

String Playtest



EQUIPMENT

Laserfibre Vorso 16

BY GREG RAVEN

Laserfibre Vorso is a premium shaped monofilament co-polyester blend. The materials in Vorso are designed to offer a softer feel to promote power and enhance comfort and overall feel, and the advanced twist is designed to provide additional spin potential.

Laserfibre tells us Vorso is a great option for a player's introduction into poly strings, as it offers the benefits of a polyester without the harsh feel associated with many firmer offerings. Laserfibre also recommends Vorso in hybrid stringing combinations.

Laserfibre is now owned by Sports Source International (SSI), a tennis-specific company owned by industry veterans Paul Zalatoris and Curt Dailey.

Vorso is available in 16 gauge (1.28 mm) and 17 gauge (1.23 mm), in black. MAP pricing for Vorso is \$12.95 for 40-foot sets and \$149.95 for 660-foot reels. (USRSA member prices are \$7.50 for sets and \$90 for reels.)

For more information or to order,

contact Laserfibre at 844-448-3664, or visit laserfibre.com. Be sure to read the conclusion for more information about getting a free set to try for yourself.

In the Lab

We tested the 16-gauge Vorso. The coil measured 40 feet, 2 inches. The diameter measured 1.27 mm prior to stringing and 1.25 mm after stringing. We recorded a string-bed stiffness of 67 RDC units immediately after stringing at 60 pounds in a Wilson Pro Staff 6.1 95 (16 x 18 pattern) on a constant-pull machine.

After 24 hours (no playing), string-bed stiffness measured 65 RDC units, representing a 3 percent tension loss. Our control string, Prince Synthetic Gut Original Gold 16, measured 78 RDC units immediately after stringing and 71 RDC units after 24 hours, a 9 percent tension loss. In lab testing, Prince Synthetic Gut Original has a stiffness of 217 and a tension loss of 11.67 pounds, while Laserfibre Vorso 16 has a stiffness of 182 and a tension loss of 18.92

Playtester Ratings:

Ease of Stringing

(compared to other strings)

Much easier: 0
Somewhat easier: 2
About as easy: 11
Not quite as easy: 10
Not nearly as easy: 2

Overall Playability

(compared to the string played most often)

Much better: 1
Somewhat better: 3
About as playable: 5
Not quite as playable: 14
Not nearly as playable: 2

Overall Durability

(compared to other strings of similar gauge)

Much better: 2
Somewhat better: 11
About as durable: 9
Not quite as durable: 2
Not nearly as durable: 1

Rating Averages

From 1 to 5 (best)

Playability: 3.4
Durability: 3.9
Power: 3.4
Control: 3.6
Comfort: 3.1
Touch/Feel: 3.2
Spin Potential: 3.6
Holding Tension: 3.2
Resistance to Movement: 3.9

pounds. Vorso 16 added 15.1 grams to the weight of our unstrung frame.

The string was tested for five weeks by 25 USRSA playtesters, with NTRP ratings from 3.5 to 5.0. These are blind tests, with testers receiving unmarked strings in unmarked packages. The average number of hours playtested was 22.5.

Laserfibre recommends pre-stretching and a 5 percent reduction in reference tension for Vorso, which we advised to our playtest team members. Without pre-stretching, Vorso can be unruly, but the twisted texture does not interfere with normal stringing.

No playtester broke the sample during stringing, 10 reported problems with coil memory, one reported problems tying knots and two reported other problems.

On the Court

Our playtesters rated Vorso 16 as excellent in the Spin Potential category, indicating that it is performing as Laserfibre designed. They also rated

Vorso 16 well above average in Durability, Resistance to Movement, Control and Touch/Feel. As a result, the overall average rating for Laserfibre Vorso 16 is well above average among the 197 strings in our published reports.

No playtester reported premature fraying or peeling, three reported buzzing and five reported notching. Two broke the sample during playtesting, one at eight hours and one at 19 hours.

Conclusion

This is our first playtest of a Laserfibre string, and the results speak highly of the new offering. With high marks in five of our nine evaluation categories, Vorso represents a great introduction to the product line. It might not be such a surprise that Vorso rated highly in Spin Potential, given its texture, but it also delivers on the promise of better overall feel with its high marks in Touch/Feel.

If you think Laserfibre Vorso might be for you, fill out the coupon to get a free set to try.

Playtester Comments

“I loved this string. It was very playable and provided a lot of touch and feel. I was able to get a lot of control on my serve in particular.”

4.5 male all-court player using Babolat Pure Strike strung at 45 pounds LO (Babolat RPM Blast 15L)

“This is one the best strings I have playtested. Solid power, control and comfort. It also seemed to hold tension well.”

4.5 male baseliner with heavy spin using Head Speed MPA strung at 44 pounds CP (Tourna Big Hitter Black 7 17)

“This string played like a hybrid setup. Great feel and comfort.”

4.5 male all-court player using Yonex strung at 53 pounds CP (Luxilon Timo/Head PPS 18/16)

“Good topspin, slice, sometimes a bit too much power. Not a bad poly.”

4.0 male all-court player using Wilson Steam 105S strung at 53 pounds CP (Tecnifibre Red Code Wax 16)

“This string performed very well from the baseline. Good pocketing of

the ball allowed for great spin and power.”

4.0 male baseliner with heavy spin using Babolat Pure Aero strung at 48/45 pounds CP (Luxilon Element 1.25 16L)

“I liked it. It was comfortable for a poly. Baseliners who use a lot of topspin should enjoy it. Durable, too.”

5.0 male all-court player using Babolat Pure Drive+ strung at 45 pounds LO (Babolat Pro Hurricane 16) ■

FREE PLAYTEST STRING PROGRAM

Laserfibre will send a free set of Vorso 16 to the first 500 USRSA members who cut out (or copy) this coupon and send it to: USRSA, Attn: Laserfibre String Offer, 310 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. North, Suite 400, Birmingham, AL 35203 or fax to 760-536-1171, or email the info below to: stringsample@racquettech.com.

Offer expires April 15, 2017. Offer only available to USRSA members in the U.S.

Name: _____

USRSA Member number: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If you print your email clearly, we will notify you when your sample will be sent.

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