



The Pickleball Paddle Blue List

List updated: August 20, 2024

Introduction: The following paddles have been selected and qualified for ‘**Blue List**’ status through a testing procedure that uses a combination of metrics in addition to loudness (sound pressure). This includes measuring the ‘pitch’ and duration of the sound produced when a pickleball is struck by a paddle (the “decay time”).

This new version of the **Blue List** categorizes paddles as **Reduced Sound**, which means quieter than ordinary paddles, and **Extra Quiet**, plus it includes paddle covers that can be added to any paddle to reduce the sound level produced.

The metrics and criteria were selected after reviewing with players and non-players the sound characteristics of a typical pickleball hit, including input from some who consider impulse sounds of this type to be annoying. The categories were established by PSM LLC as a means of recommending paddles to communities and pickleball clubs that are attempting to mitigate the sound of pickleball to an acceptable level without overly restricting a player’s paddle preferences.

Test Procedure: PSM LLC is a pickleball acoustics consulting firm. We have assembled a tall (16 feet) echo free (or anechoic) ball drop chamber for testing pickleballs and paddles. An ordinary tournament approved pickleball is dropped into the chamber and it reaches a speed of about 19 mph just before it strikes a rigidly mounted paddle at a very slight angle to cause the bouncing ball to travel away from the paddle face.

A calibrated microphone is mounted in this chamber and a computer outside of the chamber analyzes the microphone output using REW and Audacity software

Criteria: The paddles on this list are in two categories, “**Reduced Sound**” and “**Extra Quiet**”. **Reduced Sound** paddles have a measured sound level of at least 3 decibels below typical ½ inch thick honeycomb poly-core fiberglass face models and a prime “pitch” below 900 Hz. **Extra Quiet** paddles are quieter still, with a sound level of 8 decibels, or more, below ordinary models and a main pitch below 700 Hz. In addition, all these paddles have vibration decay times of the primary vibration mode (to less than 10% of its initial peak value) of under 5 milliseconds. This ensures that there is no well-defined “pitch” to the sound produced.

Using This List: PSM LLC updates this list as it tests and identifies additional paddles that meet the criteria and as suppliers release the models.

Updating This List: To arrange additional paddle or pickleball testing, contact PSM LLC via email at info@pickleballsound.com

For an updated version of **The Blue List**, see the Pickleball Sound Labs web page at pickleballsoundlabs.com as well as the Pickleball Sound Mitigation Facebook group page. **The Pickleball Paddle Blue List** is copyright free.

THE PICKLEBALL PADDLE BLUE LIST
PICKLEBALL SOUND LABS
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Reduced Sound Models

(paddles are listed alphabetically by vendor name)

Paddle Vendor	Paddle Model Name	Notes
CRBN	1 & 2	
CRBN Pickleball Rocks Edition	Marked “ Recreational Play Only ”	1
Diadem	Warrior	
E6	16s	
Electrum	E Pro II	
Focus	Silencer	
Gearbox	CX11, CX14, GX5 &GX6	
Joola	Ben Johns 16 mm, Radius	
Joola	Simone Jardim 16 mm	
One More	Vibe	
One More	Pro Custom	
One Shot	Stealth	
PIKKL	VANTAGE Pro 16mm	
Pro Drive	DRIVE	
Pro Kennex	Pro Speed	
Pro Pickleball	Infinity Widebody 16 MM	
TMPR	Tantrum and TC-16	
Versix	Pro XL	
Wild Monkeys	Grizzly	
Wowly	Surge XL	
Wolfe	Bite	

Reduced Sound Paddle Guidance: Tests have shown that many paddles that are at least 16 mm thick with carbon fiber surfaces and deemed to be “Control” models by paddle suppliers are generally quieter and have a lower main pitch sound and are likely to qualify for the “Reduced Sound” list, but they may not have been tested by Pickleball Sound Labs

Extra Quiet Paddles

Diadem	Vice	1
Diadem	Hush	1
Master Athletics	Q1	1
Owl Sports	Founders Edition, Owl CX,, CXE, PX and PXE	2
Owl Sports	Silent Storm	1
Stafford	Q	1
The Pickleball Muffler (may be used with any paddle)	This is a paddle attachment/cover	1
Quiet Strike	Removable Attachment Pads	1

Paddles (or pad attachments) that qualify as “Quiet” generally have additional design features on the face or internally that substantially reduce both sound level and pitch. These paddles are generally specifically designed to achieve a low sound level.

Note 1: Not USA Pickleball Approved For Tournament Play

Note 2: The Quietest Tournament Approved Paddles

Pickleballs

Somewhat Popular Quieter Balls: The Onix Fuse and Onix Pure 2 outdoor models

The quietest USA P tournament approved ball: Monarch Outdoor ball by Dicks Sporting Goods

Other Quiet Balls (not approved for tournament play):

**The Gamma Librarian
The Accel Digital 3D
The Diadem Official Quiet Ball**