



# Pro's Products

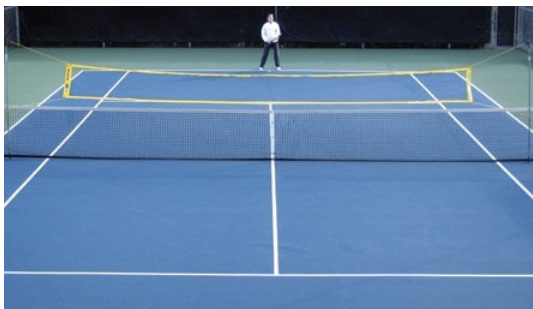
## *Teaching Tool Reviews*

- Mark Schminke



No matter what kind of magazine I'm reading, the articles that always interest me the most are the product reviews. Some tennis magazines review shoes, rackets, strings and bags, however, no one reviews teaching tools for the teaching pro. I can deduce that tennis teaching professionals don't make up a large enough population to warrant such reviews in tennis magazines, so what better place to start one than in our own USPTA newsletter!

When trying to achieve shot depth, most junior and adult players believe the only option is with height. One can get depth through height; however, there are times when depth must be achieved with low shots. There are no cones, lines or ropes that will mark off the court in a way to establish height. This leads me to our first product review, the Airzone from Oncourt Offcourt.



The Airzone is a fully portable, lightweight air target system. It's essentially a net that can be set up above the normal court net. This portable net is suspended on a cable between two metal poles that are weaved in and out of the regulation net in the doubles alleys. I love teaching tools but lugging them around and using a variety for different lesson plans begins to consume more than just 20-30 minutes of your free time. What I found great about the Airzone was the ability to set it up, and break it down on court within a minute. A quick clip of the bungee to the already weaved in poles and you're ready to rock!

You can use the Airzone for a multitude of drills and exercises. The most common way is to raise the net over the regulation net, forcing the student to hit with more arc. Oncourt Offcourt states, "Higher arc translates into 67% more depth on ground strokes to drastically reduce the number of balls hit into the net." I have used the Airzone in its most common form to help my adult students gain control, and depth through height. Majority of my high performance junior students are able to get height with their semi-western grips; however, they struggle to hit deep and low aggressive shots. Removing the net while keeping the bungee attached has helped my juniors get depth while hitting under the bungee. This vertical target helps them visualize the goal, making it easier to understand and achieve.

