

# The PROS



These guys know golf. Let's see what they think about this issue's crop of golf goodies!

# The STUFF

## Iron Sets

### ALPHA GOLF FORGED IRONS

Alpha's C1Pro irons, with forged cavity-back heads and pro-level graphite shafts, with custom grips. "Precision forged from 1020 carbon steel, C1 Pro irons feature a larger, more-forgiving head size and slightly thicker topline for real perimeter-weighting enhancements and deep forged cavity forgiveness. Their custom-ground club-faces are CNC-milled to maximize performance. The modest offset hosel design enhances playability and gives these forged irons a broader appeal — perfect for allowing average players to enjoy true playability and the feel of forged carbon steel." We found these easy to hit despite being forged, and forgiving due to the offset cavity. Maybe the best of both worlds? \$730 as tested. [www.alphagolfclubs.com](http://www.alphagolfclubs.com)



### KZG FORGED IRONS



KZG's triple-forged Evolution irons are finding their way into more and more pro's bags every year.

And with good reason. Absolutely gorgeous progressive cavity-back irons with a slight offset, giving the soft forged control that better players demand. These sticks are without a doubt ready for prime time. Our test clubs shipped with Rifle Precision FCM 6 stepless steel shafts and custom Lambkin grips. \$749. [www.kzg.com](http://www.kzg.com)

## GOLF EQUIPMENT CHALLENGE



### Paul Leahy

Director of Golf  
Tan-Tar-A Resort  
State Rd KK  
Osage Beach  
Woods: Wilson  
Irons: Wilson  
(573) 348-8522  
Lessons available  
Pro since 1991



### Mike Cummings

Head Golf Professional  
Eldon Country Club  
35 Golf Course Rd  
Eldon  
(573) 392-4172  
Woods: Titleist  
Irons: Mizuno MP33  
Lessons available  
Pro since 2000



### Larry Salsman

Director of Golf  
Sycamore Creek  
1270 Nichols Rd  
Osage Beach  
Woods: Titleist  
Irons: Titleist  
(573) 348-9593  
Lessons available  
Pro since 2000



### John Crane

Head Professional  
Club at Porto Cima  
POB 1690  
Lake Ozark  
Woods: Titleist  
Irons: Titleist  
(573) 964-3100  
Lessons available  
Pro since 1998



### Nate Boeh

Asst. Professional  
Osage National  
400 Osage Hills Rd.  
Lake Ozark, MO  
Woods: Titleist  
Irons: Mizuno MP-32  
(573) 365-1950  
Lessons available  
Pro since 2005

"First impression- the look is very good. A little different sound when hit, didn't feel quite as solid as it could due to the graphite shafts. Had a good feel when I hit it. Good price point for a forged club."

★★★★

"I was extremely pleased the way they set up and look. After hitting them and as solid as they are coming off the face I am really impressed. What they've done with the weighting of the club is terrific."

★★★★★

"The irons I do like. I play forged irons now- they are very solid feeling, and very forgiving with the cavity back."

★★★★★

"The look of the iron is very good, got a good feel to it. Anything forged gives you a good response. All in all a great looking club. A little forgiving on the heel toe shots, but gives you the ability to move the ball."

★★★★★

"Trajectory is great, graphite is good for higher handicappers. Good workability. It's a very forgiving feel. I'm not a graphite shaft fan. With a steel shaft I'd rate them higher. Great feel, could be pro-caliber."

★★★★

"Really have a nice clean look. Nice thin top line with good perimeter weighting. When I hit it the trajectory's good, workability's good. A high-end forged club every bit as good as Mizuno."

★★★★★

"Very good to look at. Being a forged blade guy, I really like the look down on them. The ball came off the face consistently. The entire product line gets a five out of five."

★★★★★

"Nice— solid feel, forged steel is always nice. Good trajectory. I would rank it for the mid to lower handicap. Probably one of the most solid irons I've hit for not being a name brand."

★★★★★

"Good looking, good feeling set of clubs. Those are good sticks. Definitely pro level. For a low handicapper, definitely. Really easy to work the golf ball with them and hit different types of shots. A good club."

★★★★★

"I like the look, and they have a great feel for a forged club. Not a bad price, you'd pay more for a Taylor-Made or a Callaway."

★★★★★

# Top-end forged irons from KZG, Alpha tested

by Darrel Willman

Wow—forged irons. When we were young, forged irons were everywhere. But they were the frustrating factor for thousands of golfers. Just a blade of metal to bat the ball around with.

Along came better designs, and blades were left primarily in the hands of the guys who knew what to do with them. Virtually all professionals play with forged blades and with good reason. The soft, forged heads allow for the ultimate in shot-shaping for the player with the skills to use them.

But for others, they are unforgiving, rigid and literally a "shock" to use. KZG and Alpha have developed sets of irons that are somewhere in between the hard-to-hit blade and the forgiving cast cavity backs. They are forged from soft steel, but feature progressive offsets and cavity backs to some extent. It's a "best of both worlds" situation.

## KZG Golf

Since 1998, a golf company from Hollywood California has quietly begun making believers out of players on the professional golf tours. Once a component custom club manufacturing firm, KZG Golf custom manufactures technologically-advanced clubs through its distribution chain of more than 2,000 custom-fitting centers in pro shops and retail outlets worldwide.

KZG's proprietary steel alloy in their cast clubs is exceptional in its ability to allow for up to four degrees of loft adjustment, yet retaining the strength to stay that way even after years of play. Softer alloys lose the adjustment.

KZG manufactures two heads, with different weights to compensate for the differences in steel and graphite shafts. Some manufacturers put weights in the hosels on graphite-shafted clubs to compensate for the weight difference, thus negating the benefits of perimeter weighting, and throwing off the head's balance.

Their patented hand-cannon Gemini driver was the first to feature twin faces, and is thought by many to be the longest, straightest driver available on the market (We tested one, and will bring you the results in an upcoming issue).

## Alpha Golf

Alpha's President and founder Dr. Jim Yeh, PhD, designer of the



Alpha C1 Pro forged steel irons. [www.alphagolfclubs.com](http://www.alphagolfclubs.com)

Alpha line took his wares to the ReMax Long Drive Championship in Mesquite, NV. (The finals will be aired on ESPN Christmas Day).

Alpha driver heads dominated the finals once again:

Danny Luirette (2nd place, Open Division): Alpha V2, Mike Gorton (2nd place, Senior Division): Alpha C830.2, Frank Miller (3rd place, Senior Division): Alpha V2, Sally Dee (4th place, Womens Division): Alpha V2, Fred Hooter (4th place, Super Senior Division): Alpha C830.2

No other club manufacturer had this many heads used in the competition. The Alphas bested many of the big names at the event. You can find more information at [www.longdrivers.com](http://www.longdrivers.com).

Alpha is a custom manufacturing company that went national with their own brands and is slowly gaining recognition through events like this. But back to the irons.

## DO THEY DELIVER

### The "best of both worlds"?

Our pros thought so. They were able to move the ball on demand with both of these brands. And, the cavity backs gave a bit of noticeable forgiveness that they picked up on. The "feel" that is so important to pros was also there—that's why in so many of their comments, the first thing they mention is the "feel".

It's a solid feel with a crisp sound that sings about the high-quality chrome-plated carbon steel. With a cast head, there is less density, so you'll feel less. The main difference between our two sets as tested were the shafts, and the Alphas suffered because the factory shipped them with graphite.

The pros immediately commented on the loss of feel with the graphite, as less of the shock

and vibration are transmitted to the hands, some being absorbed by the flex in the graphite. A couple of them noted however, that the graphite in the Alphas was very good, and was getting closer to the steel. As the technology changes, and the graphites can get closer to steel in stiffness, we'll see this difference diminish.

Other differences included the cavity back. The Alphas feature a cavity on all clubs, while the KZG irons start out with a modest cavity on the 3 that progressively lessens as you move toward the short sticks. The difficult three (and two) irons have the largest cavity with a mild offset to aid the golfer. Down towards the nine, the clubs take the form of a "muscle-back", a solid flow of steel for solid control and spin. 5, 6, 7 and 8 transition between cavity and a blade very nicely.

The wedges are a true blade with milled grooves and a larger, tear-drop look to the face. All of these clubs have a nice long, thin top line for a good look on address.

The Alpha set also has a thin top line—but not as thin as a blade. Theirs is a confidence inspiring top-line that is thin enough not to get in the way, but adds some perimeter weighting.

The cavity is consistent throughout the set, but the offset drops off towards the bottom, being most pronounced on the long sticks.

The afore mentioned graphite shafts on the Alphas were good, their top-of-the-line in-house stiff shafts, but not as solid as say, an Aldila TC Pro 85.

The KZG's shipped with the exceptional Rifle stepless Precision FCM-6 extra-stiff steel shafts. These are very hard to beat, and the quality was apparent when they were hit. All five pros commented on the shafts.

Both of the sets featured high end custom grips, and a high polish chrome finish.

So what set them apart? Mostly, the shafts. Apart from that, these clubs did everything they set out to. Give better golfers the control they want while allowing for some forgiveness on errant hits.

Now this all sounds good, right? But what does it mean to the average player? Simply, if your game has progressed to the point where you are out-playing



KZG's Evolution forged steel irons. [www.kzggolf.com](http://www.kzggolf.com)

your cavity-back RACS or Big Berthas, you may be able to step up to a club that will allow you to control ball flight. You can hit a draw or a fade now, these will give you better movement and more consistency. You'll also pick up better feedback and feel, letting you know when you struck the ball well.

You'll also benefit from a better shaft. Many custom club makers swear that a good shaft can make all the difference to a solid golfer's game. Get the lie adjusted, have them spine-aligned, and you're ready to drop your score.

Of course this is assuming you already have a solid stroke and a

consistent swing. Although pretty much everybody could benefit in some way from the quality. These two companies really pour it on—from the proprietary steel alloys to the high-grade shafts and grips.

You'll pay a bit more than some, but less than the big brands; the Alphas retail for \$730 with the graphite, the KZGs go for \$749 in steel and \$850 with graphite. Both firms will allow you to choose your shafts and will adjust pricing accordingly. ■



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