



Fore! Your Game

Your Equipment Guide For The Gear Enthusiasts

Written By Jeffrey Blank, Contributor
03 April 2022

25 Years of Masters Gear

The 2022 Masters marks a special anniversary. It is the 25th anniversary of Tiger Woods' historic victory in the 1997 Masters Tournament. Tiger would go on to secure five total green jackets over those 25 years and the golf world was beholden to memory after memory over this time.

Most avid golf fans (and casual fans alike) can likely rattle off these memories and moments engrained into Masters lore. Specific images, voices, and shots are streamed endlessly during this special week and we get to relive history.

What tends to go unnoticed is the gear and equipment behind these historic moments. In many cases, the gear itself has its own history and claim to fame. In the coming pages, we will connect some of the equipment to the most memorable Masters moments in the last quarter century.

1997: "A Win for the Ages" – Tiger's 1st Masters Win



Photo Credit: Augusta.com

Everyone knows the image. The fist pump. The embrace of his father Earl off the 18th green. The reign of Tiger Woods began with his Masters victory in 1997. Most do not know, however, the putter secured in his left hand from this epic picture.



It should come as no surprise that it has Scotty Cameron's fingerprints all over it. The Titleist Scotty Cameron Te13 putter is one of the most popular collectables in gear circles. It boasts a carbon

steel body, black oxide finish, and teryllium insert.

You can still find these putters in various conditions ranging from \$500 to \$2000+. There is also a Buffalo connection regarding the backup Te13 putter that Tiger kept. Over the years, Tiger would play periodic rounds with good friend, Buffalo Bills legend, and NFL Hall of Famer...Andre Reed. At one point, he gifted Reed this backup putter that has now made it to auction with a certificate of authenticity signed by Reed.

2005: "In Your Life!" – Tiger's Chip on #16



Photo Credit: Getty Images

It is in the conversation as one of the most famous shots in golf history. In a battle with Chris DiMarco on Sunday of the 2005 Masters, Tiger missed the green with his tee shot on #16 and faced a daunting chip. Tiger would use the severe slope to let the ball matriculate

down towards the hole but the ball would rest perilously on the hole's edge.

After seconds that felt like hours, the ball would take that extra revolution into the hole for birdie. Woods, Stevie, and the entire Masters crowd would erupt as the unthinkable became reality.



Photo Credit: Getty Images

In 2005, Tiger was already a few years into a deal with Nike to play their equipment. Therefore, it is no surprise that the wedge used for this iconic chip was a Nike Blade TW 60 degree wedge with a True Temper Dynamic S400 shaft. Tiger would tinker with many different wedge setups during his Nike reign.

One interesting tidbit that has recently surfaced is that Tiger grinds some of his wedges in his home workshop. You do not see many players doing that anymore. Old school.

2010: Lefty from the Pine Straw



It is not a stretch to say that Phil's shot from the pine straw on #13 at the 2010 Masters was the shot of his career. After hitting a drive right, he faced a tough decision at the par 5 as his ball sat a couple feet from a tree trunk.

His caddie, Jim "Bones" McKay, encouraged him to lay-up and play a wedge for his third shot but the ever aggressive (and sometimes reckless) Mickelson had other ideas. That is when he pulled his Callaway X Prototype 6-iron and struck one of the most famous shots in Masters history sending the ball soaring into the Augusta,

Georgia sky and landing it five feet for eagle. He would go on to make birdie and secure his third green jacket in a seven year stretch.



The Callaway X Prototype irons Phil used are a unique redesign of your traditional bladed iron and set forth the future better player offerings from the company including APEX MB line currently in play. These designs have come a long way from the iconic Big Bertha irons we

remember from the early-to-mid 90's.

2012: Bubba's "Boom-a-Rang" from the Trees



Photo Credit: Streeter Lecka

It is tough to find a more creative ball striker in the past 25 years than Bubba Watson and it is equally as tough to remember when he hit a shot without some curvature. Well, the necessity for creativity (and curvature) was on display in the 2012 Masters after hitting an errant drive on #10 in a playoff with Louis Oosthuizen...with the tournament in the balance.

Bubba faced a second shot from 144 yards and pulled his trusty PING Tour-W 52 degree wedge. It still boggles the mind, even today, that he was able to hook the ball 40 yards with a club of that much loft to 15 feet for birdie. Imagine what Louis Oosthuizen was thinking after that shot!

The wedge itself is the stuff of legend that even PING, who gold plates a replica of each putter used to win events, chose to gold plate a replica of this



Photo Credit: PING

wedge for its vault. Not only is this shot in the top shots in the last 25 years at the Masters, but it consistently cracks the top 10 shots in Masters history.

2013: Adam Scott's Major Breakthrough



Photo Credit: REUTERS/Phil Noble

In many ways, Adam Scott was unlucky. Ok, I guess 31 professional wins, reaching world number one in 2014, and a Masters victory in 2013 isn't everyone's definition of unlikely so let me clarify. Adam Scott turned professional in 2000, right in the middle of Tiger Woods' dominance over professional golf. One could wonder what his career would have looked like without having to contend with arguably the best golfer of all-time during his prime.

He spent the better part of the 13 years to start his career trying to shed the "one of the best to never win a major" labels. That was until 2013 -- on a rainy Sunday -- on the 10th green -- of the second playoff hole -- against Angel Cabrera. The birdie putt to win was from 15 feet and Scott left no doubt.



Photo Credit: GolfWRX

The putter used to secure the victory was a Scotty Cameron Prototype Futura X measuring at 49 inches and 3 degrees of loft. It is crafted from aluminum and features four adjustable stainless steel weights to help increase inertia and stability. Scott's victory with this anchored

style putter was one of many during this time that led to a controversial ban on anchoring in 2016.

2019: Tiger's Return to Glory



Photo Credit: AP/REUTERS

It is fitting that we started this article highlighting Tiger's historic win in 1997 and are ending it with his triumphant return to the top of the Masters leaderboard in 2019. Just as he was able to embrace his father, Earl Woods, off the 18th green in 1997, Tiger replicated this moment hugging his son Charlie and daughter Sam after his winning putt. This was certainly a "where were you when..." moment in golfing history. I remember holding my son (who was 1 years old at the time) watching the television screen at a local establishment as Tiger embraced his family. Definitely a special moment and something I nor the golfing world will forget.



The images from the final hole and final putt certainly dwarf any specific shot from the 71 holes preceding it. The pure joy, exuberance, and emotion released documented the long road to recovery for Tiger. One

interesting equipment aspect is Tiger's return to the putter than he won 14 of 15 majors with. The Scotty Cameron Newport 2 GSS was back in play after Nike exited the equipment game and the old friend did not disappoint. There is no doubt that this is the most recognizable, most valuable putter in the world.

The last 25 years certainly gave us some amazing Masters memories. It will be interesting to see what the next quarter century has in store and the gear used to create those memories.