

New Classics

SWING STYLE

From handcrafted leather bags to custom-knit headcovers, a few of our favorites for spring. **BY THOMAS DUNNE**

It's axiomatic that one can learn more about a person on the golf course than over years of business meetings, and for experienced golfers the point can easily be extended. Even before the first tee shot is struck, golfers scope each other out—clubs, clothes, shoes, bag, accessories—for the material clues to their companion's personality or game. And the deeper one gets into the subculture of golf, the more such signifiers begin to stand out.

In a match, nothing is more dangerous than predicting players'

ability to score based on whether they are using all the latest space-age technology; the rusty putter and the ancient blade iron are often the tools of the bandit. Likewise, the following wardrobe staples are not the province of the touring pro or even the low-handicapper, but simply the signs of a player who appreciates golf in its simple, traditional form. Along with a good-humored, sporting nature and an unforced mastery of the game's complex etiquette, they signal that one is in the company of a true golfer. **CONTINUED »**



THE HEADCOVER For years major equipment companies have concocted the most revolting color schemes imaginable for their headcovers. This is by design—they're there to scream brand identity in a split second of airtime. But why join in on this marketing ploy? Instead, follow the lead of **Jan Craig**. In 1953 this Cincinnati-area scratch golfer bought her husband a golf bag for his birthday. Dissatisfied with the accompanying headcovers, she knit new ones of her own design. Soon she had a fledgling business, which took off when a young Jack Nicklaus ordered a white-and-green set to match his MacGregor staff bag. The company still uses Craig's original pattern, which can be ordered in 38 colors and multiple sizes of pom-poms, with striping and initialing as well. **▣ From \$30; jancraigheadcovers.com.**