

# String Playtest

## Gamma Moto 16

**G**amma Moto 16 is a heptagonal (seven-sided) geometric co-polyester string developed for the aggressive baseline player who seeks massive spin and control. According to Gamma, the co-poly material used in Moto is very responsive and provides lots of feedback, with excellent tension maintenance. Gamma tells us that Moto allows a player to swing out fully with confidence that the ball will land in due to the spin it generates.

Moto is available in 16 and 17 gauge in black and lime. It is priced from \$11 for 40-foot sets, and \$181.50 for 660-foot reels. For more information or to order, contact Gamma at 800-333-0337, or visit [gammaspports.com](http://gammaspports.com). Be sure to read the conclusion for more information about getting a free set to try for yourself.

### IN THE LAB

We tested the 16-gauge Moto. The coil measured 40 feet. The diameter measured 1.29-1.33 mm prior to stringing, and 1.24-1.26 mm after stringing. We recorded a stringbed stiffness of 72 RDC units immediately after stringing at 60 pounds in a Wilson Pro Staff 6.1 95 (16 x 18 pattern) on a constant-pull machine.

After 24 hours (no playing), stringbed stiffness measured 66 RDC units, representing an 8 percent tension loss. Our control string, Prince Synthetic Gut Original Gold 16, measured 78 RDC units immediately after stringing and 71 RDC units after 24 hours, representing a 9 percent tension loss. Moto added 17 grams to the weight of our unstrung frame.

The string was tested for five weeks by 37 USRSA playtesters with NTRP ratings from 3.5 to 6.0. These are blind tests, with playtesters receiving unmarked strings in unmarked packages. Average number of hours playtested was 25.1.

If you roll Moto between your fingers, there is no doubt that it is a geometric string: The apexes stand in sharp relief to the flats. The sharpness of the edges might become an issue when installing

the crosses if your technique involves pushing the free end of the string across the mains. At worst, though, you'll just have to slow down a bit. As with all sharply geometric strings, installing the crosses knocks down some of the edges on the mains.

One playtester broke the sample during stringing, six reported problems with coil memory, six reported problems tying knots, and four reported friction burn.

### ON THE COURT

Gamma advises that you reduce the ref-

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tension for Moto 5 to 10 percent from your nylon reference tension, so this is what we recommended to our playtest team members.

Our playtest team agreed that Gamma Moto delivers spin and control. Moto 16 ranked as the 6th-best string of the 171 we've playtested to date for publication in the category of Spin Potential, with an excellent ranking in the Control category. As you might expect from these two rankings, Moto 16 also ranking highly in Resistance to Movement, placing 10th-best of the strings we've tested. Our playtest team also ranked Moto 16 well above average in the Durability category. As a result, Moto 16's overall score was also well above average.

Three playtesters broke the sample during the playtest period, one each at 9, 14, and 15 hours.

### CONCLUSION

Given the relatively narrow target player for Gamma Moto, it's interesting to see that none of the members of our playtest team had much bad to say about it — and this from a team with only eight players who describe themselves as baseliners. Of course, spin can benefit any style of play, and it's often said that one of the differences between the pros and non-pros is the amount of spin the pros use on each and every shot.

If you're a 3.0-and-up baseline player looking for maximum spin and control, and you think that Gamma Moto might be for you, fill out the coupon to get a free set to try. —Greg Raven



#### EASE OF STRINGING

(compared to other strings)

Number of testers who said it was:

much easier	0
somewhat easier	3
about as easy	17
not quite as easy	16
not nearly as easy	1

#### OVERALL PLAYABILITY

(compared to string played most often)

Number of testers who said it was:

much better	1
somewhat better	6
about as playable	9
not quite as playable	19
not nearly as playable	2

#### OVERALL DURABILITY

(compared to other strings of similar gauge)

Number of testers who said it was:

much better	9
somewhat better	13
about as durable	11
not quite as durable	4
not nearly as durable	0

#### RATING AVERAGES

From 1 to 5 (best)

Playability	3.4
Durability	4.2
Power (8th overall)	3.2
Control	3.7
Comfort	3.1
Touch/Feel	2.8
Spin Potential (6th overall)	4.1
Holding Tension	3.4
Resistance to Movement (10th overall)	4.1