

Almost limitless individuality is the trademark of Albene which has been supplying the market with sporting goods and promotional products for 25 years. The manufacture and finishing of balls is one of the core competences of the Munich-based supplier. Together with company owner Wolf Rüdiger, we take a look at making tennis balls in India.

25 years of Albene

Almost limitless individuality



Order-specific and individually printed tennis balls from Albene are ideal promotional messengers.



When it comes to balls, Wolf Rüdiger is a specialist. In 1991, he began importing leather articles, and in the midst of the leather processing industry, he soon met ball manufacturers from India and Pakistan where the production of hand-sewn leather balls has a long tradition. A large proportion of the high-quality, handmade professional balls still come from these regions. Even though most balls for professional sport are no longer made of leather but consist of various PU materials, the experience of the manufacturers with whom Albene works together guarantees the highest quality and comprehensive know-how.

Ball pro with production expertise

Production expertise is one of the competitive advantages that Wolf Rüdiger has developed over the 25 years he has been in business. During this time, he has also steadily and systematically expanded his assortment. In addition to hand-made balls and leather gloves, Albene's product portfolio includes a selection of sporting goods and promotional products for many professional sports and leisure activities. From match and training footballs in various materials and qualities to FIFA-certified and competition-ready balls right up to the leisure and promotional ball – Albene is a professional in every regard. Volleyballs

and beach volley balls, American footballs and rugby balls also belong to the range. In a special retro line made of genuine or synthetic leather, hand-sewn classics are experiencing a revival. Wolf Rüdiger uses his knowledge to provide his customers with intensive advice and service. In order to be able to optimally meet customer requirements, Albene has been producing order-specific products for a long time. As there are new things happening with regard to the finishing of tennis balls, we have decided to focus on this topic.

Tennis balls as area of expertise

One of the areas of expertise of Albene is tennis balls. Individually printed or patterned tennis balls are promotional messengers which unfold their full impact in the sports and recreational sector. It is also possible to provide tennis balls with all-over printing. Albene can produce tennis balls in 10 basic colours from just 500 pieces. The logo is applied using the pad printing process and the colour selection is enormous. Special Pantone colours are also possible on request. Customised manufacturing guarantees the greatest possible individuality of the products. The offer is rounded off by the development of suitable packaging. Tennis balls are ideal promotional and merchandising items that are used not only for playing tennis but also as massage or dog balls. Depending on the application, various rubber mixtures with different bouncing characteristics are used in the production. Dog balls are made of recycled material. The particularly high-quality tennis balls tested by the ITF (International Tennis Federation) can also be obtained from Albene. They are available in yellow and printed in one or two colours. They are available from 6,000 pieces, packed in 2,000 cans, each containing 3 balls.

Consulting is top priority

The experienced partners with whom Albene has been cooperating for years ensure that the quality of the balls and the finishing meet the highest demands. Wolf Rüdiger frequently convinces himself on site that all manual and technical processes correspond to his ideas and produce the desired results. Over the past 25 years, Albene has successfully established itself in the market with reliability, high quality requirements and service competence. Customer advice is of paramount importance because it ensures that customer-specific production is successful. "I personally look after my customers, large and small alike. If someone needs only 50 balls, he receives the same advice and service as a major customer," says Wolf Rüdiger.



The first step towards a tennis ball: The hemispheres made of rubber are produced in these moulds.



Before the hemispheres are joined together, they are filled with chemical substances which react under hot steam and thus build up a higher pressure in the ball.



The stamped felt pieces are glued onto the finished natural rubber balls.



The felt pieces are then bonded with white natural rubber.



Wolf Rüdiger with his associate in front of the production facility.