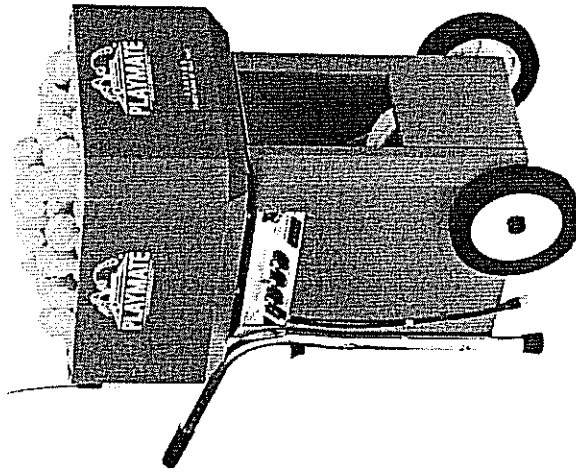


800.776.6770

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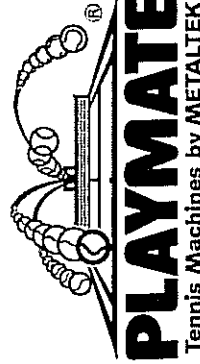
Owner's Manual: The Playmate Ace Basic Direction

Playmate Ace Basic

with Direction

Owner's Manual

Second Edition, January 2003



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Serial #: _____

Playmate Ace Basic with Direction

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Dear Valued Customer,

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Playmate Tennis Ball Machine. We have packed over 30 years of experience and dedication into the production of each and every ball machine that leaves our high-tech facility in Raleigh, North Carolina.

It is our mission to build the most durable, dependable, and player-friendly machines. Quality is assured from the gear motors and pitching wheels, to the fully programmable control boxes and remote controls.

We hope that you enjoy your new ball machine as much as we enjoyed building it. We encourage your comments and suggestions on how we could better serve you in the future. Please feel free to contact us on our Consumer Connection Line at 1-800-776-6770.

Sincerely,

*Alfred F. Yarur
President and CEO*

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Introduction

The best way to improve your tennis game is to practice. That may sound like simple advice, but it's advice we take very seriously here at METALTEK. We believe that the best way to practice your game is to spend some quality time on the court with a ball machine. Only by utilizing a ball machine as a constant partner will you be able to repeatedly attack all the shots that make up your range as a player, whether that means strengthening your weaknesses or perfecting your strengths. A ball machine is your best choice or practice partner when it comes to developing a well-rounded game.

In this age of technological development, we have tried to find a happy balance between technical complexity and ease of operation. We have worked hard to maintain the clean simple appearance of our design and the utility of our controls, while generating machines that can offer full game simulation and programmability. Even if you are still having trouble programming the VCR, we hope that our machines will present themselves without difficulty. After only a short while with this manual you should be able to have your new Playmate up and running and be practicing the shots that you want to be practicing!

Safety Instructions

WARNING! To reduce the risk of electrical shock, fire, injury to persons, and other damage when using this product, please follow these basic safety precautions.

1. Read all instructions carefully before operating this machine.
2. To protect against the risk of electrical shock, never immerse any part of this machine in water or any other liquid.
3. Always use a grounded three-prong extension cord to supply power to this ball machine.
4. Close supervision is necessary when operating this machine near children.
5. Never walk in front of this machine when it is operating. Tennis balls leave the machine at high speeds and could cause serious injury.
6. Always stand to the side, or behind the machine when attempting to alter the settings of the various controls.
7. **If it is necessary to free a jammed tennis ball, make sure that the machine is turned OFF and unplugged.**
8. Always wear protective eyewear when attempting any repairs or adjustments on this machine.
9. **Never attempt any repairs or adjustment on this machine when it is plugged in. Always turn the power switch OFF and unplug the power cord.**
10. **This machine is intended for pitching tennis balls only. Never attempt to use this machine with any other type of ball, or any foreign objects whatsoever.**
11. Always make sure to turn this machine OFF when it is not in use.

Electrical Requirements

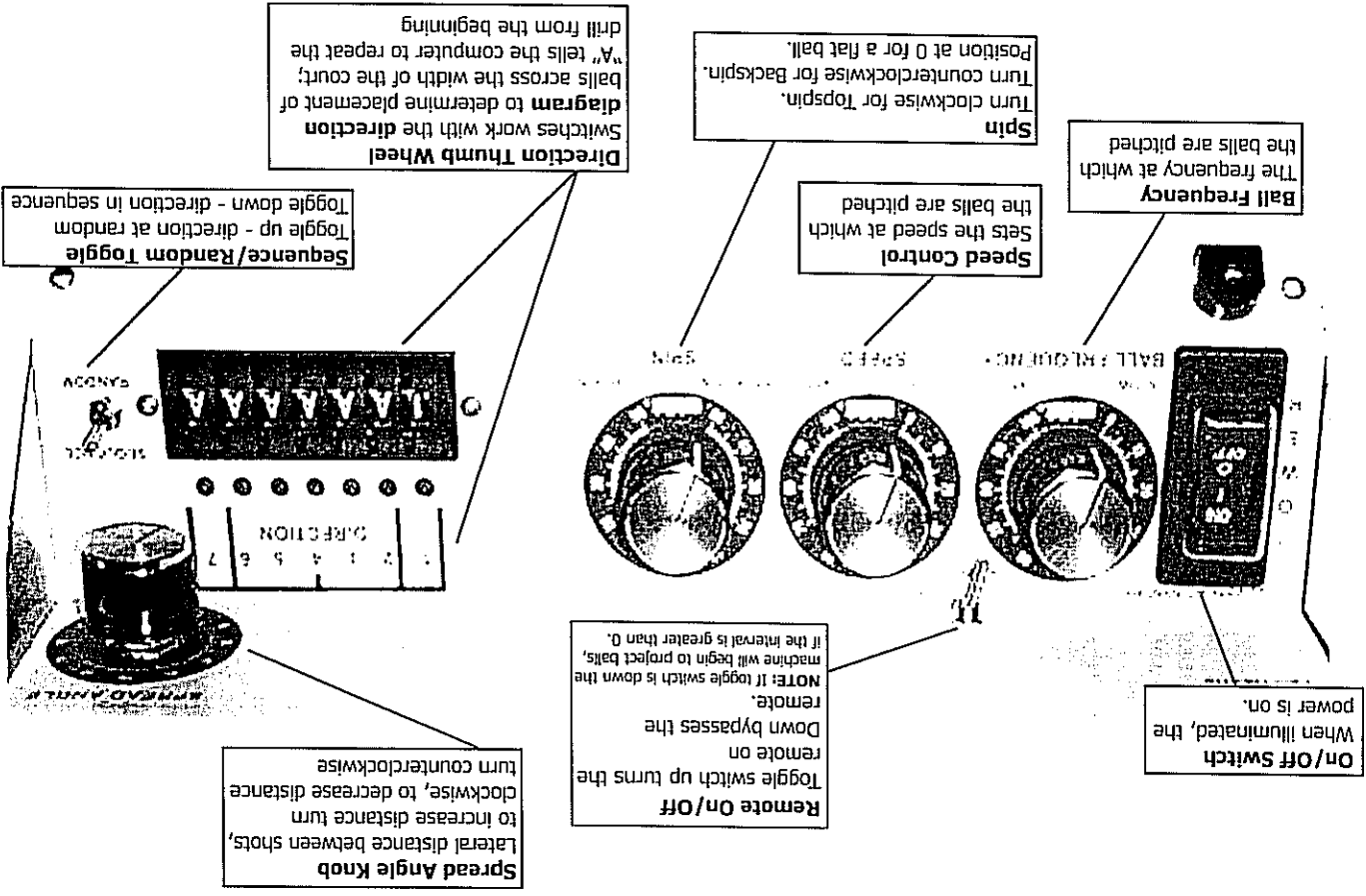
A heavy-duty power cord (not included) is recommended for use with the Playmate Ball Machine. All machines should be plugged into a 120V 50/60 Hz outlet (220V 50/60 Hz outlet for overseas machines equipped with transformers). If you are using an extension cord of 100 feet long or less, we recommend that you use a 16 gauge or heavier extension cord that is grounded. For longer distances, a 14 gauge grounded extension cord is recommended.

Getting Started

Your new Playmate should have arrived securely packed. Make sure to inspect the machine for any damages that could have occurred during shipment. If machine is damaged please save all packing and box for inspection purposes. Inside the packing box, you should have found the owner's manual, warranty card, and hand held remote control. If any of these are missing, please notify Metaltek immediately. Your new Playmate should be ready for use in only a few minutes by completing the following easy steps.

- 1. ASSEMBLING THE HANDLES** - The handles are reversed along the sides of the machine for compact shipment. To place them in their proper position, loosen the black triangular head screws until they are free. Swing the handles around 180 degrees until they are running parallel to each other behind the machine. Line up the holes and replace the triangular head screws, tightening until snug. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN.**
- 2. SUPPLYING POWER** — Plug an extension cord into a grounded three-prong outlet of the proper ratings (see **ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS**), and attach the other end to the power cord on the left side of the machine.
- 3. FILL THE HOPPER** — Depending on whether your machine has a large or small hopper, it will hold anywhere from 200 to 300 tennis balls. We recommend using pressureless tennis balls because they respond better for a longer period of time. Pressureless tennis balls are available from Metaltek by the gross.
- 4. SET THE CONTROLS** — Your machine is just about ready for use. The last thing you will need to do is set the controls to a specific program. Make sure to carefully read the **OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS** before attempting to use this machine.

NOTE: If possible, save the shipping box that your Playmate arrived in. Not only will it provide a safe place for long term storage, but will also provide proper protection if it is ever necessary to ship your Playmate in the future.



Operating Instructions

The control box is located on the right side of the Playmate cabinet.

- 1. POWER**- This switch controls the power to the machine. When it is illuminated, power is being supplied.
- 2. BALL FREQUENCY** – This knob determines the frequency at which the balls are pitched. Turning the knob clockwise increases the number of balls pitched to a maximum of approximately one ball per second. Turning the knob counterclockwise decreases the number of balls per minute.
- 3. SPEED** – The speed knob controls how fast the balls are being pitched. Turning this knob clockwise will increase the speed at which the ball is thrown and turning it counterclockwise will slow it down.
- 4. SPIN** – Turning this knob clockwise will increase the topspin of the ball, thereby increasing both the speed at which the ball is pitched, and the amount of topspin placed on it. Turning this knob counterclockwise will increase the amount of backspin, as well as the overall speed at which the ball is pitched. To obtain a flat ball set the knob at the center where it is marked **0**.
- 5. DIRECTION PROGRAM** -The direction control features seven built-in directions. The seven numbers across a base line graphically represent the direction of each of the shots from left to right on a standard double's court. There are seven thumb wheels, labeled "1" through "7" which determine one of seven specific locations on the court. Each thumb wheel switch features any of the seven directions for your selection.

To set a pattern of shots, turn each of the thumb wheel switches up or down to the number of the corresponding direction, you desire. Thumb wheel switches "2" through "7" feature the extra letter 'A'. If this letter is selected, it will limit the shots to those set to the left of it. The LED lights indicate the active switch.

Example: To select a left and right direction only, set the first thumb wheel switch on the left, to location #3, the next thumb wheel switch to location #5. Then select the letter 'A' on the third thumb wheel switch in order to limit the sequence to only locations #3 and #5.

6. SEQUENCE/RANDOM – Once you have set the seven thumb wheels to any combination of the seven possible locations, you can select the order in which the machine will produce the directions. If you put the SEQUENCE/RANDOM toggle switch on the SEQUENCE mode, the machine will pitch the seven shots in the exact order that they have been selected on the seven thumb wheels. It will start with shot "1", and continue through to shot "7". Once it reaches "7" or "A" it will repeat the sequence again.

If you put the SEQUENCE/RANDOM toggle switch on the RANDOM mode, the machine will produce the seven selected locations in a random order. If you want to increase the probability of any given direction, simply set the same direction twice on two of the thumb wheel switches. In order to triple the probability of a direction, set it three times, and so on.

7. SPREAD ANGLE – The lateral distance, or spread angle, between the seven different shots can be adjusted with the SPREAD ANGLE knob. In order to increase the lateral distance between the shots, turn the SPREAD ANGLE knob clockwise. To decrease the lateral distance between shots, turn the SPREAD ANGLE knob counterclockwise. Shot #4 will always remain at the center position while the others change accordingly. The difference between the maximum and minimum spread angle is approximately 50 percent.

8. REMOTE – This machine is equipped with a radio remote control system. By selecting the ON position of the REMOTE toggle switch, the hand held remote becomes activated. By selecting the OFF position of the REMOTE toggle switch, the hand held remote becomes deactivated. For more information of the radio remote control system please see below.

OTHER CONTROLS

RADIO REMOTE CONTROL – The hand held remote control unit activates and deactivates the ball delivery system of the Playmate tennis machine. Push the button once to activate the delivery system, and once more to deactivate it. The remote control is only active when the POWER switch is illuminated, and the REMOTE toggle switch is in the ON position. The radio antenna is located in the back of the ball hopper. Make sure this antenna is pointing upward in order to increase the range of the remote control system.

OSCILLATION AND ELEVATION – The crank handles controlling the vertical and horizontal angle of the ball are located on the backside of the machine's cabinet. When the OSCILLATION crank handle is turned clockwise, the horizontal angle of the ball's delivery is increased from a single direction to full court coverage using a programmed sweeping action to one, two, or three different hit positions. When the OSCILLATION crank handle is turned counterclockwise, the horizontal angle decreases. There are approximately 15 full turns between the minimum and maximum oscillation.

The vertical angle, or shot elevation of the ball's delivery is controlled by the ELEVATION crank handle. When this handle is turned clockwise, the vertical angle decreases. As the handle is turned counterclockwise, the vertical elevation of the ball's delivery increases. There are approximately 23 full turns between the minimum and maximum elevation.

NOTE: Any control adjustments can be made while the machine is running provided the safety precautions are being followed.

Care and Maintenance

With proper care and maintenance, your Playmate tennis ball machine should last for years and years of effortless operation. These few basic steps will help to keep your machine in great shape, and deter any future mechanical problems.

- 1. PERIODIC CLEANING** – Over a period of use, various debris, and ball fuzz will begin to build up on the interior of the ball machine cabinet. This should be cleared away periodically to avoid excessive build-up that could clog mechanical parts. Use a damp cloth to wipe down both the interior and exterior surfaces of the machine. Very gently use a dull object to help break away large clumps of debris. Never scrape at the surface of your Playmate ball machine with a sharp object, or use any harsh abrasives or solvents. Loose debris can be vacuumed out of the ball machine cabinet. Never use a hose to attempt to spray debris out of the interior of the machine. Excessive water pressure can damage the sensitive electrical components, as well as increase the risk of electric shock.
- 2. PERIODIC LUBRICATION** - The majority of the moving parts inside the ball machine are lubricated and sealed at the factory. These parts should require no lubrication at all.
- 3. STORING** – When the machine is not in use, it should be stored in a proper and secure fashion. Ideally, it should be placed in a dry and clean area that offers shelter from the elements. Even though the ball machine is constructed from anti-rust aluminum, excessive exposure to wind, rain, sunlight, etc., can often interfere with the operation of the sensitive electrical components, and cause fading and/or other damage to the finish.

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Troubleshooting

PROBLEM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	APPROPRIATE ACTION
Inconsistent ball speed	-Pitching wheels are heavily worn. The pitching surface has become dirty.	-Wheels need to be sanded and/or cleaned. Use medium grit sandpaper to restore the textured surface of the wheels.
Ball is not pitched	-Tennis balls and/or pitching wheels are wet. -A ball has jammed.	-Wheels and/or tennis balls require cleaning and drying. Remove any wet balls from the hopper. -Turn off power and remove any jammed balls.
Feeding disk does not turn	-Loose electrical connection. -There is a problem with the remote relay.	-Turn the machine upside down and check the connection of cord #3 at the side of the control box. -Turn the Remote ON/OFF switch to off. If the feeding disk works properly, check the remote. See remote troubleshooting below.
Balls repeatedly jam	-The ball feed wire is damaged or missing.	-Inspect the position of the feed wire over the feed disk. Make sure it allows only one ball to enter each slot in the feed disk as a time. If it is missing, call Metaltek for a replacement.
Remote does not function properly	-Antenna is not facing upward. -Battery is dead. -Remote ON/OFF switch on control panel is set to OFF	-Reposition antenna -Replace battery in hand held remote. -Set Remote switch to ON
Elevation and Oscillation handles do not turn easily	-Threaded linkage arms are clogged with debris, or lack proper lubrication.	-Clean debris from the threaded linkage arms and lubricate with a light coating of lithium grease.
Pitching motors and/or interval motor do not operate properly	-Loose electrical connection	-Turn machine upside down and check the connection of cords #1 and #2 at the side of the control box.

Playmate Consumer Connection

We are here during business hours to help provide technical assistance to our customers.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm (EST)

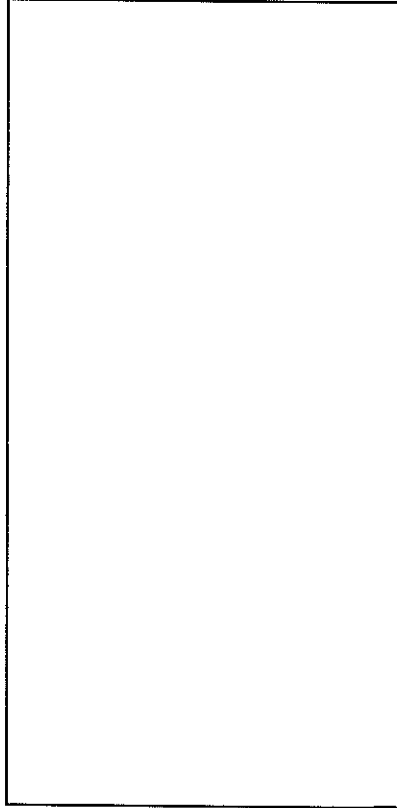
If you experience difficulty with your Metaltek Products please feel free to contact us at one of the following numbers.

Phone: (919) 544-0344
Toll Free (USA): 1-800-776-6770
Fax: (919) 544-1430

Or write us at:
METALTEK
455 Kitty Hawk Drive
Morrisville, NC 27560
USA

Or e-mail us at:
metaltek@msn.com

Authorized Sales & Service Center



Ace Basic with Direction

Developed by Stan Oley

Drill #1

Flat Groundstroke or Volley to Deuce Court then Ad Court

Set *Remote Toggle Switch* above *Ball Frequency Knob* to ON
Push *Red On/Off Switch* on Ball Machine to ON
Set *Ball Frequency* to 40/Groundstroke and 50/Volley
Set *Spin Knob* to 0/Flat
Set *Speed Knob* to 60
Set *Direction Thumbwheels* to 3,5,A
Set *Sequence/Random Toggle* to *Sequence*
Turn *Elevation Crank Handle* towards minus sign until it stops. Now, using your remote, turn the ball feed ON and turn the *Elevation Crank Handle* towards the plus sign until the ball suits your needs.

Now walk to the other side of the court and use your remote to start your drill. When balls are depleted or you tire, turn ball feed off with remote before reloading balls.

As a variation, switch *Sequence/Random* to *Random* to receive forehand/backhand in *Random*.

TIP

REMEMBER TO PLACE THE MACHINE WHERE THE BALL WOULD COME FROM IN A MATCH. DOUBLES PLAYERS SHOULD PLACE MACHINE IN AD OR DEUCE COURT AND PLAY OPPOSITE OF MACHINE. GOOD LUCK!

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Warranty and Limitations of Liability

FULL THREE --YEAR WARRANTY - The PLAYMATE tennis machine is warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for three (3) years from the date of delivery. During the warranty period, METALTEK will repair or, at its option, replace at no charge components that prove to be defective, provided the parts are returned, shipping prepaid, to METALTEK.

This warranty does not apply to the normal wear and tear to the machine or its components as received from proper use.

Nor does this warranty apply to any damage to the machine or remote control, or to any other components caused by accident or misuse or as a result of service or modification by any persons other than those certified by METALTEK. No other express warranty is given by METALTEK.

METALTEK SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.

OBLIGATION TO MAKE CHANGES - Products are sold on the basis of specifications applicable at the time of sale. METALTEK shall have no obligation to modify or update products once sold.

METALTEK'S PLANT: **REPAIR POLICY**
455 Kitty Hawk Drive
Morrisville, NC 27560
USA

REPAIR TIME - Parts are normally repaired and returned within five (5) working days of receipts at METALTEK'S plant.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS - Parts should be returned in a protective package to avoid in-transit damage. Such damage is not covered by warranty.

SHIPPING CHARGES - Whether the machine is in warranty or out of warranty, the customer should prepay shipment to METALTEK.

FURTHER INFORMATION - Service contracts are not available. Machine control circuitry and design are proprietary to METALTEK and manuals are not available to customers. Should other problems or questions arise regarding repairs, please call METALTEK.