

Tips & Techniques



Protect Your Eyes!

This may seem like an obvious statement, but it's very important for all stringers: wear eye protection.

I do wear glasses to see, and I've also worked for a company that required eye protection be worn when stringing racquets. These practices have clearly benefited me: On more than one occasion, while stringing poly, the springy, sharp end of the string has caught me in the face hard enough to draw blood. Getting hit in the eye would have been devastating.

5 sets of Dunlop NT Max Plus to:
Dave Heilig
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Calibrate Your Calibration Scale

Racquet technicians know that we need to periodically check to make sure our stringing machine is pulling accurate tension. Just because you set the tension to 50 pounds doesn't mean that your stringing machine is actually pulling 50 pounds.

The USRSA recommends checking calibration every 25 racquets, or whenever you move the machine or make a significant change in tension. This process is checked with a calibration scale.

While there are many types of scales,

the most common is the simple spring calibration scale. These can be tested for accuracy by suspending a known weight to ensure an accurate reading. I tested my spring-tension calibrator by weighing an object that I knew was 25 pounds. My scale was off by 5 pounds, showing 20 pounds instead of 25.

If your calibration scale is off, you can generally adjust the scale yourself. I used a pair of pliers to unscrew the end that has the plunger (the part with the KG/LB scale). Don't turn the plunger itself; you'll need to place your pliers around the thin black part at the very end of the housing (photo 1).

Once the plunger/spring unit is unscrewed from the housing, you'll see a washer and nut at the end (photo 2). In my case, the nut was about in the middle of the threaded area. Screwing the nut in or out will adjust the tension reading. You'll probably need two sets of pliers to do this, one on the nut and the other on the opposite end of the plunger



You should always wear eye protection when stringing racquets.

(use cloth or cardboard to protect the lettering on the scale).

It will probably take you a few tries to get the nut positioned to give you the correct tension when you test it with the known weight. In my case, after a few tests, I ended up running the nut all the way in to get an accurate reading.

5 sets of Ashaway MonoGut ZX 16 to:
John Kelley
Hanover, Ind.

Blow It Up

Recently, I found a magnifier feature on my iPhone, which has been helpful at times when stringing racquets. I now use it when trying to read the very small print of racquet specifications or the print on the string in a racquet that a customer wants to match.

Here is a link to an article describing the magnifier feature: <https://www.imore.com/how-use-magnifier-iphone-and-ipad>



5 sets of Gamma Solace 16 to:
Roger Gough
Davis, Calif.

Tips and Techniques submitted since 1992 by USRSA members and appearing in this column have all been gathered into a searchable database on www.racquettech.com, the official website of the USRSA. Submit tips to Bob Patterson at bob@racquettech.com.