

Advanced Avionics, Inc (734) 332-0256

Batteries – Tips and Tricks

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Special Interest Articles:

- Batteries cause most “Vest Reset” messages.
- New employees cause most broken battery connectors by not pushing the release button.
- Interactive targets add to excitement and word of mouth advertising

2004 Trade Show Schedule:

RSA May 9-13
Las Vegas, Nevada

Fun Expo Sept.27-30
Las Vegas, Nevada

IAAPA Nov. 17-20
Orlando, Florida

At LaserBlast, we know that reliability is **THE** key to keeping you satisfied, and the key to keeping our equipment running reliably is proper care of the batteries.

Tip #1

Make sure all NEW employees know that you have to push the release button when unplugging a battery. If you pull hard enough, you can remove the battery without pushing the release button, but you will destroy the connector.

Tip #2

Don't let the batteries discharge in the vest so long that the low battery comes on and then goes completely out. There is 1 bright red and yellow low battery indicator in each shoulder. These come on when there is about 20 minutes of battery life remaining. If you let a battery discharge completely in the vest, you

run the risk of some of the cells in the battery pak developing a “reverse voltage” condition, permanently cutting the battery run time by several hours. It is actually good for a battery to allow it to discharge until the low battery light first comes on at least once every 3 months.

Also, if you don't change the battery when the low battery indicator first comes on, the phaser voltage may droop enough to cause a “**Vest Reset**” error message during game play. When the vest is firing the laser, playing a sound effect, and firing the main IR tube, it pulls about 260 ma from the battery pak. If the phaser is not firing, it draws about 70 ma.

Tip #3

Change all the batteries at the same time. If you have a preset time to do the battery change, you

get it over with in a few minutes and you don't have to worry about your employees not changing the batteries. Your customers won't be disappointed during a game, either.

Tip #4

You may want to put colored stickers on your batteries. Use 1 color for half the batteries and a 2nd color for the other half. This makes it easier for employees to grab the batteries that have had a full 16 hour charge when doing a battery swap.

You may also want to write a number on the colored stickers. That way you may find that a particular battery is causing several vests to have a “Vest Reset” problem. This could be a sign that the battery may have a cracked or broken weld, or it may be old enough to need replacement.

Player Interaction - MicroBlasters

One of the reasons for the longevity of laser tag as an entertainment activity, is the fact that the game strategy and experience is different every time you play. This is because the players interact with each other, and the peripheral devices in the maze.

LaserBlast has introduced a low cost target system that we call our “MicroBlaster” system. This system allows as many targets as you want (typically 20 to 50) to be located all over the arena. The targets light up at random intervals and can

be tagged for extra points. When each target is tagged, the computer plays a specific sound effect over the arena PA system. These sounds can be themed to match the arena theme, for example, jungle sounds.

The MicroBlasters show up on the score sheet and add points to the player's score.

These MicroBlasters have proven especially popular among younger birthday party age kids. Older kids tend to not like them as much, but the MicroBlasters allow

younger kids to feel “successful” because the targets are easier to hit than other players.

A MicroBlaster target system can be added to an existing LaserBlast system for \$750 for the controller, and \$50 for each target, plus installation labor.

Installation consists of running 6 conductor telephone wire between all of the targets. This telephone wire carries both the power and the data for 16 ultra-bright flashing LED's.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.Laser-Blast.com

Briefing Video now available

LaserBlast, along with the help of some of our earlier customers, has created a 4 minute briefing video. These videos are available in DVD, VHS, or mpg format.

As most of you know, it is difficult to make sure that ALL of your referees are maintaining an exciting

tone when they give the pre-game briefing. Many of our customers have installed a TV and DVD player in the briefing room and simply hit the "PLAY" button for a complete, exciting, "HOW TO PLAY" briefing.

The standard briefing makes references to

bases and megablasters, but can be easily customized to your store. If you are interested in obtaining a DVD briefing video, call us, or send an E-mail.

By the way, a lower resolution version of this video is now available on our web page. Check it out!

Newsletter Purpose

The goal of this newsletter is to provide you, our valued customer, with on-going information that can help you grow your laser tag business into an even more profitable business. We will use the newsletter to share ideas with you,

let you know about ways to make your LaserBlast system operate better, and notify you of new hardware and software options that become available.

Our earlier years were

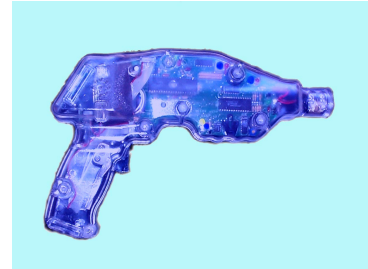
spent in very close contact with all of our customers. Now, with over 40 sites, and growing, we need this newsletter to share successful practices among our customers for their mutual gain. If you would like to share any tips, send us an E-mail for the next issue.

About Our Organization..

We have been providing equipment and service to laser tag customers for over 6 years now.

We are located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in the

United States. All of our products are designed, assembled, and serviced in our Ann Arbor headquarters.



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