultrathin face engineering to achieve outstanding distance," said Mike Matheny, president of Maruman Golf USA.



The upper portion of the Exim Nano Composite driver comprises a lightweight, amorphous carbon material. The net result should be enhanced initial ball velocity at a higher launch angle.

Exim Nano fairway woods feature a thin face and high-strength body bonded with differing maraging steels. Available in Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9, the fairway woods incorporate Maruman's "Trajectory Control Design," which places the center of gravity low in the 3-wood and slightly higher as lofts increase.

In demo sessions among a variety of players assembled by GolfWeb, the Exim Nano Composite driver was rated "satisfactory." Testers rated it light and easy to swing, although some players frowned about a "thin sound" and "thin feel." The fairway woods were rated "above average," and noted for solid impact, easy ball lift and workability.

Suggested retail price is \$600 for the driver and \$350 each for the fairway woods.

**The Maruman Exim Nano Composite drivers have a list price of \$600.**

Maruman's Exim Nano irons are ultrapremium clubs combining a solid titanium hosel and face welded to a stainless steel sole and blade structure. The goal is enhanced initial ball velocity with trajectory aided by a progressive center of gravity through the set, which comprises Nos. 3-PW, plus approach and sand wedges.

Suggested retail prices are \$1,699 per set with steel shafts, \$1,999 with graphite.

**KZG**

With a catalog that boasts 10 models of irons, KZG's latest entry is a set of PC-III clubs that brings the design of its Forged Evolution set into the Progressive Cast category.

The aim is greater forgiveness in a performance set for mid to higher handicap players.



Offered in 3-PW, with a 51-degree approach wedge and 56-degree sand wedge, the PC-III set features a midsize head with perimeter weighting in the long irons, a slight muscleback in the middle irons and a blade design for higher spin rate in the shorter irons. The heads are made of a steel

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alloy with a satin finish.

"[PC-III provides] great feel combined with the added benefits of forgiveness and distance," said Jennifer King, KZG president.

Suggested retail prices are \$449 per set (3-PW) with steel shafts, \$549 with graphite.

In woods, KZG has added a set of fairway metals to its KZG Gemini series. Nos. 3, 5 and 7 represent lofts of 15, 19 and 23 degrees, respectively.

**KZG PC-III irons have a list price of \$449 with steel shafts, \$549 with graphite.**

Like the driver, the Gemini fairway woods feature twin-face technology, with an inner face affixed to the perimeter of the outer titanium faceplate for greater stability and reduced sidespin.

The mid-profile fairway woods have a Uni-Size body. Whereas most fairway woods decrease in body size and face depths as lofts increase, the Gemini series maintains the same body size and face depth throughout.

Suggested retail prices for the fairway woods are \$239 with steel shafts, \$269 with graphite.

#### YONEX

Following last year's introduction of the Cyberstar PowerBrid driver at 400cc, Yonex this summer has launched the Cyberstar CT driver at 460cc, the maximum size allowed by the Rules of Golf.

The new driver combines a high tensile carbon graphite crown fused to a titanium clubface, sole and body. The weight-saving crown allows for more mass to be positioned lower and deeper, achieving enhanced ball velocity with a higher trajectory and reduced spin rate. Further, a strategically placed tungsten weight near the rear of the soleplate helps lower the center of gravity and square the face at impact.

Several models of the Cyberstar CT are offered: 460cc heads in lofts of 9 and 10.5 degrees, with a variety of shaft flexes, and a 420cc model with 12 degrees of loft for women.

Suggested retail price is \$450.

The Cyberstar VX irons, with an FL model for women, have "dual core" midsized head technology. An ultrathin steel clubface is combined with a dual inner core of graphite and compressed air to help enhance spring-like effect and reduce clubweight. Tungsten balanced weighting is designed to provide additional stability.

The UL-Titanium composite shaft strategically incorporates strands of titanium for both strength and flexibility.

Suggested retail price per VX irons set (3-PW) is \$1,280.

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