

Written by Mark Conner. This is an old Ping collector's questions and answers:

Q: I was just wondering what the value of a Ping Scottsdale putter would be? All original and in pretty good condition.

A: Ping Collectors are picky so it has to have the right grip, shaft band etc to get top dollar, which I think is still in the \$1500.00 range if all is correct, but I could be way off as the Ping collecting market today is not what it once was.

Q: Do you know if Ping still makes a victory putter after each tour win? I remember back when Karsten was still alive Ping would make a replica of the putter used after each tour victory. I think it was gold plated if it was a major.

A: Yes, they are still making gold putters for wins. 2 are made. One for the Ping vault and one for the player.

Q: Was a Zing model ever produced in Beryllium Copper?

A: They did not make a BeCu version for the Zing. They were on made of MgBr. Ping made a BeCu version for the Zing 2. The Zing 2 was made in Stainless, Stainless with Black Satin (Black Ox), BeCu and BeNi.

Q: What cities were Ping putters made in?

A: Karsten made Pings in Redwood City CA, Scottsdale AZ, and Phoenix AZ.

Q: Where there 2 versions of the Dalehead Anser?

A: Yes, one has a flat sole and one is more curved called a rocker sole. And the 1990's Limited models were the same way, 2 different soles.

Q: When was Anser 3's made?

A: They were introduced in the early 80's with the 85068 zip code and were all none floating face.

Q: I found a ping putter in my garage and hav no clue about it. The left bumper says PING, the right bumper says ANSER and the back reads;

U.S. Pat NO. 0207227

KARSTEN MFG. CORP

BOX 9990 PHOENIX, ARIZONA

MADE IN U.S.A. 85068

There is a beach slot in the putter. Any idea?

A: Standard Ping Anser from late 70's or early 80s.

Q: Can you tell me how far to the first step on the shaft of an original Anser?

A: The first step should be 9 1/2 inches above the hosel.

Q: How many putters were made of copper?

A: Scottsdale Anser, Anser 2, Anser 4, Anser 5, Anser 5KS, B60, B61, CU 5, Cushin, Eye 2, Gowin 5, Gowin 5KS, J Blade, Pal 2, Pal 4, Pal 5, Pal 5KS, Pal 6, Zing 2, Zing 5, Zing 5KS Plus 2 very rare Daleheads; a 250 piece run from KBI and a 150 piece run from Cabot Industries.

Q: How many metal types were available in the earlier My Days? Finishes and all other differences would be appreciated as well.

A: All were made of manganese bronze.

Q: On some of the Pings I have, there is a ball bearing at the tip of the shaft. Was this used to help SW the club, or does it serve a different purpose?

A: It was Karsten's way of securing the shaft to the head. Remember many of these putters were made before epoxy was used often. It had nothing to do with swing weighting.

Q: Do you know a sure way or what I should look for to ensure that what I am getting is a nickel Anser 2 and not a steel model?

A: The color is more of a muted satin dull silver on a nickel. And the key thing to look for is gold paintfill on the back where it says "Ping".

Q: I was going to pull the trigger on a nickel Anser, but something did not seem right. Here are some questions: Were they made in stainless steel? How can I tell if it is beryllium copper? What alignment aids (dots, lines, etc,) did they have if any?

A: Officially, the Scottsdale remakes were only made in manganese bronze, beryllium copper, and beryllium nickel. So, safe bet is the one you're looking at is BeNi, but if for some reason it is stainless, bonus MUCH rarer. I think that it's nearly impossible to differentiate between the two unless you're putting them back to back, certainly on looks alone. The BeCu Scottsdale's don't have the sound slot. This is the easiest way to tell the difference between BeCu and MgBr. The BeCu KBI's did have a sound slot, but that difference is obvious. None of the Scottsdale 's came standard with alignment aids, but there are a few floating around with sight lines on the flange. I think they were WRX options, or less likely, some random limited runs of them.

Q: Can you please tell me know how Many Ping Anser Scottsdale Remakes there are? I have one that I think is MgBr. Which other ones are there?

A: The Scottsdale Anser came in three versions in the original run;

1) Original Anser denoted with Ping Golf Clubs in the cavity.

2) Karsten CO Anser.

3) Dalehead Anser with Karsten Mfg Corp in the cavity.

There have been two versions since the original run. The first one a limited run of Scottsdale Anser's numbered up to 20,000. These were made in 1994 (IIRC). Ping re-launched the Scottsdale Anser for the retail market in the late 90s and these were made in MgBr, BeCu and BeNi.

Q: Was the Ping Zing 2 ever made in copper or any other metal?

A: Ping Zing is MgBr. Ping Zing 2 is either Stainless, BeCu and BeNi. The nickel and stainless do look slightly different as far as color of the metal. Telltale sign though is gold paintfill on the nickel.

Q: Need you help. My dad and mom were friendly with Karsten back in the early sixties (my dad worked with Karsten at GE) and played golf with him frequently. Karsten actually gave my mom one of his own putters that was made in Redwood City. It was used only for

few years as my mom hasn't played golf for about 35 years. It is completely original and has the original shaft/leather grip. What can you tell me about it?

A: Redwood putters have a bit of history as they were Karsten Solheim's initial offering. However, not all Redwood putters command an ultra high resale value, even among the collector scene. All Redwood putters were made in Karsten's garage so these were truly "Garage Putters"! It has been reported that only 200 (or so) putters of each model were made for the Redwood series so these putters are not very common, especially in a pristine condition. Ping Redwood City putters have seen quite an increase in value lately as the 50th anniversary approaches. Authenticating specific putters is now limited to John, Allen & Louis Solheim's personal "memory banks" since Karsten has since passed. Common versions of the No Model, MOD. I & MOD I A have been bringing decent money lately. The less common versions like the No Model (MODII style), MOD. II, II A, III A, IV A, A5, B5 & B5 C have pretty much become extinct from the "for sale" marketplace as owners seem to be setting on them.

Q: I picked up a left hand Ping Anser at a boot sale today. I can provide photos but don't know how to post them on this website. I am pretty sure it is Manganese Bronze. It is a Ping Anser with sound slot. There are a couple of things that make it different to any other Anser I have seen before;

1) The shaft band says Slazenger on it and has Ping written in a dancing kind of way with 3 stars next to it. It also says made in England.

2) The putter head has Karsten MFG Corp Phoenix Ariz on the back cavity but on the back of the top edge of the putter as seen looking down the line it has "Made in USA " written on it. I don't think I have ever seen writing on an Anser other than the cavity. It also has a leather or leather type grip with "Pro only" and a picture of a man putting but the grip ferrule has a big S on it. To me this indicates Slazenger. Can you tell me what I have here?

A: I would guess it is an Anser Dalehead. Probably Mid 70's. Most sent to the UK and OZ were marked this way. Pretty Rare and would bring a nice money to the right collector.

Q: What can you tell me about the A-1 putter?

A: The A-1 was the first Ping Putter and the sound coined the name of the company "PING"! This also got the ball rolling on the patent for heel toe weighting. Sand cast manganese bronze, I do not believe it has ever been out of production. So it's been in their lineup since the late 1950's.

Q: Can you tell me the timeline of the Phoenix Anser putters.

A: The timeline for Phoenix Anser's was 85029 followed by 85020 followed by 85068. There were two versions of the 85029 Anser. The Dalehead was the last in the line of the Scottsdale Anser mold (Scottsdale Anser, Karsten CO Anser then Dalehead). The "Dalehead" Anser design disappeared around 1973/4. Many have questioned when the design was changed. An easy way to tell is the fact that the KBI models produced in 1974 were of the new squared heel & toe head design. Another way to date an Anser is by the patent number. The Design patent - D207,227 was issued in March, 1967 for a term of 14 years. It was not issued by the pat. office until March 21, 1967. This patent number - D207, 227 - did not appear on an Anser putter until the cavity lettering was changed to "Karsten Co - Phoenix 85029" in mid-1967. The patent expired on March 21, 1981 & was replaced by a utility patent 4,xxx,xxx (I can't remember the number off-hand) a few years later. The first Anser's produced with the Scottsdale address starting on Feb 7, 1966 had 2 of the below listed patent numbers on them from Karsten's other putters to;

202,715 - MLT

203,512 - B67

196,734 - 69

3,042,405 - 1 A

Q: What can you tell me about the floating face?

A: The "floating face" goes all the way back to the first "No Model" putters assembled by Karsten in his garage in Redwood City, Calif. The very first "cut" floating face putters were the Kushin & Cushin models introduced about 1965. According to a brochure I have from this period, they are referred to as having a "Floating Face" and the function of this is to have the face of the putter supported by the heel & toe weights only.

Q: What was the Anser 5's made from?

A: The Anser 5 was available the following 3 ways only; Stainless, Stainless w/"Black Satin" finish and Beryllium Copper.

Q: I recently discovered the Ping Anser F with titanium pixels. What can you tell me about it?

A: The putter was sold in 1998 and retailed at \$500. I guess the limited's started out as numbered run (I think 3000), then there were more produced without a number. The target weight for these was 330 grams.

Q: What can you tell me about the Anser F with 124 TI pixels?

A: I believe these were the first clubs released from Ping's wrx program in 1998. The head is cast Silicon Bronze with Nickel Titanium Pixels. These were quite pricey new. If I recall their wholesale price was close to \$200.00 making retail in the 4 to 500 dollar range. As far as head weights, I never pulled the shaft on one, but they are heavier than a stock Ping head. There was a limited numbered run and then a run with no number on the heel side of the face. Sadly, after about a year, they released another version with aluminum pixels that just were not as nice, compared to the WRX version.

Q: How many putters were made of copper and how many of nickel?

A: According to the Ping putter availability chart that I have dated August 1997, the following putters were available in Beryllium Copper:

Anser 2

Anser 4

Anser 5

Anser 5 KS

B60

B61

CU 5

Cushin

Eye 2

Gowin 5

J-Blade

Pal 2

Pal 4

Pal 5

Pal 6

Scottsdale Anser

Zing 2

Zing 5

Zing 5 KS

The following putters were available in Beryllium Nickel;

Anser 2

Anser 4

Anser 5 BZ

B60

B60 5 BZ

J-Blade 3

Pal 2

Pal 5 BZ

ScottsdaleAnser

STR

Zing 2

Zing 5 BZ

Q: I recently purchased this Ping 69 FTL putter that was mfg. in Scottsdale and was hoping someone might be able to give me a rough value for it. Again, it's the model 69 FTL but there is an additional letter "Z" stamped behind the FTL and the Z is at a 45 degree angle. The company name is "By Karsten Co.", it also has Scottsdale, ARIZ with no zip. It has the original shaft and what appears to be the original grip with the golf man and the end reads "Traction Action, Golf Pride". What can you tell me about it?

A: The "Z" would mean that your putter has a "Z-Bend" shaft. The shaft on your putter should have a significant bend in it a few inches just above the putter head. Z-Bend does not affect value. The 69 FTL was one of a group of 69 putter models including the following;

69

69 T

69 W

69 FT
69 FTL
69 BC

Q: The Ping with the Bible verse, how rare are they? How many were made? If you were lucky enough to have a chance to get one, how much would you have to pay?

A: I personally consider this putter as the most important putter that most people do not know about. These were presented to those individuals who helped with Karsten Solheim's Memorial service, Ping employees and employees of Moon Valley (Karsten CC). Ping made approximately 250 of the Memorial Anser for the employees of Moon Valley CC, family friends and some employees at Ping. These putters were not serial numbered & came with a thank card from the Solheim family. There have been a grand total of 2 of these show up on eBay in the last 5 years. Both sold for under \$500. This is the only putter in the world that I would never sell if I ever had one.

Q: What is a "cross out" Ping putter?

A: After Karsten and the rest of the Solheim family moved from Redwood City, Calif. to Scottsdale in the very early 1960's, he had some putter heads not yet assembled. Many are Redwood City B5 "transitional" putters. The Redwood City address was "milled" out of the cavity by Karsten and sold well after the move to Scottsdale. You can still see part of the P.O. Box 503 intact. Some have numbers added as well. Karsten used a displacement in water method to determine the numbers he stamped on the early putters. These displacement numbers disappeared in the early to mid 1960's. The number has to do with the amount of water that the putter head displaced. Not 100% sure exactly what the number represents. Sometimes putters surface with more than one number. Typically it is the displacement number plus the length of the putter. On 69 BC Croquets, they typically have a length number i.e.: 32, 33, 34 etc. above the number 3. The number 3 is for the shaft bend. I recently came across 2 69 BC Scottsdale heads & send them into Ping for re-shaft. They could not duplicate the bend below the grip because they had long since trashed the aluminum dies for this bend (USGA outlawed these Croquets in about 1968).

Q: Are BeCu versions of the Eye 2 rare?

A: The BeCu version of the Eye 2 putter is the rarest regular production BeCu putter ever produced by Ping.

Q: I have a ping putter I'm trying to learn more about. Stamped in the cavity, line 1: PATENTED ,line2: KARSTEN MFG. CORP. ,line 3:BOX 9990 PHOENIX, ARIZONA,line 4: MADE IN U.S.A. 85068, there is a small 3 above the B in BOX. The only other stampings are on the outer-most face (same side as cavity)-lower left: PING and lower right: ANSER.

A: Anser made in between patent applications -1981-1983/4 est. Not 100% sure about the date on the new patent. The original design patent D207, 227 expired on March 21, 1981 and Ping had to resubmit for a utility patent. That's why the patent number changed during this time period & is a 4,xxx,xxx number on later ones.

Q: What is the zip code you want to have when collecting Phoenix A-1's?

A: 85029 & 85020 versions from Phoenix represent the last of the "old style" 1A's with the squared off look & the little tab in front of the hosel where the shaft is inserted. These are the ones to look for value wise when dealing with the Phoenix version. To me, these show up less frequently than the Scottsdale version. The newest 85068 version is still available new from Ping.

Q: This local shop has a Ping Eye putter that is older as the grip is getting slick and stickers look old. The question I have is that it has a green shaft band. It is the older design and it is Green with a Red Pingman. It also has EYE 52 on the face toe. What can you tell me about it?

A: If it's an Eye 52, it should be early 80's in stainless. It was also offered in Black Satin. Green band was definitely made for the Japan market. Irons sets (not all) made for Japan had green bands too. Probably a shorter than standard putter too.

Q: I have a Ping Anser 4 that I got in 1995 and I was wondering what it is made out of?

A: The Anser 4 if purchased in 1995 would either be Stainless or BeCu. The BeNi version from 1996-99 would have a dull gold paintfill and the stainless version paint filled in white.

Q: How many "different" Ping styles have been produced in the past 40+ years?

A: I am not familiar with many of the newer models in the Ping line but starting with the beginning this is the best I can come up with; Some JAS & Specify models are not included & there are most likely many more that I forgot.

1. No Model Pat Pend
2. Mod. I
3. Mod. I A
4. Mod. II
5. Mod. II A
6. No Model Pat Pend (Mod. II style head)
7. Mod. III A
8. Mod. IV A
9. Ping A5
10. Ping B5
11. Ping B5 C
12. Trainer
13. 69
14. 69 Croquet
15. 69 T
16. 69 FT
17. 69 FTL
18. 69 W
19. 69 BC
20. 69 BC Croquet
21. A-Blade
22. A-Blade 5 BZ
23. A-Blade 5KS
24. Anser
25. Anser F
26. Anser 2

27. Anser 2i
28. Anser 3
29. Anser 4
30. Anser 5
31. Anser 5K
32. Anser 5KS
33. Anser JAS
34. Anser w/Ti1
35. Anser w/Ti2
36. Anser w/Ti3
37. Anser w/Ti4
38. AYD
39. B60
40. B60i
41. B60 5 BZ
42. B61
43. B62
44. B63
45. B66
46. B67
47. B68
48. B69
49. B90
50. B90i
51. BLD
52. CU 5
53. CU 5 BZ
54. Cushin
55. Cushin 3
56. Cushin 4
57. Cushin 5 BZ
58. Danser
59. Darby
60. Darby F
61. Day
62. DOC 12.5
63. DOC 15
64. DOC 17

65. Echo 1
66. Echo 2
67. Eye 52
68. Eye 53
69. Eye 2
70. Get In H
71. Go Win 5
72. H Blade
73. J Blade
74. J Blade 3
75. J Blade 5 KS
76. JB 5
77. Karsten 1
78. Karsten 2
79. Karsten 3
80. KRO-K5
81. Kushin
82. L Blade
83. MLT
84. My Day
85. My Echo
86. N-Echo
87. Nellie
88. O Blade
89. OLD
90. Pal
91. Pal 2
92. Pal 2i
93. Pal 4
94. Pal 5
95. Pal 5 BZ
96. Pal 6
97. Ping 5
98. Ping 5 BZ
99. Ping-N-Ping
100. Ping-N-Ping 5
101. Ping BZ 8
102. Rite-In

- 103. Rite-In 5 BZ
- 104. ScottsdaleAnser
- 105. Sedona
- 106. Sedona F
- 107. Sedona 2
- 108. STR
- 109. UG-LE
- 110. Y-Blade
- 111. Zero 1
- 112. Zero 2
- 113. Zero 4
- 114. Zing
- 115. Zing 2
- 116. Zing 2i
- 117. Zing 5
- 118. Zing 5 BZ
- 119. Zing 5 KS

Q: Ping putter with colored neck. There was one at my Play it Again and it had the little 1.5 neck except it was green, and on the Anser head. Is it worth much?

A: Limited Edition Ping WRX Anser. Stainless head with titanium anodized hosel. Not a high value putter.

Q: I just picked up a nice Anser 2 BeCu Pat Pend. It has the original shaft, and appears to have the original grip on it. Is there any reason to keep the original grip on it? I would like to slap a new grip and game it.

A: You can get a new Pingman grip just like the original for about \$6.00 or so. The only difference will be the location or lack of the trademark ®'s on the face of the grip.

Q:What can you tell me about this putter? It has the Made in the U.S.A.along the top and then below that it says:

U.S. Pat No. 0207227

Karsten Mfg. Corp

Box 9006

Phoenix, AZ 85020

It has the Ping and Anser stamps on the left and right hand sides, respectively. It is the brass, or bronze I can never tell the difference, head.

A: The 85020 Zip Code was used on putter heads by Ping only during the mid to late 1970's. The small black & red heel-toe balance shaft label that replaced the Tuned Ballnamic label only had the 85020 zip on it and later the black & green heel-toe 85068 zip. Never did the 85029 zip appear on this label.

Q: I have an old Ping 1-a putter that I am trying to find out when it was made, and what it might be worth. I don't want to sell it, but I also don't want to play with it if it has some value to it. Here is the general layout on the bottom

Ping Karsten MFG Corp

US Pat 3,042,405 1-A

PO Box 9006 Phoenix Ariz 85020

A: The 85020 1-A represents the last regular 1A produced with the "old" blocky head design. The 85020 1A is scarcer than the 85029 zip and the Scottsdale version.

Q: I just bought an Anser 3 from a guy at my course for \$45. It is a great putter. I was wondering, first what is it made out of, second, how would I go about cleaning and third, can I paint the letters and the line?

Top line: U.S.Pat. No. 0207227

KARSTEN MFG. CORP.

Box 9920 Phoenix, Arizona

Made in U.S.A.85068

A: It is manganese bronze. Paint is no biggie. Age wise, early 1980's to the present.

Q: My dad passed away a few years ago and I inherited his golf equipment, including his Scottsdale Ping Kushin putter. Can you give me any more info about the Kushin model, dates/vintage, etc.?

The markings on this putter are:

"U.S.PAT.NO. 3,042,405 & 196,734

PING GOLF CLUBS

BOX 1345 SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ
OTHER PAT. PEND."

It does not have the original "Pro Only" leather grip that I understand came stock on this model. The rubber grip on it is probably at least 30 years old. I don't have any pictures lying around, but can post some if it would help.

A: The Kushin was produced in Scottsdale for 3 years ending in mid 1967. The Kushin & Cushin were the first putters to have "cut" slot lines in the sole. Karsten referred to these as having a floating face. Karsten's advertisements and brochures from this period refer to the function of the floating face as "having the face supported only by the heel & toe weights". The standard grips used during this period were the hand ground pistol Informer or the later Pro-Only. Line-Rites & Grip Rites were by special request only.

Q: I recently acquired an older looking Ping Anser and was wondering how to date it?

Here's what it says:

U.S.PAT. 4,527,799 (does this date it to March 1981 or later?)

KARSTEN

PHOENIX, ARIZ.85029 (does this date it to 1966-67 or post 2000?)

MADE IN U.S.A.

The band on the shaft has an 85068 zip code. It also has a painted dot. What does that tell me?

A: The dot in the cavity denoting the putter's lie angle. This was done near the end of the MgBr run. This should be late 90s or so.

Q: I have an original, unmodified, Redwood City Ping Model II putter. I am told that these were personally made in 1959-1961 by Karsten Solheim in his Redwood City garage while he still worked his day job at GE. The club is in excellent condition and apparently all original. The only blemishes are some small cracks in the original green Golf Pride rubber pistol grip material (as it should be after 50 years), and a bag wear spot on the hosel. Of course the head has a dark patina after all these years. Since the head has no dings, I'm assuming that the original owner used a head cover. On the bottom of the head is lightly stamped the #12. The 2 is easy to see, the 1 very

difficult. I do not know the significance of this number. What do I have here?

A: What you have is what it is; Ping Redwood City MOD II. Original grip (collar should be green taped). All in all a very nice all-original Redwood City Ping and a much scarcer version than the typical I A style.

Q: I'm hoping you can help me w/ some questions about the markings on a left-handed Ping Anser putter I recently acquired. A few things I've noticed that seem unusual are: 1) Anser is stamped on the heel and Ping on the toe instead of the other way around. 2) The largest and centered print in the cavity says Phoenix, Arizona instead of Karsten Mfg. Co. 3) Made in USA is stamped on the back of the blade at the top (above the cavity).

This is exactly how the cavity reads: NO. D207227 OTHERS PEND.
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
KARSTEN

85029 MFG. CORP

Again, most I've seen have Karsten in the center instead of Phoenix and Anser on the toe w/ Ping on the heel. I also haven't seen many w/ Made in USA written above the cavity. I hope this is enough to go by. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

A: These markings are typical for a lefty. They only appear on the left handed Dalehead Anser. The left handed Dalehead was produced for quite a while after the right handed Anser design was changed to the more modern form in about 1973.

Q: What's the history of this model? No real info thru Google search for a Ping "eye 52" putter.

A: I believe it was a late 70's early 80's model Ping brought out, not particularly rare, very much a heel shafted putter, and was brought out in line with the Ping eye irons of that time.

Q: What can you tell me about an Auld?

A: Early to Mid 70's model. Manganese bronze.

Q: Ping Isoforce Anser F info needed. Is it an uncommon model? It still has a sticker on the bottom that says TSI 34 (I think). Can you

give me an idea on the material the head is cast from and additionally what the insert is made of?

A: MgBr head. Aluminum pixel insert. It is not the rare limited (and expensive) WRX Isoforce with the titanium nickel pixel Insert.

Q: In looking at Anser's on eBay, which is the original stamp with all the value?

A: The Scottsdale Anser (original not remake) retains the most value followed by the Karsten CO Anser then the Dalehead (Phoenix 85029 zip). The KBI and Cabot Anser's also retain good value. The KBI Nickel Anser is a rare putter and might be the most valuable Anser, even more value than the Scottsdale Anser. There are also Anser's that were made with Gary Player or Jack Nicklaus inscribed or stamped on the sole that hold great value. However, the Scottsdale Anser is the most valuable regular issue Anser.

Q: Aside from the Scottsdale's, the Karsten Co.'s and the Daleheads I think the 85029 & 85020 were the best Anser's made. I know the basic history of these putters but would appreciate if you could supply more details.

A: The Dalehead Anser design was changed in about 1973 to the newer squared off design. The proof of this change is/are the KBI Anser's. They were produced by Ping in 1974 & are of the newer head design. The newer Anser head design with the 85029 & 85020 zip were the first 2 versions of the newer head design. Some newer Ping putters have also sported the 85029 zip but the original has the D207, 227 patent numbers in the cavity. Th 85020 zip was only used for a few years after the 85029 in the late 1970's. Oddly enough, the small black and red Heel-Toe Balance shaft band is only found with the 85020 zip on it...even on late Karsten Co Anser's and all of the Karsten Mfg. Corp. Dalehead's. Later it had the 85068 zip on it & was also changed to black & green.

Q: Do you know why Karsten used Beryllium in his mixture to copper to make those putter years back? Was it down to too expensive to make a solid copper putter, or was it for softness feel. I assume it was as a result of his engineering background but wondered why? I don't know of any other manufacturers out there that have ever used

this material in putters. Also do you know what is the %mix of the two metals/chemicals?

A: This alloy was chosen for the Eye 2 irons because it could be heat-treated. Due to the weight of the alloy, Ping was able to cast a smaller head size compared to the stainless version (the BeCu molds were originally made for the Stainless EZ-Lite model) in the much higher priced BeCu alloy option. Many of the first few sets of Eye 2 BeCu irons were gold plated (including shafts) for special customers. The Eye 2 putter cast in BeCu is the hardest regular production BeCu Ping putter to find.

Q: Can you explain how you can tell the difference in a used Anser 2, from an MgBr to a BeCu model? There does not seem to be any markings and colors vary due to age.

A: Anser 2 only came in BeCu, Stainless Steel and BeNi . If it is brown it's a BeCu. If it is satin in look with gold paint fill its BeNi. The SS is of course grey/silver.

Q: What can you tell me about the trademark circle on Anser's?

A: No Circle R's denotes the first models after the Daleheads. The progression of the square bumper Anser's went from no Circle R's, to a Circle R by Ping, and finally a Circle R by Ping and Anser.

Q: I just got a Cushin 3 from eBay and have no idea how old it is. It came with what appears an original "Pro Only" grip that is cracked and split. Are these grips still available? If not, will the stock "Ping" putter grip change the characteristics of it?

A: The "Pingman" pro-only grip was used in the 1970's. It has become fairly difficult to find an N.O.S. grip but they can still be found. The newer Pingman grip is different in shape and size and is without the trademark circle R. The older Pro-Only has a smaller diameter compared to more modern grips.

Q: What can you tell me about the Golf Pride Informer grip? Was it found on the A-1 only or did they put them on any of the Anser series i.e. Scottsdale's, Karsten Co's etc.

A: The Golf Pride Informer pistol grip was the standard grip on all of the Scottsdale models produced from 1961 - 1966/7. Early on in the Scottsdale era, this grip was still available in different colors and still had the patent number and "Informer" on the butt. This grip when new had a "bell" of rubber on the collar end to help with the installation. Once installed, the bell was trimmed away to leave about 3/8" of the collar remaining. Typically, the remaining collar was taped over or (rarely by Karsten) a plastic collar was heat shrunk into place using a collar shrinker that the manufacturer of the grip also marketed. The Flexi-Grip Division of the Fawick Corp. in Akron, OH was the producer of this grip during this era and removed the Pat. number and "Informer" from the butt some time in the early 1960's. Most of the Scottsdale era putters were produced after this change to the grip butt. For putters produced after this change, they are black with cork impregnated within. Butt always has green paintfill. After this grip was discontinued by Golf Pride sometime in 1966-67, the Pro-Only "Traction Action" grip replaced it as the standard Ping grip. Other grips were also available by "special order only" - the paddle shaped Grip-Rite and the square Line-Rite; both by Golf-Pride. After installation, Karsten would sand the face and sides of these pistol grips to flatten them out and form them better. If you have ever come across an older putter from this era with one of these grips, you will notice the face of the grip is slightly rounded. If I remember correctly, this grip was deemed illegal by the USGA & that is why it went away. These occasionally surface in new uninstalled condition for sale. They haven't been made for over 40 years now.

Q: Is the B-61 a left handed model of the B-60?

A: The B-61 is a bit more heel biased as far as the hosel. The higher the number from B-60 to B-63, the closer the hosel was to the heel. The B-63 was a round type hosel. Karsten described the B60 series as "half a heart that makes the B shape which has broken many hearts of those who have come up against it in competition". This is the description by Ping of the each model in the "B60" series;

B60 - Anser hosel

B61 - Anser hosel attached closer to the heel

B62 - Conventional hosel attached near the heel

B63 - Conventional hosel attached at back of the heel

All four were available in left handed models.
B60 was available in SS, BeCu, BeNi and Black Satin.
B61 was available in SS, BeCu and Black Satin.
B62 was available in SS and Black Satin
B63 was available in SS and Black Satin.
All four models could be ordered with a graphite shaft.

Q: What kind of a shaft goes in the Ping MLT and Ping BLD models?
I've got an MLT with a bend shaft (goes up straight from the head and then bends after about 3 or 4 inches). On the other hand I've also seen MLT's with a straight shaft. What's the difference and are both types original?

A: Both are original. The one with the shaft bend above the head is referred to as having a "Z-bend" shaft. This was advertised as such by Karsten and offered by Ping as an option starting in the late 1960's. Many of the early Z-shafted putters have a "Z" stamped on the putter head - always around the model number. Later on, this was referred to as the "SZ" shaft. Value of the putter itself is usually equal with the Z shaft or with the standard shaft.

Q: I have a Scottsdale Anser remake without a serial number. I was told they all had numbers on them. Is this true?

A: These putters all had serial numbers. I have never heard that any came without serial numbers. I did know about the Solheim's hand grinding the first 200 putters of the run but those also had serial numbers as well. Payne Stewart won the Shell Houston Open in 1995 with a prototype of this putter, about a year before it was released to the public. There most likely was more than one made but I have never asked. Yours could have been refinished, but re-tumbling would not remove the serial number. A serial number on any Ping iron or putter would have had to be removed by sanding or grinding which is possible.

Q: My father has an Anser 2 that was black looking. What finish would this be?

A: Mid-80's Anser 2 came in a black satin finish.

Q: I came across a putter on eBay that was advertised as BeNi, but it had white sightline paint. Knowing BeNi had gold paint, I questioned the seller. He admitted another buyer asked the same question. How can one tell the difference between the two head materials? Or is the serial number the only way?

A: The older Anser4, Anser2, B60 BeNi putters I don't believe even have a serial number. It is only the new Anser Scottsdale models that have serial no's. It's pretty much in the color the BeNi is more a satin sheen to it than the stainless. White paintfill on the SS putters. Just remember, paintfill is easy to change. It could have been changed.

Q: Can you please tell me what head materials were originally used by Ping with the Anser 3? I thought that it was only Mag. Bronze, but I have seen putters for sale with SS heads. Were the MB the first runs and did SS follow some years later?

A: All Anser 3 Models are Manganese Bronze only.

Q: Can you tell me what kind of grip originally came on a Ping Anser with an 85029 zip code? I just bought one, but there was no grip on it (just tape).

A: The one I have has the original grip which is the "Pro Only" with the man standing and putting. It has the stars going around the bottom as well. I have heard that there were 4 options for grips back then. The Informer pistol and the Pro-Only were the standard grips on the Anser from 1966 - 67 and then the Pro-Only became the standard by itself up until the Pro-Only with the little "Pingman" on the front appeared in about 1971.

Q: I am looking to possibly make a deal on a Ping Zing 2f with titanium pixels. Can you give me any info on this putter? By the pic's, it doesn't appear to have a serial number.

A: They did not make a Ti Pixel Zing. All of the Ti pixel putters would have a serial number. I would say this one has aluminum pixels.

Q: I have a question in to Ping but since it is the weekend and I most likely won't get an answer until Monday or Tuesday. I just traded for a

JAS Wti and would like to know how the shaft is attached. Ball-bearing or epoxy?

A: Ball bearing.

Q: Looking for a little info on an older Anser. Cavity says KARSTEN, Phoenix Ariz 85029, not Karsten Co or Karsten Mfg Co. It has 6 inch first step. I haven't seen one with just Karsten.

A: That is one of the newer versions.

Q: I have a left handed Anser 2 that shows Pat. Pend" with the 9990 address. The "Anser" and the "Ping" seem to be on the opposite sides from the right handed models. Also has a striped grip. Can you tell me about when it was made?

A: Mid 90's I would say.

Q: Would PING still have the original molds/castings for the original Scottsdale Ping Anser?

A: Yes, I have seen the molds. They are not part of history.

Q: What is the difference between the Anser 3 and a regular Anser? No slot is one but I can't see any other difference.

A: The Anser 3 is slightly longer, no sound slot and the 3 has a sightline.

Q: I am looking for as much information on the Isoforce pixel insert Anser's. What is the difference between the ones that have 124 pixels vs. the ones that have significantly fewer? What are the different metals used for the castings?

A: The Anser F with the larger area of pixels contained titanium pixels while the small area version had them out of copper or aluminum. The head material is manganese bronze on both versions. There was a run of the Anser F larger pixel area that was numbered and that number is on the face of the putter in the heel area. This will bring more money but I don't think there is anything special about it compared to the regular large area version. The head is generally considered to be heavier than the SS Anser but may not be as heavy as the BeNi Anser/Anser 2.

Q: Aside from the Redwood series what series is supposed to have the heaviest head weight? I want an Anser without an alignment aid so that I can have a sight line milled onto the top line. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

A: One of the Beryllium Scottsdale models might be your best bet, the manganese versions are all pretty much the same weight I believe, the beryllium weighs a little more. Standard Anser weight is around the 320/330 gram mark.

Q: I have used the same putter since I was a teen, and am now curious about it (after being asked about it recently). It appears to be a MLT (says "Ping MLT" on the toe and "Ball-Namic" on the heel). Pongman has a picture of a Scottsdale MLT and it looks similar to mine except the cavity says Phoenix. The center cavity says;

U.S. Pat. No. D202, 715

KARSTEN CO.

Phoenix, Ariz.85029

Other Pat. Pend. Made in USA

The shaft is a bent steel shaft but not a pronounced bend (maybe .5" bend backward toward back of stance if you were addressing the ball). The grip does have a square face but I have no confidence it is the original grip (this is

fairly soft rubber grip). Do you know approx. production dates?

A: The initial 85029 era was roughly late 60s/early 70s. The MLT is one of the rarer models so they generally go for a little more than most of the other 85029 MgBz Pings.

Q: Can you tell me what year they made the Zing 2 in nickel? Also, Could you please tell me if the Zing 2 BeNi paintfill is gold, and is this concurrent with all BeNi models?

A: Produced only between 1996 and 1999. All BeNi putters & ISI BeNi irons made between 1996-1999 were paint filled in gold. The gold paint used was a non-metallic type in a darker shade and it has a flat finish.

Q: I just bought an old Eye 2 copper putter. Do you have any info with regards to how rare this is? It has got the 85068 zip on it

A: Nice pickup. The face of the Eye 2 closely resembles the ECHO-1 introduced 40+ years ago (high in the middle face, low on the toe & heel face(s)). The Eye 2 putter is easily the hardest to find regular production BeCu Ping putter.

Q: I'm just wondering how much a Ping Scottsdale Kushin is worth in great to excellent condition and how rare are they? Value?

A: These are more common than Scottsdale Anser's. I know a guy who had a Scottsdale Kushin years ago thinking it was worth \$3000.00+ since the Anser's were going for that much easily. Value is somewhere around \$150/\$250.

Q: I bought a Pal putter and I think it's a Copper. I've got a manganese bronze Anser and it looks nothing like this Pal. The zip in the cavity is either 85020 or 86020, I can't really tell because of the sand casting. Pretty sure it's a 5, but enough doubt to question it. I'm just curious if it really is a BeCu Pal (i.e. did they make the Pal in BeCu?)

A: The zip would be 85020. It is made of MgBz. No Pal's were made of BeCu.

Q: What Ping models were made as Beryllium Copper putters?

A: The following putters were available in Beryllium Copper;

Anser 2

Anser 4

Anser 5

Anser 5 KS

B60

B61

CU 5

Cushin

Eye 2

Gowin 5

J-Blade

Pal 2

Pal 4

Pal 5

Pal 6
Scottsdale Anser
Zing 2
Zing 5
Zing 5 KS

Q: I'd be interested to know when the old style 1A became the new style 1-A. Any idea?

A: Not sure of the exact date but the old style 1A went away when the 85020 zip code went away. Probably around 1980. I have never seen an 85068 zip 1-A with the older head style.

Q: Am I correct in thinking that, at some point in time, the Golf Pride 'Informer' grip was banned / deemed illegal by the USGA or R & A? If that is the case, what were the last putters in the Ping range that had this grip as an option?

A: If I remember correctly, the Informer grip was deemed illegal sometime in 1967. It had to do with the teardrop profile of the grip. The last Pings with this grip typically are early Karsten Co. models (Karsten changed to K-CO in about July 1967). Some of the Slazenger models that were assembled past this date in the U.K. will surface with Informers on them (not always Black colored Informers).

Q: I have been looking at Ping putters and have picked up a couple recently. Anyway, I am interested in finding a good condition Anser 2 BeNi. I have been offered one and I want to know that I am getting what I am wanting. Can you tell me anything about them?

A: Regular production of Beryllium Nickel Pings only took place from about late 1995 to 1999. Potential health problems associated with the handling of Beryllium ended the BeNi and BeCu era at Ping. To this day, the only refinishing Ping will do on any BeNi or BeCu putter or iron is re-tumbling. No sanding, grinding or blasting is allowed. The Anser 2 BeNi putter surfaces in the most common finish - tumbled and the less common finish - satin. The Gold paintfill is usually what people look for to tell the difference. The original gold color used on the BeNi putters & ISI irons cast in BeNi was an antique colored "flat" gold.

About 3 years ago, I sent a BeNi Anser 2 into Ping for re-shaft, re-grip and re-tumble. When I received it back, the paintfill was gold metallic similar to one of the photos above. The old color is no longer used by Ping. There is a slight difference in the color of the alloys. I cannot make a comment on weight differences as I have never measured weight differences on the alloys.

Q: I bought a Ping Anser for \$10 at a pawn shop the other day and I am trying to determine what its value is. The back reads;

U.S. PAT NO D207227

KARSTEN MFG. CORP.

PHOENIX, ARIZ85029

Original grip. The club head is dirty and dinged.

A: Without seeing the putter, it could be a Dalehead. \$10 was a VERY good price for any Ping putter.

Q: I have a Ping Scottsdale Anser remake from the late 90's, would like to re-shaft it and have the following questions;

1. Does it have the 'ballnamic' bearing in it?
2. What type of shaft does it take and where can I get one?
3. What do you use to get rid of the discoloration after you heat the head to pull the shaft (of course, this is contingent on the answer to item 1).

A: It is shafted with a ball bearing. Easy for me to pull, but not so easy if you have never done it. The shaft tip will be 0.350/0.355. You should not have any discoloration. It takes very little heat to pull a shaft. Might be best to ship it to Ping for this work.

Q: I have been playing with this ping Cushin putter with Gary Players signature imprinted on the sole. I bought it from a guy about 10 years ago in a set of old Macgregor's. I have been trying to research it up but can't seem to find any info on it. The only info I can find is the Ping Anser Gary Player. Did they also make some Cushins too? By the way.. US pat number is 3042405 & 196 734 and made in Scottsdale.

A: Yes - there were some Cushin's also. Very rare and very undervalued in my opinion.

Q: I just picked up a BeCu Anser 2 and was wondering what would be the best method for cleaning it up. I've heard Coke from a friend but I thought I would ask you

A: Coke is a great soft drink, but I have no idea why anyone would clean a putter with it. I would stick to drinking it. Ping offers a re-tumbling service. If you must clean it, you could just use some brass cleaner, but they look best with the patina that comes from aging.

Q: I just bought this 1-A 85029. I might have overpaid since newer versions can be had for substantially less, but the seller says its 40+ years old, and I have always wanted one. This is definitely one of the few putters that will stay forever in my collection. So did I find a special one, or just a crusty old 1-A?

A: Nice pick-up. Even though the 85029 & 85020 versions of the 1A typically sell for much less than the Scottsdale version, the Scottsdale version seems to surface much more frequently. You can't ever go wrong picking up any one of these.

Q: I am wondering if you can help me define the difference between the Ping Nickel series and the Ping Beryllium Nickels. What is the difference in weight and cost and availability?

A: There is no difference. BeNi and Nickel is the same thing.

Q: I was just wondering out of all (or most common) ping putters which ones are shafted with the ball bearing or which ones are not? I'm just want to know before I get flustered while re shafting one sometime in the future. I have 6 pings and I know my old Anser and Anser 2 are shafted like that but I'm not sure about my MyDay or my Karsten series Anser and my g5i Craz-E or my Anser ti 3.

A: As a rule of thumb, any Ping putter that has the shaft going into the hosel, will have the bearing. Any shaft that is hosel into the shaft will not (or shaft over hosel).

Q: When using ball the bearing to secure the shaft to the head, if the ball bearing is used as the primary installation was any epoxy used?

A: In the early days the bearing was used only. Epoxy at that time was not being used in club making. I would guess today, that epoxy may be used as well along with the ball bearing.

Q: I'd like to have my nickel Scottsdale cleaned up, a few small nicks removed. Where can I have it done and do you have any idea about cost?

A: Ping can re-tumble without removing the shaft. Removing the shaft to re tumble at Ping requires a new shaft install for an additional cost. Used to be \$32.50 a few years ago, including grip. There are health hazards involved in working with these putters.

Q: Do you know the approximate head weight in grams of the remade Ping Scottsdale Anser in Nickel? I called Ping and they didn't seem to know the exact weight. Apparently these are impossible to remove without drilling a hole in the bottom of the hosel to remove the ball bearing.

A: Heads can be pulled with ease, but you need to know how to do it. I have two of these, and they are in the 330/335 gram range.

Q: The grip on my 1-A is really old and deteriorating. Would it negatively affect the value to have a new grip put on?

A: If you are gaming it, I would reshft it with a new shaft and grip, and hang on to the original. If you're only collecting, I would leave it as is.

Q: I just noticed that one of my favorite little putters, Ping B60 with black oxide finish, is also a patent pending version. I see them asking extra for the Pat. Pend. on eBay. Do this and the black finish together make mine a "rare" find?

A: I know the Black satin B-60 is early 80's. I have a black satin Anser 2 that is a Pat. Pend. I got it in 1984 brand new.

Q: If I'm not mistaken wasn't there an archive on Ping's website that had a complete archive of putters with pictures? I can't find it anywhere on the web any more unless I'm just not looking in the right place. I've seen that archive that has a list of all the ping putters but there are no pictures. If you know what I'm talking about, any help would be great.

A: The Ping site has been taken down for now. The PGA value guide has quite a few of the Pingputters with pictures. Just go to putter

click on Ping then click on the model you are looking for and the picture will come up. <http://valueguide.pga.com>

Q: A while back I saw this show on the Discovery Channel showing how Pings were made in AZ. Now I read recently that even the putters and irons are being made in China now as well. Is this true? On examination of the new putters I noticed many do not have a "Made in USA" tag on them anywhere now.

A: Our Ping rep has never really had much to say about this. It is my understanding that they made the change with the G15 iron line because of the regulations. He has said that there are still sand castings taking place at Ping, he just did not say what. Everything is still 100% assembled in Arizona though at the Ping factory. I'm not sure what if any putters are still being cast in AZ.

Q: I have a 69 FTL Scottsdale putter that has the number 13 stamped on the sole, I have heard this was done early on, does this increase the value?

A: The number does not increase the value. Putters made after about 1965 usually do not have the hand stamped numbers on them.

Q: I found this on the net looking for info on zip codes and dates of production;

The Scottsdale AZ address with 85282 zip code was from 1961-1966. Do you know if this is accurate?

The Phoenix AZ address with 85029 zip code from mid-1966 through 1967.

The Phoenix AZ address with 85020 zip code from 1968-1973.

The Phoenix AZ address with 85068 zip code from 1973 to 2000.

The Phoenix AZ address with 85029 zip code (again) from 2000 to present-day.

A: The general consensus is that this list is inconclusive, especially regarding the 85029 from 1966-1967. This short period, it is thought, would not be long enough for the amount of putters produced in that zip code, in that amount of time. Until someone can verify, or contact Ping directly for the actual dates for each zip code, I remain in limbo for the correct answer. I personally have never seen a putter with an

85282 zip on it. Could those dates be for office (administration) addresses instead of manufacturing addresses?

Added from updated information from Ping historian:

In my never ending hunt for more information on Ping putters, I contacted them directly and asked about what time-frames align to what zip codes... I have seen the pinned post in this group (as well as on dozens of other forums/groups as well) about zip-code time-frames, but I wanted word directly from the source, and the historians with Ping were kind enough to indulge me! Here is what the Ping historian responded with:

"The zip code time frame below is actually only specific to the Anser for the most part beginning in 1967.

1959 The mold read PING by KARSTEN Redwood City, CALIF – Pat.Pend. Began shipping Jan 15 from family garage

1961: Moved to Phoenix, Arizona • Began producing putters from family garage. Mold read Karsten Co. Box 1345 Scottsdale, Ariz. 85252 to differentiate from Bullseye putters in Phoenix.

1966: February 7, 1966 Anser model introduced.

Property acquired at 21st Ave and Desert Cove in the fall of the year, molds changed to read Karsten Co. Phoenix, Ariz. 85029 Other Pat. Pend.

1967: The company incorporated on June 30 • The name became Karsten Manufacturing Incorporated. Putter molds were changed again. Karsten Mfg. Corp. Phoenix, Ariz. 85029

1968: The molds were changed to reflect a new location of the post office. Box 8006 Phoenix, AZ 85020

1973: Mold changed again to read Karsten Mfg. Corp. Box 9990 Phoenix, AZ 85068

1995: Mold changed to just Karsten 85029 to reflect zip code
These zip code changes generally only apply to the Anser, Zing, Cushin, Anser 2. Other older models can have just about any of the zip codes we have used."

I was surprised to learn these zip-code stampings are only applicable to so few models! Hope this updated list helps anybody who's interested!

Q: Just recently "joined the Ping family" by picking up a LH BeCu Anser 4 in great shape for a reasonable price. I'm thinking about trying to game this one. I would like to bring the head up to about 340 g, if possible. My best guess is it's probably in the range of 315-320g, so I'm looking at about 20g of tungsten. The best way to be sure, of course would be to pull the head and weigh it. This may be a silly question but, in an over hosel, flare tip design like the Anser 4, is there a ball bearing in the tip? Is it an easy pull and re-glue?

A: There are several ways to add weight, and I like the hidden, weight plugged into the tip of the shaft. Makes things very clean. There are no bearings in the shaft over hosel setups.

Q: Hello! I have a Ping Zing 5 and want to cut it down, but I want to keep the grip, so is it easier to heat the hosel and take the shaft out from the hosel and cut this side down? I have been told that ping used ball bearings to fit shafts?

A: You should never trim from the tip end. Most shafts are tapered and will no longer fit if you trim there. You should always trim from the butt end. It will have the bearing. These can be hard to pull if you have never done it before. It is possible to pull the grip and re-install.

Q: What are some of the rarest left handed putters out there from Ping in 60's or 70's to collect?

A: I am pretty sure I have seen a lefty Kushin & Cushin Scottsdale model before but don't hold me to that. The left handed Anser itself was not added until the early 1970's. Ping produced this "Dalehead" version well after they ceased production of the right handed Dalehead Anser. The mold was not changed until much later in the decade to reflect the new head design. The most valuable left handed early Ping putters of all are the straight shafted versions of the 1-A design which serve as both left and right handed models, dating back to the earliest Redwood City models from the late 1950's.

Q: I'd like to buy a classic old Ping metal face putter, just not sure type yet, maybe Zing or O Blade or whatever. I'd really like some help with the following:

1. How do these different metals "feel" - hard/soft, buttery, pingy, you name it!

2. Are there any clear preferences amongst Pingusers? Which are most sought after for rarity and/or playing pleasure?

3. Broadly speaking, which heads are heaviest to lightest out of these metals

4. How can you tell which metal is which? BeCu looks a bit like MgBr in photos

5. Where can I find head weights and other info online? Can't find any really complete specifications for all these old classic putters. Is there some good website for information on classic Pings?

A: 1) My preferred metals are BeCu, MgBr, BeNi, and Stainless.

2) Scottsdale and Redwood City models are still in demand, as are Dalehead Anser's, KBI, and any models with Slazenger or Gary Player stamped on them.

3) BeNi and BeCu are usually heavier. Lightest are the MgBr and stainless (that is a very broad generalization)

4) BeCu goes from red to burgundy. MgBr goes from yellow to black.

5) Bobby Grace and Pongman (Dalton Daves) used to have good info and of course the Facebook page "The Ping Collector".

Q: I am looking for a little info from the Ping experts. I have seen this putter listed as a "tour issue" due to having 2 sight lines. If that is true, what sets it apart from the "regular" BeCu Pal 4? Any idea on the head weight?

A: I am not sure of the head weight. Not sure if it is a tour putter or not. This could simply have been ordered by anyone with the dual sight lines. Ping has usually done for the tour player what they would do for anyone else. Take everything you read in auction descriptions with a grain of salt. If anything in an auction is in question, turn away.

Q: Can you explain what lie angle the GOLD dot is for Ping Putters? I was fitted by Ping. They recommended the GOLD with 6 deg flat. I was told this is too flat. And GOLD is usually 4 deg right?

A: Ping putter standard is 70 degrees (Black dot) Putters use the old Ping chart which is;

Red - 1 degree flat

Orange - 2 degrees flat

Brown - 3 degrees flat

Gold - 4 degrees flat

Q: Where can we get Putter Heads refurbished? There seems to be a real shortage of refurbisher's out there.

A: Ping is your best bet. Mark Conner in Indiana is also very good at restoring MgBr heads. He is the guy taking care of the Ping collecting Facebook page. You can contact him there.

Q: I'm looking for a BeCu Scottsdale Anser and there are good number of them on eBay. Some of the more patina-ed putters look like BeCu. What is the best way to be able to tell them apart?

A: The floating face is one way, as they did not have it.

Q: I just purchased an Anser F putter and would like some info. From what I have found it is an MgBr head with a Ti insert. This is the same type of putter that Chris DiMarco used, however I have a couple of questions. First: it has a sight line. Did Ping make this putter with a sight line or was this done after market? Second, there is no shaft band or any markings on the shaft. Thanks in advance for any help you might have for me.

A: Great Putter. Most did not have sightlines. Pretty expensive when they came out in the late 90's at \$300/\$400.

Q: I have an old Ping putter that I would like to know more about if anyone has any information. I have completed a little research about the putter and would describe it as so. This is a Ping Redwood City Putter. The head shows "Mod 1A" to the right of this there is a smaller "11". The grip is a "white golf pride informer pistol grip". It has the original "17.5" sticker on the shaft. Any idea on how rare this putter is and what the market is currently like for such a putter? Thank you.

A: One of the few to still have the "price tag" shaft band intact, let alone, the entire band. A typical 1A Redwood City as this in excellent condition would have easily brought around \$3000 a few years ago. With the band, I would not be shocked if this would have brought an extra \$1000/\$1500 on top of that. Now, it's best to stash it away and wait until it returns to what it once was. I would be afraid to guess

what it would bring today. It would probably hurt my (and your feelings).

Q: Can you please shed some light on how many different Karsten Co Anser variants there may have been made? There is some info out there on the eight Scottsdale models, but it would also be great to know any differences in the Karsten Co Anser's?

A: I have checked the 2 I have one of which is a rocker sole, the other flat sole and my two look like the same stamping. They both basically say;

US.PAT.NO.D207227

KARSTEN CO

PHOENIX,ARIZ,85029

OTHER PAT PEND

MADE IN USA

I haven't noticed any differences in the lettering. There are rocker sole and flat sole versions but the main differences are usually in the components. They can be found with the Phoenix address with the Tuned Ballnamic Band & the Heel-Toe Balance 85020 Band. I have seen them with Pistol grips but they typically have the Pro-Only Traction Action or the Pro-Only with "Ping Putter" on the butt.

Q: Just a question or 2 about a Ping 1-A I ran into. It is a Scottsdale with a patent pending stamp and has the 1-A with a 15 on it. It does not have an offset shaft. All the Scottsdale ones I thought had a patent number as well as an offset shaft. Is this putter legit?

A: I have seen some straight shafted Scottsdale 1 A's before. I would not be surprised if there were some early ones without the patent number on them since the patent was not issued until well after the move to Scottsdale.

Q: I just recently picked up a Ping Anser 5 BeCu off of Craigslist. I was looking for some specs on this putter but I can't find any information online. I was hoping you could tell me that it's worth a lot of money. Any help would be much appreciated.

A: The Anser 5 was available in BeCu & Stainless. An Anser 5KS version was also produced with different lines. Not overly rare but

cool with the longer neck and the odd neck location. Value is subjective.

Q: I bought 3 Ping putters off eBay and one is a Ping BLD with double bend shaft and the toe balance black label and Tour only grip... Do you have any info on this putter?

A: The BLD model dates back to the Scottsdale era (1961 - 1967) and is one of the most underrated putters that Ping produced in my opinion. Collectors that were putting together sets of all of the Scottsdale models back in the 1990's found that the BLD, MLT & 69BC were usually the hardest to locate. Sounds like you have a version from the early to mid 1970's

Q: I'm a big Ping player and putting is my favorite part of the game, so I try to pick up used Pings whenever I see them. I recently picked up a used Ping Anser for pretty cheap. I was curious about when it was made. Any help would be wonderful.

Ping Anser

Phoenix Ariz. 85029

Made in the U.S.A.

I know the 85020s were made in the mid to late 70s, but I'm not sure about the 85029s. This one also has a black dot in the cavity.

A: With the color code dot, it is from 2000 and newer.

2011 "The Ping Collector".

I don't remember where this info came from.

Here is what the Ping historian responded with:

"The zip code time frame below is actually only specific to the Anser for the most part beginning in 1967.

1959 The mold read PING by KARSTEN Redwood City, CALIF – Pat.Pend. Began shipping Jan 15 from family garage

1961: Moved to Phoenix, Arizona • Began producing putters from family garage. Mold read Karsten Co. Box 1345 Scottsdale, Ariz. 85252 to differentiate from Bullseye putters in Phoenix.

1966: February 7, 1966 Anser model introduced.

Property acquired at 21st Ave and Desert Cove in the fall of the year, molds changed to read Karsten Co. Phoenix, Ariz. 85029 Other Pat. Pend.

1967: The company incorporated on June 30 • The name became Karsten Manufacturing Incorporated. Putter molds were changed again. Karsten Mfg. Corp. Phoenix, Ariz. 85029

1968: The molds were changed to reflect a new location of the post office. Box 8006 Phoenix, AZ 85020

1973: Mold changed again to read Karsten Mfg. Corp. Box 9990 Phoenix, AZ 85068

1995: Mold changed to just Karsten 85029 to reflect zip code

These zip code changes generally only apply to the Anser, Zing, Cushin, Anser 2. Other older models can have just about any of the zip codes we have used.”

THE "85029" PING ANSER

Around 1980, Karsten changed the Anser to eliminate the flat vertical surfaces of the "Dale Head" and "sloped" the heel and toe areas. The **85029 Anser** was produced in manganese bronze and has a slot line cut into the sole. A copper version has been reported. The **85029** zip code was used by Karsten on all its products from 1968 through 1986. Some researchers believe that the zip code was changed in 1987 to 85020. There is disagreement among collectors over what order the different versions of the **85029 Anser** were produced.



Version 1 (above) was manufactured after 1980 as it has a non-Dale Head design and no sight line. **Version 2** (below left) was made after July 1985. On **Version 1 and 2** models, the registered trademark emblem ® is generally to the right of the "Ping" engraving and to the left of "Anser", although some have only one trademark and variations in placements do exist.

Inside the cavity on **Version 1** (photo above) it reads:

KARSTEN
PHOENIX, AZ. 85029
MADE IN U.S.A.

Inside the cavity of **Version 2** (photo below) it reads:



U.S. PAT. 4,527,799
KARSTEN
PHOENIX, ARIZ. 85029
MADE IN U.S.A.



Version 3 (above photo) is slightly smaller than the other 85029 versions, measuring 4 3/8 inches in length across the blade surface versus 4 1/2 inches for the other versions. **Version 3** models have "MADE IN U.S.A." inscribed on the vertical surface of the top strap. **Version 3's** cavity inscription reads:

U.S. PAT. NO. D207227
KARSTEN MFG. CORP.
PHOENIX, ARIZ.
85029



An export variation of **Version 3** was made for sale in England that has "SLAZENGER" stamped on the toe sole and no trademarks on the heel or toe face.

Version 3 has a different patent number than other **85029 Anser**s. D207227 was the patent number assigned **Anser**s from 1967 to 1986, but there is uncertainty as to the extent of its continued use after the new patent number (4,527,799) was issued in 1985.



Version 4 (photo above) was made after 1985 and has the smallest production numbers of the standard 85029 Anser. The cavity reads:

U.S. PAT. 4,527,799
KARSTEN MFG. CORP.
MADE IN U.S.A. PHOENIX, AZ 85029

Values are \$35-\$100 on the 85029 Ping Anser, with the caveat that Version 4 has a very sparse sales track record due to its apparent rarity compared to the other versions. Professionally restored examples of the 85029 Ping Anser are valued at \$175 to \$300.

THE FAMOUS "DALE HEAD"



inscription. Note the classic "Dale Head" squared off vertical surfaces rising above "Ping" and "Anser". Ernie Els and Davis Love III have been known to use Dale Head putters. The cavity of the Karsten Mfg. Corp. Dale Head Anser reads:

U.S. PAT. NO. D207227
KARSTEN MFG. CORP.
PHOENIX, ARIZ. 85029
MADE IN U.S.A.

There are several versions of the left-handed DALE HEAD. All should have a slot line in the sole, although one recently surfaced with a green Japanese export shaft label that had no slot line.

According to Ping, it must have been released from the factory by mistake. Most have "MADE IN U.S.A." inscribed on the vertical surface of the top strap above the cavity. Some versions have "Ping" and "Anser" reversed in location on the heel and toe. Inside the cavity on the version pictured at right, it reads:

NO. D207227 OTHERS PEND.
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

