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Make a Statement with Your Golf Cart

BY SCOTT MARTIN

THERE ARE MANY GOOD REASONS FOR THE SERIOUS GOLFER TO OWN A CART, SO PUT YOUR PERSONAL STYLE ON WHEELS AND TAKE IT ON-AND OFF-THE GOLF COURSE

In the world of customized golf carts, Tim Hall of Brighton has carved himself a niche with carts he has named the Pill, the Screamer, and the Pitch—which really should be called the Soccer Ball.

“The whole point of customizing golf carts is to deliver exactly what the

used to use at certain ballparks to get from the bullpen to the mound.

“I get asked to do a lot of wonderful and crazy designs for companies and also for golfers,” says Hall. “Everyone has an idea. I’m prepared to build anything. There are no restrictions.”

regular group it’s exciting to show off a customized cart.

The most inexpensive way to own a golf cart is to purchase a used model from a golf cart dealer. In the Denver Metro area, try **Discount Golf Cars** (303.744.3494) or **Larry Maurer’s Mile High Golf Cars** in



LUXURY CARTS

customer wants,” says Hall. Hall’s company, **Custom Caddy Werx** (customcaddywerx.com), designs and sells what he calls Specialty Sports Vehicles (SSVs) that feature a round fiberglass shell—sort of like a large golf ball—placed over the golf cart. In a business that’s increasingly moving to golf carts that look like cars and trucks, Hall’s creations are noticeably different; they look a lot like the carts that relief pitchers

It does not take a mathematical genius to work out that a golfer who plays several days a week can quickly recoup the cost of a golf cart. This tactic may annoy a golf club that generates a useful \$10 to \$25 cart fee from each round, but for the golfer who prefers not to walk, a personal golf cart is not only a wise investment but also a lot of fun. In many golf communities, a golf cart is a great way to get around off the course, too, and for the golfer who is part of a

Frederick (303.833.1400). Buying a used golf cart is like buying a used car: You should ask friends at the club who have purchased used golf carts about the reputation of the dealer from whom they bought theirs, and you should be aware that there is always room to negotiate over price, service, warranty and options. Gas or electric? This usually depends on the terrain of your golf course. If the course is particularly hilly, some electric models can



LUXURY CARTS

struggle. In some ways, gas carts are more efficient and may be easier to use, but clubs sometimes mandate electric carts because they are quieter and do not produce exhaust.

If a stock new golf cart is the preferred route, there are plenty of options and plenty of price points from major manufacturers like Club Car, Yamaha and E-Z-GO. **Club Car** (clubcar.com) has three primary golf models: the DS, Precedent Professional and Precedent Champion, which the company's web site claims is a "brush with greatness." The website also features a dealer locator. **Yamaha** offers a cart it calls The Drive (discoverthedrive.com), which can be configured in a variety of ways from the rudimentary to the fully loaded. **E-Z-GO** (ezgo.com), of Augusta, Georgia, has been manufacturing golf carts since 1954. The company's two primary models are the TXT and the Freedom SE. The former is a basic fleet-oriented model while the latter is more customizable. The website showcases the full line-up and has a useful used cart locator as well.

The real fun in the golf cart business, however, comes from the custom cart builders and designers. When it comes to customization, the Cole Porter song *Anything Goes* certainly applies. How about a Hummer golf cart? **Luxury Carts** (luxurycarts.com) offers a licensed Hummer body kit that can be bolted onto



LARSEN GOLF CARS

most golf carts. The company has numerous other interesting designs including a Cadillac Escalade for those who want to bring a touch of bling to the course.

It's not hard to find used golf carts in respectable condition for around \$2,000. A new model without a lot of options will start at around \$6,000. Many golf cart companies also offer innovations like the A/C drive motor/controller upgrade, which costs around \$3,200 but gives the golf cart 18 horsepower and makes it fly.

In the southern Californian desert, Kim Larsen owns **Larsen Golf Cars** (larsengolfcars.com), which specializes in custom golf carts. One golfer who wanted to set himself apart and also be a magnet for attention was the individual who asked Larsen for a functioning beer tap at the back of the cart. Other interesting accessories that Larsen has installed include humidors, CD players and flip-down televisions. The company also builds its own chassis and can install the same differential one would find in a Ferrari.

"We're the Harley-Davidson of golf carts," says Larsen. "Anything is possible."

Customization sometimes comes with a "if you have to ask you can't afford it" price tag that can easily go north of \$20,000. But to the serious golfer who wants to make a serious statement, nothing exceeds like a customized golf cart.

At Custom Caddy Werx, Tim Hall spends most of his time having fun turning routine golf carts into something memorable, and his business is more about

helping others make a statement than plopping fiberglass on top of a Yamaha.

"Our goal is to add fun and enjoyment in a busy, sometimes overwhelming world," says Hall. "I'm doing this because it's fun."

Hang on isn't that what golf is about? Fun and enjoyment in a sometimes overwhelming world? Better get the Scream or the Pill from Tim Hall.

Scott Martin is a contributing writer to Colorado Golf Magazine