

# Product Review

## STRINGING AID

### Just the Thing

String Zing mounts through the main strings to help weave the crosses.

By NATE PAGEL

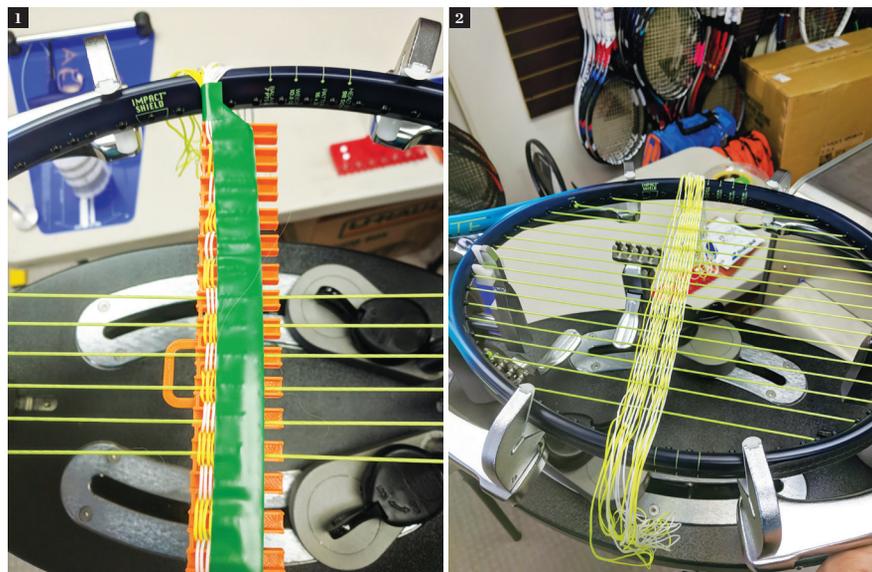
**W**e recently tested a new tool to help with stringing racquets—the String Zing—which is designed to make weaving cross strings easier.

The String Zing (formerly called StringSmith) is a single-use product that you mount while stringing the mains. The guide strings of the String Zing hang over the edge of the racquet, holding it in place while you get the first few mains through the holes (photo 1). Stringing the mains is almost the same as you would normally, except there's an extra hole, similar to a grommet, in the middle of the racquet. So while there is one important extra step in stringing the mains, it takes minimal effort to complete and adds little time to your string job. (Visit [StringZing.com](http://StringZing.com) or search YouTube for “String Zing instruction video” for a short tutorial.)

Once the mains have been completed, take the tape off the top of the String Zing, slide its strings off of the plastic so they are only on the tennis strings, remove the plastic and discard. What you are left with are 20 guide strings that are already woven through the main strings (photo 2).

Each guide string has a small loop on the end. To weave the tennis string, slide about 8 inches of string through the loop of the String Zing guide string, then pull the guide from the opposite side. This will pull the tennis string above and below the respective main strings.

Once I got the hang of the process, stringing the crosses was a breeze. The last few crosses can get a little tight, especially if you are stringing with a stiffer poly. You do have to pull harder at



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the end, but String Zing still gets the job done. When you've completed the job, discard the String Zing guide strings.

Overall, String Zing is an excellent tool to assist when stringing crosses. As an experienced stringer, I found it came in especially handy with shaped or extra slick strings. Shaped strings can be tough on the fingers, but the String Zing weaves them for you. For novice stringers, String Zing will greatly increase your speed. But it will not build on stringing skills, and it won't help new stringers

practice weaving strings on their own.

Overall, I recommend String Zing, especially for those less experienced stringers, when stringing with harshly shaped or extra slick and stiff strings. It may be just the thing you need.

*If you are a USRSA member, try out String Zing yourself: The first 50 USRSA members to email [info@racquettech.com](mailto:info@racquettech.com) with the subject “String Zing Sample” will receive a free String Zing prototype. Visit [stringzing.com](http://stringzing.com) for more on the product.*