

# **Paddle Evaluation**

Paddle Manufacturer: The Paddle Company

Paddle Model: Odonata

Retail price: \$129.00

## **Dimensions**

- **Length- 18”**
- **Width- 9 1/2”**
- **Weight- 14.9 oz as tested**
- **Thickness- 5/8”**
- **Balance Point (measured from end of grip)- 9 1/8”**
- **Sweet Spot Location (center measured from end of grip)- 13”**

## **Face**

- **Finish- Grit**
- **Length- 10 1/8”**
- **Width- 9 1/2”**

## **Grip**

- **Length- 5 3/4”**
- **Diameter- 4 1/4”**
- **Lanyard length- 6 1/2”**
- **Rim (y/n)- No**

## **Conclusions/Opinions**

Please note that the following are subjective conclusions and opinions, wholly those of the author. Your experience may vary.

The oversized Odonata was built for Paddle Tennis but its design also allows it to be used for other versions of outdoors paddleball. I've seen it used for “big-blue” paddleball- Due to the light weight of the ball and the Odonata's slightly head-heavy design one gets a

solid hit most every time. I suspect that this paddle doesn't get as much use in big blue due to its heavier weight as opposed to say the Iceman Graphite paddle.

If anything, Tennis Ball paddleball's this paddle's game. Its weight is comparable to many padel sticks (padel equipment's commonly accepted in the tennis ball game) out there and though not as powerful as most of the padel equipment, the Odonata's no slouch either. It takes an experienced hand to play the game with this paddle as the sweet-spot is somewhat small, but nail it and you'll get a great hit. It is not a paddle for the beginning player. One will notice that off-center hits may not get all the power one would expect. One will also feel vibration from the paddle (but not the "shock" of wood) that is at first disconcerting but after a period of adjustment, one learns to use as "feel" or "feedback." That feel allows for the experienced player to use "touch" to place the ball where he wants at slow rates of speed.

Off center hits along with the excellent "grit" surface can be used to impart more than average spin to the tennis ball at strategic times, allowing one to score the easy point or "ace" serve. Balance is slightly head heavy but the balance point's location allows for the paddle to be very maneuverable for the quick game.

Odonata's grip, as with every TPC paddle I've used so far, is sticky but I've found, not long-lasting enough for the every-day play I'd put on a favorite paddle. Swap that grip out with a quality one and you'll have a paddle that you can use for both your power *and* control game.

