PAGE 118 THE BIG TEST Twelve big-name drivers, head-to-head tested. Discover the one you should be buying

Discover why there is more to a shirt than a nice pattern and some fancy branding.

PAGE 132 New products from Callaway, Cobra, MD Golf, Benross and Never Compromise tested.

PAGE 137 Our new-look product directory. Every top item of gear listed. Find the equipment right for you.

PAGE 155 collar over hot-faced drivers? Perhaps you

Meet the geartester Supreme!ANDTHAT'S NOT JUST OUR EQUIPMENT EDITOR EITHER

Welcome to a revolution in golf magazine product testing. As a result, our experts promise to pin-point the right equipment for you.

FlightScope, which we used to test the distances achieved by the 12 premium drivers in this month's Big Test. Never mind your super-hot titanium alloys or your advanced dimple patterns, the Flight Scope is as close to the technological cutting edge as you're ever likely to see in TG. Using a 'phased array tracking radar', it follows both the arc of the clubhead and the flight of the ball from behind the golfer for up to 41/2 seconds, delivering to an attached laptop a bewildering amount of information, including ball speed, carry distance, hang time, maximum height, clubhead speed, and so on.

Where the FlightScope differs from more commonly available 'launch monitors' is in its accuracy. "Launch monitors only tell you about the launch conditions of a golf ball, not its flight," says EDH founder Henri Johnson. "Although they'll give you a distance reading, it won't be accurate because there's no mathematical model that can correctly predict the very complex interaction between ball and atmosphere. We've proved this by hitting an assortment of balls with a 7-iron; only by using the FlightScope can you see the difference."

The Pro version we used costs US\$16,000 and is already being snapped up by most of the top teaching academies in the USA, but the FlightScope story is only just beginning. EDH will shortly launch a battery-powered Tour model that individuals can use to send information to their own laptop, PDA or mobile phone, while they are also working with the R&A on a system to test the COR of drivers. In the meantime, their ball-tracking technology is currently being used to test serves in professional tennis and bowling speeds in cricket.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU...

[★]We guarantee our blend of human and computer product testing will help you make the correct buying decision. 99

