

Walk This Way

Some golfers will always be riders. Some golfers will always be walkers. But more and more products are being introduced that will make the riders among us think twice about shelling out a few extra dollars for a cushy seat for 18 holes.

The fact is that the push carts and motorized carts of today are more user-friendly than ever. Bells and whistles abound that give golfers no excuse to relax in the comfort of a cart when they could be enjoying some exercise, the course and the surroundings.

THE PUSH-CART SOLUTION

Forget about shelling out some rental money for a push cart that is rusted and looks more like a golf museum artifact than a viable mode of transportation. Golfers can easily

bring their own to the course - carts that are easy to transport and carry just about everything you need.

One of the best models available is the **Bag Boy EZ Fold LX**. The name for the push cart is self-explanatory. The product features a patented one-pull folding system that brings the device to a 19-pound, compact position for that remaining space in your automobile's trunk.

The EZ Fold LX has a built-in beverage holder, deluxe scorecard holder with a storage compartment, a hand-activated parking brake and maintenance-free 12-inch tires that never go flat.

For the die-hard golfers who will play rain or shine, a universal multi-position umbrella holder keeps them dry or out of the sun. Removing your golf bag after the round is a cinch with a quick-release Velcro bag strap.

Three slick colors are available —

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By Tyler Henning, photo by BW Studios



Roving the fairways is easy with (left to right) the Bat Caddy X3R, Sun Mountain Speed Cart V1, Sun Mountain Speed E Cart and Bag Boy EZ Fold LX.

www.batcaddy.com, www.sunmountain.com,
www.bagboycompany.com, www.kangarogolf.com

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black, silver and electric blue.

Sun Mountain is widely known for innovations that help golfers immensely, including the Super Light 3.5 Stand Bag with HUG Technology that won our Editor's Choice Baggy Award earlier this year. That same innovative forward thinking makes the Sun Mountain Speed Cart VI and V2 prized possessions for golfers lucky enough to have already discovered the carts.

The Speed Cart V2 is the second generation of Speed Carts from Sun Mountain, incorporating exciting features, such as an upgraded accessories panel that wasn't on the original Speed Cart VI. However, the Speed Cart VI has been upgraded with a new accessories tray with magnetic lid, bungee scorecard holder and updated pencil, tee and ball holders.

A patented fold-down design allows a golfer to pack up and go in seconds with both the VI and V2. The VI also comes in eight different colors.

The Speed Cart V2 is truly a push cart that has everything needed for a round of golf and comes in three colors — black, silver and orange. An integrated ball alignment marker will put a straight line on the ball to line-up putts and other shots — a new fad that is catching on among pros and amateurs alike.

THE MOTORIZED SOLUTION

If you are a geek for gadgets or just don't want to bother with pushing or pulling a cart, there's a mid-level between push carts and riding golf carts — the motorized cart.

Many different companies have thrown their hat into the mix, with different feelings of what a motorized cart should be to the golfer.

Sun Mountain's Speed E Cart is the most advanced of its cart line, featuring a motorized cart system that has distance buttons a golfer can push in order to direct the cart ahead. The 15-, 30- and 60-yard buttons propel the Speed E Cart forward while the golfer walks behind. You also can steer it should the cart go off the proposed line.

The Speed E Cart isn't exactly new and has been roving golf courses since a 2005 introduction, but upgrades to the accessories panel were added this year.

If you play on a slow-moving course, the Speed E Cart has a seat bracket for a chair that is sold separately, which is perfect if you have to wait on teeboxes often. A built-in, cruise control and dynamic braking system keep the unit moving at a consistent speed.

The Line-Up

(From top to bottom)
Bag Boy EZ Fold LX, Bag Boy Navigator, Sun Mountain Speed Cart V2, Sun Mountain Speed E Cart, BatCaddy X3R and Kangaroo Motorcaddie

"Most golfers find they get a huge advantage walking up to the green from the fairway!"

One of the most affordable motorized units is the BatCaddy X3R, which retails for less than \$1,000. The X3R runs for a minimum of 27 holes on a full charge and features a remote control to help guide the unit.

BatCaddy's independent research finds that golfers can burn up to 50 percent more calories walking with units such as the X3R instead of riding. A retractable fourth wheel keeps the unit steady, and a one-year factory warranty is standard on the unit.

Bag Boy's The Navigator truly is a navigator of the course. An on-board compass corrects the motorized cart should it be knocked off the directed line by a divot, small tree limb or other impediment. The Navigator's remote control does its best to make the unit completely hands-free, almost like playing with a hired caddie.

"Except for reading the greens, The Navigator is the closest thing to a real caddie that has ever been developed," says Craig Ramsbottom, president of The Bag Boy Company.

The Navigator is equipped with 12-inch maintenance-free tires that are lightweight and easy on the turf. The unit is also surprisingly compact upon folding and loading. A two-year warranty on all parts is included.

Another possible motorized solution is from Kangaroo Motorcaddie, a company that specializes in battery-powered carts. The HillCrest Special Edition features puncture-proof tires with polyurethane grips that hug wet terrain while still being easy on the grass. Customization through the addition of personalized plates is also available on the red motorized cart, and automatic braking is standard.

The drive-train of the HillCrest Special Edition is completely enclosed, which results in a smooth-running, self-lubricating system with no oiling ever needed. Stainless-steel tubing makes the unit durable, while touch-up paint is included for those nicks and scratches that happen through typical use.

Whatever your preference, walking is always a great option when playing. Besides the health benefits, most golfers find that they get a huge advantage from walking up to the green from the fairway, thus getting a better read of the green from afar. Next time you play a round, put on your most comfortable shoes and take a walk. See if a new push cart or a motorized cart and a little exercise could make the game more enjoyable. *ti*