



Fore! Your Game

Your Equipment Guide For The Gear Enthusiasts

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Won of Fourteen – Tour Championship Edition

Gear enthusiasts and weekend warriors alike often wonder what clubs the pros are gaming each week to see if these clubs could help their games. Search the internet and you can find a complete breakdown of all fourteen clubs in the winner's bag. This series of articles will focus on one of the fourteen clubs that captured my attention and helped propel the eventual winner to victory this past weekend.

This week, Rory McIlroy took home the trophy at the Tour Championship. Let's take a look at the pitching wedge (and overall wedge setup) that helped him secure his, record setting, third FedEx Cup!

TaylorMade MG3 Raw Pitching Wedge (46-09)



There are many clubs in Rory's bag deserving of a spotlight from the carbon face Stealth driver to the custom RORS PROTO irons to the TaylorMade Spider Hydro Blast putter that helped him rank second in strokes gained putter this week. A pitching wedge is not exactly the sexy choice but there are some interesting tidbits around this wedge and his entire wedge setup.

The first thing that stands out is that Rory does not use a pitching wedge that matches his iron set and instead chooses a traditional wedge that aligns with his sand and lob wedge. So, why does Rory prefer this type of wedge and are the benefits something that might help your game?

Choosing between a pitching wedge (or even gap wedge) that aligns with your iron or wedge set can have a lot of personal preferences to consider from looks, feel, forgiveness and beyond. For Rory specifically, he hits the ball higher than any other player on tour so he was looking for a pitching wedge that had a bit more bounce in order to play a more penetrating flight. A more controlled flight is even more important on courses with a lot of grain

where the leading edge of a wedge can really dig into the turf leading to higher shots. It makes sense why Rory would choose the MG3 wedge as East Lake GC is a course with significant grain.



The other notable aspect to McIlroy's setup is the gapping of his wedges. Most club fitters would recommend having around 4 to 5° gaps between each wedge to avoid large distance gaps in your game. Rory has a staggering 8° difference between his 46° pitching wedge and his 54° sand wedge. This is quite rare and requires Rory to play many ¾ and ½ shots with his pitching wedge due to these distance gaps. The benefit, however, is that he can carry both a 5 wood and 3 iron in the upper part of his set. For Rory, this can help his long game in order to vary shot shape and trajectory on approach shots into the green (especially on par 5s). It can also explain why Rory plays the MG3 Raw pitching wedge, as he needs to manipulate the club in order to play these partial shots.

Now that we know the thought process behind Rory's wedge setup, let's get into the details around the TaylorMade MG3 Raw wedges:

- RAW Face Technology designed for increased spin and feel with sharper, narrower and deeper grooves in the face, as well as laser etched precision. The face rusts over time, preserving spin properties and providing the time-honored look preferred by many Tour professionals.
- Milled Grind wedges ensure precision where it matters most. The process maximizes consistency when crafting each sole for repeatable performance and turf interaction.
- This groove features steep side walls and a sharp edge radius to maximize spin.

References

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- By redistributing mass, we are able to optimize CG location for precise flight and enhanced feel.
- Raised Micro-Ribs are positioned between full grooves for added texture on the face. They are designed to increase spin and improve performance on shots around the green.

The TaylorMade MG3 wedges retail for \$179.99 and is available at most of the major equipment shops.

References

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