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NEW LOUISVILLE SLUGGER Z-1000 USES iST (INNER SOCKET TECHNOLOGY) TO PROVIDE LARGER SWEET SPOT, SOLID FEEL

LOUISVILLE, KY – iST. It stands for “inner Socket Technology” and it’s certain to become the new buzz on baseball diamonds everywhere.

This revolutionary new bat technology is featured in Louisville Slugger’s new high performing Z-1000 composite bats that have hitters raving. The Z-1000’s inner Socket Technology features a solid connection between the barrel and the handle, providing players with a great solid feel and allowing for maximum performance, even on inside hits.

The inner socket also reduces vibration, absorbing it before it can reach the batter’s hands. Without the worry of sting or vibration from “off sweet spot hits,” hitters can maintain acceleration through impact for increased and more consistent performance.

The Z-1000 has new thinner high-strength and light-weight graphite fibers, reducing the wall thickness, which creates better performance while still maintaining its durability. The thinner fibers allow Louisville Slugger to use more layers in the barrel for added strength, but with an overall wall thickness that is thinner.

Z-1000 BASEBALL MODELS

The SL11Z model Z-1000 is a -10 senior league bat with a 2-5/8 inch barrel. Lengths range from 27 to 32 inches and weights range from 17 to 22 ounces. Suggested retail for the SL11Z is \$299.95.

A -12 youth model is also available, the YB11Z model Z-1000, with a 2-1/4 inch barrel. Lengths range from 28 inches to 32 inches and -12 weights from 16 ounces to 20 ounces. The YB11Z Z-1000 meets 1.15 BPF and is approved for play in Little League, Babe Ruth, Dixie Youth Baseball, PONY Baseball, AABC, USSSA, and Dizzy Dean. The YB11Z5 model is another option for stronger players. The bat has a 2 1/4” barrel -10 and is offered in 30”, 31” and 32”. The YB11Z Z-1000 has a suggested retail of \$249.95.

ATTENTION EDITORS: For images of the new Z-1000 bats and other Louisville Slugger products go to www.slugger.com/media/

About Louisville Slugger®

Louisville Slugger® is the Official Bat of Major League Baseball and is a name that is synonymous with America’s pastime. Originating in 1884, Louisville Slugger bats graced the hands of the greatest players in baseball history including Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Stan Musial, Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron, to name a few. Stars of today also swing Louisville Slugger bats including Alex Rodriguez, Derek Jeter, Manny Ramirez, Ryan Zimmerman, and David Wright. Louisville Slugger also makes TPX® baseball equipment for college, high school and youth players, as well as TPS® equipment for slow-pitch and fastpitch softball. Louisville Slugger is a brand of the Hillerich & Bradsby Co., a fifth-generation family-owned company that also sells PowerBilt® golf equipment and Bionic® Gloves for a variety of sports and hobbies.