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A year after the launch of the Pro Staff Tour 90, Wilson introduces its second Tour racquet, the Pro Staff Tour 95. Whereas the Tour 90 came with a demanding 90 sq. inch midsize head and hefty feel from its 12.7 ounce weight, the Tour 95 features a 95 sq. inch Midplus head size and weighs in at a much trimmer 11.5 ounces. In keeping with the Pro Staff heritage, the Tour 95 is head light and features the familiar PWS (Perimeter Weighting System) frame bumps at 3 and 9 o'clock inside the racquet head. Carried over from the Tour 90 to the Tour 95 is the leather grip and the same black, yellow and red paint scheme. Like the Tour 90, the Tour 95 features textured paint around the upper hoop - apparently, a Pete Sampras inspired touch that was introduced during the development of the Tour 90. Unlike the Tour 90, which features a flat beam design similar to the Pro Staff Original, the Tour 95 features a rounded beam design - similar to the Hyper Pro Staff 6.1 and the Pro Staff ROK.

We hit the courts for a 3-week playtest with two Pro Staff Tour 95s strung with Wilson NXT 17 gauge string. We strung one at 54lbs and the other at 59lbs to get a feel for how the racquet performed at different tensions. Here's what we found.

Groundstrokes

It was evident to our team from the very first swing that the Pro Staff Tour 95 was a very maneuverable addition to the Tour family. Don found an especially light feel to the Pro Staff Tour 95. "I found the Tour 95 very easy to swing from the baseline; almost too easy. I prefer racquets in the 11.5 ounce/325 swingweight range, but this racquet seemed to swing even lighter; kind of a welter weight of a player's racquets. This was both a positive and a negative for me. On the plus side, I could take a full swing without feeling like I was swinging

through water, as with some heavier racquets. I had very little problem with control and the open string pattern allowed me to generate good topspin and slice. On the downside, the Pro Staff Tour 95 just seemed lighter than these specs, which required that I take a full swing. Otherwise, my shots would land short or be sitters for my opponent, or both. There just wasn't quite enough pop for me. I believe a little added weight (10 grams) at 3 & 9 o'clock would go a long way to enhance power and stability, without sacrificing control. As is, I preferred the more loosely strung playtest racquet for its livelier stringbed." Chris was in agreement, saying, "the Pro Staff Tour 95 is very maneuverable from the baseline and I felt like I could really whip the racquet head through the ball. With all the racquet head speed I was generating, spin came pretty easily. I was able to hit some really nice topspin off both sides with this racquet, but I wasn't able to get much weight behind my shots. My topspin groundstrokes seemed to sit up a little, and just didn't have their usual bite. I was also missing some weight on my slice backhand. When stretched wide or rushed, I found my slice backhands would land short. I can usually keep the ball fairly deep in this situation, but really struggled with the Pro Staff Tour 95. As I was struggling a little with depth, I moved in from my usual comfort zone behind the baseline, and started to take the ball earlier. Taking the ball on the rise with the Pro Staff Tour 95 produced much better results. I was able to find a bit of the pace and depth I had been missing, while still having enough time to react to the ball due to the racquet's maneuverability."

Wendi struggled to consistently find the sweetspot with the Pro Staff Tour 95, but liked the feel from the racquet when she did. "At the baseline the Pro Staff Tour 95 gave me mixed results. I either felt it performed beautifully or very inconsistent. The power level was also a problem, there just wasn't much behind it. I think my game requires a bit more punch than this racquet can give. I seemed to hit well on the run returning wide balls, but I had some trouble when my opponent hit deep. I didn't like the feel and performance I found with the Pro Staff Tour 95 on off-center hits." Josh also had mixed results with the Pro Staff Tour 95, saying, "the Pro Staff Tour 95 was easy to hit groundstrokes with. The light weight and fast swing speed I was generating allowed me to stay on top of the baseline. Usually I can be found six inches to a foot behind the baseline because of my long, loopy stroke. Unfortunately, my backhand suffered a bit. I hit a bunch of backhands too early and was constantly adjusting to find a rhythm. I don't think I hit many clean backhands with this racquet."

Probably finding the best fit for his game with the Pro Staff Tour 95 was Granville. "The Pro Staff Tour 95 has the same great feel of the Hyper Pro Staff 6.1, with some slight variation," said Granville. "The slightly lighter overall weight of the Pro Staff Tour 95 - compared to the Hyper Pro Staff 6.1 - is offset by the slight increase in balance toward the head (10 points head light for the Hyper Pro Staff 6.1 compared to 7 points head light for the Pro Staff Tour 95). The two

essentially cancel each other out. In other words, the Pro Staff Tour 95 felt good, and no adjustment from my usual Hyper Pro Staff 6.1 was needed beyond a warm-up. This came as somewhat of a surprise, as I have always preferred VERY head light racquets - 12 to 14 points. One benefit is a bit more pop on groundies (as well as other strokes). The Pro Staff Tour 95 is a bit stiffer, translating into a crisper feel. If my fundamentals were sound (racquet out front on returns, early backswing, weight moving forward, etc., etc.) then this racquet gave me the tools to maximize my capabilities. This racquet, and a few others, sit squarely on top of the hill of great playing classic



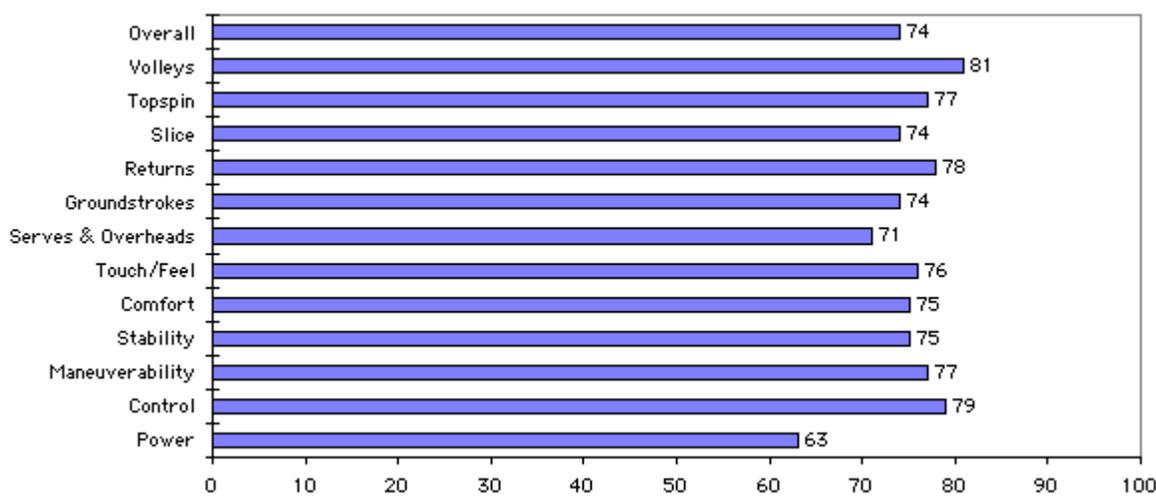
The frame of the Pro Staff Tour 95 features a rounded, aerodynamic beam design, which differs from the flat beam of the Pro Staff Tour 90.

Granville continued to find what he was looking for from the Pro Staff Tour 95 when returning, saying, "what a treat! Same great stability and feel. I was hitting offensive return winners and really feeling the contact with the ball. No guesswork on the feel here - solid and predictable. Another big plus was taking the pace off the ball on the return, dropping the return for a short angle or at the feet of my opponent. On occasion the deceptive drop shot return was a winner." Chris also found the groove when returning. He said, "the return of serve was my favorite shot with the Pro Staff Tour 95. The racquet is so maneuverable I felt I could get my racquet on almost anything the server threw at me. The control I was finding in other areas of the court really paid off on the return. I could take a good cut at anything out to either wing and be confident my return would find its target. I was also able to use the server's pace well and found the Pro Staff Tour 95 a great racquet for counter-punching. **combined score 78**

Overall

The Pro Staff Tour 95 offers a lot of control from all areas of the court, which resulted in some good consistent hitting from our team. Control came from two key areas, good feel on touch and placement shots, and plenty of spin on groundstrokes and serves. For a little extra pop we recommend stringing the Pro Staff Tour 95 towards the lower end of the tension range. Stronger players may also consider adding a little extra weight for a beefier feel. As is, the Pro Staff Tour 95 will appeal to those looking for a traditional feeling player's racquet in a light and manageable package. **combined score 74**

Wilson Tour 95



(Scores are determined by averaging individual play test scores)

Technical Specifications

Length	27 inches	69 centimeters
Head Size	95 square inches	613 square centimeters
Weight	11.5 ounces	326 grams
Balance Point	12.625 inches 32 centimeters	7pts Head Light
Construction	20 mm Straight Beam	
Composition	80% Graphite / 20% Braided Kevlar	
String Pattern	16 Mains / 19 Crosses	

Babolat RDC Ratings

	Score	Grade
Flex Rating	62	Range: 0-100
Swing Weight	325	Range: 200-400
Maneuverability	0	

Playtester Profiles

- Chris** 5.0 baseline player currently using a Yonex MP Tour-1 Midsize. Chris uses a full-western forehand grip, has a fast swing style and hits a one-handed backhand.
- Josh** 5.0 all court player currently using the Wilson ProStaff Original 85. Josh has a long, loopy swingstyle, hits with a one-handed backhand and a semi-western forehand.
- Wendi** 3.0 player currently using a Babolat Pure Control Plus. Wendi is a steady but aggressive player who hits with a semi-western forehand grip and a two-handed backhand.
- Don** 4.5-5.0 All court player currently using a ProKennex Kinetic 7G. Don is an aggressive player with a medium to fast swing style, using a semi-western forehand grip and a one-handed backhand.

Gran 5.0-5.5 all-court player currently using a Wilson Hyper ProStaff 6.1 95. Granville is an aggressive player who uses an eastern forehand grip and goes continental on everything else, hits with a flat swing and a one-handed backhand.

Review date: Feb. 2004. If you found this review interesting or have further questions or comments please [contact us](#).

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- Where to go from here



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