

Breaking the

WE'RE NOT NAMING NAMES, BUT YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOUR STICK EITHER LOOKS LIKE A HOUSE CUE OR PLAYS LIKE ONE. ACTUALLY, BOTH. FRANKLY, YOU'RE EMBARRASSED TO TAKE THAT RATTY THING OUT OF THE CASE. AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE GETTING TIRED OF YOU BLAMING MISCUES ON YOUR LESS-THAN-MAGICAL WAND.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR GAME AND YOUR LOOK. FOR THE CUE ISSUE, BD ASKED THE TOP PRODUCTION CUEMAKERS AND DISTRIBUTORS TO SHARE THEIR LATEST AND HOTTEST DESIGNS. IN SOME CASES, THAT ALSO MEANT STICKS WITH INNOVATIVE CONSTRUCTION SCHEMES AND MATERIALS. YOU CAN LOOK GOOD, AND PLAY GOOD. NOW THERE'S NO EXCUSE.



MCDERMOTT HANDCRAFTED CUES

Model: M85A • MSRP: \$469

Make your opponent jump when he sees the poisonous dart frogs inlaid on your cue with box elder burl and green urethane. The "Spalted Dart Frog" model comes with an imported brown Italian leather wrap (or, after Feb. 29, an Irish linen wrap), with exotic spalted maple above and below on the forearm and butt sleeve.

More information: 1-800-666-2283 • www.mcdermottcue.com



LUCASI

Model: LH10 • MSRP: \$260

Pool equipment takes the next step toward sport styling with Lucasi's Hybrid line, integrating some of the same design elements as a golf club, such as an X-Shox Dampening System and G5 textured grip. The result is low deflection and vibration, with extreme traction and stability on every shot.

More information: 1-800-835-7665



MR. BILLIARD

Model: Combat Series • MSRP: \$99

Your intentions will be quite clear when you march into the poolhall with this two-piece graphite cue in jungle-green camouflage, part of the new Combat Series from Mr. Billiard. The cue comes with a stainless-steel joint and a pro-tapered shaft with a stainless-steel ferrule. That's Army strong. Also offered in desert-sand camo.

More information: 1-800-661-0106 • www.mrbilliard.com



J&J AMERICA BILLIARDS

Model: K038 • MSRP: \$100

The hot-blooded Purpleheart, among the striking new Kaiser Decal Cues from J&J America, emulates the beauty of fancy inlaid cues without putting a dent in your bank account. The butt is high-quality solid wood, so you retain a firm hit.

More information: 1-562-229-9688 • www.jjcue.com



VIKING CUE MFG. LTD.

Model: G33 • MSRP: \$420

Draw a bead on your opponent with the G33, featuring zebrawood inlays and white pearl dots in the butt sleeve and forearm points, all set in rich rosewood. Silver rings and a walnut-speckled linen wrap add texture to the design.

More information: 1-800-397-0122 • www.vikingcue.com

e Mold

PRODUCTION CUEMAKERS LEAVE THE BEATEN PATH TO CREATE STICKS OF GREAT DISTINCTION



NICK VARNER CUES & CASES

Model: NV-LTD-01 • MSRP: \$1,995

Nicknamed "White Lightning," this stunner was made in a limited-edition run of 100. Designed by Varner himself, the stick integrates a cornucopia of high-contrast woods, including ebony, bone ivory, moose horn and bird's-eye maple.

More information: 1-800-626-8408 • www.nickvarner.com



SCHMELKE CUES

Model: Custom Star • MSRP: \$695

Here's a top-of-the-line Sneaky Pete that isn't hiding anything. The Custom Star Cue by Schmelke takes full advantage of the handsome, organic feel of its bird's-eye maple forearm and tulipwood points, spangled with 56 ebony inlays of stars and points. The joint collar also is tulipwood, and the butt cap repeats the bird's-eye maple.

More information: 1-800-850-8832 • E-mail: schmelke@schmelkecue.com



STERLING GAMING

Model: Tribal Dragon • MSRP: \$95

Sterling asked renowned tattoo artist John Rainey to imbue some rock 'n' roll mojo in the Tribal Dragon graphic cue. Look closely to see the red accents in the eyes of this dragon, designed by Rainey, reflected in the red-and-black pressed Irish linen wrap.

More information: 1-877-283-7444 • www.sterling-gaming.com



CUETEC-IMPERIAL

Model: W0722 • MSRP: \$300

Forget for a moment the exotic hardwoods featured in Cuetec's new Revolutionary R-360 cues. Check out the innovations: The air-cushion ferrule provides optimum tip-to-ball contact time, minimizing deflection; and the pro-taper shaft has a tubular composite core surrounded by four computer-cut wood sections for maximum radial consistency.

More information: 1-201-288-9199



CUESTIX INTERNATIONAL

Model: OL07 • MSRP: \$145

You might be tempted to snarl "Draw!" just as you whip one of CueStix's Outlaw cues from your case. Recalling the Old West with a modern twist, the tattoo-style designs on the Outlaw cues are literally burned onto the high-quality maple with a blowtorch. The brown wrap is — what else? — stacked saddlebag leather.

More information: 1-800-645-9803 • www.cuestix.com



TIGER PRODUCTS

Model: SHP1 • MSRP: \$995

Tiger is offering two limited edition cues in the Shawn Putnam Signature Series (100 of each). The stately SHP1 sets off its intense cocobolo forearm and butt sleeve with floating holly spears with turquoise inlays. The bull leather wrap finishes off this bold and confident stick.

More information: 1-800-5-TIGER-5 • www.tigerproducts.com

Breaking the Mold: Production Cues

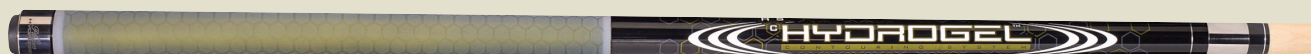


THE LEVEL BEST

Model: Titanium Cue • MSRP: \$40

There's no fooling around with the elegantly simple, one-piece Titanium Cue, crafted with a fiberglass core wrapped in maple wood veneer. The titanium ferrule and fiberglass core act together to make an exceptionally durable cue, designed to never warp, break or split with normal use.

More information: E-mail customerservice@thelevelbest.com • www.thelevelbest.com



PLAYERS

Model: HCS10 • MSRP: \$190

The Hydrogel has a modern, sporty look that testifies to its high-tech materials — a contouring system in the wrap, made of dual-density silicone material that uniformly distributes shock, displaces energy and eliminates vibration. The material also conforms to your hand for a sure grip.

More information: 1-800-835-7665



ACE PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

Model: HDL-19902 • MSRP: \$349

Whether or not you're playing in your favorite biker bar, the Harley-Davidson 105th Anniversary Cue will command respect for its H-D logo and illustration of an early model motorcycle. A black-and-copper Irish linen wrap completes the classic look.

More information: 1-800-294-9007 ext. 129 • www.brandedproducts.com



MALI & CO.

Model: V8 • MSRP: \$250

The V8 in Mali's Vintage Series makes a serious impression, with classic elements like Ivorylite spearheads and checked "Bushka rings," matched with more modern touches such as high-contrast black-red-orange veneers. The effect is timeless.

More information: 1-800-223-6468 • www.malicloth.com



POISON

Model: AR6 • MSRP: \$479

The brand is Poison, but the AR6 is nothing but good for your image and your game. The cue has the solid heft of brown woods, enhanced with Art Deco-style inlays. Other sophisticated touches include the genuine leather wrap and gleaming chrome-barstool butt cap.

More information: www.poisonbilliards.com



PERADON

Model: Python • MSRP: \$162

Now available through e-tailer Solid Citizen Ltd., the Peradon line — direct from Liverpool, England — brings time-tested craftsmanship to modern design. The Python is a two-piece cue (a six-inch mini-butt included) with an English Ash shaft, a four-point rosewood butt, red and blue veneers and a rosewood front splice.

More information: www.solidcitizenltd.com