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## Single-sided Pips-out Penholder Play - 8. Basic equipment

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### 8. Basic equipment.

The best less spinny rubber for an allround pips out hitting game is, to my mind, the Friendship 799 in 1.5 mm. It is not too hard, not too fast (yet it produces enough speed) and offers outstanding control. It is capable of putting spin on the ball; serves can be made very spinny when you use your wrist well. Choose red if you favour attack, black (which is just a bit more spinny) if you favour control. Put it on an allround frame, like Friendships 6040 ALL.

The Friendship 802-1 in 1.5 mm in black would be my choice for a typical controlled counter-attack game like Gao Jun plays; it is quite a bit more spinny, great for blocking, and hits well. In fact, it resembles the Butterfly Challenger Attack Gao uses. Put it on a medium fast frame, like Friendships Black Whirlwind.

The Friendship 802 in 1.5 mm in red is probably the best short pip for a real tough all-out attack hitting game, but it is so fast that you have to be quite accomplished to use it well. An attacker should put it on an allround blade to begin with. If you get beyond basics and want more speed, especially in your punch, I would advise to keep your rubber, but change your frame. Keep in mind that you will always need a lot of control for your left-hand, so do not go for the fashionable very fast blades. A good choice would be a blade like Friendships Bomb.