



OWNER'S MANUAL

Part No. Z7300

Instructions for the **JUGS Softball/Super Softball Pitching Machine**



SAVE THIS MANUAL

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ATTENTION:
Coaches and Operators of this Pitching Machine:

This manual must be kept with the pitching machine
AT ALL TIMES.

Each coach and/or operator
must read and understand this manual
BEFORE USING
the JUGS Softball/Super Softball Pitching Machine.

Call (1-800-547-6843 or 503-692-1635)
for additional copies if necessary.

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Introduction

Your new JUGS pitching machine has been checked for quality and craftsmanship. It's innovative design is backed by three decades of research, development and manufacturing experience. It has many features designed to make your practices more efficient and enjoyable. Safety, performance and dependability have been given top priority in the design of all JUGS pitching machines, making them easy to operate and maintain. With proper care, your JUGS pitching machine will give you many years of enjoyable service.

At JUGS, we are committed to providing our customers with safe, dependable products. Your comments are always welcome and they help us to continue to be the #1 producer of ball throwing machines in the world. Call or write to JUGS.



Product Safety Signs & Labels

Safety Alert Symbols

Safety Alert Symbols indicate **DANGER**, **WARNING**, or **CAUTION**. These symbols may be used in conjunction with other symbols or pictographs. Failure to obey a safety warning will result in serious injury to yourself or to others. Always follow the safety precautions to reduce the risk of electric shock and personal injury.

⚠ DANGER: Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. This signal word is to be limited to the most extreme situations.

⚠ WARNING: Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

⚠ CAUTION: Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices.

Product Safety Signs and Labels

The purpose of product safety signs and labels is to attract your attention to possible dangers. The safety symbols, signal words and the explanations with them, deserve your careful attention and understanding. The safety warnings do not by themselves eliminate any danger. The instructions or warnings they give are not substitutes for proper accident-prevention measures.

Safety Signs and Labels

Carefully read all safety sign decals affixed to machine before operating your JUGS pitching machine. See some typical examples below.

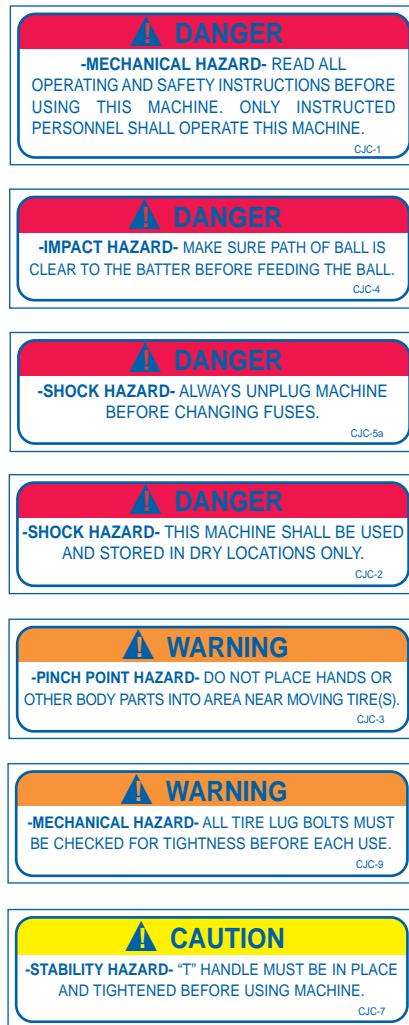


Figure 1

Rules For Safe Operation

WARNING: JUGS pitching machines are intended for use by operators who are at least 18 years of age and who have been instructed in their use.

WARNING: Do not attempt to operate this machine until you have read thoroughly and understand completely all instructions, safety rules, machine labels, etc. contained in this manual. Failure to comply can result in accidents involving electric shock or serious personal injury. Save this Owners Manual and review frequently for continuing safe operation, and for instructing others who may use this machine.

WARNING: Do not connect your pitching machine to a power source until you have assembled and adjusted the machine as described in this manual and have read and understood all precautions and operating instructions in the manual and printed on the machine.

READ THIS MANUAL:

- **Know your pitching machine.** Read the Owner's Manual carefully. Learn the machine's capabilities, features and limitations as well as the specific potential hazards related to this machine.
- **Guard against electrical shock** by preventing body contact with grounded surfaces. For example: radiators, pipes, fences, or other enclosures.
- **Keep the operator's area free of clutter.** Pick up all loose balls around the machine and keep ball supply in a pail, bucket or other suitable container. Cluttered operating areas invite accidents.
- **Do not allow children to operate the pitching machine. You must be at least 18 years of age or older** and instructed in the proper operation, maintenance, care, and storage of this machine before operating it. Close supervision is necessary when this machine is used near children.

Rules For Safe Operation

- **Use the right ball.** Use only JUGS dimpled style, Lite-Flite, one-ounce polyball softballs or high quality leather softballs in this machine.
- **Inspect extension cords periodically** and replace if damaged.
- **Use the proper extension cord.** Make sure your extension cord is in good condition. When using an extension cord, be sure to use one heavy enough to carry the current your machine will draw. An undersized cord will cause a drop in line voltage resulting in loss of power and overheating. A wire gauge size (A.W.G.) of at least 16 is recommended for an extension cord 25 feet or less in length. If in doubt, use the next heavier gauge. The smaller the gauge number, the heavier the cord.
- **Do not abuse the cord.** Never yank cord to disconnect it from receptacle. Keep cord away from heat, oil, and sharp edges. Stay constantly aware of cord location and keep it well away from the rotating tire.
- **Dress properly.** Do not wear loose clothing, gloves, neckties, rings, bracelets, or other jewelry. They can get caught and draw you into the moving parts. Long hair should be tied up and tucked under hats and helmets. Severe physical harm may result if loose clothing, jewelry or hair is caught in rotating tires.
- **Always wear safety glasses and batting helmets while the wheels are rotating.** Debris on the tires can fly off and cause physical harm. Everyday eyeglasses have only impact-resistant lenses; they are NOT safety glasses.
- **Never touch rotating tire.** Do not put hands or fingers into ball feed chute. Hands and fingers should only go to the edge of the chute.
- **Inspect machine before every use.** If damaged, have repaired by a qualified JUGS service technician.
- **Inspect tire before every use.** Be sure tire is free of grit and debris before turning on machine.

- **Do not use machine if ON/OFF switch does not work.** In the unlikely event that the switch becomes defective, have it replaced by a qualified JUGS service technician.
- **Keep machine clean, and free of grit and dirt.** With the machine unplugged, use only a clean damp cloth for cleaning. Never use brake fluids, gasoline, petroleum-based products, or any solvents to clean machine.
- **Tighten T-Clamp securely** after adjusting trajectory.
- **To protect the operator,** a pitcher's screen must be placed in front of the pitching machine.
- **Only operate and store this pitching machine in a clean, dry location.** Do not use outdoors if it is raining. If machine becomes wet, do not use. A potential shock hazard exists if this machine is used while or after it has been exposed to water. Hand dry surface water from machine with a clean cloth and allow the machine to completely air dry before its next use.
- **Avoid awkward operations and hand positions** where a sudden slip could cause your hand to move into the rotating tire. **ALWAYS** make sure you have good footing and balance.
- **Replacement parts.** All repairs, whether electrical or mechanical, should be made by a qualified JUGS service technician. When servicing, use only JUGS replacement parts.
- **Do not operate this machine under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any medication.**
- **Stay alert and exercise control.** Watch what you are doing and use common sense. Do not operate this machine when you are tired. Do not rush.
- **Avoid accidental starting when reconnecting to a power supply.** Always turn off machine before disconnecting it from power source. **Never leave machine running unattended.** Turn the power off. Do not leave machine until tire comes to a complete stop.

Rules For Safe Operation

⚠ WARNING Do not allow your familiarity with the machine to cause you to be careless. Remember that a careless fraction of a second is enough time to inflict severe injury to yourself or others.

SAVE THIS MANUAL. Refer to it often and use it to instruct other users. Do not loan your pitching machine to anyone who has not been instructed in its use. If you do loan your machine, be sure this manual goes with it.

Electrical

Grounding Instructions

This product must be grounded. If it should malfunction or break down, grounding provides a path of least resistance for electric current to reduce the risk of electric shock. This product is equipped with a cord having an equipment-grounding conductor and grounding plug. The plug must be connected to an appropriate GFCI outlet that is properly installed and grounded in accordance with all local codes and ordinances.

Do not modify the plug provided. If it will not fit the outlet, have the proper outlet installed by a qualified electrician. Improper connection of the equipment-grounding conductor can result in a risk of electric shock. The conductor with insulation having an outer surface that is green with or without yellow stripes is the equipment-grounding conductor. If repair or replacement of the electric cord or plug is necessary, do not connect the equipment-grounding conductor to a live terminal.

Check with a qualified electrician or service personnel if the grounding instructions are not completely understood, or if in doubt as to whether the pitching machine is properly grounded.

Extension Cords

Use only 3-wire 16 AWG or larger grounding type extension cords that have 3-prong grounding plugs and 3-pole receptacles that accept the machine's plug. When using the machine at a considerable distance from a power source, use an extension cord heavy enough to carry the current that the machine will draw. An undersized extension cord will cause a drop in line voltage, resulting in a loss of power and causing the motor to overheat. Only round jacketed cords listed by Underwriter's laboratories (UL) should be used.

When working with the machine outdoors, use an extension cord designed for outside use. This is indicated by the letters "WA" on the cord's jacket. Before using the extension cord, inspect it for loose or exposed wires and cut or worn insulation.

⚠ WARNING: Keep the cord away from the rotating tire area. Repair or replace a damaged or worn cord immediately.

Electrical Connection

Your JUGS pitching machine is powered by a 90 volt motor(s). Do not operate this machine on direct current (DC). A substantial voltage drop will cause a loss of power and the motor will overheat. If the machine does not operate when plugged into an outlet, double check the power supply. Your pitching machine will operate under a standard 110 voltage AC outlet. Do not use an adapter with this product.

This machine is intended for use on a circuit that has an outlet like the one shown in Figure 2. It also has a grounding pin like the one shown.

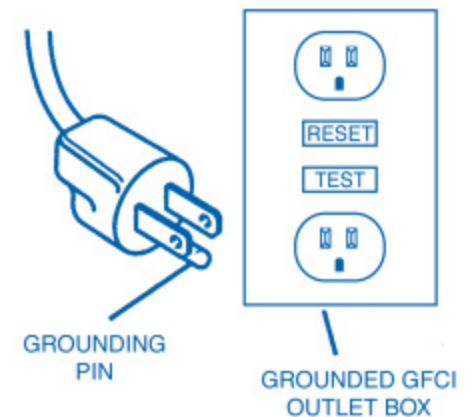


Figure 2

Nomenclature

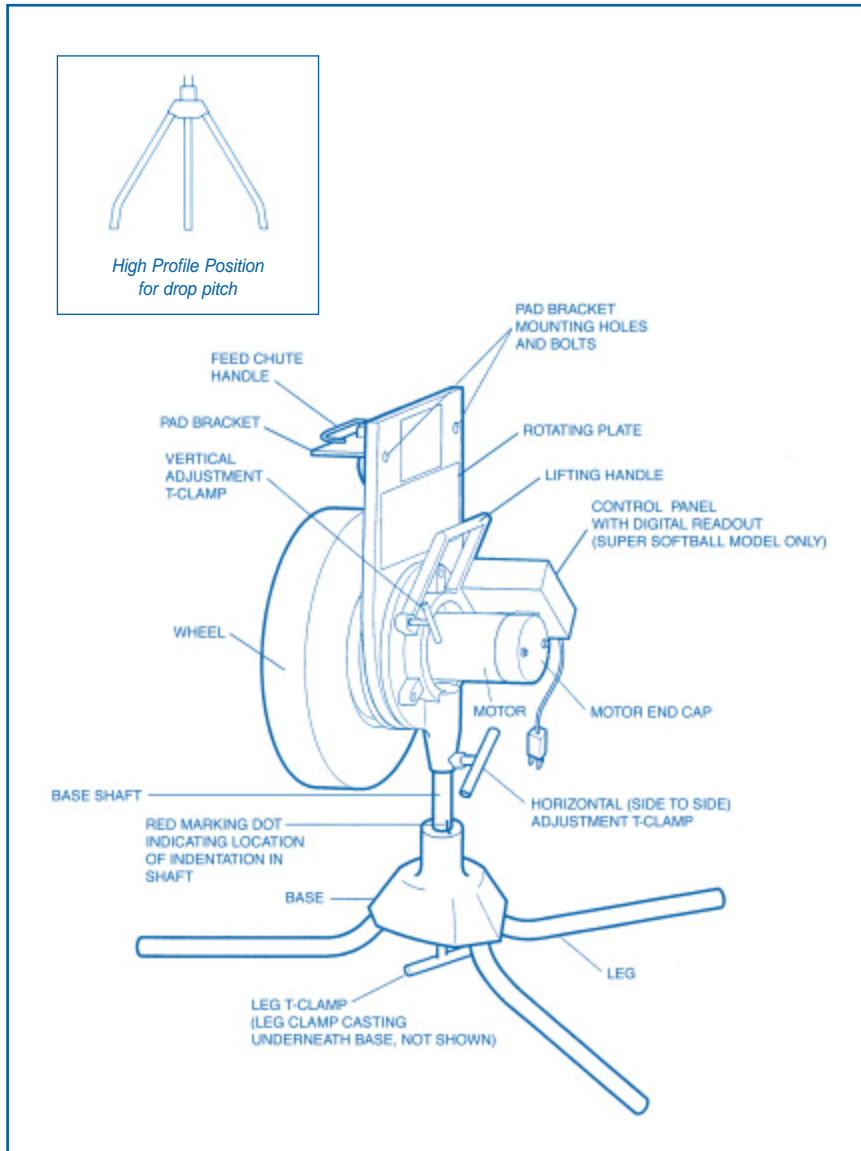


Figure 3

Unpacking

⚠ WARNING: To prevent accidental starting or electrical shock that could cause possible serious injury, assemble all parts to your machine before connecting it to the power supply. The pitching machine should never be connected to a power supply when you are assembling parts, making adjustments, cleaning, servicing, or when not in use.

- Carefully lift machine from carton and place on level surface.
- Make sure you have all the parts (See Figures 3-4). If any parts are missing, do not operate the machine until the missing parts are replaced. Failure to do so could result in possible serious personal injury.
- Do not discard the packing materials until you have carefully inspected the machine, identified all the parts, and satisfactorily operated the machine.

NOTE: If any parts are damaged or missing, do not attempt to plug in the power cord and turn on switch until the damaged or missing parts are obtained and are installed correctly.

Assembly

JUGS is shipped with the base secured tightly to the “top” of the machine.

1. Separate the top of the machine from the base.

- Loosen the horizontal T-Clamp.
- Grasp the lifting handle and pull the top of the machine off the base.

This can be done very simply with one person holding the “top” and second person holding the base.

Assembly

2. Install the Legs:

- A. Place the Leg Clamp Casting on the Base Casting so that the leg slots line up.
- B. Place the Base T-Clamp through the hole in the Leg Clamp and turn clockwise until the T-Clamp engages the threads of the Base (see Figure 4).
- C. Slide the three legs into place. Be sure the end of each leg is completely inserted and in contact with the back of the assembly.
- D. Hand tighten the Base T-Clamp and set the “bottom” of the machine on its legs.

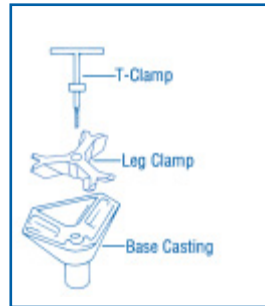


Figure 4.

E. If the legs appear wobbly:

- Make sure the legs are snug and properly placed in the base.
- Make sure the Base T-Clamp is turned as tightly by hand as possible.
- Be sure the legs are equidistant from one other (Figure 5).

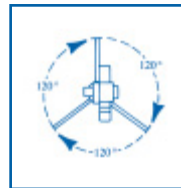


Figure 5.

Operation

GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Be sure the control switch is in the “OFF” position.
2. If you have the super softball model, position the dial pointer on the control panel all the way to the left (min. speed). See Figure 12.
3. Both 11” and 12” softballs can be used with the JUGS Softball Pitching Machine. When using the 11” softballs, you must use the proper 11” softball feed chute in insure accuracy. The 11” feed chute is optional and can be ordered from the factory. See decal on the pitching machine for instructions on changing ball chutes.
4. Both 11” and 12” chutes can be mounted from the same hole settings in the rotating plate.
5. Connect a 3-wire extension cord (3-prong) into a grounded (3-prong) 110 volt AC outlet.
6. Move control switch to “ON” position.

NOTE:

The **JUGS Super Softball** Pitching Machine is equipped with a digital speed readout with an accuracy index of +/- 2 miles per hour. The Super Softball model will throw balls up to 10 mph faster than the JUGS Softball Pitching Machine.

IMPORTANT:

Always pitch balls at speeds suitable for the age and skill level of the batter. Pitches thrown too fast will be counter-productive and dangerous.

Operation



Figure 6. Digital Readout Panel

⚠ WARNING: The digital speed readout on the JUGS Super Softball Pitching Machine is calibrated ONLY for 12-inch softballs. If you have purchased the optional 11-inch softball chute, the JUGS Super Softball Pitching Machine will throw 11-inch softballs approximately 3-miles per hour slower than what the speed readout indicates.

12- and 11-inch softballs that are harder in composition than the standard JUGS softballs will throw at speeds up to 10-miles per hour faster than the speed readout indicates. To maximize safe use of the machine, adjust the speed down accordingly. **NEVER** mix different types of balls: use only one style at a time.

Operation

PITCHING SOFTBALLS TO BATTERS

Follow all safety performance instructions in this manual. The following feeding instructions should be used to insure accurate and efficient operation of the JUGS pitching machine.

Important Pitching Machine Feeding Instructions:

1. When feeding the machine with leather balls, hold the ball the same way every time. Across the seams is best.
2. Have all batters and observers stand well clear of the target as you throw test balls to adjust trajectory and aiming point.
3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Before you place the ball in the feed chute, you should look up at the batter and make absolutely sure the batter is watching you and is ready to receive the pitch. It is **extremely important** that you make sure that the immediate area in front of the pitching machine and the flight path of the ball is clear before you feed the balls into the pitching machine.
4. When the batter has taken his/her stance and indicates he or she is ready to hit, hold the ball high in the air where the batter can see the ball. Then bring the ball down to the chute simulating live action so that the batter can time the ball correctly. Set the ball in the feed chute and release. Do not drop the ball into the chute. Watch the ball into the wheels, then look up at the batter. The whole feeding operation should be smooth and without interruption.
5. Every batter, after taking his/her stance, as well as between pitches, goes through a personal readiness routine. The ball feeder should adjust the pitch spacing to each batters' habits accordingly. This will assure that the batter is ready to receive the pitch and will also help to simulate live action. The batter can then regard each throw as a separate pitch and avoid becoming an "automatic swinger". Generally speaking, pitches can be spaced between 6 and 10 seconds apart.

Operation

6. Out-of-round, soft, mushy, or wet balls will affect accuracy of pitches and must not be used. Mixing different types of balls (leather, rubber, JUGS, etc.) will affect consistency of pitches. Throw only one type of ball at a time.
7. Use only JUGS dimpled style, Lite-Flite, Softie, poly softballs or high quality leather softballs in this machine.
8. Do not permit more than one or two persons around the pitching machine during its operation.

BATTING HELMETS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.

9. Operators of Jugs Pitching Machines must wear safety glasses and batting helmets at all times.

⚠ WARNING: A pitching screen must be used to protect the operator and the machine from batted balls.

NOTE: We suggest that each operator spend a couple of hours experimenting with the JUGS Softball/Super Softball pitching machine. (You may want to jot down the wheel position and speed dial settings in the space provided on page 23 for future reference). Try many different speed settings. Do not be afraid that any setting you make will harm the pitching machine; however, you should use a wide backstop when experimenting with faster speeds.

10. At the beginning of practice, or after any change in speed, or trajectory, have the batter stand well clear while a sufficient number of test balls are thrown to make certain the machine is properly aimed at the intended target. If you move the machine for any reason, repeat this process.
11. Throw balls at speeds the batter can learn to hit. As the batter's skills increase you can throw faster pitches. Always pitch balls at a speed suitable for the age and skill level of the batter. Pitches thrown too fast will be counterproductive and dangerous.

Operation

12. Place ball into Feed Chute and watch the trajectory of the ball.
13. Increase the speed of the pitch by turning the dial clockwise on the Digital Readout Panel (see Figure 6).
 - When you increase speed of any pitch, you must lower the elevation of aim; when you decrease the speed, you must increase the aim elevation.
14. To regulate the height of the pitch:
 - Hold the Feed Chute Handle and loosen the vertical T-Clamp.
 - Move the feed chute TOWARDS home plate for a lower pitch. Move the feed chute AWAY from home plate for a higher pitch.
 - Hand tighten the vertical T-Clamp.

⚠ WARNING: NEVER loosen the vertical T-Clamp without holding the Feed Chute Handle.

15. To regulate the direction of the pitch:
 - Loosen the horizontal T-Clamp.
 - Grasp the Feed Chute Handle and move the "top" of the JUGS sideways until the chute is aimed at the desired target.
 - Hand tighten horizontal T-Clamp.

NOTE: When throwing faster pitches, be sure to line up horizontal T-Clamp over the red dot on the base and then tighten the horizontal T-Clamp. To make small lateral adjustments (for example, from "outside corner" pitches to "inside corner" pitches) simply "shift" the legs of the pitching machine slightly by gently tapping the legs with your foot. Be sure to throw test balls to ensure pitch location before pitching to batter.

Operation

Proper Position of the Feed Chute for Various Throws:

- **Straight Balls and Risers:**

Position the feed chute level to throw straight balls and risers by adjusting the vertical T-Clamp. To make the ball “rise”, adjust the speed control between 56 and 60 mph.



- **Slow Pitch Tosses:**

By adjusting the vertical T-Clamp, you can position the feed chute slightly upward for soft pitch tosses (or higher for flyballs, see Fielding Practice). The speed control should be set between 23 and 29 mph for slow pitch tosses.



- **Drop Balls (High Profile Leg Position):**

The legs should be in the “High Profile” position. Position the two legs so they point in the direction of second base, and one leg points toward home plate. (This is the exact opposite of the position of the legs when you are throwing straight balls. See Figure 5). Position the rotating plate so that the ball feed chute is near the bottom of the tire or wheel and facing the operator.

One JUGS leg should be pointing at home plate when throwing drop balls. When throwing risers, one JUGS leg should be pointing at second base.

FIELDING PRACTICE FOR SOFTBALL

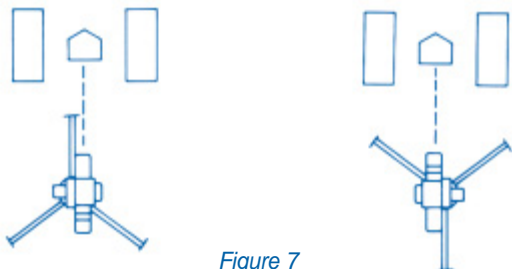


Figure 7

Operation

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Before you place the ball in the feed chute, you should look up at the fielder and make absolutely sure the fielder is watching you and is ready to receive the ball. It is **extremely important** that you make sure that the immediate area in front of the pitching machine and the flight path of the ball is clear before you feed the balls into the pitching machine.
2. When the fielder has taken his/her stance and indicates he or she is ready, hold the ball high in the air where the fielder can see the ball. Then bring the ball down to the chute simulating live action so that the fielder can time the ball correctly. Set the ball in the feed chute and release. Do not drop the ball into the chute. Watch the ball into the wheels, then look up at the fielder. The whole feeding operation should be smooth and without interruption.
3. Every fielder, after taking his/her stance, as well as between pitches, goes through a personal readiness routine. The ball feeder should adjust the throw spacing to each fielder’s habits accordingly. This will assure that the fielder is ready to receive the ball and will also help to simulate live action.

Proper Position of the Feed Chute to Simulate Various Batted Balls:

- **Flyballs:**

(Legs must be in “High Profile” or straight leg position when throwing grounders) and the feed chute should be pointed upward.



- **Ground Balls:**

High Profile: Position the feed chute so it is pointed downward. The greater the downward angle, the bigger the hop will be on the groundball.



Low Profile: Position the feed chute so it is near the bottom of the tire (or wheel) and facing the operator.



- **Pop-up to Catcher:**

By adjusting the vertical T-Clamp, position the feed chute to point upward vertically for popups to catchers. The ball will go straight up.



Transporting

1. Using the vertical T-Clamp, lock the rotating plate in “Pop-up to Catcher” position (vertically upward).
2. Make sure the horizontal T-Clamp engages the indentation of the base shaft. This is done by lining up the horizontal T-Clamp with the red dot on the base casting, and hand-tightening the T-Clamp.
3. Lower JUGS to a horizontal position, with the Feed Chute facing upward.
4. Slightly loosen the Base T-Clamp that secures the legs.
5. Grasp two legs, and twist them towards your sides.
6. Tighten the Base T-Clamp.
7. Grasp and lift the two legs. Roll the JUGS as you would a wheelbarrow.
8. Do not roll tires on surfaces that might damage the tire. If the tire becomes deformed, flat, or damaged, do not use it. Replace tire only with ones the manufacturer recommends.

NOTE: When you want to instantly move the location of the throw for certain groundball and flyball drills, loosen the horizontal T-Clamp enough (6 or 7 turns) so that you can pivot the top of JUGS 360 degrees around the base. However, when throwing to a specific target is desired, as in pitching, ALWAYS make sure the horizontal T-Clamp is securely tightened into the indentation on the shaft located directly above the red dot on the base casting.

Maintenance

Review the following instructions carefully to maintain maximum accuracy with your JUGS Pitching Machine.

Maintain tire pressure at 16 to 17 psi.

Cleaning

- **Keep machine clean, and free of grit and dirt.** Always use a clean damp cloth when cleaning. Never use brake fluids, gasoline, petroleum-based products, or any solvents to clean machine.
- Periodically, you must clean the wheel to help maintain its maximum performance. A dirty wheel can easily be distinguished by either a dark ring around the wheel surface or when the surface itself has turned yellow and has a very glossy or shiny finish..
- Using medium grade sandpaper (sometimes an even coarser grade is necessary depending on the amount of soil buildup) begin to **scrub** the tire surface. This process can be very tedious and may take up to 10 minutes per tire. However, it is necessary to completely remove all foreign substances from the tire to prepare them for better machine performance. You should sand the tire whenever you notice the soil build-up forming. **Always sand tire with the power switch OFF and the machine unplugged.**
- Once you complete this operation the tire surface will, in most cases, take on the white color it was originally. Maintaining the tire in this fashion will not only maximize the performance and accuracy of your machine, but it will extend the life of the tire.

Storage

- Always store machine and extension cord in separate, clean, dry secured areas. Cover the machine with a suitable dust cover that does not retain moisture. Do not use plastic.



In the USA and Canada, call toll free: **1-800-547-6843.**
Internationally, call collect: **0-503-692-1635.**
Our fax number is: **503-691-1100.**
www.jugsinc.com

Model: _____

Serial No: _____

Date Delivered: _____

• **SAVE THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS** •

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

JUGS, Inc.
P.O. Drawer 365
Tualatin, Oregon 97062

**Contact Manufacturer
If Further Information Is Needed:**



JUGS, Inc.
P.O. Drawer 365
11885 SW Herman Road
Tualatin, Oregon 97062

Toll-Free Tel:
1-800-547-6843

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