



User Manual

Portable Power, Precision, and Performance.

Edge Lite-R

Edge Sport

Edge Star





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.

Control Panel

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).

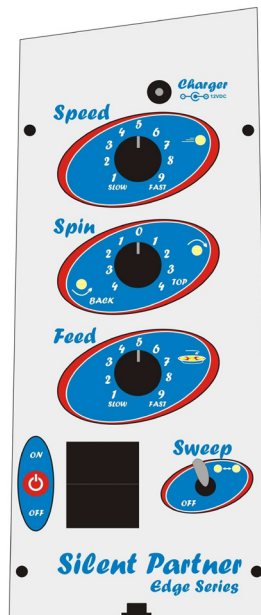
Reset Button

The sophisticated electronic circuitry of your Silent Partner is protected by a reset button located at the base of the control panel.

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.

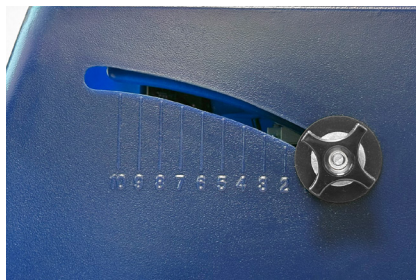


Elevation Adjustment

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 highest throw (lob). As the clamp is repositioned to the right along the arc, the ball trajectory lowers until it reaches a drive.



Throwing High Lobs

Very high lobs 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 lobs, so experiment carefully with your settings.

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

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.



Once inserted, slip the ring onto the post to secure its position.



Secure the hopper by installing the pin in the BACK of the machine near the handle. Placing the pin in the front will result in ball jams. Be sure to push the hopper all the way down against the machine before inserting the pin.

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)

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)

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.

The handle is not designed to carry the entire weight of the machine. The machine should not be lifted only from the handle, especially when going up or down stairs.

Remote Control (Lite-R and Star)

The Silent Partner LITE-R and STAR are 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.
4. The remote control transmitter's battery needs to be replaced periodically. You can obtain these batteries from your local electronics store.
5. The machine is supplied with the Fast Smart Charger. The Smart Charger will not allow the battery to over charge. The machine comes with a battery that has a factory charge (75%). We suggest that you charge the machine prior to using it. It may only take a couple of hours to fully charge. The LED light on the charger will change from Red to Green when it is fully charged.

To keep the battery healthy, it should be at room temperature. When not using the machine for a long period of time, it is best to keep the battery charged. Do not leave the machine on the charger for that long a period of time. The maximum should be about 1 week on the charger.

The best option for keeping the battery healthy during the offseason is to charge the battery after the last use and unplug it once it is fully charged. Every two to three weeks, you should turn the machine on without balls for about 30-45 minutes. You can then recharge it and unplug it when finished. Repeat the cycle about every two to three weeks to keep the battery as healthy as possible.

Service

Replacing the Battery on the Edge

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

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

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: 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.

Warranty

VALID ONLY FOR MACHINES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Lander Industries and Manufacturing Inc 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. Lander Industries and Manufacturing Inc obligation under this warranty is limited to the original purchaser and applies to the cost of labor and materials to repair a warrantable defect.

To obtain warranty service, call or write Lander Industries and Manufacturing Inc to obtain instructions on how to proceed. No returns will be accepted without prior authorization. Shipping to Lander Industries and Manufacturing must be prepaid. After completing warranted repairs, Lander Industries and Manufacturing 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.

Lander Industries and Manufacturing Inc
Phone: 1-800-662-1809 Email: info@sptennis.com

Head Office: 500 Coronation Drive Unit Warehouse in USA: 2221 Kenmore Ave.
10 Toronto, Ontario, Canada M1E 4V7 Unit 106 Buffalo, NY 14207 USA

If you are located in the United States, please ship the machine to Buffalo. If you are located in Canada, kindly ship the machine to the designated location within Canada.