

# Little *prince*®

Portable Tennis Ball Machine



Owner's Manual

# Owner's Manual for Your Little Prince® Portable Tennis Ball Machine

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# General Overview of Little Prince® Portable Tennis Ball Machine

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The Little Prince® ball machine, manufactured by Master Sports is a portable, compact, self-contained unit designed to be easily handled, transported, and stored. The exterior is weather and corrosion resistant.

## Testing Procedures:

To ensure customer satisfaction, every Little Prince® ball machine is tested as follows:

- Battery is checked and tested to ensure superior quality.
- About 200 balls are run through the machine.
- The machine is cleaned and boxed.

**NOTE:** There may be some residual ball fuzz in your machine as a result of testing.

## Important Safety Information

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The Little Prince® ball machine is specifically designed to throw tennis balls at a high rate of speed. To avoid any bodily harm, please observe the following precautions at all times:



**WARNING:** Do not reach or look into the ball exit hole without first turning the main power off and only after all wheels come to a complete stop.



**WARNING:** Do not place hands or foreign objects into the ball hopper while the power is on.



**WARNING:** Only use standard-size (NOT rally) tennis balls with this unit.



**WARNING:** Never stand closer than 35 feet in front of the ball machine when the power is on. Balls exit at various angles, 0-45 degrees vertical, and from 14 degrees left to 14 degrees right.



**WARNING:** Use caution with small children in the area.



**WARNING:** Do not use this machine while it is raining or in water. Do not use wet tennis balls.

# Important Instructions Before First Use

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## Battery Preparation:

(This section does NOT apply to electric-only machines.)

Before first use, the internal battery should be fully charged. Please refer to page 8 for battery charging instructions.

## Ball Hopper Preparation:

The ball hopper slides over the machine for compact storage.



Follow these steps to prepare the Little Prince® ball machine for use:

1. Lift hopper from machine base.
2. Line up tabs on hopper with holes on base.
3. Place tabs through holes and twist to “lock” hopper into place.

## Ball Hopper Features:

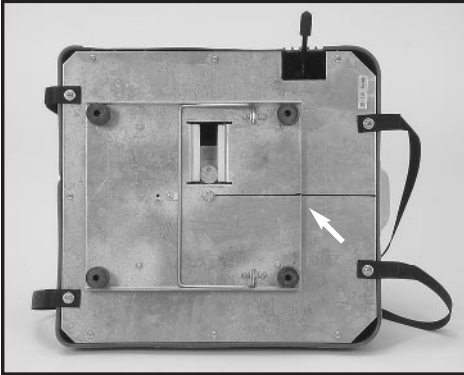
The ball hopper serves two functions:

1. as a cover over the machine when being transported
2. as a ball hopper capable of holding over 250 balls

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## Alignment:

To align machine so that it is centered to shoot equal distance to forehand and backhand:



1. Turn machine over on it's side and look underneath.
2. Turn sweep on until dark lines match.
3. Set machine in position on serving line with ball exit hole directly over center line.

## Ball Feed Instructions:

For safety reasons, the ball feed will not activate for 10 seconds when the machine is first powered on.

## Break-in Period:

New tennis balls are apt to leave a slick film on new drive wheels that could cause misfires. Because of this, Master Sports recommends that slightly used tennis balls be used during the first 10 hours of operation.

# Operation — Little Prince® Model 1



**POWER** The power switch is on the BACK of the machine. It is the top right button. The power button turns on the unit and enables the other functions.

**OSCILLATION** The random OSCILLATION is the furthest button to the left on the control panel. It allows the machine to shoot balls from one side of the court to the other.

**SPEED** The BALL SPEED control knob regulates the ball velocity from 10 to 60 m.p.h.

**FEED** The FEED RATE control knob regulates the time interval between shots being fired. The range is between 1.5 seconds to 8 seconds. There is a delay of 10 seconds after the machine's main power is turned on before the ball feed activates.

**ELEVATION** The elevation control is found below the control panel. It is adjusted by moving the lever into one of the five grooves. For higher elevations, extend the elevation kickstand (on oscillation base) forward.



Adjust to elevate 0° to 20° (without kickstand)



Adjust to elevate 25° to 45° with kickstand

**BATTERY** The Little Prince® Model 1 comes standard with one 7.2 Amp hour battery. The Little Prince® Model 1 will operate for an approximate two hour continuous run. Please see accessories for options to extend playing time.

# Operation — Little Prince® Model 2



**POWER** The power switch is on the BACK of the machine. It is the top right button. The power button turns on the unit and enables the other functions.

Wireless  
remote on/off  
button

**OSCILLATION** The random OSCILLATION is the second button from the right on the control panel. It allows the machine to shoot balls from one side of the court to the other.

**SPEED** The SPEED buttons regulate the ball velocity from 10 to 60 m.p.h.

**FEED** The FEED buttons regulate the time interval between shots being fired. The range is between 1.5 seconds to 8 seconds. There is a 10 second delay after the machines main power switch is turned on before the ball feed activates.

**ELEVATION** The elevation control is found below the control panel. It is adjusted by moving the lever into one of the five grooves. For higher elevations, extend the elevation kick stand (on oscillation base) forward.



**CORDED REMOTE** The remote allows the OSCILLATION, SPEED and FEED RATE to be controlled away from the machine. The remote is on a tether that should never be separated from the machine. It may be placed on the side of the machine when not in use.

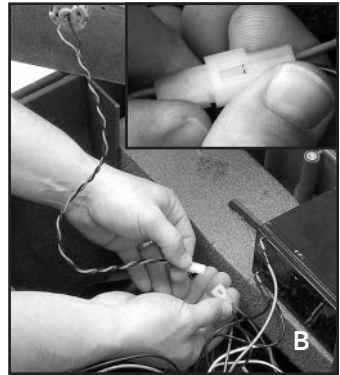
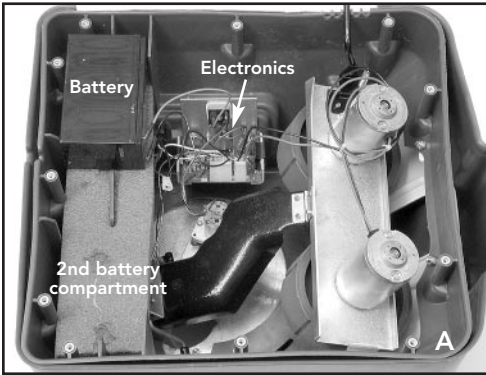
**BATTERY** The Little Prince® Model 2 comes standard with two 7.2 Amp hour batteries. The Little Prince® Model 2 will operate for an approximate four hour continuous run. Please see accessories for options to extend playing time.

# Battery Instructions

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The following are requirements to ensure proper performance of sealed lead acid batteries and should be followed precisely:

- **Charge battery immediately after use.**
- **Do not store battery in discharged state.**
- **Do not store for more than 30 days without recharging.**



## Battery Replacement:

Turn machine on its top and remove the 11 screws that hold the baseplate. Remove baseplate being careful to disconnect the oscillation motor (see photo B). The battery may be lifted out and the new one put in place. The wires must be connected to the proper terminals on the battery. Replace the baseplate being sure to reconnect the oscillation motor.

**CAUTION:** Be sure to connect the orange battery wire to the red battery terminal and the black battery wire to the opposite battery terminal.

## Charger:

The charger provided with the machine will charge a single 7.2 Amp hour battery in 14-16 hours. Two 7.2 Amp hour batteries will charge in 23-25 hours. The charging receptacle is located in the upper left side on the back of the machine. Plug the charger into the machine first and then into the outlet. The charger must be plugged into a socket that will provide continuous power during the charging cycle.

# Maintenance

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## Baseplate Removal:

Turn machine upside down and remove the 11 screws. Lift baseplate off frame far enough to disconnect the oscillation motor then set baseplate aside.

## Periodic Internal Cleaning:

The frequency of cleaning will depend on the use of the machine. For casual use (less than once a week), the cleaning procedure should be performed once every six months. For extensive use (more than twice a week), the cleaning procedure should be done every three months.

## Internal Cleaning Procedure:

**STEP 1:** Remove baseplate following the steps in the Baseplate Removal section.

**STEP 2:** Brush or vacuum off ball felt and any other foreign materials that have accumulated on the unit's interior, including the delivery wheels. **Never use compressed air.**

**STEP 3:** Replace baseplate by completing the Housing Removal steps in reverse order.

**CAUTION:** Before replacing the baseplate, connect the orange battery wire to the red battery terminal and the black battery wire to the opposite battery terminal.

## Storage

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Store the Little Prince® ball machine in a clean, dry place. Charge the battery before storage. Be sure to read the battery section for more information about long term storage. Avoid storage areas that are subject to extreme temperatures.

# Transportation

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For ease of transportation, the Little Prince® Portable Tennis Ball Machine has a handle by which it may be carried. An optional Little Prince® wheel roller carrier is also available.



## Troubleshooting Guide

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- Q: Once in a while the machine shoots out two to three balls at a time. What is the problem?**
- A:** If the wheels are unable to handle a ball, the balls back up and push the errant ball through the delivery wheels. This effect causes all balls that have dropped through the hopper to exit back to back. Occasionally wet tennis balls may cause this problem as well. Extra felt or heavy duty tennis balls are slightly larger than normal tennis balls and multiple firing may occur more frequently when these types of balls are used.
- Q: The machine turns on, but instantly shuts down or gives low battery indication. What is wrong?**
- A:** This could mean that either the battery is low or something is prohibiting the machine from going through its normal power up procedure. With machine off, check behind ball throwing wheels to make sure there is no ball jam. If wheels turn freely, recharge battery.
- Q: The machine is only shooting to the right or left of the court. What is the problem?**
- A:** The oscillating base should be facing forward for the machine to oscillate properly. See alignment section, found on page 5.

# Optional Accessories

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## Converter:

The converter comes with either 110v or 220v capability (factory pre-set). The converter enables the machine to be run from any standard electrical outlet. The converter plugs into the furthest left adapter on the back of the machine. Plug the converter into the machine first and then the outlet.

## Cover:

The cover is designed specifically for the machine. To cover the machine for storage, put the hopper back over the base of the machine.

## Extended Life Battery:

The extended life battery is an option that allows the machine to run an additional eight to ten hours. It weighs 30 lbs., comes with a custom carrying case with shoulder strap, fast charger, and connecting cable. To charge the extended life battery, plug the charger into the plastic receptacle on the battery first and then plug the other end of the charger into an electrical outlet. The red light on the charger will show that it is charging, and the green light will illuminate when the battery is 90% charged.

To use the extended life battery, unplug the charger. Plug one end of the connecting cable into the extended life battery and the other end into the extended life/converter adapter, located to the furthest left on the back of the machine.

## Additional Battery:

Additional batteries may be purchased to extend the play time of the Little Prince® Model 1. They may be used either internally (see page 8) or externally (see extended life battery above).

## Wheeled Carrier

The Little Prince® Wheeled Carrier is designed to offer maximum portability. The carrier securely holds the Little Prince® ball machine to allow it to be rolled from the car right to the court.

(See photo on page 10.)



# Court Equipment

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## Ball Retriever

In just a single minute, the Classic Ball Retriever can gather over 200 balls. No more bending over, or lugging bulky baskets, or spending your valuable practice time gathering balls. This retriever comes with a detachable polyurethane coated basket which allows it to be used as a teaching cart. The entire unit packs into the basket for compact storage, making it convenient for transport. Constructed of heavy-duty metal with rust resistant powder coating, the Classic Ball Retriever is made to last.



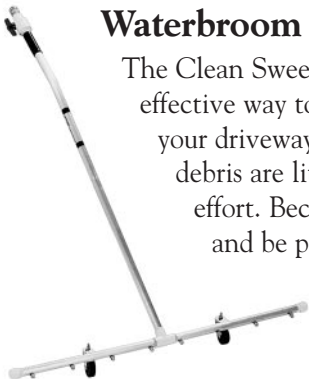
## Court Roller

Dry your court in no time with the fast and effective Court Roller. Constructed with durable PVA (polyvinylalcohol) foam, the Court Roller works like a chamois to “push” the water off the court, leaving only a thin layer of water that evaporates in seconds.



## Waterbroom

The Clean Sweep Waterbroom is a fast, convenient and effective way to clean athletic courts, windscreens, and even your driveway or deck with less water. Unwanted dirt and debris are literally swept away in no time, with little effort. Because it uses less water, you can clean a court and be playing on it in less than 30 minutes.





## Prince® Hot Shot

- Variable spin (top/back)
- Variable speed (20-90 mph)
- Variable ball feed rate (1.5 - 8 seconds)
- Manual elevation (ground stroke to lob)
- Programmed or random shot sequence
- Full 6 shot, 7 position shot selection
- Holds 250+ balls
- 3 year limited warranty
- Remote Control (ball feed on/off)
- Dimensions: 35" x 25" x 50"

## Prince® Sure Fire

- Variable spin (top and back)
- Variable speed (20-90 mph)
- Variable feed rates (1.5-8 seconds)
- Manual elevation (ground stroke to lob)
- Full 3 shot, 7 position shot selection
- Holds 250 balls
- 3 year limited warranty
- Dimensions: 35" x 25" x 50"



## To Order

To order any of these products or other sporting goods, contact Master Sports at 1-800-837-1002 or your local dealer.

Visit our website at [www.mastersports.com](http://www.mastersports.com).

## Limited Warranty

Master Sports warrants its products to be free from defect in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from date of original purchase except for the battery, which is warranted for 6 months. Master Sports will repair or replace defective products at its option, without charge. Evidence showing the date of purchase and serial number must be submitted at the time any warranty claim is made. This warranty is void if the serial number has been altered or removed and shall not apply to damage caused by unauthorized repairs or alterations.

If any defect should occur, contact Master Sports at 1-800-837-1002, ext. 3307 and request Technical Assistance. Please have your serial number available. It can be found on the bottom of the machine. If we are unable to resolve the problem by telephone, an R.A. number will be issued and must be clearly evidenced on the outside of the box in order to be received at Master Sports. Return the unit in its original carton and packing, freight prepaid. Master Sports will pay the freight to return the repaired merchandise to the customer. No C.O.D. shipments will be accepted.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

THE FOREGOING WARRANTY IS EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES OF QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE WRITTEN, ORAL OR IMPLIED, AND ALL OTHER WARRANTIES INCLUDING ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL MASTER SPORTS BE LIABLE FOR SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT, NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation and exclusion may not apply to you.

# WARRANTY REGISTRATION

Date of Purchase \_\_\_\_\_

Model/Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Source of Original Information \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased from (name of dealer, rep, pro, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



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## TO KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS:

Serial Number (S/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased from \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Place  
Stamp  
Here



**Portable Tennis Ball Machine**

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Fort Wayne, IN 46818



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