

2004 FIRST Robotics Competition

February 10, 2004

Team Update

09

→ Special Notices ←

Documents and Updates

FIRST will provide important information to teams via the FIRST web site at:

http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/doc_updt.htm

Please check the team updates portion of the web site on a regular basis to insure that your team does not miss critical information about the 2004 FIRST Robotics Competition.

Our schedule to publish Team Updates is:

- Tuesday by 5PM and Friday by 10AM. We work hard to meet these commitments. Unexpected circumstances may, on occasions, delay their publication.
- Additional updates may be released if required.

Question & Answer System

The Question & Answer System can be found at:

<http://www.usfirst.org/robotics/2004/qa.htm>

1. Please ask one question at a time.
2. Questions are limited to 240 characters.

The Manual

Updates

Information that was documented in Team Updates 01, 02, 03, and 04 was incorporated into the manual and posted on the FIRST website on Monday, 01/26/2004.

Information documented in Team Updates will be incorporated into the manual and is scheduled to happen weekly. After this process has taken place, you will be able to access:

- .pdf files with “track changes” **turned on** so teams can see all changes applied;
- .pdf files with all “track changes” **incorporated** = an up-to-date manual.

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Section 1. Introduction

No changes.

Section 2. Communication

No changes.

Section 3. The Arena

❖ **Clarification on 2" PVC in 3.2.2.2 and 3.2.3.**

As per the answer on the Question & Answer System, the 2" Schedule 40 PVC on the stationary and mobile goals is incorrect. It is actually 1-1/2" ID and just under 2" OD.

Section 4. The Game

No changes.

Section 5. The Robot

❖ **A very important message from Innovation First.**

Some teams have seen the following symptoms, which appear as if their Full-size Robot Controller is "stuck" following a USER program download.

Cause:

The problem occurs when your PC corrupts the serial port timing. USB-serial converters are more susceptible. If this problem continues to re-occur, try downloading your User code from another PC.

Identifying Problem:

The "Battery Power" LED blinks green, the "Program State" LED is solid yellow, and all others are dark. Resetting the RC does not clear it. Code will download, but it will not run. Your RC will not link to an OI.

Solution:

Follow the procedure below with power applied to reset the RC unit from this "stuck" state:

1. Press and hold the RESET and PROG buttons at the same time.
2. Release RESET; continue to hold PROG until the "Battery Power" light becomes a solid green.
3. Release PROG.
4. Hit RESET.

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You should be operational again and able to link with an OI. You may now download new User code if required.

The above is one of the many FAQs at:

<http://www.innovationfirst.com/firstrobotics/faq>

Search criteria: USB

Section 6. The Kit

❖ **New information regarding the Hitec servos.**

You have convinced us. We will allow you to use more than 2 Hitec servos on your robot. They will still be treated as motors, however, with regards to modifications.

❖ **Maxi-Fuse panel option.**

A Stinger SFB1MAXPT is generally available at auto sound system retailers at a street price of around \$10.00 per unit. Individual units can be easily ganged together. A set of 4 weighs approximately the same as the Maxi-Fuse panel provided in the Kit.

A typical retailer is: <http://www.sounddomain.com/sku/STISFB1MAX>

Other retailers are available.

Section 7. The Tournament

No changes.

Section 8. The Awards

No changes.

Section 9. Team Organization

No changes.

Section 10. At The Events

No changes.