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**Little White Wonders**

**By Chris Cresswell**

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The most common sight on a golf course is of course, the golf ball and with the popularity of golf, it's no wonder there are dozens of types of golf balls at your disposal. They range from soft core to liquid core, hard cover to no cover. Prices also range from \$10 a dozen to \$10 a ball. With these extremes and variations, its no wonder people are having trouble deciding what kind of ball to play with. If you are one of these people, who don't know Surlyn from Srixon, continue to read on and explore the adventures of the world of Golf Balls.

The most common golf ball on the course is the two-piece golf ball. This ball is used by 49% of players. This is a tough, durable ball usually with a solid inner core and a hard Surlyn cover. The most common form of the ball is the ever popular Top Flite XL. These balls have little spin and little feel. They do offer more bang for your buck. For about \$15 you can buy a dozen Top Flite XL. The advance two-piece balls do offer more feel. They often have cores made form a soft material, sometimes even liquid. These golf balls offer more feel and cost only a little more, about \$20 for a dozen Top Flite XL 2000s. These two piece golf balls are what every beginner should play. With little spin, you are less likely to hook or slice this ball. Also, these balls go farther than balata balls. And at the low price, it won't take a bite out of your budget.

The second ball is gaining more and more popularity very day. The Multi-layer ball, either three, or four piece golf ball is most commonly used on the PGA tour. These balls usually have a core, one or two layer(s) surrounding that, and then a core. (Similar to earth) The popularity of these balls is quickly surpassing that of balata balls. These balls are slightly more expensive ranging from \$30-\$40, some even reaching \$50. These balls are a bit more expensive but for the more advanced player, averaging low 80's, upper 70's on 18 will benefit from them. However, if you are a beginner, I would recommend spending your money on a lesson, rather than on multilayer balls.

The final ball is the balata ball. This ball has a rubber band wound core, surrounded by a balata cover. Balata is a rubber-like material, which was once collected from South America, but is now manufactured synthetically. These balls are very flimsy and often will not hold up to the average players round. However, they do offer extraordinary feel and have great spin. They do lack in distance, though, compared to a two-piece or even multilayer ball. Professionals prefer these balls as they do

offer more spin, and stop faster on the green. More spin however, emphasizes side-spin, resulting in more slices and hooks. This creates problems for most people so I wouldn't recommend this to the average Joe, though 24% of them play it. The balata ball should be used by the best of the very best, and I think that it will be gradually replaced by the multi-layer ball in the near future.

Golf balls are an essential part of the golf game today. With today's modern advances, it's no wonder why we have so many different types of golf balls. However, we must sort through these golf balls to find the golf ball that is right for you. With four-layer golf balls that have liquid cores, it's amazing to think that 150 years ago golf balls were made with feathers and leather.

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## **Black & White Photography**

**By Jakob Jelling**

Photography is a diversified field of creating a spectral variety of art. It is a specialization that deals with different experimentations with colors, however it is also a fact that only shades of black and white can also do wonders in this zone of creative art. With the advent of the digital camera the scope of this wonderful business has opened up new horizons for the users and photographers who seek to explore new lands and trod the ground of innovative creation and thus it can be aptly said that black & white can become more creativity with the boon of digital photography and digital camera. This discussion is primarily aimed at exploring the incipient information regarding the blessing of the digital camera in black & white photography so that the novice as well as the expert photographers can become richer in knowledge!

The exploration can be further extended in defining that a lot of modern digital cameras contain a series of mono modes in the advanced menu settings. These can be used to become more creative with digital photography and in the areas of black and white too. For example some of the modes are as follows: Black & White that takes black and white photographs encompassing of a spectral range of gray tones. This gives the black and white photographs a serious and ethereal look with the richness and grandeur of the past, present and future captures in just two tinges! Another mode is Sepia that again takes pictures in varying tinges brown tones. Looking into a matter a bit more technically, it can be stated that as the digital camera is switched into any of these modes then the color LCD becomes grayscale. The technology proceeds as in the process the pictures are taken the color signals get recorded by the CCD, but the image is later de saturated when processed to remove all color.

A lot of interesting points exist in the area of black and white photography using the digital cameras.

For example shooting in black & white becomes more interesting with the use of filters. Experimentations can be done by the enthusiastic photographers as to how a particular color would appear in black & white. This can be demonstrated by the fact that perhaps a red filter placed over the lens lightens any red color in the picture making them appear as lighter shades of gray in comparison to other colors like blue green. This process can be very challenging and in the same time very interesting! It is true that digital black and white photography can be used often for the purpose of portraiture and taking pictures of landscapes and can also become very effective in abstract shoots offering a graphical view of the subject to be photographed. The ultimate truth is that the black and white digital photography can make the world look complete different from what it is through the human eyes.

The graphics software from Adobe – Photoshop – with its more advanced options a person can edit each of the colors in the image to lighten or darken and provide the effect of brightness in varying intensity too. Becoming an expert in this can make a person versatile in techniques of adjusting the tonal range of a black & white image. This is the liberty that the digital camera provides in the field of black and white photography. Thus the users can make much more efficient and richer quality photographs.

The above lines of this discussion has explored the incipient ground of interest and information of black

and white photography using the digital camera, however it has to be noted here that to get the real taste of the honey the users or photographers must not waste time and take up their digital cameras and get going into the cool new and most beautiful world of digital black and white photography! It is out there for everyone.

Jakob Jelling is the founder of

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to take better pictures with your digicam.

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