

READER Report

We put these hot drivers in the hands of our readers – which one was the biggest hit?



Nike SQ Dymo²

Will the Dymo², Nike's latest square driver, find approval from our panel?

SRP: £250

Benross Innovator X

The Innovator was a hit last year, but do our readers like the 2009 version just as much?

SRP: £129

MD Golf Seve Icon

This driver has been designed with input from the great man, but were our panel starstruck?

SRP: £149

Callaway Diablo

A highly-rated club in our extensive driver review last month – do our readers agree?

SRP: £239

Cleveland Launcher

A great-looking driver packed with technology that is bound to impress

SRP: £219

Ping Rapture V2

This driver promises more distance and greater control, but will it produce the goods?

SRP: £310

READER Report

MD GOLF SEVE ICON



BENROSS INNOVATOR X



CALLAWAY DIABLO



PING RAPTURE V2





NIKE SQ DYMO²



CLEVELAND LAUNCHER



<p>READER 1 James Whitaker Handicap: Pro Current driver Nike SQ DYMO</p> 	<p>This is well put together and looks great. However, I thought the feel and results were average when compared with other drivers. Great for the money though</p> <p>SCORE: 6/10</p>	<p>Very forgiving with some good technology behind it that higher-handicap players will appreciate. Not too much feel but pitched at an appealing price</p> <p>SCORE: 6/10</p>	<p>Another club that has plenty of forgiveness and is very easy to use. I like the design but the offset could be a little too much for better players</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>		<p>This has already had some good results with some of my customers, but, for me, the head feels dull and I'm not sure about the colour scheme</p> <p>SCORE: 6/10</p>	<p>Nike drivers are improving all the time and this is a step up from the Sumo in terms of looks, feel, performance and results. Great value</p> <p>SCORE: 8/10</p>	<p>Immediately this looks a good driver and sits well behind the ball. Solid, looks powerful and easy to hit. A great overall package</p> <p>SCORE: 8/10</p>
<p>READER 2 Kevin Taylor Handicap: 5 Current driver Titleist 907 D2</p> 	<p>I couldn't find fault with the MD. I liked the shallow clubface that boosts confidence at address and the flight it gave me. Amazing value and a solid club</p> <p>SCORE: 9/10</p>	<p>If you can get over the sound of this driver the results are very pleasing. I liked the looks and the extra loft, and its ability to keep the ball straight</p> <p>SCORE: 8/10</p>	<p>Solid, very straight and made a lovely sound. An unusual head shape, but you can see the theory behind it. Responsive, forgiving and great quality</p> <p>SCORE: 9/10</p>		<p>Long, the ball zips off the clubface, but not as forgiving as some of the others. If you can get over the alignment aid the looks are OK. Very expensive though</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>	<p>Well built and well designed. The Dymo is very forgiving and gave me a good ball flight, but the sound was off-putting and affected the feel</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>	<p>When you struck the Cleveland well you really knew about it, but a lack of forgiveness affected my consistency. Certainly one for the better players though</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>
<p>READER 3 Chris Timmins Handicap: 10 Current driver Titleist 907 D2</p> 	<p>Most impressive on value, very solid, but not as forgiving as I would have imagined. A good combination of shaft and a head shape that I liked</p> <p>SCORE: 8/10</p>	<p>I couldn't get on with the Benross but would have liked to try it with less loft and a different shaft. Liked the forgiveness and head shape</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>	<p>As someone who already draws the ball, I thought the head shape and offset emphasised my weakness and so wasn't for me. Reasonable results otherwise</p> <p>SCORE: 5/10</p>		<p>I liked the looks and the V2 was a little longer than some of the others for me. I didn't get too much feedback but overall a great club</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>	<p>I'm not a fan of square drivers but this had a good feel and went through the ball very well. Forgiving on off-centre hits but a very loud sound</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>	<p>Best of the bunch for me by a long way. Well balanced, looked great at address, responsive, with a boring flight. Excellent quality and worth the price tag</p> <p>SCORE: 9/10</p>
<p>READER 4 Ian Goodwin Handicap: 12 Current driver Ping Rapture V2</p> 	<p>Didn't quite live up to the Seve name for me and I lost distance and accuracy. I liked the head shape and thought it was well put together though</p> <p>SCORE: 5/10</p>	<p>Ugly looks that to me seemed out of proportion. The head lacked a little feel and the sound was also distracting. Not one for me I'm afraid</p> <p>SCORE: 5/10</p>	<p>For my tastes, Callaway have departed from convention too much here. I struggled to get over the looks at address which knocked my confidence</p> <p>SCORE: 5/10</p>		<p>I know I'm biased, but this is still the one for me. Great feedback, quality and feel. Expensive but worth it for the quality and service you get from Ping</p> <p>SCORE: 9/10</p>	<p>Looks unusual but not unattractive and I liked the symmetrical head shape. A shade hard on feel but had a good penetrating ball flight</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>	<p>A very nice surprise. Good looks that weren't too flashy, a strong ball flight and a good all-round package with the shaft and grip. I'd consider buying this</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>
<p>READER 5 Sean Smith Handicap: 18 Current driver Callaway FT-I</p> 	<p>I couldn't get to grips with the MD. For me it looks a little cheap and didn't have a wow factor about it both from a visual point and the results</p> <p>SCORE: 5/10</p>	<p>I hit this well every time. The loft helped my ball flight and I found it was very forgiving and easy to hit. Great value considering the quality shaft and grip</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>	<p>By far the best for me and ticked all the right boxes. I liked the forgiveness, solid feel and sound that rewarded you when you hit a good shot</p> <p>SCORE: 8/10</p>		<p>A good-quality club with good looks and impressive shaft and grip options. But for me didn't do enough to justify its inflated price tag</p> <p>SCORE: 6/10</p>	<p>I liked the square head and felt more confident standing over the ball. The club felt solid and comfortable and as a result my shots were straighter and longer</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>	<p>I was very impressed with the Launcher. It felt solid, I hit the ball straighter and longer and I liked the shaft and grip option. OK on price as well</p> <p>SCORE: 7/10</p>

Turn over for a rundown of the results and to see how our panel ranked and rated the drivers on test

Reader Report verdict

from De Vere Oulton Hall, Leeds

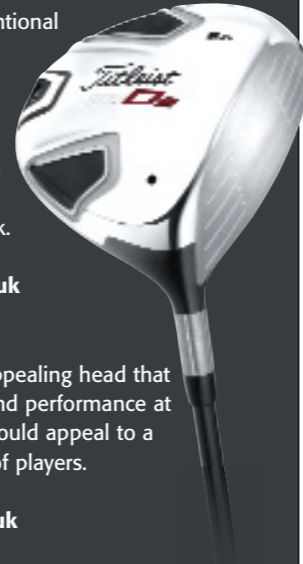
OTHERS TO CONSIDER

TITLEIST 909 D2

The most conventional of the new 909 series of drivers and features an all-titanium 460cc head with the COG pulled towards the back.

SRP: £275

www.titleist.co.uk



SRIXON WR

A traditionally appealing head that combines feel and performance at a great price. Should appeal to a wide spectrum of players.

SRP: £199

www.srixon.co.uk

BEN SAYERS BENNY

Powerful bullet-shaped head design helps to promote better launch angle and reduce spin.

SRP: £99

www.bensayersgolf.com

PRO'S VERDICT

Oulton Hall pro James Whitaker gives his expert opinion on which driver should suit you



Low Handicapper

The more neutral head of the Cleveland Launcher will allow the better players to shape the ball, plus the cleaner looks will also appeal.

Mid Handicapper

While the Callaway will be suitable to mid-handicappers, the Nike Dymo² brings a little more feel into play. The larger head should boost confidence, but above all it's incredibly easy to hit.

High Handicapper

The Callaway Diablo is perfect for this category as a huge percentage of high handicappers need to combat a slice. The design of this driver promotes a better swing from inside the line and the offset should also make it almost impossible to hit a slice.

CLEVELAND

38 A BRONZE medal in our extensive driver review last month has been validated by our readers who gave the Launcher the thumbs up. Classic looks backed up with improved stability and a powerful, thinner face proved to be a sure hit across the broad range of handicaps and personal tastes. Almost all commented on the solid feel and strong ball flight, and although this has been designed with the better player in mind, the Launcher seems to offer something to everyone. All of this is backed up by an expert custom-fitting service at Cleveland's new Centre of Excellence in Maidenhead.

www.clevelandgolf.com

01252 761 300



NIKE

36 A PLEASING result for Nike with a driver that has divided opinion throughout its relatively short history. Again, not everyone warmed to the individual looks of the Dymo, but a more refined approach has done wonders for its image. The sound has also been dampened and the result is a driver that gets better results out of every level of player. All picked up on the improved forgiveness and better ball flight provided by the 'Dynamic Moment of Inertia'.

www.nikegolfeurope.com

0800 056 1640

PING

35 A lack of feel and a hefty price put a couple of our panel off the Rapture V2, but it still evidently has many desirable qualities.

www.pinggolf.com

01427 615 405

CALLAWAY

34 SURPRISINGLY it was our mid-handicap players that were the least smitten with the Diablo.

www.callawaygolf.com

0208 391 0100

BENROSS

33 ALMOST all commented on the forgiveness and value offered by the Innovator.

www.benrossgolf.com

01932 821 200

MD GOLF

33 IN an extremely close test, only our lower handicappers weren't won over by Seve.

www.benrossgolf.com

01932 821 200

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The ACADEMY