



MY TENNIS PRO IS A MACHINE!

"IF YOU DON'T PRACTICE, YOU DON'T DESERVE TO WIN"
ANDRE AGASSI

A BALL MACHINE THAT IS!

Many tennis players seem to think that the best way to improve their game is to play a lot of matches; either in tournaments, league play or through friendly games at their club. While it is true that a player needs to test themselves against their peers in order to learn the art of competition, it is equally important to practice all aspects of their game so that they can rely on their strokes under pressure. "Practice makes perfect"! Of course, it also might make sense to take a lesson or two from a teaching pro!

A lot of players, especially adults, have a limited amount of time that they can dedicate to improving their game. And, even when there is time, there is not always a reliable or suitable partner to drill with. So... what is the most efficient way to get the stroke repetition they need in a limited amount of time. **How about employing a ball machine?**

An increasing number of players are purchasing tennis ball machines to help improve their games. There are several excellent ball machines on the market today with different features catering to the needs of all players from beginners to tournament level competitors. The machine's portability allows players to put them in their cars and bring them to their local club or court. Once set up, the ball machine provides an excellent workout and practice session in a relatively short period of time – let's face it, it never misses! Some tennis clubs have also purchased ball machines to rent out to their members.

SILENT PARTNER HAS BECOME A LEADING SELLER OF BALL MACHINES IN NORTH AMERICA. SILENT PARTNER REMAINS AN INDEPENDENT, FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED COMPANY.

One of the best ball machine lines in the market is actually produced by a Canadian company – **Silent Partner**. A division of Deuce Industries, Silent Partner was founded in 1989 by Dr. John Bassili of Toronto. John was an avid tennis player and a psychologist.

He designed, built and tested his machines' designs along with his son Daniel, refining and improving their features over time. Over a decade later, Silent Partner has become a leading seller of ball machines in North America. Silent Partner remains an independent, family-owned and operated company. With its head office in Toronto, the company manufactures its ball machines on site and services the US market from a facility in Buffalo, NY. It currently sells 7 different models including the new Edge Series. By selling factory direct, Silent Partner has been able to keep its prices reasonable and its customer service knowledge in the hands of those who built the machines. For more information on Silent Partner, visit sptennis.ca. **Buy Canadian!**

DOES YOUR PRO UTILIZE A BALL MACHINE DURING LESSONS? THEY SHOULD!

Many teaching pros consider a ball machine useful only for beginners and actually resist promoting its use because they consider it competition to their paid lessons. In fact, a ball machine can actually be a great tool for a teaching pro. Freed

If you would like more information on the Silent Partner series of ball machines, visit www.sptennis.ca.



John Bassili hard at work developing the Scoop series machine.

up from continuously feeding balls from the other side of the net, a pro can position themselves right next to their students, allowing them to provide close-up, one-on-one coaching and, with the use of a remote control fob, they can temporarily suspend ball feeding while offering demonstrations, tips and encouragement to their student. Many ball machines now come with programmable sequence settings, allowing the pro to work on different shots and point patterns, all the while getting a consistent, reliable match-simulating ball feeds. This

variety of ball machine is especially useful for group lessons. Many group drills are fast paced, requiring a pro to feed balls quickly to various areas of the court. By taking the complicated feeding sequence out of the pros hands, it allows them to step in and demonstrate proper technique as well as work with each player privately as they exit the hitting lines.

Coaches: why not incorporate a ball machine into your lessons – your students will hit more balls, benefit from your up close dedicated instruction and, as a bonus, will save wear and tear on your body!

WE CAUGHT UP WITH SILENT PARTNER TO ASK THEM TO EXPLAIN THE BENEFITS OF USING A BALL MACHINE.

1 A tennis ball machine provides a consistent shot so that you can benefit from repetition and really “groove” your strokes. Even the best teaching pro can’t feed the ball the exact same way each time. This is a must if you want to put a stroke into your DNA. You know you’ve made it when you become more consistent than the machine.

2 A tennis ball machine works with a players’ schedule. With a ball machine, you are not reliant on anything but the court time to determine when you can play. This means you can play when, and for as long as you want, without worrying about your hitting partner having to leave, or running out of lesson time.

3 A tennis ball machine allows you to practice at your own pace. If you want to slowly correct and practice a stroke, you can do so without the need of hitting partner. If you want a workout, the machine will have you gasping for air. Not only can a ball machine throw balls hard and fast, they can be programmed to have you running around the court. On some machines, you can even set up a shot sequence that you want to practice.

4 When used by a pro during a lesson, a ball machine frees them up to do what they are paid for – instruct! A pro can programme the machine to execute complicated multi shot drills that simulate competition while they provide continuous instruction and encouragement while standing right beside their student.