

# OWNER'S MANUAL

## QUICK TIPS

#1 Charge battery continuously when not in use - see page 3

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

Please call us at **1-800-448-8867** if you have any questions about your Tennis Cube ball machine.

## **Introduction**

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

## **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 Cube 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 Cube 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 CUBE WHEN WET.**

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

### **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” charger included.

The Smart battery charger may be connected to the Tennis Cube **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 charger will change from red to green when the battery is fully charged. It will typically take between 8 to 12 hours to fully recharge the battery. See the additional instructions included with the Smart charger.

## Operating Tennis Cube

Position the Tennis Cube along the centerline of the court. Place it a few feet inside the baseline for throwing faster shots, and nearer the service line for slower shots. Open the four flaps (they are secured with a Velcro closure). Insert the desired number of balls. Turn the machine ‘ON’ and set the controls to produce the desired ball throws. 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.

When using the oscillator, position the Tennis Cube so that the oscillator sweeps the right and left sides of the court equally.

## Setting Ball Trajectory

Loosen the ball trajectory knob by turning it a few turns counter-clockwise. Brace the machine with one hand and move the ball trajectory knob with your other hand. Move the knob up to increase the height of the ball throws. Move the knob down to decrease the height of the ball throws. When the ball throws are at the desired trajectory, tighten the knob firmly against the case by turning clockwise.

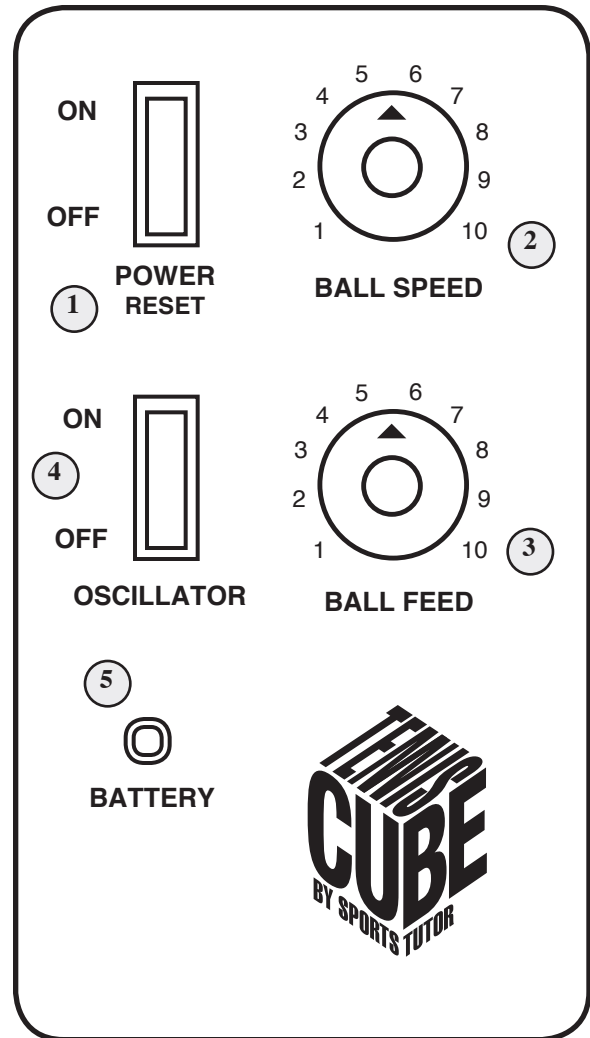


**Ball Trajectory Knob**

## Control Panel

1) **POWER/RESET - POWER:** Pushing to the 'ON' position begins a **start-up time delay period of about 10 seconds** before tennis balls are thrown. **RESET:** If the Tennis Cube shuts off during play, turn power switch to the OFF position. The machine may shut off for the following reasons:

- 1) **A ball is stuck in the machine.** Remove the ball before resetting the machine. If you don't see the ball between the throwing wheels, look in the front corners of the machine. After you remove the ball, turn power switch to ON to reset 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.** If the machine shuts off again after resetting, contact Sports Tutor.



2) **BALL SPEED** - Turning clockwise increases the speed at which balls are thrown.

3) **BALL FEED** - Turning clockwise increases the frequency of ball throws from one ball every 10 seconds at the lowest setting, to one ball every 2 seconds at the highest setting.

4) **OSCILLATOR (optional)** - Pushing to the 'ON' position causes the Tennis Cube to oscillate from side to side.

5) **BATTERY CHARGE JACK** - Plug the battery charger first into an AC outlet and then plug into the battery jack to begin charging the battery.

Note: The LED light on the "smart" battery charger will indicate when the battery is charging and when it is fully charged.

## Transporting the Tennis Cube

Remove all the tennis balls and close the ball hopper sides before transporting the Tennis Cube. Lift and carry the Tennis Cube using the molded grip on the side opposite the ball ejection hole.

**Do not store the Tennis Cube 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 Cube 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 Cube 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 the Tennis Cube in a clean dry place, covered if possible. Leave the “smart” battery charger connected to AC power and the machine during storage. The “smart” charger will not overcharge the battery. It is recommended that you check the LED light on the charger periodically while in storage to assure the battery is charged (green light).

## Service or Questions

Please call Sports Tutor toll free at **1-800-448-8867** if you have any questions regarding your Tennis Cube or if your Tennis Cube should ever need service.

# Practice Drills Using Tennis Cube

## FOREHAND AND BACKHAND GROUNDSTROKES

- 1) Aim Tennis Cube to throw balls to either the forehand or backhand court.
- 2) Hit 20 balls crosscourt, then 10 balls down the line. Repeat.

To enhance this drill place targets near the corners and count only hits on the targets.

## FOREHAND AND BACKHAND VOLLEYS

- 1) Aim Tennis Cube to throw balls down the middle of the court.
- 2) Hit 10 forehand volleys to the deuce court, then 10 forehand volleys to the ad court. Repeat.  
When half of the ball supply has been used, switch to backhand volleys.

To enhance this drill place two targets on the service line just inside each sideline and two targets near the corners. Count only hits on the targets.

## GROUNDSTROKES AND VOLLEYS WITH RANDOM OSCILLATOR

- 1) Set Tennis Cube so that the oscillator covers the court from sideline to sideline. Slow down the ball feed rate slightly from the setting you use for stationary practice.
- 2a) Pick a corner and aim all shots for that corner. Every 20 shots switch to the opposite corner, or
- 2b) Hit 20 balls crosscourt, then 10 balls down the line. Repeat.

## OVERHEADS

- 1) Aim Tennis Cube to throw balls down the middle of the court. Adjust the controls for a lob. Set the ball feed control to give you more time for lobs.
- 2) Start by hitting 10 to 20 balls down the middle of the court, then hit 10 balls to each corner. Repeat.

## APPROACH SHOT AND VOLLEY COMBINATION

- 1) Aim Tennis Cube to throw balls to the middle of the court which land near the service line.
- 2) Start near the baseline and hit 10 slice forehand, then 10 slice backhand approach shots. Then move to the net for 10 volleys.

To enhance this drill hit an approach shot and move to the net to volley the next ball. Of course, after the volley you will have to hurry back for the next approach shot.

# Tennis Cube Limited Warranty

## Warranty period

Sports Tutor, Inc. warrants Tennis Cube ball machines for a period of three years from the date of original purchase, except for the battery, which is warranted 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 Cube 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 Cube 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 Cube 2-YEAR EXTENDED WARRANTY

## What it covers

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

## Length of Extended Warranty

The extended warranty will cover the Tennis Cube for an **additional two years** at a cost of \$60.00.

## How to purchase

- 1) The extended warranty must be purchased within 30 days of the purchase of your Tennis Cube ball machine.
- 2) Detach and mail the coupon below with your check or money order, 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 Cube Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

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