



NEW BALLS PLEASE?

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Many players tell me that they find certain types of tennis balls `hard` when they hit the racquet, while others have a `softer` feel. What accounts for this difference?

There are two main types of tennis balls – **PRESSURISED** and **PRESSURELESS**. The pressurised type has a gas inserted into the ball during the manufacturing process. The gas is what gives the ball its bounce. These are the balls that people say feel softer during play, since the addition of the gas allows a thin rubber core to be used. The disadvantage of this type of ball is that over a period of time the gas leaks out, so the ball goes too soft for play. They are sold in a pressurised tin, so that no gas is lost during the storage period.

The pressureless ball has no gas, so a thicker rubber core is necessary to give the ball its bounce. The thicker rubber accounts for the `harder` feel some players say they experience. On the plus side, these balls never lose their bounce, since there is no gas to leak out!

So the key question to ask yourself when buying tennis balls is *pressurised* or *pressureless*?