Fitting clubs the ‘mod’ way

New machine not only aids the pro in teaching, it helps him determine the correct club specifications for the pupil

The golf pro may just have found a friend for life. The owner of a new machine called the Swing Recorder, already patented, claims to have put the tricky and complicated question of club fitting on a reliable basis.

The pro merely follows the readings of computerized charts, called Photoanalytical Club Fitting Analysis Charts. These charts are encased in plastic and bolted to the machine and enable him to record the results of a golfer’s performance with a variety of clubs as measured by photoanalytical polaroid shots.

The golfers performance as to his impact speed, clubshaft flex and loft are carefully recorded on the charts until the proper combination gives him the optimum trajectory. He thus has in his hands an exact and clearly understandable series of records of what his best fitted club will do for him on the average. The machine will also help to determine which club is best for the golfer.

The device is electric and works best indoors. It is 18 inches wide, nine inches deep, 40 inches high and weighs 65 lbs. The pro can also use the machine to give his lessons.

One example of its use in teaching is illustrated in figure 1. The action of the golfer can be stopped motionless at any point and can be viewed by the student, with his instructor interpreting his action.

All the theories developed and later embodied in the charts were actually tested on the driving range and were very accurate in their predictions, it is reported. Golfers, from the average to the touring pro, were subjected to these methods and their performances were accurately measured while they hit shots on the range. These shots compared with the predicted results.

The machine’s inventor is E.J. Betinis. He possesses a background in mathematical physics and computer analysis and has played golf for about 25 years.