PadelPriceGuide

Padel spec cheat sheet

Every number on a padel racket box, what it means, and whether it should change your mind.

SPEC	TYPICAL RANGE	WHAT IT TELLS YOU	MATTERS?
Shape	Round, teardrop, diamond	Round has the biggest sweet spot and the lowest balance; diamond is head-heavy and built for smashing; teardrop sits between them.	**A lot**
Weight	345–375 g	Heavier means more power and stability, and more strain on the arm. Lighter is quicker at the net.	**A lot**
Balance	250–270 mm from the handle	Higher number, more weight in the head: power at the cost of manoeuvrability.	**A lot**
Core	Soft, medium or hard EVA; FOAM	Soft absorbs shock and forgives mis-hits. Hard returns more energy when you swing fast.	Yes
Face	Fibreglass, 3K–24K carbon	Fibreglass is softer and cheaper. Carbon is stiffer; the K number is the weave, not a quality score.	Yes
Frame	Carbon tube, tubular, hybrid	Affects stiffness and durability. Rarely decisive.	A little
Surface	Rough, sand-blasted, 3D	Grip on the ball for spin. Wears down on any racket.	A little
Thickness	38 mm, almost always	Regulated maximum. Nearly every racket is at it.	No

The K number trap. 24K carbon is not "better" than 3K. It is a tighter weave: stiffer, more powerful in a fast swing, less forgiving in a slow one. Plenty of professionals play 3K or 12K.

Read a spec sheet in 20 seconds

- **Shape first.** It decides most of how the racket plays.
- **Then weight.** Can you still swing it in the third set?
- **Then balance.** Under 255 mm is easy to handle; 265 mm and up is power.
- **Then core.** Soft if your arm complains, hard if you swing fast, and ignore thickness.

Words brands use

- **Control** usually means round, softer, lower balance.
- **Power** usually means diamond, harder, head-heavy.
- **Hybrid** means teardrop, most of the time.
- **Pro / Tour** means heavy and stiff.

One more number worth checking: the total price including shipping. US stores differ by $100 or more on the same racket, the same day. We publish all of them at **padelpriceguide.com**.