

Today's **Golfer**



INCORPORATING **FORE!**

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DIAMOND TOUCH DR4E TITANIUM DRIVER

THIS IS the most expensive driver you can buy in this country. To put it in perspective, for the same price you could treat yourself to two excellent King Cobra SS370 titanium drivers, and still have change for four dozen Titleist Pro V1 golf balls!

At £699, what makes the DR4E a worthwhile golfing luxury? The answer – DIAMONDS! The head of this 360cc driver has a highly polished insert comprising crushed diamonds, which is then bonded to the clubhead.

According to the manufacturers, this surface imparts less sidespin, topspin or backspin than any other material currently used in a driver. The result is greater distance. Diamonds are ten times harder than titanium, which means, say Diamond Touch, more energy is transferred into the ball.

One thing is for sure, sit this driver among other premium-priced drivers currently on sale and the Diamond Touch leaps out at you.

It's also comparable in performance. Diamond Touch have loads of 'robot' stats telling us how much further it sends the ball than other clubs on the market but I wanted to see what it was like in my hands, taking into account a bit of human error.

You immediately hear a 'harder' sound when you strike a ball. The flight was penetrating (something better players might enjoy) and there was plenty of roll. There is no doubt this driver is long, but don't expect to start nudging the ball 30 yards past a TaylorMade 500 Series. (You might crunch it 10 yards past on a really hot swing day.)

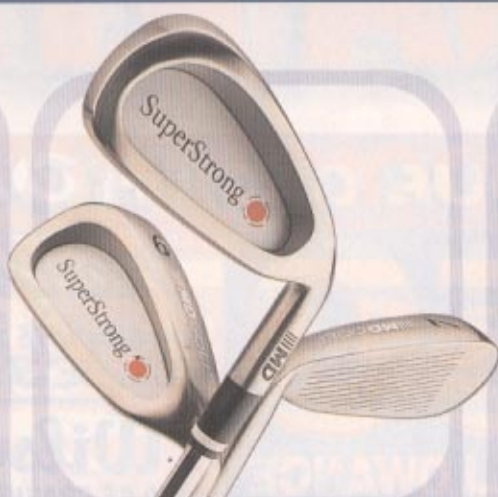
The price will make most people laugh, but carrying what is genuinely the world's 'most expensive driver' will certainly get your golfing partners talking.



PRICE: £699
VERDICT: ★★★★★

It's would be easy to say the price is ridiculous, but I guarantee there are people out there willing to pay this kind of cash for a sense of exclusivity. As a driver, this club is good, but is it £699 good? Hmm.

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MD GOLF SUPERSTRONG

IN THE PAST I've been criticised for only testing premium-priced equipment which, of course, is not the case. And here is another budget set of irons to prove it.

These clubs have an RRP of £299, which is perfect for the golfer who wants to play serious golf but doesn't want a huge outlay of cash.

Although this set of clubs will be fine for the raw beginner, I suspect it is the mid handicap player who will get the best from them.

There is nothing complex about these irons. They are basic cavity-backs with plenty of forgiveness, a thick-ish top edge and decent component parts (grips and shaft). It is a solid, no-nonsense set in my opinion.

I wouldn't class them as the prettiest golf clubs to grace our planet, but their chunky appearance does give you a sense of confidence, especially when setting up to hit the long irons.

The manufacturers tell me that the heads are made using a process called form-forging which, from what I gather, differs slightly from the standard forging process, but the soft sensation when you hit a ball is still there.

It's very easy to get the ball in the air with these clubs. The blades are semi low profile and the majority of the weight is focused around the sole area of each iron. With the 3, 4 and 5-iron this is very beneficial and my normal boring ball flight was replaced with a much higher, more hanging type of shot shape.



PRICE: £299
VERDICT: ★★★★★

A really good price for a set of irons that will work well in the hands of Mr Average, the club golfer. Ideal for people who hit a low ball but want to hit it higher.

TELEPHONE: 028 9446 0333
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TITLEIST PRO TITANIUM 975L•FE

OF ALL THE premium manufacturers, I think Titleist have kept the look of their woods most consistent over the longest period of time.

I never get bored of the classic shape and finish of this head. The smoke-grey metallic paint and the lovely rounded lines of this driver can't help but make me want to tee a ball up and give it a good belt. It naturally sits behind a ball so well, and I'm certain this is why I love the way these drivers perform. I was a fan of the first in the 975 family, the D, and that opinion carries forward to Titleist's latest titanium club, the L•FE.

In the age of 'hot'-faced drivers, the L•FE is designed to be up there (and beyond) with the performance of other titanium drivers on sale. But whereas the other current Titleist titanium driver, the J•VS, has weight biased in the head to promote a draw shape on your shots, the L•FE is the opposite. So, if you have a tendency to miss fairways left (that's if you're right-handed), this club will help you hit a straighter ball, or at worst, a slight fade.

The head size is big, but at 350cc not too big to make this club look unwieldy and unworkable, although more often than not I found that my natural shot was bullet straight. Nice.

As this driver is primarily targeted at serious golfers, the stock shaft options (the ones you can order) are extensive. You can pick from True Temper BiMatrix (only in X and S flexes), Fujikura Speeder, Grafalloy 4565, Graphite Design Y5-6 and Titleist Ultralite 60. The loft options vary according to shaft choice. For left-handers it's worth noting that the Ultralite 60 is available in 9.5° and 10.5° loft options.



PRICE: £350
VERDICT: ★★★★★

Understated elegance that better golfers will appreciate. If you constantly battle a big draw/hook off the tee, the L•FE should be the kind of driver that will suit you.

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