



Babolat: key facts and figures

Founded in Lyon (France) in 1875, Babolat is the oldest company specialized in racquet sports and the world leader in stringing. Easily identifiable with its double line – white or yellow on the racquet frames, black on the stringing bed - Babolat has built its brand image by offering products at the cutting edge of technology and by equipping generations of champions who have won the most prestigious tournaments. Today, present in more than 100 countries, Babolat has diversified its offering to provide players with a full set of technical equipment: stringing (natural and synthetic), racquets, balls, grips, accessories, shoes and textile products.

Key dates

- 1875: Babolat founded in Lyon, France, by Pierre Babolat. He invents the strings for tennis racquets.
- 1925: Launch of the famous VS string, made of natural gut. Used by the French "Mousquetaires": Borotra, Brugnon, Cochet and Lacoste, as well as by Suzanne Lenglen.
- 1975: Babolat invents electric and then electronic stringing machines
- 1986: Launch of Babolat synthetic stringing "made in France"
- 1994: Launch of the first range of Babolat tennis racquets
- 1998: First victory for Babolat racquets in a Grand Slam event: Carlos Moya wins French Open and becomes world # 1 a few months later
- 2001: Launch of a line of tennis balls
- 2003: Launch of shoe line, in partnership with Michelin, and technical apparel for tennis. Andy Roddick wins Us Open with Babolat racquet and strings. Andy Roddick and Kim Clijsters become world #1 with Babolat racquets and strings.
- 2004: Launch of an innovative racquet concept: the AeroPro, endorsed by Rafael Nadal.
- 2005: Rafael Nadal French Open Champion with AeroPro Drive racquet. Babolat Team All Court shoes endorsed by Andy Roddick at the US Open. Kim Clijsters becomes US Open Champion.
- 2006-Rafael Nadal captures his second Grand Slam title at the French Open, and scores record of 60 victories in a row on clay, with Babolat racquet and strings.
- 2007: Launch of the Propulse, a high-tech shoe, in partnership with Michelin. The Propulse becomes the exclusive Andy Roddick Shoe. Rafael Nadal signs a 10 years contract with Babolat and captures 3rd victory in a row at the French Open.
- 2008: Launch of a racquet for Emporio Armani. Rafael Nadal wins French Open and Wimbledon Championships and reaches World #1 ATP ranking.

Babolat: a few figures

Foundation:	1875
Production sites:	Lyon, Plöermel, Besançon (France)
Number of employees :	220 worldwide (140 in Lyon, France)
6 commercial subsidiaries:	France, United States, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain
Importers and distributors worldwide:	100
Commercial presence:	20,000 shops and 30,000 tennis clubs worldwide
2007 revenue:	88 million euros
Stock:	Babolat family
CEO	Eric Babolat
Competition: more than 100 Grand Slam wins. No. 1 brand (racquet and strings) among TOP 100 players.	