

Owner's Manual for the EDGE: LITE, SPORT and STAR

www.sptennis.com



SAFETY FIRST

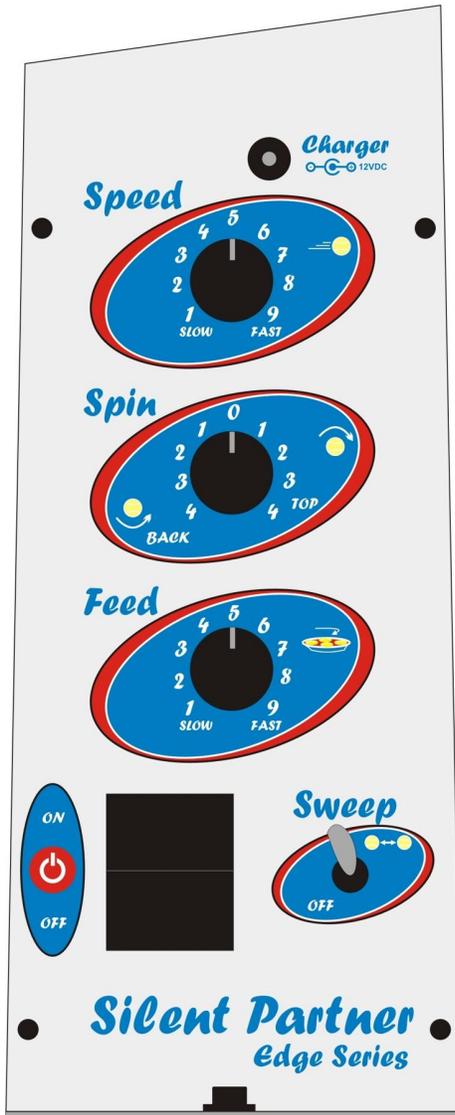
The Silent Partner ball machine is capable of throwing tennis balls at high speed. Take all necessary precautions to prevent ejected balls from striking people.

Do not allow children to use the machine and keep them at a safe distance from it, and from ejected balls, when on court.

Do not insert your hands or foreign objects into the openings of the machine while it is running. The throwing wheels must never be touched when they are spinning.

Exercise caution when carrying the machine. Careless lifting can result in injury. The handle must never be used alone to lift the machine, especially going up or down stairs. Use center opening in front and rear to lift the machine.

THE CONTROL PANEL OF THE LITE, SPORT AND STAR



BATTERY CHARGER JACK

The Silent Partner is delivered with a smart battery charger that mounts in ordinary wall outlets. It takes about 10 hours to charge the battery. The charger can stay connected to the machine for long periods of time but must be disconnected when playing.

SPEED CONTROL

Ball ejection speed can be adjusted from a soft toss to a challenging drive. Settings in the top range produce unusually high speeds. For consistent ball throws, use fully pressurized balls. Pressureless balls can also be used to avoid pressure loss over time.

SPIN CONTROL

A simple turn of this knob will generate spin varying from slice to top spin. Spin is generated by the relative speed of the two propulsion wheels. Positioning the knob in the mid-position produces "flat" (spinless) ball throws.

FEED RATE

Feed rate can be adjusted from a full stop to about one ball every two seconds. The SPORT has a delay of about 12 seconds before feeding balls. This happens every time you feed balls

SWEEP

This function will make the machine oscillate. To achieve symmetrical court coverage, ensure that the lower platter of the machine is aligned with the court. Alignment fins are provided to make this easy (see description in this manual)

RESET BUTTON

The sophisticated electronic circuitry of your Silent Partner is protected by a reset button located at the base of the control panel. The Star AC has two additional reset buttons to the side of the control panel. If a reset button pops during play, check for obstructions of the propulsion wheels. The most likely cause of

failure is a ball stuck behind the propulsion wheels. Never use wet balls and make sure that the chute that leads balls to the propulsion wheels is always clear of balls.

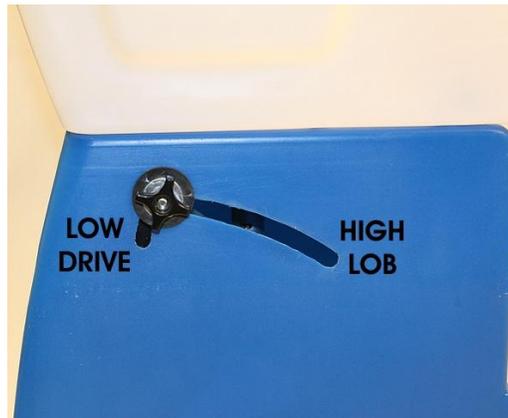
THROW CONSISTENCY: The main reason for inconsistency in ball throws is that dead balls are not thrown as fast as new balls. Avoid mixing balls of different firmness.

ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT

ADJUSTING HEIGHT OF THROW

The height of the ball trajectory is adjusted by releasing the clamp shown in the picture and repositioning it along the arc cut into the body of the machine.

The clamp is shown here in the position that will provide the lowest throw. As the clamp is repositioned to the right along the arc, the ball is thrown increasingly high.



THROWING HIGH LOBS

Very high lobbs can be achieved by placing the clamp at the extreme right of the arc AND by inclining the machine towards the rear.

The inclination of the machine is achieved by flipping a metal foot (shown in the lower left in the picture) down on the court.

Small changes in speed and spin can have a big impact on the trajectory of the ball when throwing lobbs, so experiment carefully with your settings.

The oscillator can be turned when the machine is throwing lobbs.

This is a good time to take note of the small chain located in the area of the metal foot. This is a ground chain that protects against the accumulation of static electricity in the machine. Just let it hang down (it will touch the court, or the metal foot, providing a ground connection in either case).

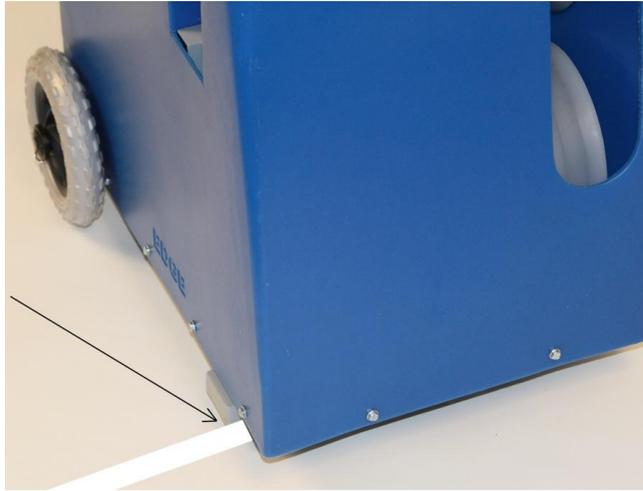


GETTING READY TO PLAY

ALIGNING THE OSCILLATOR

When using the oscillator, begin by aligning the machine with the court by ensuring that the lower platter is “square” with the court. The lower platter is the part to which the rubber feet are attached. Its front edge must be parallel to the baseline (check both sides). This will ensure that the machine will swing equally to the left and right.

Note that it is not the body of the machine that needs to be aligned with the court but the stationary platter that sits on the ground. The alignment fins that jut out from under the machine provide an easy way of checking on alignment.



THE HOPPER

To install the hopper for play, lift it up from the body of the machine, remove the pin from the post shown in the photo, and lay the hopper right-side-up on top of the machine.

It is essential that the pin be inserted in the post as shown in the photo. Without the pin, the hopper will lift from the machine during play and will allow balls to become jammed.

Note that the handle is lowered during play. This protects the handle and provides for a free flow of balls in the hopper.



ROLLING AND LIFTING THE MACHINE

RELEASING THE HANDLE

To release the handle from its locked collapsed position, place the palm of your hand in the lifting hole and push the handle upward while pressing the release button with your thumb.



LIFTING THE MACHINE (BACK)

Note that the hand in this picture is shown in the lifting point in the back of the machine. By placing one hand in the hole under the locked handle, and the other hand in the lifting hole in the front of the machine, lifting can be done efficiently.

LIFTING THE MACHINE (FRONT)

This picture shows the front lifting hole. To lift the machine, grip the front of the machine with one hand and the back of the machine (see explanation above) with the other hand. Because the two lifting points are located high on the machine, it is possible to lift the Silent Partner without needing to "bear hug" the machine from underneath.

READY TO ROLL

The machine is shown here ready to be rolled. Note that the hopper is placed securely on top of the body of the machine and the handle is fully extended.

To roll the machine, tilt the handle towards the back until the rolling wheels are securely in contact with the ground. You can now maneuver the machine effectively over a variety of terrains. For maximum durability, it is best to lift the machine when the path is very rough, such as over gravel, potholes, or rough grass.



REMOTE CONTROL (Star only)

The Silent Partner STAR is supplied with a two-function remote control that operates ball FEED (on/off) and SWEEP (on/off).

1. The FEED function only works when the machine is turned on at the control panel and the FEED rate is set above zero.
2. The SWEEP function only works when SWEEP is turned on at the control panel.

The remote control resets itself every time the machine is turned off. The reset default is with FEED and SWEEP in the "ON" position so that the machine can be used in the absence of the transmitter.

A common cause of poor remote performance is a weak battery in the hand-held unit. Because of excessive shipping costs, the factory does not supply replacement batteries for the remote control unit. You can obtain these batteries from your local electronics store.



This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation of this device is subject to the following two conditions: 1. This device may not cause harmful interference. 2. This device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

CARING FOR YOUR MACHINE

MAINTENANCE

The Silent Partner requires very little maintenance. The bearings for all motors are lubricated for life and no electronic adjustment is required. Maintenance consists primarily of the following preventative measures:

1. Remove dirt from inside the machine by reaching inside through the ejection hole and wiping the base with a damp cloth.
2. The propulsion wheels are covered with a rubber dressing that does not require maintenance. Grime from the balls will get deposited on the surface of the wheels, but it is not necessary to remove it. If you wish to clean the surface of the wheels, you can scrub them with the scrubber side of a kitchen sponge, using soap and water or, for a stronger action, using nail polish remover (acetone).
3. When properly cared for, the internal battery that powers the machine has a life span of 2 to 4 years, after which it needs to be replaced. Care for your battery by stopping play when speed drops, recharging the battery as soon as practical, and keeping it topped up. AC-powered machines do not have an internal battery.

The remote control transmitter's battery (STAR) needs to be replaced periodically. You can obtain these batteries from your local electronics store.

SERVICE

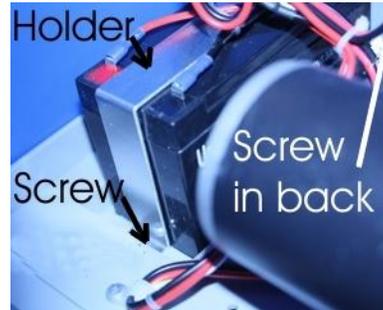
(Check www.sptennis.com/service for service procedures)

REPLACING THE BATTERY ON THE LITE

(Service also offered by factory)

The battery on the LITE can be replaced without opening the machine:

1. Center the oscillator plate with the machine then turn the machine OFF. Remove the hopper and place the elevation in the lob position.
2. Looking through the ejection hole, locate the battery on the lower left and disconnect the red and black wires from the battery posts. You will need a Philips (cross) screw driver to unscrew the two screws that secure the steel battery holder.
3. Rest the machine on its back and locate the two holes in the oscillator plate. These holes give access to the nuts that hold the Philips screws in place. You will need needle-nose pliers, or preferably a nut driver, to hold each nut securely while unfastening the Philips screws.
4. Remove the steel battery holder carefully (do not short the battery posts) and extract the battery through the ejection hole.
5. Note the red and black battery posts on the new battery. After inserting the battery and securing it with the fastened steel battery holder, connect the red wire to the red battery post and the black wire to the black post (do not reverse polarity!)



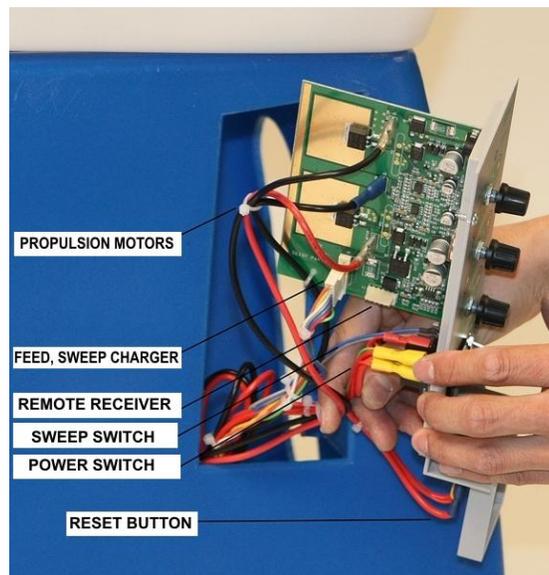
REPLACING THE BATTERY ON THE SPORT STAR

Because of its larger size, the battery on the STAR cannot be removed through the ejection hole. The procedure for opening the machine and replacing the battery is described at www.sptennis.com/service.

ACCESSING THE CIRCUIT BOARD

All the electronics of the Silent Partner are mounted on the control panel. You do not need to open the machine to get to the circuit board. Under factory guidance, follow these steps:

1. Remove the four screws that hold the panel in place.
2. Slide the panel down into the machine a third of the way.
3. Tilt the top of the panel towards you and lift it away from the machine (all wires remain connected during this operation).



TROUBLESHOOTING SIMPLE PROBLEMS

SHORT BATTERY LIFE Battery life drops dramatically at lower temperatures. Care for your battery by stopping play when speed drops, recharging the battery as soon as practical, and keeping it topped up.

MACHINE DOES NOT RUN Begin by checking if the reset button has popped. If so, push it down after investigating the cause of the problem (most likely balls preventing the propulsion wheels from turning).

CAROUSEL DOES NOT TURN Check that the feed control knob is turned to at least the midpoint of the scale. Remember that there is a delay feature on the SPORT. You can try to turn the carousel by hand (gently); if the carousel turns without engaging the motor, call the factory (1-800-662-1809).

REMOTE CONTROL DOES NOT WORK (STAR only) The remote control consists of a transmitter (small hand held device) and a receiver (installed in the machine). Problems of reception are usually caused by a weak battery in the transmitter (note that the red light on the transmitter is not a battery level indicator). Replacing the battery with a fresh one from your local electronics store should be the first step in diagnosing transmission problems.

Silent Partner offers complete service on its tennis ball machines. Because the work is performed at the factory, you can be assured of the skill of our technicians and the quality of the parts used in servicing your machine. Call 1-800-662-1809.

WARRANTY

(Valid only for machines in the United States and Canada)

Deuce Industries warrants Silent Partner ball machines for a period of one year from the date of original purchase. The warranty covers defects in the material and workmanship. Deuce Industries' obligation under this warranty is limited to the original purchaser and applies to the cost of labor and materials to repair a warrantable defect (please note that the battery in the machine is not covered by the warranty).

To obtain warranty service, call or write Deuce Industries Ltd. to obtain instructions on how to proceed. No returns will be accepted without prior authorization. Shipping to Deuce Industries must be prepaid. After completing warranted repairs, Deuce Industries will pay for return shipment to you.

This warranty does not cover units damaged by neglect, accident, abuse, or unauthorized repair or modification or if subjected to damage by failure to follow instructions contained in this manual. The warranty also does not cover the battery in the machine or remote.

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