

Blades by Ed



I started playing table tennis as a boy in Austria over 60 years ago. I am a skilled craftsman and have devoted most of my life and businesses to serving sports and fitness. I came to Canada in 1965 and live now in Courtenay, B.C. I play and coach table tennis and have designed and hand crafted over 200 specialized table tennis blades. I believe that too many players spend too much money on table tennis equipment that does not really help their game.

- **My passion is to make high quality table tennis blades available at reasonable cost to all who want to improve their game.**



Red Cedar wood is split with an adze to make sure the grain is vertical and runs straight all the way through the blade. Picture on right shows Ed on a Timber Framers Guild bridge building project.

My single ply (SP) blades suit most players well. The SP Red Cedar blade is light compared with most other blades. The softness of this wood provides excellent control. While, when swinging fast, the ball will penetrate through the rubber slightly into the blade and the elasticity of the wood acts like a trampoline shooting the ball off at high speed. The faster you swing, the higher the speed. The softness of the wood also gives the ball slightly more dwell time on the rubber, making it very effective for spinning and looping.

When players try my demo blades, most of them prefer the single-ply over the multi-ply, and the Red Cedar is by far the most popular. I found, and most of my customers agree, that these blades make relatively inexpensive rubbers play much better than they would on multi ply blades. Multi ply blades are made fast with several layers of wood, carbon or titanium. All these layers and particularly the glue that holds them together make the blade fast but also very hard and stiff which reduces control and it takes expensive rubbers to get some control back.

PLAY WELL – SAVE MONEY – GO SINGLE PLY

Contact me: edschum@shaw.ca or 250-338-1653



I make blades for Shake Hand, C-pen or J-pen players. Handles can be flared or straight. They can be made of a single piece of wood or several layers of different woods. Cork handles are also getting popular with many players as they feel soft to the hand. I can match the thickness and length of the handle to the size of your hand and your preference.

Blades can be 3-ply, 5-ply, 7-ply, but the most popular and highly recommended is single ply. I can use Pine, Fir and Yellow Cedar for single ply blades but Canadian Red Cedar is by far the most versatile and popular. The reasons for this are mentioned on the front page of this flyer.

Prices of my blades range from Can \$ 50.00 to 70.00 , depending on the type of wood used and the complexity of the design.

I am happy to sell you the blade without rubbers but I have researched rubbers at great length and have found some relatively inexpensive rubbers that play very well on my blades and would be happy to install one of these rubbers on your blade for a low cost of 20 to 50 dollars (depending on the rubber you choose) total, including installation and edge tape.

Here are excerpts from testimonials of some of my customers:

"I'm very impressed by the quality and workmanship of your rackets, but even more by how well they all play." Fred Sherbourne, Comox Valley

"...I have since learned that Ed is also a master at analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of wood and creating superb blades. I had been using an expensive racket and asked Ed if he could make me a spare racket that had a similar balance and "feel." Since I got my new racket from Ed, I've left my old blade in its case and exclusively used Ed's." Ken Madsen, Denman Island.

"In the 15th century in the village of Cremorio, Italy Antonio Stradivari, the greatest maker of violins, cellos and viola gamba set a yet unmatched standard for building concert instruments. Today, in Courtenay, B.C., Canada, Ed Schum sets the same high standard for Table Tennis rackets made from the best naturally cured B.C. timber, tailor made to the need of the individual player. Thank you Ed for your excellent craftsmanship" . Malcolm Lee, Victoria

"Hi Ed, I love my new racket! I have been playing with it for 2 weeks now. No adjustment needed in the way I play. Racket gives good speed and lots of power even from mid distance. It's comparable with my much more expensive Xiom racket, but being a few grams lighter also makes a difference. Although I am interchanging between these 2 rackets, I use yours more often.

Thanks again for doing a good job on BLADES BY ED - See you next time when you are in town!
Viola Cheng, Port Moody