

Teaching golf with TV

Instant playback makes for more convincing golf instruction and shortcuts spotting faults.

By DICK ANDRES

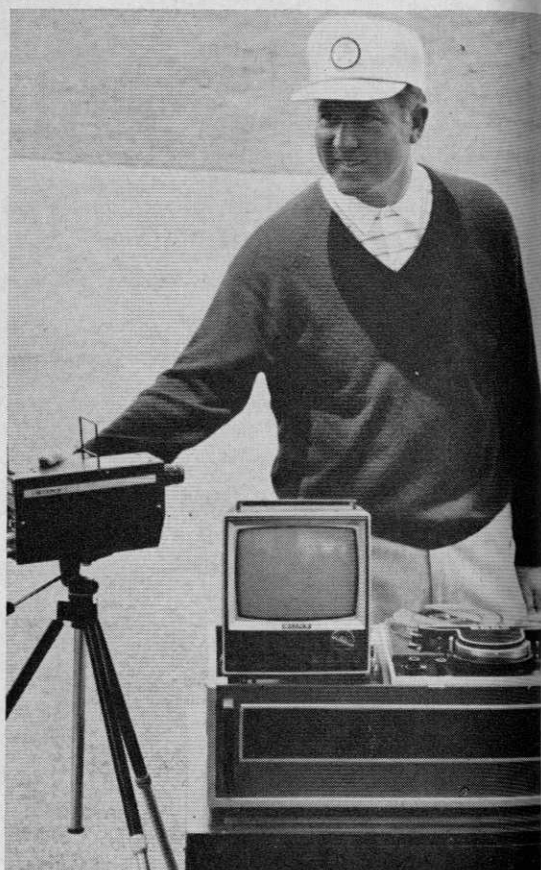
The Age of Electronics has at last reached out and plugged into golf — more precisely, golf instruction. And it is not surprising.

The extensive use of the videotape playback (an electronic development in which moving pictures recorded on video tape are replayed immediately without processing) in baseball, football, as well as, of course, in TV golf shows, has conditioned the TV fan to reruns of key plays and analyses of Tour stars' swings.

The golfer, therefore, is more than ready to have *his own swing* analyzed. Moreover, the videotape recording system—much more than just a gimmick—is probably the most revolutionary teaching aid of the century. With instant playback, golf instruction is converted into an exacting science and proves the videotape to be an excellent as well as profitable tool for professional and student.

Obviously, the adaptation of this device to golf, although a somewhat recent idea, is not unexpected. At last year's Bing Crosby Open, Tom Nieporte, head professional at Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley, Long Island, saw a live demonstration of the videotape potential as a teaching device. He decided then, after talking it over with his club members, to purchase a Sony VideoCorder for instructional use at Piping Rock.

It is a philosophical truism that noth-



Tom Nieporte stands by his recently acquired videotape equipment. Easy to assemble and no more difficult to operate than a TV set, the device can convince a pupil of his faults faster than a hundred demonstrations.

ing reaches the mind that has not first passed through the senses. As Tom Nieporte puts it, "Ideas are best gotten through images or, in more familiar terms, a picture is worth a thousand words. The video tape is a great asset since previously the only way a professional could transmit a picture of the correct swing, or the pupil's faulty swing — which the pupil might not believe— was by demonstrating it himself. Now, using 'instant playback,' a technique identical to the more publicized 'isolated camera,' irrefutable evidence of swing errors can be seen (as proof) on tape."

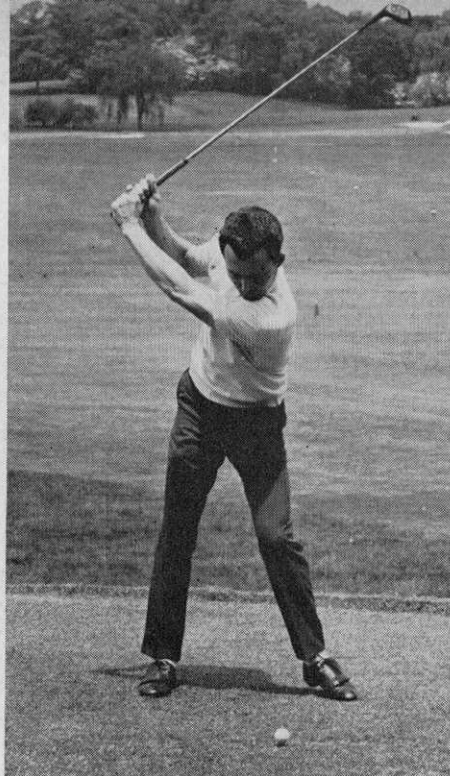
The procedure for proper use, according to Nieporte, "is rather simple and obvious. Technically speaking, the portable videotape complex has three units— camera, TV set and tape recorder. It is quite easy to assemble and no more formidable to operate than adjusting a television. The camera, focused on the student, records his swing. Then, it is rerun under the scrutiny of both the student and myself, at which point I can closely analyze the sequence.

"Better yet," he continues, "I can manually stop the action at various points in the swing to study each movement in detail and thereby tailor the golf swing to fit the individual golfer."

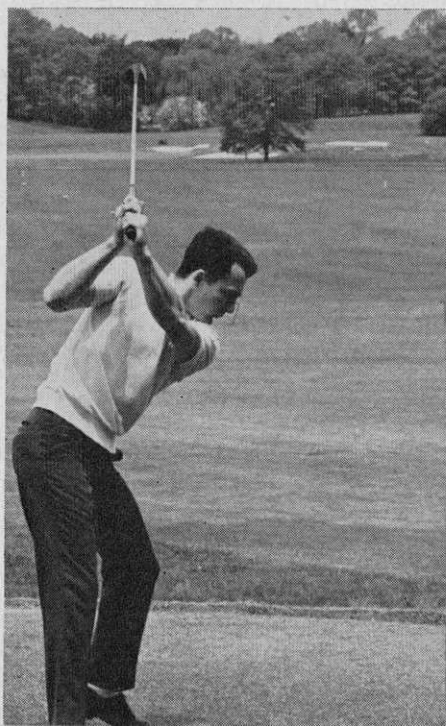
Although Tom still gives old-style, pre-videotape lessons, there is no doubt, he says, that the video tape definitely provides a shortcut in spotting faults. It's even possible to put the pro and his pupil side by side swinging simultaneously. The pro can then more easily point out how the student's swing differs from the correct method.

Another plus provided by the TV device, says Tom, is that any spoken instructions can be recorded by microphone on the same tape as the pictures. In addition, a zoom lens can be purchased for \$200, which permits zeroing in on specific areas such as hip turn, hand action, impact zone, etc.

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Basic camera position is at right angles to line of flight and on line with ball, above. But much can be learned also from back and side. If you want to take pictures from behind, below, camera is best on line with toes.



Teaching Golf

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"As a positive approach to teaching golf," says Nieporte, "golf instruction, abetted by the video tape, becomes more logical and, hence, more intelligible. By overemphasizing the very visible errors that are made and recorded, the correct swing arc, by comparison, stands out. And, since most people have a native talent for mimicking, they can readily copy the correct swing."

Although the unit has been trimmed down in size and price to make it practical for the local golf professional to own, rent, or lease, the cost is still substantial enough to merit some concern.

For example, the prices of the various Sony units range from about \$1,200 to \$1,600, and other comparable systems (Ampex, Concord Electronics Corp. and Panasonic) are priced more or less the same. (See comparison chart on page 18.)

Cost, as a major problem, can be met with in many ways. Initially, it can be

written off on the professional's taxes as an expenditure for "equipment necessary for the performance of your job." More specifically, it can be listed on the Federal Income Tax Form (Part III, line 3) as deductible business expenses ("... cost of tools and materials. . .") or under Miscellaneous (Part IV) as "... tools and supplies used in your job." And, of course, depreciation can be accounted for in later tax returns.

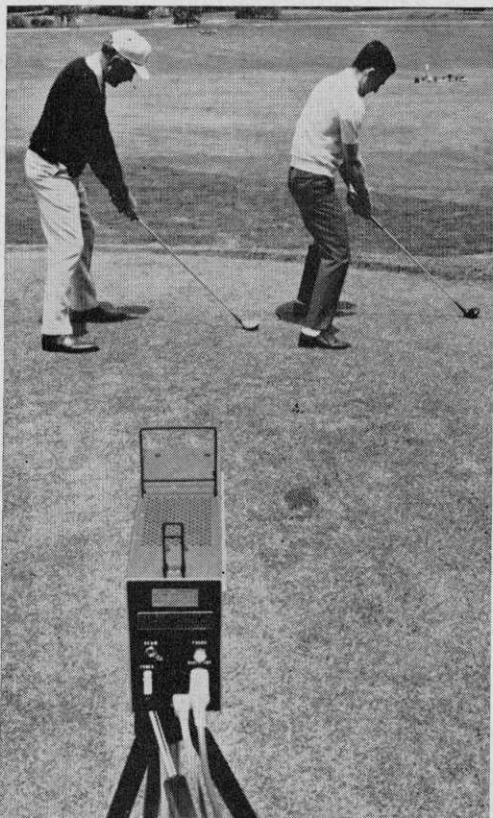
If the original investment is beyond the professional's personal funds, the club itself or a willing group of members may be persuaded to finance the venture on their own.

Since Tom Nieporte purchased his Sony equipment late last year, he did not charge anything extra for its use at first. However, this year, now that the members have an understanding and familiarity with the device, he has naturally added \$5 to his regular teaching fee for an hour's lesson. "Sometimes," he says, "I let the good amateur members use it by themselves and charge them the cost of a lesson plus the cost of the machine."

It is well worth the extra charge and, surprisingly, it is really a significant saving for the student since, as Nieporte says, "I can teach each golfer more in one lesson *with* the video tape than in two or more lessons without it. And from a practical viewpoint, the result of using the video tape in my teaching has been the increased interest by members in golf instruction and, interestingly, by those who never took lessons before."

Once the lesson is concluded, theoretically the tape can be stored or filed for future use, but it is plainly more economical to wipe off the tape so that it can be used over again for the next student. However, if a member prefers saving the lesson and matching his first performance with his corrected and matured swing, for \$35 he can purchase his own personal tape.

The pupil's errors in method, rhythm or timing can easily be shown by having teacher and pupil swing side by side.





Tom Nieporte, right, and his pupil seem well satisfied with the progress shown in the swing under review. Stop action feature emphasizes the key points.

Nieporte believes that the most effective instruction "is a combination of an initial playing lesson where the professional can see the member in action and then a session on the practice tee with the video tape for a partner."

"The benefit to the student," Nieporte asserts, "is enormous, and the video tape as a teaching tool is invaluable. Although it is not a cureall, it has all the

attraction and advantage of immediacy as well as built-in motivation. People love to see pictures of themselves.

"As an incentive for listening, seeing, and learning, the video tape appeals directly to the player's ego. After all, most golfers are acutely interested in their games, and what is more satisfying than seeing your own swing with a visible proof of improvement at each stage." ●



TV teaching stimulates member interest in taking a course of lessons.

VIDEO RECORDER MANUFACTURERS

COMPANY	MODEL NAMES	PRICE	FEATURES	
Ampex Corp. 1212 6th Avenue New York, New York 10036	Recorder			
	(1) VR-6050	\$1195	Six minute reel tape.	
	(2) VR-6000	\$1595	Portable, 2.5 MHZ band width, six minute reel tape.	
	(3) VR-6075	\$1435	Oiled walnut case.	
	(4) VR-6165	\$1795	Video tape recorder and modified receiver/monitor combination.	
	(5) VR-7000	\$3150	Portable video tape recorder in heavy case designed for continuous use in all cc TV applications.	
	(6) VR-7500	\$3995	Four minute fast forward automatic tension release around drum, broad tension adjustment range, variable slow motion, two audio tracks.	
	(7) VR-7500C	\$4495	Portable color, in heavy case, all features of #7500.	
	(8) VR-7100	\$5945	Video trainer system, TV tuner, 9" monitor, all features of #7000.	
	Camera			
	(1) CC-6007	\$399.95	25 mm with F/1.9 lens.	
	(2) CC-6400	\$549.95	Optical view finder, VTR remote record control, microphone input, 25 mm with F/1.4 lens.	
	(3) CC-6450	\$589.95	Camera kit: CC 640 camera, tripod, cable, lens tissue, 200/microphone (less base), lavalier, resolution chart.	
(4) CC-324 (optional extra Zoom lens)	\$995 \$55	3 position "C" mount lens turret, 25 mm with F/1.4 lens, video and RF outputs.		
Monitor (TV set)				
(1) TR-821	\$259.95	20" modified Motorola monitor receiver.		
(2) VM-617	\$449.95	17" solid state video monitor.		
(3) VM-623	\$549.95	23" solid state video monitor.		
(4) VM-627	\$499.95	27" video monitor.		
(5) TRC-921	\$695.00	20" modified Motorola color modified receiver.		
Concord Electronics Corp. 1935 Armacost Avenue Los Angeles, California 90025	Recorder			
	(1) VTR-600	\$1150	One hour of recording, video signal level can be set from monitor.	
	Camera			
	(1) MTC-15	\$375	Simultaneous RF and video output, adjusts automatically to changing light conditions.	
	(optional extra Zoom lens)			
	#5528	\$160		
#9015	\$429			
Monitor (TV set)				
(1) MR-600	\$160	RF head for VHF and UHF reception, built-in antennae.		
Panasonic By Matsushita Electric Corp. of America Pan Am Building 200 Park Avenue New York, N.Y. 10017	Recorder			
	(1) NV-8100	\$1100	40 min. recording time, fast forward time, 5 1/2 min.	
	(2) NV-8000	\$1050	Dubbing erase head, fast rewind, 5 1/2 min.	
	Camera			
	(1) WV-033P	\$300	25 mm with FL.8 lens, C mount, RF matching transformer.	
	Zoom lens	\$49.95		
	Telephoto lens	\$39.95		
	Monitor (TV set)			
	(1) TR-120V	\$200	75 sq. in. of viewing area, 110° aluminized picture tube.	
	(2) TR-900V	\$170	37 sq. in. of viewing area, operates on AC or battery.	
Sony Corp. of America 47-47 Van Dam Street Long Island City, New York 11101	Recorder			
	(1) CV 2000 D	\$695	One hour of recording.	
	(2) CV 2000	\$730	Slow tape speed, 7 1/2" per second.	
	*(3) TCV-2010	\$995		
	*(4) TCV-2020	\$1150	100 per cent tape interchangeability.	
	Camera			
	(1) VCK 2000	\$350	Tripod, microphone and cables. It's own carrying case.	
	(optional extra Zoom lens)	\$200	Standard C mount.	
	Monitor (TV set)			
	(1) CVM-51 VWP	\$195	8" screen, lightweight, with handle.	
(2) CVM-2300 V	\$295	22" screen, suitable for groups.		

Note: Basic set consists of recorder, camera, microphone and TV monitor. Color set to come out in fall.
 * Built in monitor.

The following companies are not manufacturing this equipment at the present time: General Electric, Magnavox, Motorola, RCA, Sylvania, Westinghouse and Zenith.

Ampex, Concord and Panasonic equipment are available through distributors while Sony is sold through franchise dealers. Financing arrangements are made through the individual distributors and franchise dealers.