

Time to Adjust

Adjustable drivers are all the rage in 2013. So which ones are the best?

BY BILL CHOUNG

When it comes to upgrading your driver, there might not be a better time to do that than right now. Every major company has a great new adjustable driver in their lineup. Just like the typewriters and non-touch screen smartphones, non-adjustable drivers have officially become extinct this year. Most companies only make adjustable drivers today, with lofts ranging from eight to 12 degrees, three degrees of variable face angle and many shaft options.

Here are some benefits of upgrading to an adjustable driver:

1. The golf swing is organic just like our body; therefore, adjustable drivers can help us adapt to the changes our body goes through during a typical golf season. We all experience some changes in our weight, strength and flexibility during a golf season. We can change the shaft, loft and face angle to adapt to the changes without having to buy a driver. It allows us to have multiple shafts to adjust for changes in our body and swing.
2. Adjustable drivers allow us to optimize the launch variables to adapt to the changing course turf conditions, weather and wind.

When we build drivers for Tour players and competitive junior golfers, a secondary low launch shaft is built for them to lower the ball flight without changing the clubhead or their swing.

3. It is not an instant cure for a 25-yard slice. However, if your clubface at impact is within plus or minus three degrees of being squared at impact, you will hit more fairways.

4. You could use the face angle adjustability as a training aid to fix your swing mechanics. If you really want to fix your slice, open the clubface. If you want to fix a hook, close the clubface three degrees. Why? If you open the clubface with a slice swing, you will slice the ball 15 to 20 yards more. The only way to hit the ball straight is to change the swing mechanics to hit the ball straighter. It is counter intuitive, but it is a very effective way to create long-term change.

5. This may sound as confusing as programming a VCR, but a knowledgeable instructor/clubfitter could help you pick the right combination to optimize your drives. An adjustable driver allows you to isolate each club variable to measure the effectiveness of changes in the loft, face angle and the shaft.

What are the best adjustable drivers in 2013? And does the adjustability really work?

Here are the best adjustable drivers selected by CompuGolf based on human testing and mechanical testing. Please remember that maximizing the clubhead speed and ball speed comes from finding the right shaft for a given swing. Our criteria for selecting the best driver are only based on the measured effectiveness of the adjustability on the new drivers.

Best Driver

First Place ▶ TaylorMade R1. This is the third straight year the R series drivers have won first place because of their technical advancements in adjustability. The effective change in loft and face angle still works the best. This is still the iPhone of drivers.

Second Place ▶ Callaway Razr Fit Extreme. Callaway has made a nice comeback the past two years with the Razr Fit series. It is a very close second to the R1. If you don't like the white head, this is the club for you.

Third Place ▶ Titleist 913 Series. They made great improvements in bringing the spin down from previous models.

Happy hunting for 20 more yards, and good luck.

AG

Bill Choung is the founder of CompuGolfCenter in Carrollton. He is a PGA Tour instructor and Golf Digest Top 100 Fitter. He has done extensive swing and equipment research on the PGA Tour and currently works with K.J. Choi and Danny Lee. He has worked with more than 40 Tour players. www.compugolfcenter.com.



SCORECARD

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- ▶ An adjustable driver allows you to isolate each club variable to measure the effectiveness of changes in the loft, face angle and the shaft.
- ▶ Based on testing conducted by CompuGolf, the TaylorMade R1 is the top adjustable driver on the market.