



STYLE AND SUPPORT
The Spieth 2 boasts a cleaner look and lighter feel than its predecessor.

Power platforms

Under Armour's Spieth 2s promise comfort and stability

How many times have you heard a Tour pro or coach say "power comes from the ground"? Without a stable base through the swing, it's harder to load your legs so they provide the resistance against which your upper body coils for power. Under Armour believes its new Spieth 2 shoes can help.

Tested and worn by the man they're named after, Jordan told us: "The Spieth 2 is a great transition from the Spieth 1. The look is cleaner, and the technology and fabric makes the shoe lighter. In building any shoe, the whole point is functionality — shoes which improve performance.

"Everyone determines power in the golf swing from ground force up, and our research with force plates shows that these shoes help you stay connected with the ground for longer so you can maximise that power."

To find out if that's the case, we visited the European Tour's biomechanics expert, JJ Rivet, at his high-tech lab in the south of France. He has proved that most amateurs don't push into the ground effectively

to create leverage in their swings — and leverage creates power.

THE TECH

Along with Gore-Tex waterproofing and strong TPU fibres that are now woven into the shoe's upper, making them lighter than the Spieth 1, the headline story in the Spieth 2 is traction. Under Armour says these shoes will help you stay grounded using three technologies: Rotational Resistance Spikes, which keep the outsole and insole of the foot "locked in" during the backswing and follow-through; a Dual Durometer sole, which has a softer forefoot for flexibility and a firmer heel for stability and support; and an integrated lacing system to hold your foot firmly in place.

HOW WE DID IT

I tested both my current shoes and the Spieth 2s on the force plates at the European Tour Performance Institute, under the watchful eye of biomechanics expert JJ Rivet. The force plates measure, in kilograms, the amount of pressure you're putting

through your feet during the swing. I then played four rounds in them, in often wet conditions, in March/April.

OUR VERDICT

For a start, the new Spieth 2s look and feel better than the Spieth 1s of last year. My white pair looks cleaner, especially in the heel area, and they're certainly lighter. The addition of Gore-Tex has been a massive benefit in this spring's soggy conditions. But the big selling story of the Spieth 2s is the stability they're said to provide. By having access to JJ Rivet's biomechanics studio, we found they offered nine per cent more stability than my usual shoes (stability is measured in kilograms as pressure through your feet into the ground). What does that mean? It's not so much you can hit it further (my 7-iron was a yard or two longer), it's the consistency of strike you get from a stable platform that really impressed me. You don't have to swing as hard to hit it as far, which means straighter, more accurate shots.

THE DETAILS

Under Armour
Spieth 2 shoes
Price: £160 (£180
BOA lacing)

