

## OWNER'S MANUAL

### FOR PLUS AND PLUS PLAYER MODELS

### QUICK TIPS

#1 Charge battery immediately after each use - see page 3

#2 Don't use new tennis balls during break-in period - see page 2

Please call us at **800-448-8867** if you have any questions about your Tennis Tutor ball machine.

### Introduction

This manual contains important information concerning the proper use and care of your Tennis Tutor. Please read completely before operating your Tennis Tutor.

### Check for shipping damage

Even though your machine may appear undamaged, it is possible for internal parts to be damaged even if the external case is undamaged. If your machine is damaged, contact Sports Tutor immediately at **1-800-448-8867**.

### Save the original shipping carton

The original carton should be used if it ever becomes necessary to ship your Tennis Tutor for service under warranty.

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## **Break-in Period**

**Do not use brand new tennis balls during the first ten hours of use.** The ink and waxy coating on brand new tennis balls can leave a slick coating on the new ball throwing wheels, causing inconsistent ball throws. New tennis balls can be used after this initial break-in period, although it is best to use balls that are slightly used to reduce the potential for developing the slick coating on the wheels.

## **Consistency of Ball Throws**

The consistency of ball throws is dependent on the consistency of the tennis balls you use. Tennis Tutor will throw slightly used tennis balls faster than it will throw older or worn tennis balls. Consistent balls will produce consistent ball throws. A mixture of new and old balls will produce inconsistent ball throws.

Inconsistent ball throws may also be caused by excess dirt and ink build-up on the ball throwing wheels. Cleaning the ball throwing wheels as described in the section ‘Maintenance and Cleaning’ will restore consistent performance.

### **IMPORTANT WARNINGS**

**DO NOT STAND IN FRONT OF BALL EJECTION OPENING.**

**DO NOT INSERT HANDS OR FOREIGN OBJECTS INTO THE MACHINE.**

**DO NOT OPERATE TENNIS TUTOR WHEN WET.**

**Never put wet tennis balls in Tennis Tutor.**

### **STATIC ELECTRICITY**

In dry climates the action of the tennis balls rubbing against the throwing wheels may cause a small static electricity shock when you touch the control panel. To eliminate this connect a wire from the control panel to the court surface.

## Battery Charging - *“Smart” battery charger included*

The Smart battery charger may be connected to the Tennis Tutor Plus machine **continuously** when not in use. The Smart charger will shut off when charging is complete, so there is no possibility of overcharging. The LED light on the **smart battery charger** will change from **red to green** when the battery is fully charged. It will typically take between 12 to 18 hours to fully recharge the battery. **Please read the instructions included with the smart charger.**

**SMART/FAST CHARGER** - The Smart/Fast charger operates the same but will typically charge the battery in 8 to 10 hours.

**Plus AC/DC Models** - Plug in the AC power cord to charge the built-in battery. (There is no separate battery charger for the AC/DC models). The AC/DC models will not overcharge so **keep the power cord plugged into AC power and charging when not in use.** The LED light on the control panel will show green as the battery charges. It will typically take 12 to 18 hours to fully recharge the battery. It is recommended the battery is fully charged, even if the Plus is plugged into AC power during play.

## Low Battery Condition Beeper

Your Tennis Tutor has a ‘low battery condition’ beeper which will beep approximately once a second when the machine is ‘ON’ and the battery needs to be recharged. There will be about 15 to 30 minutes of battery charge left when the low battery condition beeper first sounds.

## Operating Tennis Tutor

Position Tennis Tutor along the centerline of the court. Place it at the baseline for throwing faster shots, and nearer the service line for slower shots. Turn the machine ‘ON’ and set the controls to produce the desired ball throws. When using the oscillator, point Tennis Tutor so that the oscillator sweeps the right and left sides of the court equally. Turn the machine ‘OFF’ and wait for five seconds to allow the 10 second start-up time delay to reset. Turn the machine ‘ON’ (and Oscillator ‘ON’ if desired) and walk to your playing position.

Plus AC/DC Models - You can operate the AC/DC models either off of the internal battery or connect the power cord to an outdoor rated extension cord on the court to use AC power for unlimited use. The AC/DC model should be charged after use, even if used only on AC power. (See battery charging section above).

**Helpful Tip:** The ball feeding mechanism will operate best if you move the balls toward the front of the machine so they are not stacked up directly over the ball feeding mechanism.

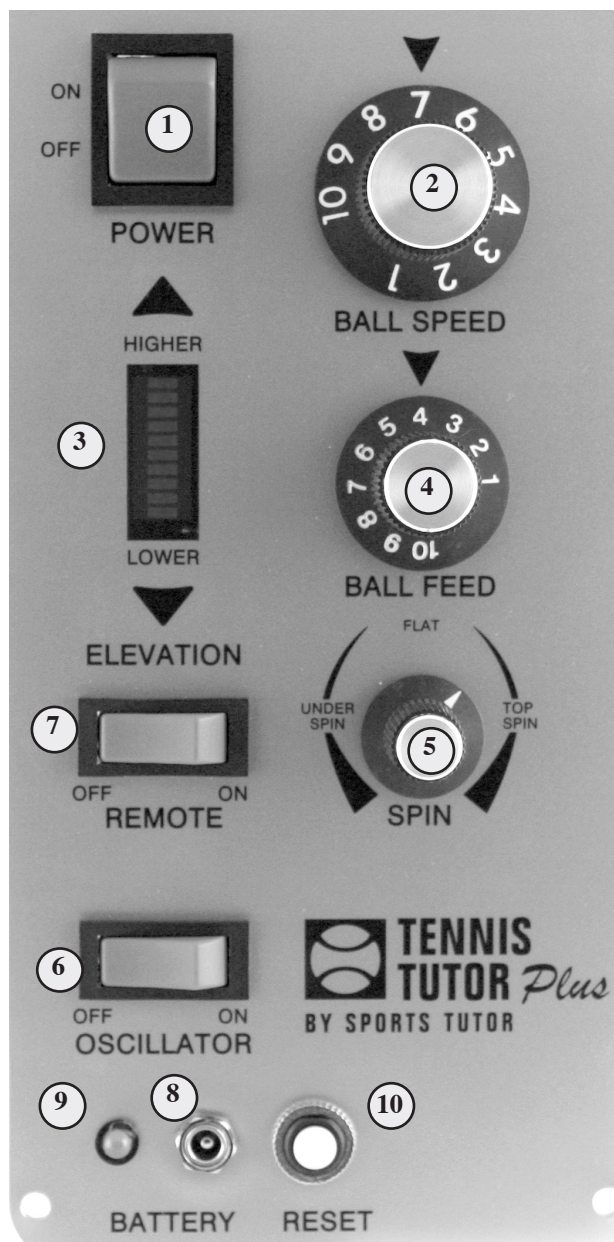
## Reset Button

The Reset Button may pop out for the following reasons:

- 1) **A ball is stuck in the machine.** Remove the ball before resetting the button. If you don’t see the ball between the throwing wheels, look in the front corners of the machine.
- 2) **The ball throwing wheels are excessively dirty or slick.** This prevents the wheels from properly grabbing the ball. Cleaning the ball throwing wheels as described in the section ‘Maintenance and Cleaning’ will restore proper performance.
- 3) **The machine may need service.** Do not repeatedly push the button if it continues to pop out.

## Control Panel

- 1) **POWER** - Pushing to the ON position begins a **start-up time delay period of about 10 seconds** before tennis balls are thrown.
- 2) **BALL SPEED** - Turning clockwise, from '1' to '10' increases the speed at which balls are thrown.
- 3) **ELEVATION** - Pushing the UP arrow raises the ball trajectory, and pushing the DOWN arrow lowers the trajectory. The elevation control automatically stops at both the highest and lowest possible trajectories. It is best to move UP to the desired trajectory. The position of the elevation setting is shown on the bar graph display.
- 4) **BALL FEED** - Turning clockwise increases the frequency of ball throws from one ball every 10 seconds at a setting of '1', to one ball every 1-1/2 seconds at '10'.
- 5) **SPIN** (Plus models only) - Turning clockwise from 'flat' increases the amount of topspin, turning counter-clockwise from 'flat' increases the amount of underspin.

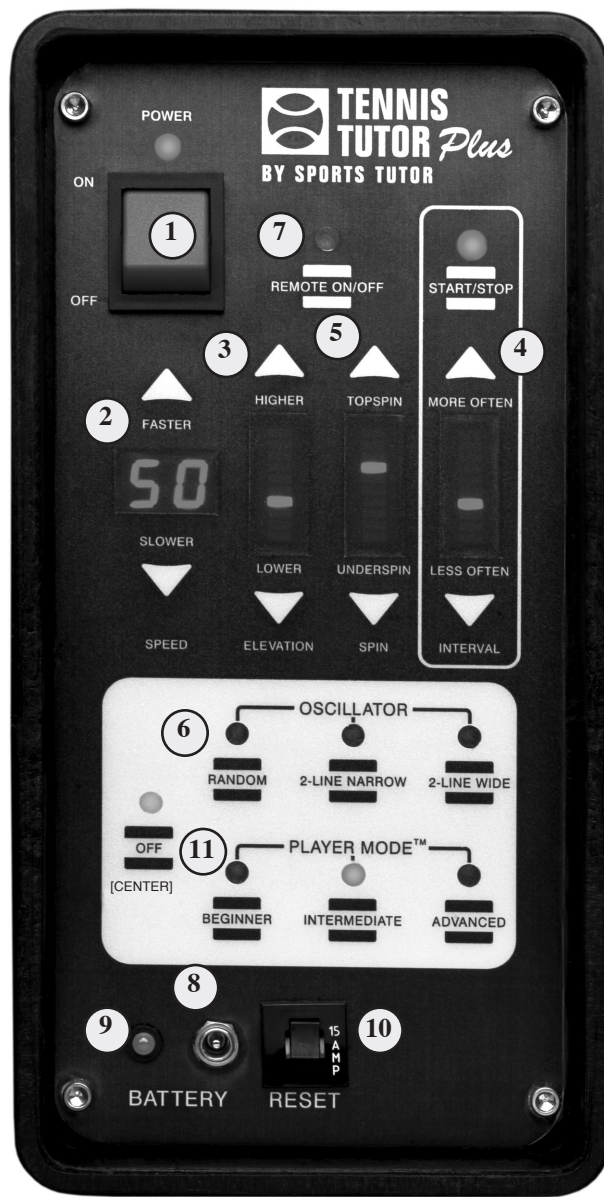


- 6) **OSCILLATOR** - Push the switch 'ON' for random oscillation.
- 7) **REMOTE** - For models with remote control only. See the section 'Remote Control'.
- 8) **BATTERY CHARGE JACK** - Plug the battery charger into this jack and a live AC outlet to charge the battery. (Note: There is no jack on the Plus AC/DC models).
- 9) **BATTERY INDICATOR** - This will illuminate when the battery charger is plugged into the Battery Charge Jack. It will change in color from red when the battery is discharged, to green as the battery reaches a full charge. **NOTE: This light has been eliminated on current Tennis Tutor Plus models. Always refer to the LED light on the smart battery charger for battery charging status.**
- 10) **RESET BUTTON** - See the section 'Reset Button'.

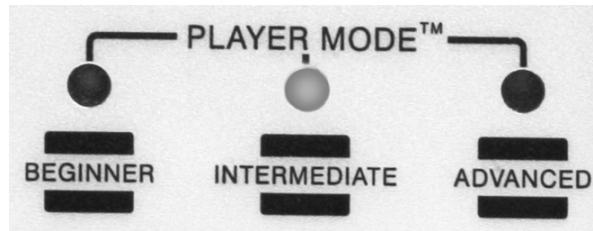


## Player Model Control Panel

- 1) **POWER SWITCH** - Pushing to the ON position begins a **start-up time delay period of about 10 seconds** before tennis balls are thrown.
- 2) **BALL SPEED** - Pushing the UP arrow increases speed. Pushing the DOWN arrow decreases speed. Changing the SPIN control will also effect the ball speed. Increasing spin will decrease ball speed.
- 3) **ELEVATION** - Pushing the UP arrow raises the ball trajectory, and pushing the DOWN arrow lowers the trajectory. The elevation control automatically stops at the highest and lowest possible trajectories. It is best to move UP to the desired trajectory.
- 4) **INTERVAL** - Pushing the UP arrow increases the frequency of ball throws from one ball every 10 seconds to one ball every 1-1/2 seconds. Pushing the DOWN arrow decreases the frequency. The START/STOP button alternately starts and stops the balls from shooting.
- 5) **SPIN** - Pushing the UP arrow increases topspin (or decreases underspin). Pushing the DOWN arrow increases underspin. Two bars lit in the display indicates a flat shot.
- 6) **OSCILLATOR** - First, push the OFF/[CENTER] button. This will set the oscillator to the center position. Then physically align the machine at the baseline to throw balls up the center of the court. Then push the button for the type of oscillation you desire: RANDOM, 2-LINE NARROW, or 2-LINE WIDE.
- 7) **REMOTE** - Push the button so the light above it is lit to allow the machine to receive signals from the handheld remote unit. See the section 'Remote Control'.
- 8) **BATTERY CHARGE JACK** - Plug the battery charger into this jack and a live AC outlet.  
(Note: there is no battery jack on the Plus AC/DC models).
- 9) **BATTERY INDICATOR** - **NOTE: This light has been eliminated on current Plus Player models. Always refer to the LED light on the smart battery charger for battery charging status.**
- 10) **RESET BUTTON** - See the section 'Reset Button'.
- 11) **PLAYER MODE** - See the section 'PLAYER MODE' following.



# PLAYER MODE™



## Player Mode Instructions

Set the Tennis Tutor at the center of the baseline. Before initiating PLAYER MODE™ it is best to stop shooting balls by pressing the START/STOP button of the INTERVAL control.

Make sure the machine is set to move evenly to both the forehand and backhand sides. Push the OFF/[CENTER] button. This will set the oscillator to the center position. Then physically align the front edge of the machine parallel to the baseline.

Push either the BEGINNER, INTERMEDIATE, or ADVANCED buttons, and PLAYER MODE™ automatically picks an appropriate interval, elevation, speed, and spin, then changes both the side-to-side position and the depth of shots just like you were playing someone of that ability. Restart ball throws by pushing the START/STOP button or by pressing the BALL FEED button on the Remote Control.

The first ball thrown after pushing a PLAYER MODE™ button will be up the middle and to the deepest position. Use the first throw as a reference for making any changes you desire in the elevation, speed, or spin settings. Any changes you make will be saved even if you turn the Tennis Tutor off, so the next time you practice you can resume with the same settings. Any time you press a PLAYER MODE™ button it will delete any changes and revert to the default settings.

The side-to-side position and depth of each shot are computer-programmed to simulate the shot patterns of real players. The BEGINNER setting will not shoot any balls wide to the corners, but will vary the depth of shot more than will the INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED settings. The INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED settings will throw balls across the entire width of the court, but more balls will be toward the center just like in a real match. The ADVANCED setting has the most side-to-side variation, but the least variation in depth.

PLAYER MODE™ is a trademark of Sports Tutor, Inc.

## Remote Control - 2-button Remote

Tennis Tutor will only accept commands from the remote transmitter when the Remote Switch on the control panel is 'ON'. The remote transmitter controls two functions:

**Ball Feed** - Press the ball feed switch to alternately start and stop the ball feed.

**Oscillator** - Press the 'OSC' button to alternately start and stop the oscillator. The oscillator switch must be in the 'ON' position for the oscillator to be commanded from the remote transmitter.

Tennis Tutor will 'beep' each time it receives a command from the remote transmitter.

**Remote Control for 2-line** - To stop and start ball throws in 2-line mode push the ball feed button of the remote when Tennis Tutor is moving between the two throwing positions.

## Multi-Function Remote (Plus Player model only)

The Multi-Function remote transmitter controls all functions of the Plus Player model. Press the appropriate button on the transmitter to adjust the various settings, just as you would on the control panel of the machine. The machine will "beep" to confirm each stage of adjustment.

NOTE: Tennis Tutor still draws power from the battery when the ball feed is turned off with the remote control. To preserve the battery charge turn Tennis Tutor 'OFF' when you are picking up tennis balls.

## Transporting Tennis Tutor

Remove all the tennis balls and close the ball hopper before transporting Tennis Tutor.

To transport Tennis Tutor over flat terrain extend the towing bar and tow as shown. To transport it over rough terrain or stairs lift it by the carrying handle.



Towing Tennis Tutor

To lift Tennis Tutor into the trunk of a car use two hands as shown. Place one hand on the towing bar and one hand under the upper lip of the ball ejection opening. Make sure the towing bar is securely in place before lifting.

**Do not store Tennis Tutor in the trunk of a car.** Heat build-up inside a car trunk can reach 180 degrees, which may damage your machine.

## Maintenance and Cleaning

Tennis Tutor requires no regular maintenance.

However, to maintain like-new performance we recommend that you clean the ball throwing wheels every 100 hours of use to prevent inconsistent ball throws caused by excessive dirt and ink build-up on the wheels.

**Clean the ball throwing wheels only when the Tennis Tutor is off.** Firmly rub coarse-grit (40 to 60 grade) sandpaper across the throwing wheels through the ball ejection opening to remove the dirt and ink build-up. Sand the entire circumference of each wheel. Use enough pressure so that you actually ‘rough-up’ the rubber surface of the wheels. The wheels should feel rough after being properly sanded.

To clean the case use a slightly damp cloth. Do not use chemicals or abrasive cleansers. Use a vacuum cleaner to clean dirt from the inside of the machine. Do not use compressed air.

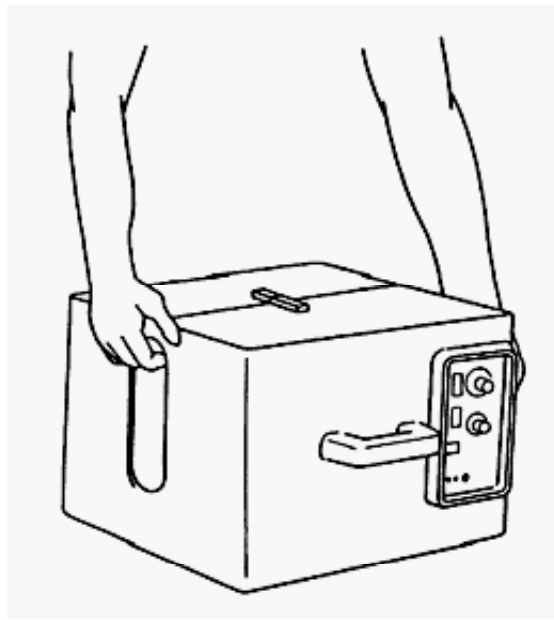
## Storage

Store Tennis Tutor in a clean dry place. **Because the “smart” battery charger will not overcharge the battery, the charger should be connected to AC power and plugged into the machine while the machine is in storage. If the Tennis Tutor Plus is stored for a long period of time, it is recommended you periodically check the charger to assure the LED light on the charger is showing GREEN.**

**Plus AC/DC models: Keep the AC power cord connected to power during storage. This will keep the battery fully charged but will not overcharge it during storage.**

## Service or Questions

Please call Sports Tutor toll free at **800-448-8867** if you have any questions regarding your Tennis Tutor, or if your Tennis Tutor should ever need service. Our fax number is 818-972-9651.



Lifting Tennis Tutor with Two Hands



# **Tennis Tutor Plus Limited Warranty**

## **Warranty period**

Sports Tutor, Inc. warrants Tennis Tutor ball machines for a period of three years from the date of original purchase, except for the battery, which is warrantied for one year.

## **Scope of warranty**

This warranty covers all defects in material and workmanship. The following are not covered by the warranty:

1. Units on which the serial number has been deleted, modified or removed.
2. Units damaged by accident, misuse, abuse, neglect, unauthorized product modification or failure to follow instructions contained in the owner's manual.
3. Units damaged by repair by anyone not authorized by Sports Tutor.
4. Units damaged during shipment (claims must be presented to shipper).

## **Who is protected**

This warranty is valid only within the United States. This warranty protects the original purchaser and any subsequent owner(s) during the warranty period, so long as the Tennis Tutor was purchased in the United States and a copy of the original bill of sale is submitted whenever warranty service is required.

## **What Sports Tutor will pay for**

Sports Tutor will pay for all labor and materials to repair a warrantable defect. Sports Tutor will also pay for shipping charges to return your Tennis Tutor to you within the United States.

## **How to obtain warranty service**

Call or write Sports Tutor, Inc. Deliver the unit POSTAGE PREPAID to Sports Tutor. Include your name, address, daytime phone number, copy of original bill of sale, and a brief description of the problem.

## **Limitation of implied warranties**

All implied warranties, including fitness for a particular purpose and merchantability are limited in duration to the length of this warranty. We neither assume nor authorize any representative or other person to assume for us any other liability in connection with the sale or shipment of our products.

## **Limitation of incidental or consequential damages**

Sports Tutor is not responsible for any incidental or consequential damages of any kind. Our liability is limited to the repair or replacement, at our option, of a defective product. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or do not allow the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

**Sports Tutor, Inc.  
3300 Winona Ave.  
Burbank, CA 91504**

# TENNIS TUTOR 2-YEAR EXTENDED WARRANTY

## What it covers

The Tennis Tutor extended warranty covers both parts and labor under the same terms as the original Tennis Tutor warranty, **excluding the battery**.

## Length of Extended Warranty

The extended warranty will cover the Tennis Tutor Plus for an **additional two years** at an one-time cost of \$80.00.

## How to purchase

- 1) The extended warranty must be purchased within 30 days of the purchase of your Tennis Tutor ball machine.
- 2) Detach and mail the coupon below with your check or money order for \$80.00, and a copy of the original bill of sale to:

Attn: Warranty  
Sports Tutor  
3300 Winona Ave.  
Burbank, CA 91504

- 3) Sports Tutor will send you a receipt for your extended warranty coverage.

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## EXTENDED WARRANTY COUPON

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tennis Tutor Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT: Be sure to include a copy of your original bill of sale.**

