



Pneumatic Ball Machines Owner's Manual

Models:

401 Tournament
301 Hybrid
101 Classic

201 Ball Bucket
202 Economy Ball Bucket

205 Baseball Bucket
204 Economy Baseball Bucket
203 Baseball Bucket Jr.

Table of Contents:

To Our Customers	Page 2
Warranty	Page 2
Warnings	Page 2
Operating Instructions	Page 3-4
Accessories	Page 4
Maintenance	Page 5
Drills	Page 5
Machine Drawings	Page 6-7
(401/301) (101) (201/205) (202/204)	
Troubleshooting	Page 8

affordable, reliable, portable ball machines
1118 North Avenue, P.O. Box 2865, Plainfield, NJ 07062
800.526.4041 Fax 908.668.0436 www.lobsterinc.com

To our Customers



Thank you for purchasing a LOB-STER ball machine.

Please inspect your machine for damage during shipping. Call immediately to report any damage. To ensure you receive many years of enjoyment, you must review this manual prior to using the machine. Upon completion, if you have any remaining questions, please call us at 800-526-4041.

Warranty



LOB-STER, INC. warrants each LOB-STER ball machine purchased will be free from defects in material and workmanship for two (2) years. Beginning of warranty period to be determined by LOB-STER, INC.

At any time during the warranty period from the date of delivery to the original retail purchaser, the manufacturer will, at its election repair or replace without cost to the owner, F.O.B. the factory, any part found to be defective under normal use and service.

This warranty does not apply to any part of the LOB-STER ball machine that has been subjected to misuse, neglect, alteration or accident; it does not apply to damage caused by use on circuits or voltages other than indicated on the manufacturer's nameplate, or by fire, war, insurrection, civil disorder, flood, act of God or any other casualty. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties either expressed or implied.

Void unless the enclosed warranty response form is completed and returned to LOB-STER, INC within thirty days.

Warnings



WARNING!

- Never stand in front of operating unit.
- Never look down barrel.
- Never operate when machine is wet.
- Never open machine while it is plugged in.
- Never aim machine at a person.
- Never place anything but tennis balls in the machine.

IF THESE WARNINGS ARE NOT FOLLOWED,
GRIEVOUS BODILY INJURY OR DEATH MAY RESULT

Operating Instructions



Court Placement

Place your LOB-STER two feet behind the center of the baseline on the opposite side from the user.

Electrical Cord Requirements

A 14 or 16 gauge, 3 conductor 100 foot (or shorter) extension cord is recommended. Do not use more than one extension cord at a time as this will cause voltage loss. Do not plug any other major appliance into the same electrical line as the ball machine.



WARNING: Make sure machine is turned off before plugging in. Do not operate when any part of machine is wet or standing in water.

Control Panel & Oscillation

Models 101, 202, 204 are designed with an ON/OFF toggle switch located at the base of the unit by the power cord. These models position the ball wherever you aim them.

Models 201, 205, 301 are designed with an ON/OFF toggle switch located at the base of the unit by the power cord. A second toggle switch, located on the left side of the electrical box, turns the Horizontal Oscillation ON and OFF, placing balls randomly from sideline to sideline.

Model 401 is designed with an ON/OFF toggle switch located at the base of the unit by the power cord. A second toggle switch provides you with three options: Horizontal Oscillation, Vertical & Horizontal Oscillation or No Oscillation. Horizontal oscillation will randomly shoot balls from sideline to sideline. Vertical & horizontal oscillation will randomly shoot balls from sideline to sideline and from the baseline to the net. No oscillation will position the ball in one place repeatedly.

Vertical & Horizontal Oscillation: In order to properly employ this option, remove all the balls and turn on the oscillator. You will notice the canon rise and drop – wait until it reaches its lowest point and turn the oscillation off. Now adjust the chain so the ball just clears the net. It's imperative that you use the 12" medium tube to allow for the ideal ball pattern.



WARNING: Never stand in front of operating unit.

Ball Speed

Each machine comes with Shot Selectors that control ball speed. Insert the pin end into the keyed slot at the mouth of the machine and turn clockwise to lock into position.

21" Shot Selector, equipped with a sliding clear plastic outer sleeve, adjusts the speed by covering and uncovering a series of holes. For maximum ball speed, cover all the holes. For minimum ball speed, uncover all the holes. For reduced ball speeds, remove Shot Selector.

3" Shot Selector is used primarily for lobs, overheads, and reduced ball speed.

12" Shot Selector (available only w/401) is designed specifically for use with the 401's horizontal & vertical oscillation for accurate ball placement within the court.



WARNING: Never look down the barrel while the machine is operating.

Shot Height

Models 401/301 A small length of chain located above the Shot Selector base adjusts the shot height. Move the chain link through the keyed slot to the desired elevation.

Models 101/201-205 Two knobs on either side of the Shot Selector adjust the shot height - turn them to adjust the desired elevation and re-tighten. Do not force the Shot Selector up or down without loosening the knobs.



WARNING: Be sure machine is off before changing elevation.

Operating Instructions (continued)



Shot Intervals

Three circular plugs called Time Caps are included with your machine. They control the amount of time between shots when placed in a black carousel, called the rotor, at the rear of the hopper.

Shot Interval	# of Time Caps	Time Cap Placement
every 3 seconds	0	N/A
every 6 seconds	2	fill opposite holes
every 12 seconds	3	fill three holes



WARNING: Keep hands clear when rotor is moving. Never place foreign objects in hopper.

Ball Capacity

Models 101, 301, 401: 150 balls.

Models 201-205: 50 balls.

Note: Pressureless tennis balls are recommended for consistency. Flat balls may jam your machine.



WARNING: Never attempt to fire anything but tennis balls.

Accessories



Spin Adapter (Optional)

Attach the Spin Adapter to the end of the Shot Selector tube to affect a heavy topspin, underspin or sidespin. For topspin place the spring at 12 o'clock, for underspin place the spring at 6 o'clock and sidespin at 3 or 9 o'clock. Secure by tightening clamp.

Pneumatic Remote Control (Optional)

There are two types of Remote Controls both will turn the machine ON & OFF from the opposite court when you step on the rubber Foot Pedal.

Models with Built In remotes have a silver flange located near the toggle switch. An Air Hose and Foot Pedal are included with the unit. To assemble, attach Air Hose to silver flange. Attach Foot Pedal to opposite end of Air Hose.

Models with Non-Built In remotes arrive with three parts: an Air Hose, Foot Pedal and Remote Box. To assemble, attach the Air Hose to the Remote Box. Attach Foot Pedal to the opposite end of the Air Hose. Plug the machine's power cord into the Remote Box. Plug the Remote Box power cord into the extension cord or electrical outlet.

Cover (Optional)

This heavy duty, lined vinyl cover protects your LOB-STER ball machine from the elements, as well as from dust and moisture when in storage. Store your machine in a dry area.

Maintenance



Your Lob-ster Ball Machine should work trouble free provided you follow five basic guidelines.

In Season: Store your machine in a covered dry location– moisture will ruin your machine over time. Storage covers are available through distributors.

Out of Season: Block both the end of the detent and the rotor with steel wool or a sock. Failure to do so may allow a rodent to nest in your machine and lead to costly repairs.

The detent must be replaced every 3-4 years regardless of usage (see drawing – pages 6 & 7).

Clean your muffler foam every couple of weeks (see drawing – pages 6 & 7).

We recommend pressureless tennis balls; however, regular tennis balls will function well. Do not use old balls they will jam the machine or come out with reduced speed.

Drills



Groove Your Shots

Select a shot you need to practice, position the machine, and return the balls over and over with the same stroke or alternate strokes, e.g. forehand/back hand.

Cardio Madness

Turn on the oscillation and set the machine to give a bouncy mid-court ball at 3-second intervals. Work on your footwork and recovery time.

Mini Tennis

Slow down ball speed and position ball in the forecourt. Try to return balls into the opposite forecourt. Add horizontal oscillation to increase difficulty.

Target Practice

Place target (2 square feet) in a service court corner. Attempt to strike the target. Keep track of number of successful hits. To increase the challenge, switch on oscillation.

Alternative: Place 5 targets on court, 3 at baseline, 2 at corners of the service boxes. With oscillation on, hit a different target with each ball.

Alley Tennis

Position ball machine in back alley; try to return all shots within the alley.

Match Timing

Using the pneumatic remote control play for 30 seconds, turn off, and serve two balls. Repeat until the hopper is empty.

LOB-STER Smash!

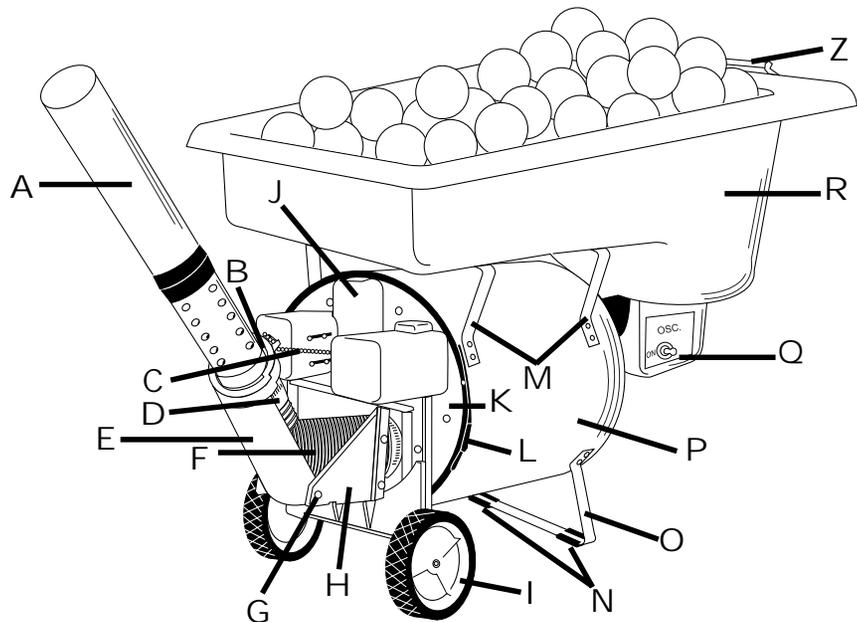
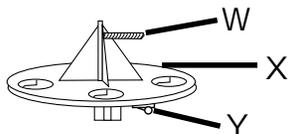
Set machine to Lob by elevating the 3" shot selector to its highest position and adjust time caps to 6 or 12 seconds.

Place 3 targets close to the baseline. Stay in the backcourt. After each shot, run and touch the net, while repositioning yourself in time for the next shot. Aim at each target, one after the other with a smash.

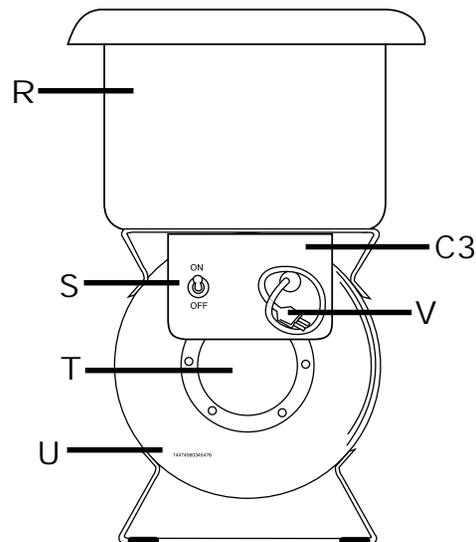
Tournament Model 401/301



Parts & Assembly Chart



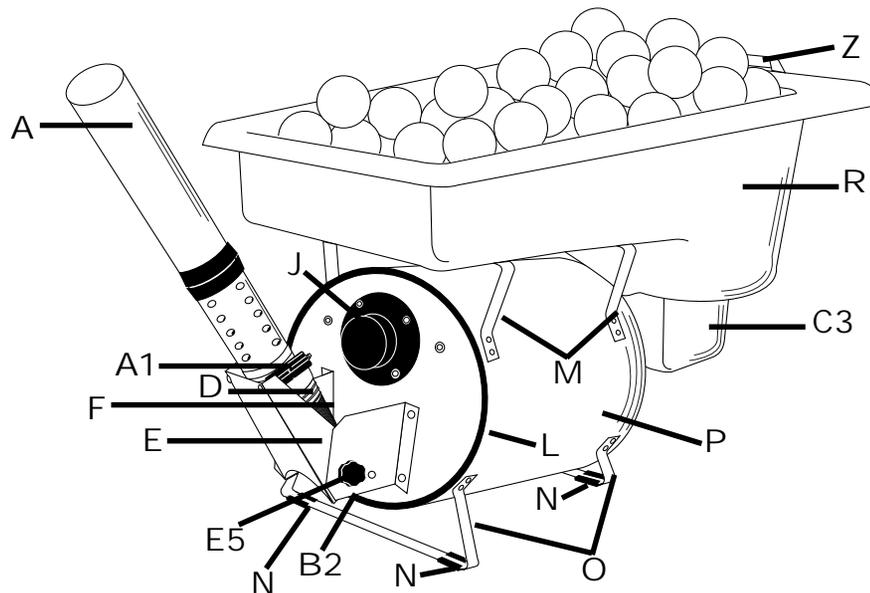
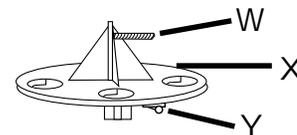
401/301 & 101 Machine back



Model 101



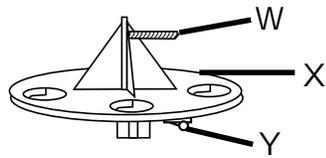
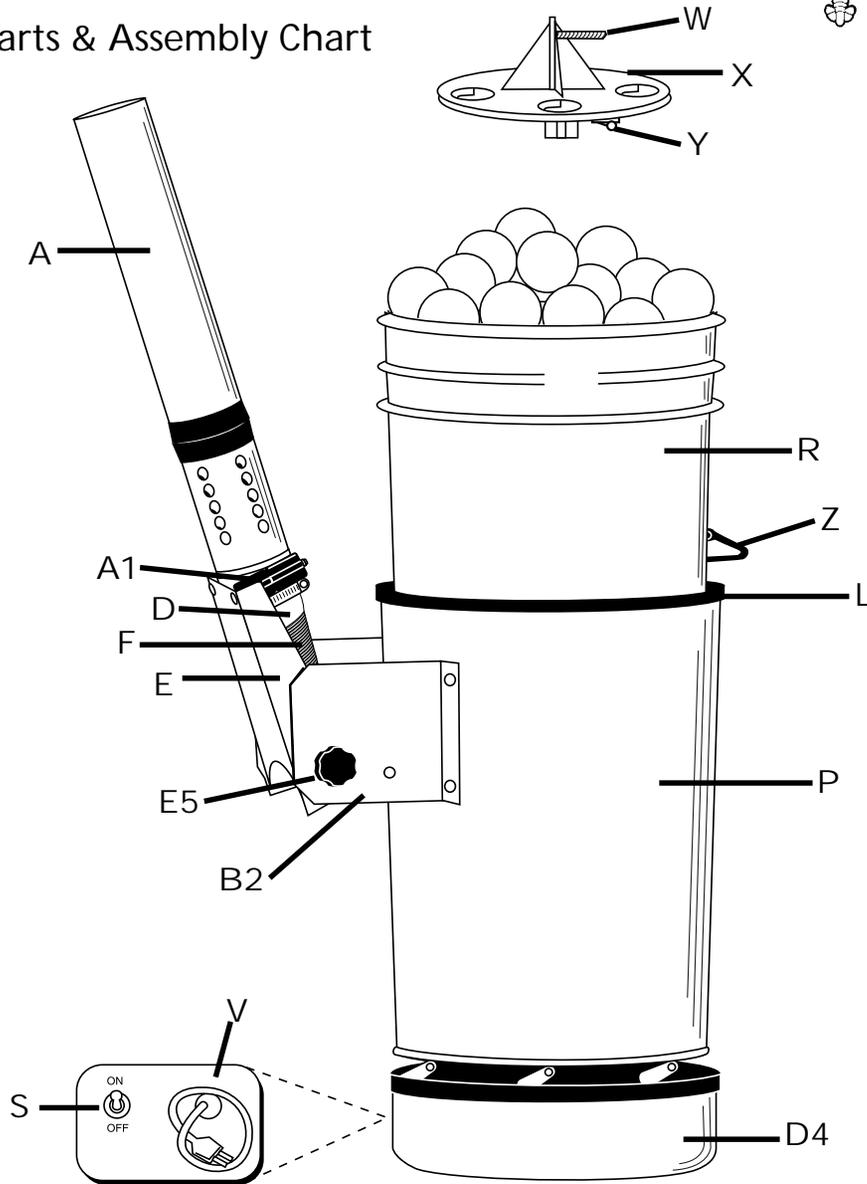
Parts & Assembly Chart



Ball Bucket 201/205 & 202/204



Parts & Assembly Chart



- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|----|--------------------------|
| A | Shot Selector | P | Cannister |
| B | Channel ring | Q | Oscillator toggle switch |
| C | Chain | R | Hopper |
| D | Detent | S | Main toggle switch |
| E | Channel | T | Rear elbow assembly |
| F | Detent hose | U | Serial number location |
| G | Allan shoulder bolt | V | Power cord |
| H | Yoke | W | Rotor spring |
| I | Wheel | X | Rotor |
| J | Muffer foam | Y | 10/32 x 1" Machine screw |
| K | Mainframe | Z | Handle |
| L | Closing ring | A1 | Front clamp |
| M | Hopper support | B2 | Angle bracket (2) |
| N | Neoprene pads | C3 | Electric box |
| O | Leg(s) | D4 | Oscillator pan |
| | | E5 | Rosette knob (2) |



affordable, reliable, portable
ball machines
1118 North Avenue, P.O. Box 2865, Plainfield, NJ 07062
800.526.4041 Fax 908.668.0436 www.lobsterinc.com

Troubleshooting



Common problems and their solutions. Consult page 6 and 7 for drawings.

Problems	Solutions
Balls shooting out with reduced velocity?	1
Balls getting stuck?	1
Tube/Shot Selector slipping?	2
Two balls shooting out at same time?	1, 3
Balls are not dropping into can?	3, 5
Balls getting stuck in canister?	4
Rotor is not turning in hopper?	6

 **WARNING!**

- Always unplug machine before troubleshooting.
- Fire or remove all balls from machine before troubleshooting.

IF THESE WARNINGS ARE NOT FOLLOWED, GRIEVOUS BODILY INJURY OR DEATH MAY RESULT

1. Detent - The rubber bladder inside this metal sleeve may become worn causing the ball to eject with reduced velocity or become trapped. This is a simple part to replace. To order, call LOB-STER.
2. Channel Ring (Models 401 & 301 only) - If your machine is no longer maintaining the height you selected, your channel ring may be worn out. This ring is very easy to replace. To order, call LOB-STER.
3. Elbow Off-Center - Sometimes the elbow can be off-center and then the ball will not drop properly and become jammed in the rotor. Gentle pressure should be enough to move the elbow back into place.
4. Blockage - As you dump balls into the hopper, debris can fall into and block or slow the passage of the ball to the front of the machine. Empty all balls from machine and lift the machine forward until any debris is expelled.
5. Rotor - A screw and bolt hold the rotor to the shaft of the rotor motor. The easiest way to spot this screw is by looking through the hole in the back of the hopper. If the screw and bolt have worked themselves loose, retighten. If necessary, call LOB-STER for a replacement.
6. Rotor Spring - The Rotor Spring is designed to keep the balls flowing. If it breaks or bends, the balls can become jammed. Call LOB-STER for a replacement.



affordable, reliable, portable ball machines
1118 North Avenue, P.O. Box 2865, Plainfield, NJ 07062
800.526.4041 Fax 908.668.0436 www.lobsterinc.com