

HOW TO MAKE MORE PUTTS RIGHT NOW!

Celebrating Our
30th year!

GOLFTIPS

THE GAME'S IN-DEPTH INSTRUCTION & EQUIPMENT MAGAZINE

www.golftipsmag.com

Holiday Gift Guide

GOLF GEAR
GALORE



50+
GREAT IDEAS

DON'T Keep Your **Head Down**
Get a **Video Lesson**

Fix Your **Downswing**
TRAVEL TIPS:
Costa Rica Calling

⊙ VOLVIK VIVID BALLS

Golf balls have always been shiny little suckers, right? At least since the 1930s or so. That high gloss, that smooth touch — that's the way it's gotta be, or so say traditionalists. Same with the whole white thing. Colored golf balls? Hmm.

Sure, we're starting to see some yellow golf balls out there, even on Tour. But the good folks at Volvik got tired of seeing that part of the golf universe in decidedly monochrome tones. Why not splash it up? They asked. Why not create a rainbow of golf balls that also happen to perform really well? And, with their new Vivid Matte, why not leave the high gloss in the bag and come up with an orb that doesn't reflect the sun on those bright days, but instead stands out against any tint of sky? The Vivid's unique finish (they are still available in traditional gloss, too) almost approaches translucent as it sits on the tee, while its highly resilient power core provides a brand of soft yet stout "kick" that's perfect for slower swing speeds of 70 to 90 mph. Its dimple pattern is engineered to minimize sidespin, while the cover also grabs the ball at impact, resulting in mid-high backspin, mid-high trajectory and shorter run-outs on the green from middle distances. Yes, putting a bright orange, blue or red ball in play takes a



leap of imagination, and a willingness to suffer the slings and arrows of your buddies' snide comments. But once you've left them in the dust by eight or 10 yards a few times, they'll come around. They just might color up, too. Vivid balls are available in four configurations — original, Soft, XT and Lite.

\$32.99-\$42.99 | www.volvik.com

⊙ MLA PUTTERS

Switzerland-based MLA Golf's series of flat sticks are all about perfect alignment, and they achieve it thanks to a scientifically vetted and tested system the company calls "Multiple Line-detector Activation" technology, or MLA. These putters, including the popular Xdream Black Edition shown here, are designed to take advantage of the alignment guides built into every human being by boiling down the 100,000 or so line detectors in the brain to four harmonious "lines" on the putterhead: At the top and bottom edges and at spots one-third of the way across the top. There are no lines directly behind the point of contact, as with most putters, though there is a tiny dot that's nearly imperceptible at address; instead, those four lines converge in the mind, "activating the maximum number of coordinated detectors," eliminating optical illusions and freeing the subconscious to simply "sense" the proper line. It's the "just get out the way and let it happen" concept, and based on Golf Tips testing over several rounds, it works beautifully. The Tour Xdream has a full-milled head that's wide and deep like a large mallet, but stair-stepped toward the trailing edge to keep the weight forward (included weight screws range from 5 to 15 grams). It's a well-balanced package. Other models include Tour Blade, Pro Series and Target Series, each with two to four models to choose from.



\$99-\$369 | www.mla.golf