

PGA

MAGAZINE

Volume 87, No. 9 September 2006

www.PGAmagazine.com Four Dollars



instructor's Gadget

K-VEST

Bentley Kinetics' K-VEST Product Suite (\$2,995) is a portable golf instructional system using wireless sensors to capture motion much faster than with a standard video system. It helps instructors capture and analyze the golf swing motion in real-time 3-D, while providing immediate biofeedback to their students.

Launched at this year's PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, K-VEST allows instructors to identify swing faults and then use the same technology to communicate the correct movements to students.

The K-VEST can be used indoors or outdoors with a video camera by strategically placing three lightweight wireless sensors on a golfer's hip, shoulder and hand. The sensors communicate with the KINESYNC software on a laptop, displaying live video and 3-D animation in the collection mode. The instructor records the golf swing and within seconds, the software generates a complete 3-D swing analysis of any point of the swing, with respect to the golfer's alignment, posture, kinetic chain, timing and rotation of the hips, shoulders and arms. The exercise mode is then used to provide real-time audio/visual feedback to

optimize performance improvement.

This product "completely eliminates communication barriers between instructor and student," says Michael Bentley, company founder and chief



technology officer, who admits he was an aspiring golf professional who acted as a "biomechanics guinea pig" for years while trying to learn what went on during the golf swing.

Officials claim the advantage this product has over standard video is that video only allows for two-dimensional analysis, and can't be used to precisely train the body's movements in real-time.



K-VEST significantly shortens the path to improvement, they say.

"Most PGA Professionals are used to using video, which is great technology," says Bentley. "But it's very difficult to measure (swing characteristics) with video. If you take too fast a backswing, for example, I can put a virtual speedometer on you (via K-VEST) and gauge what's too fast or too slow.

"We can set the guides to alter the way you load the club, and give you visual and audio feedback cued to let you know when you're doing it correctly. Any swing, any fault, we can measure and alter it with real-time biofeedback."

The system – which can be customized with a PGA Professional's own drills – comes with the wireless sensors, an ergonomic shoulder garment and hip belt, the software and user's guide, a lightweight carrying case, a trial K-WEB membership and online product training and customer support.

David Leadbetter endorses the product, claiming the K-VEST "is the future of golf instruction." K-VEST is currently being used at 60 locations with PGA Professionals, says Bentley.

For more information, go to www.k-vest.com and/or call 603-472-3519.