

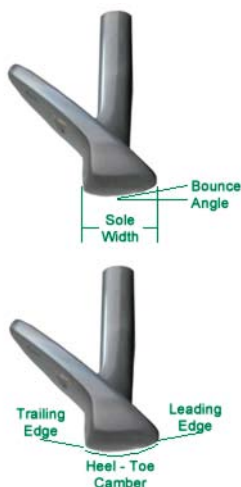
Grinding For Better Scores

How do you select a wedge grind to fit your game?

By Russ Ryden, AGCP Master Fitter, President, Fit2Score

Most golfers focus on driver fitting and overlook getting properly fit for their scoring clubs. In the past few years, the custom grinds, once available only to golf professionals, are now available to the average golfer.

Understanding these grinds and how they fit your game and course conditions can be confusing without the assistance of a professional fitter that understands wedge grinding. Let's take a look at a few of the terms that describe wedge soles.



Bounce: The angle formed by the difference in height between the leading edge and the crown of the sole

Sole Width: The thickness of the bottom of the head

Camber: The curve of the sole from the leading edge to the trailing edge.

These terms are easy to understand when we look at typical irons, but when we get to wedges with custom grinds it gets fuzzy. Custom ground wedges can have relief on the

leading edge, trailing edge, heel and toe. Each of these will improve the playability of the wedge in partial shots, when the wedge is laid open for flop shots or when you close it for chips.

The Raw Wedge Head

A custom wedge head starts "raw." It is unchromed and unpolished. These heads may be custom ground by the factory or by your clubfitter. The finisher shapes it to fit your swing style, course conditions and use of the club.

The Scratch EGG grind is a good example of custom grinding. It has a thin sole with aggressive heel, toe and trailing edge relief. This keeps the leading edge close to the ground when the face is opened. Moder-



ate effective bounce of 10 degrees combined with moderate camber allow it to play more like a wider sole wedge out of bunkers.

If you find this confusing, remember, this is only one of the 18 custom grinds available from Scratch Golf.



Custom Wedge Fitting Process

A custom fitting starts with an analysis of your swing type. Do you sweep the ball off the ground with a shallow angle of attack, or strike down into the ball with an aggressive angle of attack, taking a big divot? The sweeper is better suited to a low bounce sole, while the digger needs high bounce to get the clubhead out of the ground.

Do you play your chip shots back in your stance? If so, leading edge relief puts the edge closer to the ground and increases your confidence on thin lies.

When it's time to update your wedges, find a good wedge-grinding fitter and get fit for wedges much the same as you would get properly fit for your driver.

A knowledgeable custom-fitter that grinds wedges can match your wedge use, swing style and course conditions to a proper grind. He also will address other fitting issues – weight, shaft flex profile, shaft stiffness and appropriate loft gapping that are also part of the wedge-fitting process. When it's time to update your wedges, find a good wedge-grinding fitter and get fit for wedges much the same as you would get properly fit for your driver.



Russ Ryden does clubfittings by appointment at The Golf Club at Champions Circle in Fort Worth and at the Golden Bear Golf Center in Carrollton. He is an AGCP Master Club Fitter and is Titleist Performance Institute Certified. He can be reached at 817-247-3110. Visit his Web site at Fit2Score.com for more information about custom-fit golf clubs.