



Harris Softball 8U Machine Pitch

PITCHING MACHINE QUICK START GUIDE

This guide will provide direction for users on how to set up and use the JUGS MVP Combo Pitching Machine for Harris 8U Machine Pitch Softball. You can find the complete user manual on the JUGS Sports web site [here](#), or on the Harris Baseball Softball Website under **Resources > (FOR COACHES) Softball Practice Resources > MVP COMBO INSTRUCTIONS.07-2018.PDF**.

Pitching Machine Setup

On field 8, the pitching machine is stored in the blue jobsite storage box outside the first base side dugout. Parts should consist of the machine (with motor, wheel, ball feed chute, etc.) and three curved short legs.

Place the machine parts at the pitcher's mound area. There is an electrical receptacle with extension cord in the ground under the green electrical cap at the pitcher's mound.

Installing the Legs

1. For softball, install the three legs with the curved part closer to the base (see Figure 1, Figure 1Figure 2). Slide the three legs into place, ensuring that the end of each leg is completely inserted and in contact with the back of the casting slot (see Figure 3)
2. Hand-tighten the base T-Handle and set the bottom of the machine on its legs.
3. If the legs appear wobbly:
 - a. Make sure the legs are snug and properly placed in the base.
 - b. Make sure the base T-Handle is turned as tightly as possible by hand.
 - c. Make sure the legs are equally spaced around the machine so they sit correctly in the slots.

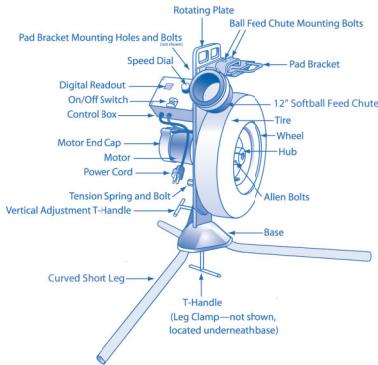


Figure 1 Softball Machine Parts Terminology



Figure 2 Correct Softball Leg Configuration

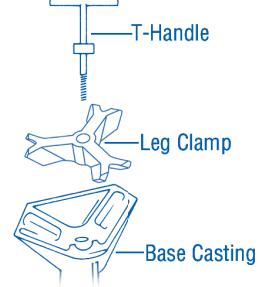


Figure 3 Base Assembly

4. **IMPORTANT:** Always position the pitching machine so that TWO legs are facing the batter/home plate and ONE leg is facing back towards the operator.

Operation

IMPORTANT: Use ONLY the JUGS optic yellow dimpled softballs for practice (see Figure 4). These are stored in the blue jobsite storage box along with the pitching machine. **Do not remove the bucket of these JUGS practice balls from field 8.** Store them in the box upon completion of practice.

Both the Diamond optic yellow 11" "Machine BATTING PRACTICE" balls with black and red stitching (Figure 5) and the Rawlings optic yellow 11" "Pitching Machine" balls with red stitching (Figure 6) are for **use through the pitching machine during GAMES ONLY.**



Figure 4 JUGS PRACTICE Ball

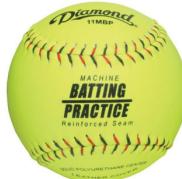


Figure 5 Diamond Pitching Machine GAME Ball



Figure 6 Rawlings Pitching Machine GAME Ball

1. Make sure the control switch is in the "OFF" position.
2. Connect the power cord to the 3-prong extension cord at the pitcher's mound.
3. Switch the control switch to the "ON" position.
 - a. Note if the machine does not turn on when the switch is in this position, check that the power breaker outside the first base side dugout is ON.
4. Set the pitch speed dial to "35" as marked in black marker on the control box (see Figure 7). Note the LED display on the digital readout does not work properly.
5. Wait for the machine to "beep" which indicates that it has come to the set speed.
6. Follow all safety and operation instructions in the Operating Manual referenced at the beginning of this document.
7. Have all batters/players stand well clear of the target as you throw test balls to adjust the trajectory and location.
8. Position the machine so that pitched balls are in the strike zone over the plate. This may require adjustment of the entire machine (for left/right - inside/outside adjustments), OR adjustment of the pitching wheel (for vertical adjustment).
 - a. To adjust the wheel for vertical alignment, loosen the Vertical Adjustment T-Handle located underneath the motor; move the wheel assembly up or down, and then tighten the Vertical Adjustment T-Handle (see Figure 1).
 - b. Repeat adjustments until pitches are thrown in the strike zone.
9. Make sure to throw several test balls to tune the trajectory and location of pitches **before** having a batter stand in the batter's box ready to hit.
10. When the batter has taken her stance and indicates 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 wheel, then look up at the batter. The whole feeding operation should be smooth and without interruption.
11. When feeding the machine, hold the ball the same way every time - across the seams is best. Discuss this feeding technique with the opposing team coach before the start of games, as the method of feeding balls into the machine will affect the consistency of throwing to a specified target.



Figure 7 Pitching Machine 35MPH Speed Indicator