

Cobalt Flux Owner's Manual

Thank you for purchasing a Cobalt Flux dance platform. Enclosed is a list of information you should know about the operation and maintenance of your platform, as well as a troubleshooting guide.

PURCHASER INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT

THE COBALT FLUX DANCE PLATFORM IS AN ACCESSORY TO AN INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SOFTWARE GAME THAT ENCOURAGES THE USER(S) TO ENGAGE IN STRENUOUS AND PHYSICALLY DEMANDING "DANCE" ROUTINES, REQUIRING REPETITIVE IMPACT ON THE FEET, JOINTS, HANDS, SPINE—THE ENTIRE BODY OF THE USER WHILE ENGAGED IN THE ACTIVITY FOR WHICH THE COBALT FLUX PLATFORM WAS DESIGNED. UPON THE PURCHASE OF THE COBALT FLUX DANCE PLATFORM, THE PURCHASER ACKNOWLEDGES HIS OR HER AWARENESS OF THESE RISKS AND HEREBY INDEMNIFIES COBALT FLUX FROM LIABILITY FOR INJURY OR ACCIDENT INVOLVING ANY COBALT FLUX PRODUCT AFTER IT HAS LEFT THE COMPANY PREMISES. COBALT FLUX ADVISES THAT ALL PERSONS CONSULT THEIR DOCTOR BEFORE ENGAGING ANY STRENUOUS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY. ALWAYS WEAR SHOES WHEN USING YOUR COBALT FLUX PLATFORM AND EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN HANDLING OR MOVING IT.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

We do not offer cash refunds. However, for a period of six months after the shipping date, we will unconditionally repair your Cobalt Flux platform free of charge, provided that you return the platform in its original packaging and pay shipping expenses one way. We will pay up to \$40.00 of the shipping charges necessary to return the fixed platform to you. If shipping costs needed to return your platform to you exceed \$40.00, you must supply the remainder.

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Operation :

11 Activatable Buttons:

Your CF Platform has 11 activatable buttons. Eight are immediately usable on your platform (Up, Right, Down, Left, Circle, X, Square, Triangle) while two are available on the control box (select on the left and start on the right when the control box is plugged in). To access the eleventh button (R1) located in the center of the platform, do the following: Unscrew all of the screws on the center panel and gently pry both the lexan and the sheet metal off the velcro. Remember to be mindful of the wire attached to the panel. Once they are removed, take out the wooden prop from underneath the panel. Then simply align and replace the sheet metal, decal and lexan. Now screw the panel back down. If you would like the wood prop back under the center simply follow the method above.

Setup:

You will notice that the panels are covered with white sheets of protective plastic. These are in place to keep the panels clean and pristine during shipping. Peel the layer of protective plastic off before you play, but **do not** remove 1/8" clear panels or any screws.

Next, flip your platform over so the bottom side is facing upward. Packaged with your control box is some anti-slip material. Peel the backs of these and apply them to the bottom. Once this is all done, setting up the Cobalt Flux for play is a simple task. Plug in the control box to the system you are using the Cobalt Flux with, then insert the 15-pin plug into the female connector on the wire coming out of the front of the board. You are now ready to play.

Converters:

Use of PSX signal converters with the Cobalt Flux platform can give mixed results, and while it is generally safe, Cobalt Flux will not guarantee that the platform will function properly with all types of converters. Cobalt Flux in general will not provide support for converter related problems beyond what is stated in this manual.

Important: If you're using the Cobalt Flux Platform with a PSX->PARALLEL/SERIAL converter, make certain to disable Force Feedback in the driver dialogue. Leaving Force Feedback enabled has been known to permanently damage the control box. Suggested drivers: NTPad XP which can be downloaded from Aldo's Tools (<http://aldostools.mysite4now.com/dpad.html>).

Older PS2s:

The first generation of Playstation 2's (tm) were released with many flaws, some of which may hamper the ideal operation of your Cobalt Flux pad. These flaws in almost all cases will not prevent the use of a Cobalt Flux pad, however problems have been known to arise. The most common of which being that if you start the PS2 with the Cobalt Flux pad plugged in, one of the buttons will be in a permanently activated state. If you experience this on your Playstation 2 (tm), simply plug in the control box after you have switched on the PS2.

Doubles Bar:

To set up your Cobalt Flux pads for doubles with the doubles bar, please consult the manual that came bundled with the doubles bar.

Maintenance:

Cleaning Beneath the Panels:

A good cleaning is recommended once every couple of months if you play daily. Here is how to do it. Do not remove the upper sheet metal squares unless necessary, as

they can be very difficult to remove, realign, and replace with-out damaging the platform.

To clean the sheet metal inside the platform, try the following:

1. Get a thin ruler (less than 1/8" thick), wrap the upper 4 inches in gauze, thin terrycloth, or a few layers of paper towel, and have some water on hand.
2. Unscrew the panel you wish to clean under. The screws will probably have a bit of glue on them, but should go back in fine.
3. Remove the lexan from the panel. This is a good time to give it a nice cleaning, but make sure it is dry before you replace it. Be careful around the exposed decal, as it can be permanently discolored if spilled upon.
4. With the lexan and screws removed, get your "cleaning rod" pretty damp (but not wet) and thoroughly wipe under the panel. Do not worry if the sheet metal bows a bit, it will flatten back down when you next play.
5. Wait until everything is dry (a period of 12 hours is recommended), replace the lexan, and then re-screw the panel making sure to drive the screws in just enough to be level with the top of the lexan. You're done!

You can use this process to clean every panel on your Cobalt Flux platform.

Cleaning the Top of the Platform:

To clean the top of the platform without going through the elaborate process related above, simply get a paper towel slightly damp with any household window cleaner and proceed to wipe down each of the panels. Make sure to not spray the cleaner directly onto the platform, and do not apply it in excessive amounts, as it can discolor the decals if it gets in between the lexan and the sheet metal and can also cause problems with button activation if it gets under the panels. Allow the panels to dry completely before playing again.

Storage:

The Cobalt Flux platform is generally very easily stored, fitting nicely under either a bed or couch. Make sure you keep your platform in a dry place. Abnormalities such as decals wrinkling and sticky noises from button presses may occur if the Cobalt Flux platform is stored in cold temperatures, however, these abnormalities will fade through regular play.

Modifications:

If you feel you are competent to modify your platform in a minor ways that are more agreeable to your style of play, feel free to do so. However, please note that Cobalt Flux will not provide support for modifications other than answering simple questions. Radically altering your Cobalt Flux or complete disassembly will void your warranty.

Troubleshooting:

Overview:

Should the Cobalt Flux ever malfunction, below are expedient directions to get you dancing away again as quickly as possible. During development the Cobalt Flux platform was designed to be both rugged and easy to repair, allowing it to stand up against years of extraneous abuse in the field. The mechanics of the pad and its various weak points are easily accessible, easily understood, and easily fixed. If at any time you feel that this guide does not satisfactorily answer your questions, does not outline your problem, or the solutions provided do not solve your problem, feel free to send an email to support@cobaltflux.com for quick, effective, and personally addressed support. Make sure to read every the problem description that describes what you are experiencing entirely and thoroughly before proceeding to the solutions.

Tools:

In general, the only tool you will ever need to repair your Cobalt Flux platform is a philips head screwdriver. In rare cases a bit of tape (scotch or electrical) might be needed. With those you should be able to easily perform all of the diagnostics and repairs outlined below.

Problems:**Index:****Problem #1 – A button is activating when it should not.**

The first thing to determine is if the root of this problem lies in the control box or the platform. To discover which of the two it is, plug the control box into your console but not into the platform. If the button is still being activated even when the control box is not plugged into the platform, the control box is malfunctioning. Otherwise the problem lies with the pad.

If the problem is caused by the control box:

Contact support@cobaltflux.com for a solution. In almost all cases you will promptly be sent a replacement control box as long as your pad is still under warranty. If not, spare control boxes are sold at www.cobaltflux.com.

If the problem is caused by the platform:

Perform the fix described in Solution #1. If this does not solve the problem, perform the fix described in Solution #2. If neither of these work, contact support@cobaltflux.com for more in depth troubleshooting.

Solutions:**Solution #1 – The general button maintenance procedure.**

This set of directions fixes or at least diagnoses 95% of all problems involving one offending button. Take your philips head screwdriver and remove all the screws from the button that is malfunctioning. Proceed to gently pry up against the Velcro (tm) separating the lexan and top contact metal from the base plate. Be particularly mindful of the wire that will be attached to the top contact metal of the panel under one of the Velcro circles nearest to the center of the platform. Once you have the button separated from the base of the pad, do the following:

A. Clean both contacts (the bottom area under the button and the top contact) with water and a bit of soap. Do not apply the liquid directly, wet a sponge or paper towel with it and generously wipe down both surfaces. Use a paper towel or cloth to completely and thoroughly dry all cleaned areas.

B. Take the top piece of sheet metal and bend it so it has the slightest upward arc in the middle. After months of beating occasionally the metal on a button can fatigue and needs to be biased upward again.

C. While the panel is up, thoroughly examine the visible portion of the wire that is attached to the top contact. Look for any abnormalities, cuts in the sheathing or damage in general. If you see any, simply cover the damaged portion with a bit of tape.

After this you can replace the panel.

Backup:

If these solutions do not resolve your problem, or if a cause that is not easily fixed and is not mentioned here comes to light while you are performing one of them, contact support@cobaltflux.com for additional assistance.-