

Electronic Table Timer

An electronic table timer may now be used in AKC agility trials. This timer works in conjunction with Signature Gear's electronic timing systems currently being used at agility trials. The table timer is a hand held switch that is about the size of a garage door opener. The count is activated by pushing and holding the button on the hand held device. An audible count comes from the same speaker that the timing console uses for the "GO" function. Be sure to place your finger on the button in anticipation of starting the count as the dog approaches the table.

Information on how to synchronize the table timer (available from Signature Gear) with the timing console can be found in the instructions provided for the timing gear. When programming the table timer there is a choice between two different counts. One is **restart count** and the second is **continuous count**. As of September 1, 2010 the **restart count** will need to be selected.

If you are working with a Wireless Speaker, a male or female voice may be selected for the table counter. The voice will be female when the female GO or READY voice is selected. The voice will be male when the male GO or READY voice is selected. If you are working with a wired speaker, you will automatically have a female GO and a female voice for the Table Count. The table timer comes with a clip or lanyard. You can clip the table timer on your belt or pocket. The lanyard allows the table timer to be worn around the neck. It is recommended that you try the table timer before you start the class to make sure you feel comfortable finding the hand switch button and activating it. This is also a good time to check the volume setting on the speaker to make sure it can be heard near the table. The timing console has the capability to set the **GO function** and the **table counter** at different volume levels. Example: The go function may be set at 1/2 volume and the table timer at full volume or vice versa.

It is recommended that when the table timer is used that you locate the table in the front half of the course when designing the course. This makes it easier for the handler to hear the count and insures a strong signal from the table counter to the timing console. If the table is located in the back part of the course the table timer will still work. To ensure a quality signal to the timing console, position the timer so your body is not positioned between the table counter and the timing console. Example: If you have the timer attached to your belt on your right hip, try and have your hip pointed at the timing console.

It is recommended that before the class begins you try walking around the table while pushing the timer button to make sure that the signal is getting to the timing console.

The table timer was tested at a number of trials. The table was located in the back corner of the course and not pointed at the timing console and it still worked. Giving the table timer a clear line of sight to the timing console helps insure quality of signal.

It is recommended that you quietly count along with the timer so if the electronic count is interrupted, say with a power outage, you can continue the count without missing a beat.

If a club has a table timer, it is recommended that it be used because it greatly increases accuracy in the table count. The table timer should be listed on the equipment list so a judge can design the course to take advantage of the table position in relation to the speaker and timing console. A judge may have a table timer of their own and should check with club in regards to it use.

Note: Where the table timer has been used at trials, exhibitors really liked it because they felt the electronic voice was less intrusive than the human count. Handlers felt this made their dogs more stable on the table. The other comment was since the count was so consistent they felt it was easier to anticipate GO. The one negative comment is that the count seemed slow. It's not, so you can draw your own conclusions on that one.