

# history of ping putters

**Ping putters** have a rich and storied history that has significantly impacted the world of golf. As one of the leading manufacturers of golf equipment, Ping has established a reputation for innovation, quality, and performance. This article delves into the history of Ping putters, tracing their evolution from the company's inception to their current status as a staple in the bags of professional and amateur golfers alike.

## Founding of Ping

In 1959, Ping was founded by Karsten Solheim, a Norwegian-American engineer. Solheim's background in engineering and his passion for golf led him to develop a unique approach to putter design. The name "Ping" originated from the sound the club made upon striking the ball, which Solheim found to be a satisfying and distinctive auditory cue.

## The First Putters

Solheim's innovation began with the creation of the first Ping putter, known as the "Ping 1A." This putter was characterized by its unique design, which featured a flat face and a more forgiving profile. The design was not immediately embraced, but over time, it gained popularity among golfers who appreciated its effectiveness.

Key features of the early Ping putters included:

- Anodized Aluminum Head: The use of aluminum allowed for a lighter clubhead, improving swing speed and control.
- Custom Fitting: Solheim believed in the importance of fitting clubs to individual golfers, which was revolutionary at the time.
- Innovative Design: The flat face and unique shape of the putter helped golfers achieve better alignment and accuracy.

## Rise to Prominence

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Ping putters began to gain traction on the professional golf circuit. The combination of quality craftsmanship and innovative design made them attractive to both amateur and professional golfers.

## Influence of Tour Professionals

The success of Ping putters can be attributed in part to their adoption by prominent players on the PGA Tour. Notably, in 1966, the legendary golfer, Billy Casper, won the

U.S. Open using a Ping putter. This victory served as a significant endorsement and opened the floodgates for widespread acceptance of Ping products.

Other notable players who contributed to the popularity of Ping putters included:

- Jack Nicklaus: The Golden Bear favored the Ping Anser putter, which became one of the most iconic putters in golf history.
- Tom Watson: Watson's success with the Ping putters further solidified their reputation on the professional circuit.

## **The Anser Model**

One of the most significant contributions to the world of golf from Ping is the Anser putter. Released in 1966, the Anser was designed to enhance control and accuracy. Its unique "blade" style became a benchmark for putter design.

Key features of the Anser putter include:

- Heel-and-Toe Weighting: This design improved stability and forgiveness on off-center strikes.
- Low Center of Gravity: The design encouraged a smoother roll, making it easier to control distance and direction.
- Customizable Length: The Anser was one of the first putters that allowed for customization to fit individual players' heights and strokes.

The Anser putter has been used to win numerous major championships and remains a top choice for many golfers even today.

## **Technological Advancements**

As technology progressed, so did the design of Ping putters. The company continually sought to incorporate new materials and manufacturing processes to enhance performance.

### **Introduction of New Materials**

The 1990s saw the introduction of new materials such as stainless steel and various composite materials. These advancements allowed Ping to create putters with improved feel and performance characteristics.

- Stainless Steel: This material provided durability and a soft feel, contributing to better feedback on putts.
- Composite Materials: Used in some models to reduce weight without sacrificing performance.

# **Innovative Manufacturing Techniques**

Ping embraced new manufacturing techniques, such as computer-aided design (CAD) and precision milling. These innovations allowed for more precise tolerances and improved overall quality.

The introduction of the "Ping Eye 2" putter in the 1980s showcased these advancements. The putter featured a unique groove design that enhanced spin and control, making it a favorite among golfers seeking to improve their short game.

## **Modern Era and Continuing Legacy**

In the 21st century, Ping has continued to innovate and adapt to the changing landscape of golf. The introduction of the "Ping Sigma 2" putter line in 2018 represents the latest in putter technology.

### **Key Features of the Sigma 2 Line**

The Sigma 2 putter line introduced several key features that demonstrate Ping's commitment to performance and customization:

- Adjustable Length: Each putter can be adjusted for length by up to 1.5 inches, allowing for a personalized fit.
- Dual-Durometer Face: This feature provides a soft feel on short putts while maintaining distance control on longer putts.
- Variety of Models: The Sigma 2 line includes various models, catering to different player preferences and stroke types.

## **Ping's Impact on the Golf Community**

Throughout its history, Ping has not only changed the way putters are designed but has also significantly influenced the golf community as a whole.

### **Commitment to Custom Fitting**

Ping's dedication to custom fitting has set a standard in the industry. By emphasizing the importance of fitting equipment to individual players, Ping has helped golfers of all skill levels improve their game. The company offers extensive fitting programs through authorized retailers, allowing golfers to find the best equipment for their unique needs.

# Support for Amateur Golf

Ping has played an active role in supporting amateur golf through sponsorships and initiatives aimed at promoting the sport. The company has also been involved in various charitable activities, contributing to golf's growth and accessibility for everyone.

## Conclusion

The history of **Ping putters** is a testament to innovation, quality, and the passion for golf that Karsten Solheim instilled in the company. From the early days of the Ping 1A to the modern Sigma 2 line, Ping has continually pushed the boundaries of putter design to enhance performance and improve the game for golfers around the world. As technology continues to advance, one can only imagine what the future holds for Ping and its commitment to excellence in golf equipment.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What year was the first Ping putter introduced?

The first Ping putter, the Ping 1, was introduced in 1959.

### Who is the founder of Ping and the inventor of the Ping putter?

The founder of Ping and the inventor of the Ping putter is Karsten Solheim.

### What innovation did Ping putters introduce that changed putter design?

Ping putters introduced the concept of perimeter weighting, which improved stability and forgiveness on off-center hits.

### How did the Ping Anser putter influence the golf industry?

The Ping Anser, introduced in 1966, set the standard for blade putters and is one of the most copied designs in golf history.

### What is the significance of the 'Anser' name in Ping putters?

The name 'Anser' was derived from the fact that the design was a response to the need for a better putting solution, with 'answer' reflecting its purpose.

## **How has technology affected the development of Ping putters over the years?**

Technology has led to advancements in materials, manufacturing processes, and design features such as adjustable weights and alignment aids in Ping putters.

## **What are some of the most popular models of Ping putters in recent years?**

Some of the most popular models include the Ping Sigma 2, Ping Vault, and the classic Ping Anser series.

## **How has Ping's approach to customization impacted the popularity of their putters?**

Ping's approach to customization, allowing golfers to adjust length, lie angle, and grip size, has made their putters more appealing to a wide range of players.

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