



TOP SPIN TENNIS

New Racket Purchasing Guide

So, you've decided you want to take to the court with a new weapon. There are hundreds of rackets on the market, so where do you start? This information sheet is designed to give some helpful advice on where to start!

The manufacturers are producing ever more rackets and blinding everyone by science and powerful marketing, but don't panic, help is at hand! This article can only cover the basics, but pop into one of our pro-shops and we can offer some more, friendly, expert advice!

Why A New Racket?

First of all, why do you want a new racket? Broken your current frame? Want something more or less powerful? Want something heavier or lighter? Want to pretend you can play like Roger Federer? Have an arm or shoulder injury? Your racket is wooden or your tennis is improving (or getting worse!) and you want to change your racket to match your game. Maybe you just fancy a change? You want a red racket or someone is buying you a birthday present! The reasons are endless, but just be clear in your mind why you want a new racket before you start your search!

Not all rackets are the same - a number of characteristics (some rather academic!) dictate the differences between them all— In no particular order:

- Weight
- Balance
- Headsize & Beam Thickness
- Flexibility/Stiffness
- Frame Shape/Design
- Racket Length
- Brand preference
- Colour
- Price

Most people are not sure which are important to them, but if some are, then this will help narrow down your options. So what next?

Demo, Demo, Demo!

It's easy to get carried away with either what the pros are using, the manufacturer's marketing hype or detailed specifications. However, the only way to know which racket is right for you is to demo (or play-test) a number of different rackets. You can then use your own feedback to narrow down the type of racket that's correct for you. Once you have chosen your new racket, don't forget to buy the correct grip size... and consider your strings—they account for at least 50% of your racket's performance!

At Top Spin Tennis, we have a huge range of demo rackets available. We charge a £15 per racket demo fee which is fully refundable against any racket you buy from us – treat it as a savings scheme! Every day we advise people on which rackets to demo so don't be afraid to ask!