

Archery Tournament Time Manager Software

The Archery Tournament Time Manager Software (TMS) is a program that will run on any PC running MS Win 2K, WinXP and presumably Vista and newer. TMS will turn a PC into a complete tournament timing machine. The TMS has been used successfully to time multiple tournaments in the northeast and was the primary timing device at the 2007 NE Indoors & JOAD Nationals. Many improvements have been added to the program since then. There is no charge to download and use the TMS. There are also no licensing fees to worry about since you are using compiled program written under Visual Basic Express. The user interface has been and continues to be modified to make it easier to use during a tournament. The timer runs any number of external computer monitors that are placed in a safe area downrange. It provides both a visual timer for the archers to clearly see and audio signals automatically with no DOS intervention needed.

The TMS was designed to help keep a tournament running on-time. As such it has multiple timing screens and an easy to understand setup display. The Setup display is where you enter in the information about the tournament at hand. Information such as the time the next shooting line begins, time per end, number of arrows, single or double line, number of practice ends and more are entered on this screen. The program comes up ready to handle an indoor FITA round. The settings can be manually changed but there are a couple of different Automatic Set-Ups that will also configure the TMS to handle an NFAA indoor round.

On the Set-Up screen you can also enter up to 6 greeting messages that will be alternately displayed before the tournament begins and during any timed break between ends. These greetings are also stored by the program for future use.

The first timer display in the "Time Till Shoot Begins" display. This is exactly what it sounds like. If the shoot starts at 10:00AM, the TTSB will calculate the time remaining and countdown to the start time. It keeps the archers, tournament organizers and judges aware of how much time is left. The TTSB also has voice announcements that will happen at set times during the countdown. These announcements can be turned off and the relative volume between the announcements and the automatic buzzer can be adjusted on the Set-Up display.

The next timer display is the Line/End Timer. Using the information from the Set-Up display the LT will display a large "A" and "B" between ends and automatically alternate them from one end to the next. The LT will also first time the number of practice ends that was selected. Once the DOS starts the timer, and this can be done by using the keyboard or clicking the mouse (most prefer to just press the "S" key to start) the timer handles the online time and changes the color of the screen from Red-Green-Yellow-Red as the line proceeds. The DOS can Pause or Re-Start the line if needed. The DOS can also make the LT jump to the next line if the archers are done early. All time signals are automatically generated by the LT.

There are two other displays that are accessed from the LT. There is a button to bring up the Make-Up End Timer. A make-up end can be shot between any end. From the MT you enter the number of arrows to be shot and the online time. The program defaults to 5 seconds online time as this is the preference of the local NAA judges and DOS. The program calculates the correct amount of time for the selected number of arrows. This timer is very easy to run.

The second display from the LT is the Break Timer. Enter in the amount of time for the break and the timer counts down and also provides voice announcements at points during the countdown. This timer has also been very helpful in keeping tournaments on-time and moving along.

There is an installation document that walks through getting the timer up and running on your computer. There is also a special Font file that is part of the download. Please make sure this file is installed per this document. This Font file generates the very large numbers used by the timer.

There is also an Olympic Match Timer accessible from the Set-Up display. It is self explanatory and easy to operate.

Video and Audio

Locally we run the software on a laptop. The laptops all have a video connector to hook up to a monitor. The State Archery Association of MASS. has purchased four flat panel LCD televisions with RGB video input. We have two 32" and two 26" for the indoor Nationals. We purchased them mail order over the past two years. We started with the two 26" displays and this year bought the two 32" displays for less money than we paid for the original 26" displays. So this year's Indoor Nationals will have the two 32" monitors in the DOS lane and the 26" units at the ends. So no archer will have to look over their shoulder for the time. We used a four way video splitter to split the video RGB coming out of the laptop. You can buy a 100' double shielded VGA cable off ebay for about \$55 delivered.

At a shoot that I ran last year we used two 15" displays to cover 20 lanes, readability of the time was fine. At a shoot this past weekend one 26" monitor was used to handle 22 lanes. The monitor was set 8' up on a column with Plexiglas in front to protect it. Visibility was very good.

At my shoot last March and the shoot this weekend we used an inexpensive set of powered speakers off of the PC headphone jack. At the Indoor Nationals we used a mixer and piped it through the PA system. The buzzer is distinctive and carries very well. On the setup screen you can adjust the relative volume of the buzzer and voice. The program automatically adjusts the WAV volume depending on which is being played. You separately control the computer master volume. The new version of the TMS remembers the volume settings between boot-ups. It also resets the PC WAV volume back to what it was before the program was started.

Program Information

This program was created by Richard Hart. Richard is a long standing member of the State Archery Association of Massachusetts (SAAM) Board of Directors and has been involve with the sport of archery for over 20 years. Any questions, suggestions or problems can be emailed to richardkhart@verizon.net. The use of this program is free of charge but donations to the SAAM College Scholarship Fund would be greatly appreciated. The SAAM website is: www.massarchery.org.