

# How to Serve Pancakes



Otis P. Dinklaker, the inventor of table tennis, had a devil of a time deciding on a suitable object for the players to hit. Grenades often detonated when served. Chickens generated loud protests from animal rights groups. Bricks bounced badly. Small celluloid balls, however, worked extremely well. So why did Dinklaker abandon them and move on to pancakes, substituting hot skillets for paddles? Was it the novelty of having to eat part of the equipment? Regardless, a competitor named Penelope Pingpong reintroduced the game using the ball that Dinklaker pooh-poohed, patented it under her own name, and soon realized immense wealth and fame. Dinklaker's variant, meanwhile, is still played today by a contingent of flapjack aficionados in France, Finland, and parts of Florida who continue to find new ways to "serve pancakes."