

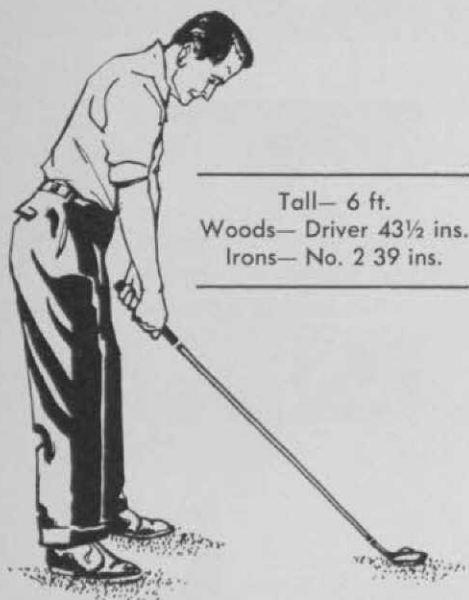


Chuck Tanis'

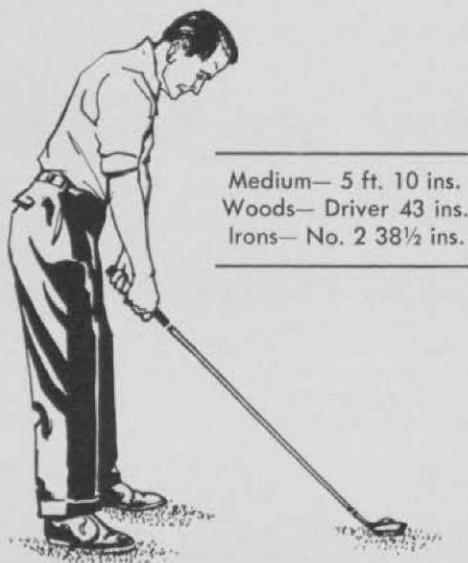
(Professional, Olympia Fields (Ill.) CC)

**Guide to
Club Fitting**

(Please turn the page)



Tall— 6 ft.
 Woods— Driver 43½ ins.
 Irons— No. 2 39 ins.



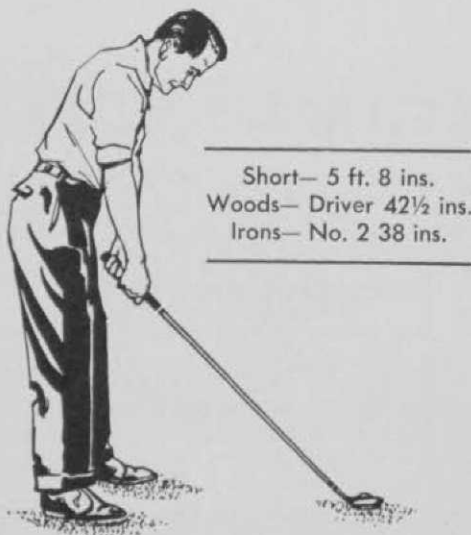
Medium— 5 ft. 10 ins.
 Woods— Driver 43 ins.
 Irons— No. 2 38½ ins.

By CHUCK TANIS

If a professional tends to become lax or even indifferent in fitting clubs, it should snap him back when he stops to consider that the purchaser is investing a very substantial amount of money in a set or, for that matter, even in a single club. Proper fitting is a term often heard in our business, but I think it should be altered slightly to "perfect fitting". The latter, certainly, should be what we strive for.

Most manufacturers are doing a fine job in providing us with a wide selection of models in the top grade lines to fit every shape, build and posture and, for that matter, even the peculiarities of the different types of golfers. That, in itself, doesn't guarantee success in fitting, however. Much of this depends on how thoroughly we familiarize ourselves with the wide range of clubs that are available, and how closely we study our players and their needs.

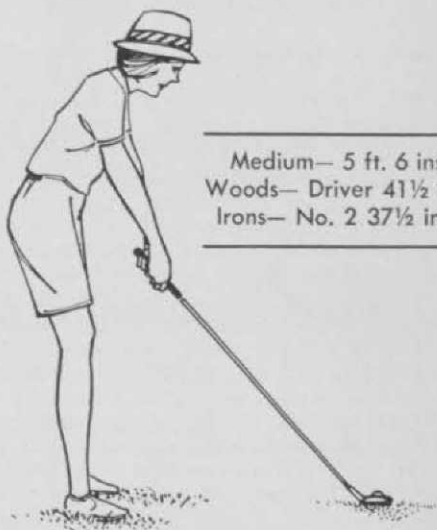
I have been in the golf business for a good number of years. I've heard quite a few theories on the art of club fitting, some very practical and, I suppose, just as many that I never saw fit to adopt. I think, too, that I have been a pretty close observer, if not a student, of club fitting. Some years ago, after much listening and observing, I reached the conclusion that a professional won't go wrong if he con-



Short— 5 ft. 8 ins.
 Woods— Driver 42½ ins.
 Irons— No. 2 38 ins.



Tall— 5 ft. 8 ins.
 Woods— Driver 42 ins.
 Irons— No. 2 38 ins.



Medium— 5 ft. 6 ins.
 Woods— Driver 41½ ins.
 Irons— No. 2 37½ ins

concentrates on just two things in fitting clubs — the length of the club and the shaft texture.

The sketches on these pages provide a reliable guide in prescribing the correct length for the player. In trying the clubs, the golfer should assume a comfortable stand-up position which can be maintained with a firm back, and his knees should be slightly flexed. Arm length is very important. A tall person with long arms, for example, may require a standard set of clubs, whereas another tall person with short arms probably would require a set an inch or so longer. The same thing, of course, applies to players of medium or short build. This may sound a little routine, but it is the very essence of fitting so far as club length is concerned.

Consider Several Factors

Determining the type of shaft a player can handle is the most difficult thing about club fitting and undoubtedly causes the pro more trouble than anything else. The strength of the player, his physical ability and to a lesser degree his age and occupation, determine his ability to cope with different flexes. It's too bad we don't have some kind of a muscle meter to help us in this phase of fitting. Nevertheless, we should make every effort to determine how strong the player is so that the right flex can be prescribed for him.

Here, I think, is a reliable guide for de-



Short— 5 ft. 4 ins.
 Woods— Driver 41 ins.
 Irons— No. 2 37 ins.

termining the firmness of the shaft: In longer clubs, stiff, medium stiff and regular models are preferable; In standard or medium length clubs, medium stiff or regular are most likely to please; Short clubs are more satisfactory when regular or flexible type shafts are prescribed.

Similar variations in shaft types are available for women players.