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The LASERBLAST News

Feature

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Come see our booth at
2005 Trade Shows:

Fun Expo -- Sept 11-16
Las Vegas, NV

IAAPA -- Nov. 16-19
Atlanta, GA

Advanced Avionics, Inc (734) 332-0256

Vest Troubleshooting- Tips and Tricks

By Gary Supplee

Vests that are not functioning well or fail frequently cost you money in down time. Here are a few tips that may help when your vests act up.

Tip #1: Vest LCD Displays "Vest Reset"



"Vest Reset" simply means that battery power to the vest was interrupted during game play. This can happen either by someone unplugging the battery or, more often, by the failure of one of the ribbon cables that connect the various circuit boards on the vest. You can inspect these cables by

tracing them with your fingers (feeling through the vest material) from the base of the Chest board, up to the shoulder, then down to the Back board. If you can feel any twists or kinks, the cables probably have been damaged or worn through normal play, and could momentarily fail during play. You can install new cables, being careful to avoid twists or kinks, or send the vest to us for repair.

To clear the "Vest Reset" message, simply start the vest in a new game, either through the computer or with your Referee. When a Vest Reset happens, only the shot count is lost, but all game data is retained.

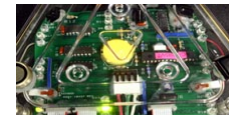
Tip #2: Large Yellow Light on Chest Always Remains Lit

Although continuous shining

of this large yellow light can indicate other troubles, most commonly it means that the vest is in the Scanning Mode that occurs at the game end. Another method of reaching this mode is to hold the option button on the chest down for four seconds any time a vest is out of a game.

If a vest boots up with this light shining, it could mean that the Option Button is stuck or has failed.

To determine if this is the cause, simply unplug the option button from the Chest board (carefully because it should be secured with adhesive) and reboot the vest. If the yellow light does not come on now, this was the cause and the Option Button should be replaced.



New Return Authorization System for Repairs

In an attempt to improve our service to those of you who send us your vests for repair, we are inaugurating a **Return Authorization System**. This will help us find all the problems you are experiencing, and allow faster turnaround time.

What you must do is **call us** or email Repairs@Laser-Blast.com before shipping your ailing vests for repair.

We will ask you a few questions about what the vest is or isn't doing, and assign an RA Number. Please be prepared with details on the symptoms and frequency for each vest in question. Talking to the manager who actually witnessed the problem is always helpful, and we may be able to offer suggestions for on-site repairs you can perform yourself.

When you ship us the vest, should that be necessary, use the RA number as a Reference Number on the shipping label. If you choose not to obtain an RA number, we will try to contact you when we receive the package, and hold the vest until we hear from you with the information needed.

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.Laser-Blast.com

LaserBlast at the 2005 Fun Expo

This year's **Fun Expo** is taking place at the *Las Vegas Convention Center* Sunday through Friday, September 11–16. Seminars and workshops start Sunday and the exhibits open Wednesday. Monday is "Laser Tag Education Day", with a workshop specifically designed for the laser tag operator. After you attend the workshops and sessions, visit us at **Booth 423**. For more information, visit www.funexpo.com.

LaserBlast Vests 101 – Batteries

Good reliable batteries are perhaps the most critical part of reliable operation.

A good, new battery should last 1000-1500 milliAmp hours, or ten to twelve hours depending on vest usage (in a game or on the rack). As the battery ages, you can expect this length of useful charge to decrease steadily.

One way to extend the life of your batteries is to **condition** them. A commercial battery conditioner will do this, or

you can simply use your vests to do the same job.

About once per month, on a slow afternoon/evening, leave your batteries plugged into the vests until the bright yellow Low-Battery Indicators light on the shoulders. This means that the battery has discharged as much as it should. Draining the battery beyond this point can cause permanent individual cell reversal in the battery!

After each battery drains, allow it to charge

completely on the battery charger overnight. Doing this process to every battery once per month will significantly improve the life of the battery.

Another problem that may occur is the failure of the battery connector. After years of daily use, the small wires in the connector, or the wires that connect to the battery itself, or to the fuse inside, can break. At this point, the best cure is to replace the entire connector cable, which we can do for you.

New LaserBlast Sites

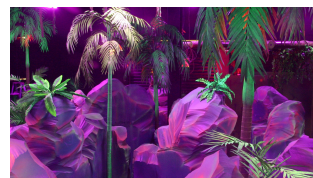
Congratulations to our New (and Returning) LaserBlast Customers!

Paradise Park, Novi, MI

Jeffrey Wainwright and his wife Theresa are opening a new facility on Grand River Avenue that features an 18-vest laser tag system with two Bases, a MegaBlaster and fifteen MicroBlasters in a maze designed and built by Creative Works of Indiana. Inside they have arcade games, eating facilities and party rooms. Outside attractions include go-carts, batting cages and miniature golf. We wish them the best of luck in this new venture.

Rinks at Shelton, CT

Featuring a 20-vest LaserBlast system with red and blue Bases, two MegaBlasters and twenty MicroBlasters, the new facility in Shelton, Connecticut is built around a jungle-themed maze, also designed and built by Creative Works. In the plans is delivery of a real, crashed Sikorsky helicopter.



Zap Zone Canton, MI

The Zap Zone in Canton is relocating to a bigger and better facility just across the street. Included in the moving plans are an additional twenty new vests, and the refurbishing of their existing twenty vests. This is a very cost effective way to extend the life of your vests by another three years or so! Plans now are for a September Grand Re-Opening. They are also adding indoor bumper cars in their huge lobby.

About Our Organization...

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