



Owner's Manual: The Playmate Ace

Playmate ACE

Owner's Manual

First Edition, May 2004



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Serial #: _____

Playmate ACE

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Dear Valued Customer,

Congratulations on the purchase of your new Playmate Tennis Ball Machine. We have packed over 31 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 yours,

*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.

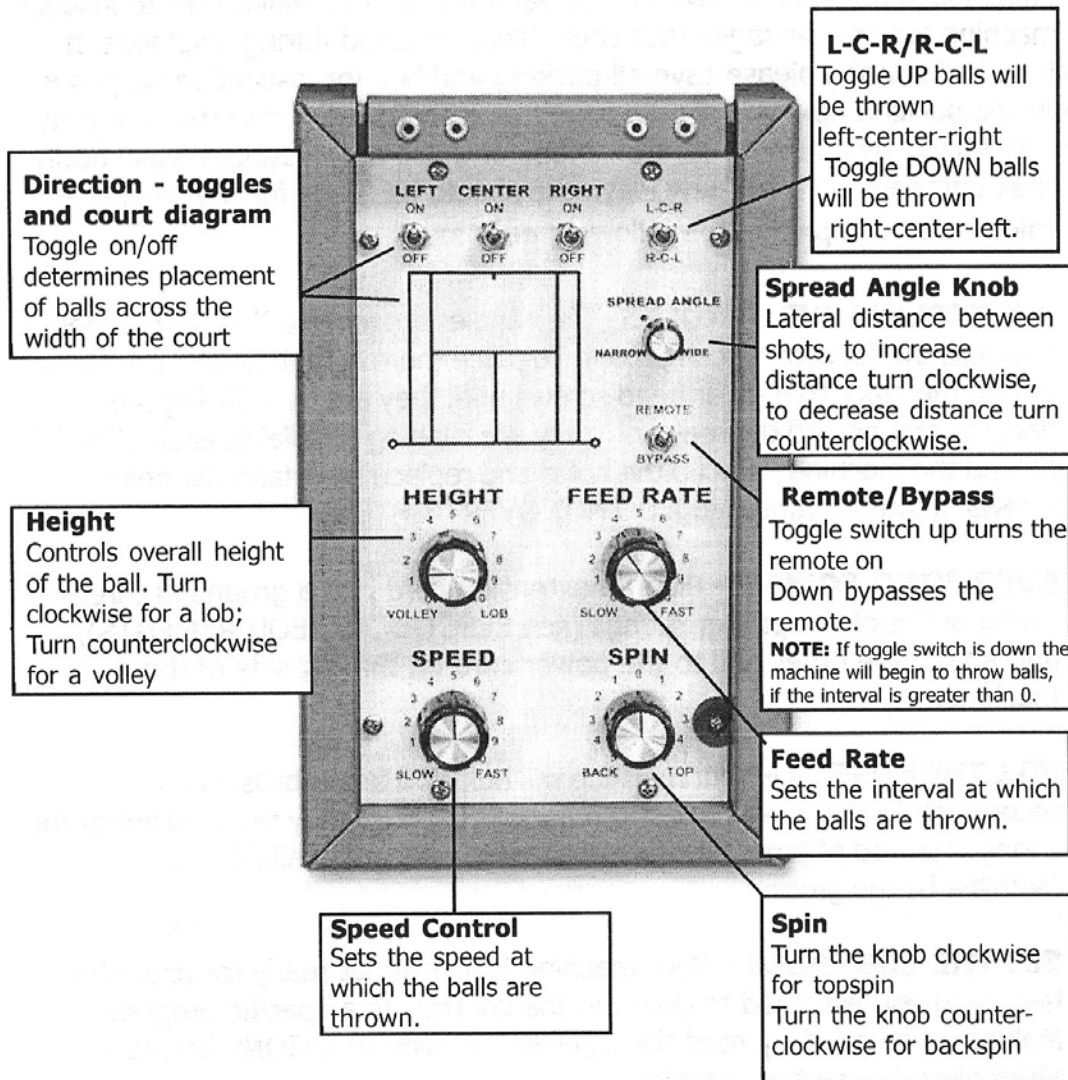
Getting Started

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** – Your machine will hold 200 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 ACE control box is mounted to the back of the Playmate cabinet.

POWER- This switch controls the power to the machine. When it is illuminated, power is being supplied. The Power switch is located on the ball machine cabinet.

1. FEED RATE – This knob determines how frequently 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.

2. SPEED – This knob sets the speed at which the ball is thrown. Turning this knob clockwise will increase the overall delivery speed of the ball. Turning it counterclockwise will decrease the overall speed.

3. HEIGHT - This knob controls the overall height of the ball being pitched. Turning this knob clockwise increases the height of the ball. Turning it counterclockwise decreases it.

4. DIRECTION - The **LEFT-CENTER-RIGHT** shot sequence controls work together with the direction diagram. These toggle switches are labeled ON/OFF. A toggle on the ON position means a ball will be thrown to that position. A toggle on the OFF position means the ball will be skipped.

Example: Toggle switch marked: **LEFT** is on the ON position
CENTER is on the OFF position
RIGHT is on the ON position
the machine will throw **Left, Right,** back to **Left.**

5. SPIN - This knob controls both TOP and BACKSPIN of the ball being thrown. Turning this knob clockwise will give TOPSPIN, counterclockwise BACKSPIN, if this knob is at 12:00 o'clock it will be a flat ball.

6. REMOTE – This machine is equipped with a radio remote control system. By selecting the REMOTE position toggle switch, the hand held remote becomes activated. By selecting the BYPASS position of the REMOTE toggle switch, the hand held remote becomes deactivated.

SAFETY PRECAUTION: If the machine is turned ON and the REMOTE switch is on the BYPASS position the machine will begin to throw balls.

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. 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.

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 switch to BYPASS. 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 switch on control panel is set to BYPASS	-Reposition antenna -Replace battery in hand held remote. -Set Remote switch to REMOTE.
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)

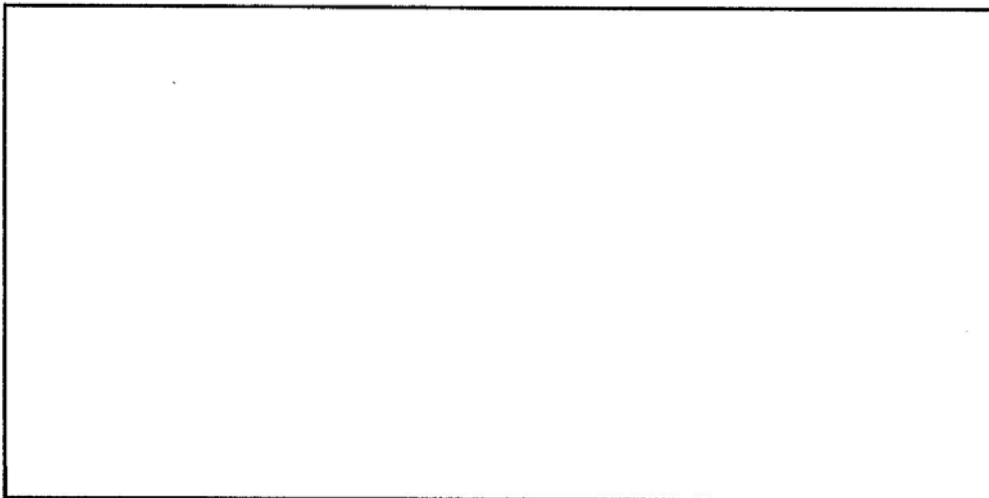
If you experience difficulty with your Metaltek Products please feel free to contact us at one of the following numbers.

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 Drill

Developed by Stan Oley

Drill #1

Flat Groundstroke or Volley to Deuce Court then Ad Court

Set Remote Toggle Switch above Feed Rate to REMOTE
Push Red On/Off Switch on Ball Machine to ON
Set Elevation Knob to 3
Set Spin Knob to 0
Set Speed Knob to 60
Set Feed Rate to 40 / Ground Stroke and 50 / Volley
Set Direction Toggle Switches L and R ON

Using your remote, turn on the ball feed and use *Spread Angle Knob* to determine the width of your desired oscillation. Once you have set the *Spread Angle Knob*, turn off ball feed with your remote.

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.

TIP

REMEMBER TO PLACE 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!

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.



800.776.6770
www.playmatetennismachines.com

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