



What is FairStart?

FairStart is an electronic device for starting fighter kite line touch points. Using FairStart to determine the start of a point eliminates any inadvertent favoritism, advantage or any subjective element compared with that of a 'starting judge' calling the start of a point.

Why does a fighter kite line touch match need an electronic starting device?

When a person, such as a 'starting judge', calls out the start of a point in a line touch match, **the precise moment of the start is based entirely on the starting judge's understanding and visual awareness of many factors simultaneously, including:**

1. Both flyers' kites position; the starting judge must keep both kites in view at all times.
2. The starting judge must ESTIMATE the actual location in the air of the NEUTRAL position for each flyer's kite.
3. Keeping both flyers' kites as close to the NEUTRAL zone as possible through discussion with each flyer prior to the start of the point.
4. Plus completely subjective factors such as their:
 - Eye sight,
 - Visual perception,
 - Personal sense of fairness, to mention only a few.

Because of these and other factors, having a person decide the starting of a point eliminates consistency of fairness from one point to the next. No person assigned the job of 'starting judge' can be expected to be precise and consistent when there are so many variables at work at the start of each point. This is why FairStart is needed.

FairStart consists of two electronic random timers.

When it is activated, FairStart begins to randomly determine two separate things, each independent of the other:

1. The exact time it will 'sound off', no one knows when that time is, it could be from a millisecond to 10 seconds or more.

2. Which of two different sounds it will emit when it does 'sounds off', the sound emitted determines either a top or bottom point.

And most importantly it's ALWAYS equally fair to both flyers every time it 'sounds off'. It is ALWAYS fair to both flyers because it's unpredictable when it sounds off and it is unpredictable whether it will announce a TOP or BOTTOM point. The moment FairStart 'sounds off' begins the battle for the point, what sound is emitted determines whether that point will be a TOP or BOTTOM point.

FairStart is easy to use.

It's easy for a person to operate. To activate FairStart, first turn it on with the slide switch on the front. Then push the 'RED' button on the front of FairStart. When the 'RED' button is pressed, it immediately activates a red blinking LED to let the operator know it is actually activated. Pressing the RED button starts FairStart's random timers to begin counting down.

After it is activated, FairStart will emit one of two sounds when it randomly determines the sound off time. Each time it is activated, it begins a fresh random determination of when to 'sound off' and which sound to emit.

FairStart also has two additional buttons. One energizes the sound it emits for TOP points, the other energizes the sound emitted for BOTTOM points. This is so the flyers can become familiar with the sounds that will be emitted.

FairStart is powered by 4-AA batteries, it is small, lightweight and easily portable; it can fit in a pocket.

As a practice or training device for solo flying, there is nothing better than FairStart! If you are working to improve your line touch skills, having a truly random start available to you during your practice is an enormous benefit! Without FairStart, you are imagining a start, but you can't truly surprise yourself with your starting times or whether it's a top or bottom point you are to engage in.

That's why FairStart is such a valuable training tool.....it provides completely random surprise starts for each point during your solo practice. And because you can select a 10 second maximum delay, you can get many practice starts in a given flying session.

By using FairStart in your training, you'll be amazed at how your confidence increases and how much better prepared you will be each time FairStart 'sounds off' during a competition !! With this sort of practice, you won't be surprised by any start during an actual competition! Additionally, you won't need to wonder what to do when you hear the sound emitted.....you will have practiced your strategies; your actions will be almost automatic. No doubt you will win many more points each time you compete, I know I plan to!

A limited number of FairStarts are currently available. Their cost is \$50 each plus postage. They are sold without any profit for anyone. If you're interested in more details or want to order one, please email me.

Biggrins, bruce kitefighter@nwinfo.net