



Fitting Your Stroke and Setup to the Best Putter Type

By Paul Kelly, Factory Certified Club Fitter for Odyssey and Scotty Cameron Putters



Recently I had the privilege of visiting the Odyssey putter lab in Carlsbad, California. Leading a seminar on putter types and putter fitting was Luke Williams, Sr. Director of Fitting for Callaway, and Sean Toulon, Senior VP Callaway / General Manager of Odyssey Golf and founder of Toulon Design Putters. Sean recently joined Callaway after 16 years as Chief Designer for Taylor Made where he was responsible for every product

developed there since 2000. These two men probably know as much about golf equipment and fitting as anyone on the planet. Having a chance to soak up their views on putter technology and fitting was invaluable and something that I look forward to sharing with our customers.

One of the primary focuses of our seminar was discussing and observing why certain putter designs fit certain strokes and setups better than others. The following article will hopefully help you determine which designs might be best suited for you.

Your Putter Style Should Compliment Your Stroke Path and Eye Position

After determining the correct length, we need to assess what type of stroke you have, and where your eyes are when you are in your putting posture. Using a variety of diagnostic tools such as Odyssey's eyeFit System and alignment lasers, we can identify the the best putter style for your stroke and setup. Face Balanced putters will generally suit people with a straight back and through stroke while the Toe Hang putters will suit an array of arcing strokes.

Once the appropriate design style is identified, we can try different models in that style to test alignment and preference of feel. Below, we take a more detailed look at the different styles and explain why they benefit certain setups and strokes.



Putter Styles and Benefits

Face Balanced: Best suited for eyes over the ball and a straight back and straight through stroke

With this design, the putter face points straight up, parallel to the ground, when balanced. A good example of this would be a mallet style putter. The face balance promotes stability that helps keep the clubface square during the stroke and at impact.

Slight Toe Hang: Best suited for eyes over the inside edge of the ball and a slight arcing stroke

With this design, the putter head toe hangs at about a 45 degree angle. A good example of this would be a traditional blade-style putter. The slight toe hang promotes a gentle open and closed rotation through the stroke, helping square the face at impact.

Moderate Toe Hang: Best suited for eyes slightly inside the target line and a moderate arching stroke

With this design, the putter head toe hangs more than the slight toe hang model but less than the advanced toe hang model, usually about 60 degrees. The moderate toe hang promotes a larger open and close rotation through the stroke to accommodate the larger arc of the swing.

Advanced Toe Hang: Best suited for eyes inside the target line and an arcing stroke with lots of feel

With this design, the putter head toe hangs almost straight down. The advanced toe hang really helps the club face rotate open and closed to accommodate the larger arc of the swing.

Conclusion

There will always be exceptions, but matching the correct design to your stroke and setup is essential if you want to become a good putter. Select your putter based on what's best for your stroke and eye position, instead of just picking one based on looks. If you would like help or additional information on any aspect of club fitting, please contact me as I would be glad to assist you.

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