

Basic Trainer

BT-50A Operation Guide



Thank you for purchasing the BT-50A Free Spirit® Basic Trainer.

This Innotek® electronic dog training system is among the safest, most humane and effective training products you can buy. Used properly, the collar's electronic stimulation serves as a distraction that your dog will find undesirable. By obeying, your dog quickly learns to shut off the stimulation, thus gaining confidence in response to your commands. Like many of our training products, this collar has adjustable stimulation levels. This feature allows you to use the level that matches your dog's temperament.

Please take a few minutes to read the instruction manual prior to first use and retain the manual for future reference. This instruction manual contains important programming and set-up information to help your training proceed as successfully as possible. For best results follow these important safeguards:

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

1. Obey all warnings contained in this manual.
2. The electronic dog collar is intended only for use on dogs. Never attempt to use this product for any purpose not specifically described in this manual.
3. If you have any reason to believe that your dog may pose a danger to others, harm itself, or would react adversely after receiving stimulations from this training system, you should not rely solely on this product to train your dog.
4. Do not leave the collar on your dog for more than 12 hours per day.
5. Never perform set-up procedures when the collar is on your dog.
6. Monitor the system prior to use and after changing any settings to ensure that the unit is operating properly.
7. Do not use this system if you suspect the battery in the hand-held transmitter or collar receiver is low.
8. Keep out of the reach of children.
9. Your dog will not respond to the Free Spirit Training Collar unless:
 - A. You train your dog and utilize the Training tips section of this manual.
 - B. The transmitter has a working battery and the collar receiver has a working battery.
 - C. The collar receiver is synchronized to receive the messages from the hand-held transmitter.
 - D. The collar receiver is worn properly by the dog.
 - E. The collar receiver is adjusted so that the probes are touching your dog's skin.
10. Realize that because individual dogs have unique temperaments, there is no way of knowing how your dog will react to its introduction to the Free Spirit Training Collar. For the safety of your dog, initial training should take place using a long leash to keep you in control of the situation. Also realize that an aggressive dog could turn against the handler upon receiving the stimulation. Therefore, if you feel your dog has an aggressive temperament and/or it has a history of aggressive behavior, you should consult a certified animal behaviorist before using this product.
11. Read all instructions before using this product. If you have any questions or concerns after reading this information, contact Innotek at 1-800-826-5527.

INTRODUCTION

Your decision to purchase the Free Spirit Basic Trainer will reward you with many new training opportunities. The BT-50A system has a range of up to 100 yards in flat, open terrain. Naturally, you are eager to get started training your dog. But please take a few minutes to read this manual first. It contains important set-up information to help your training proceed as successfully as possible. Proper preparation and training will give your dog confidence for years.

COMPONENTS

- A. Hand-Held Transmitter - This miniature, battery-powered device signals the collar receiver. When you press the transmitter button, its red light flickers and a coded signal is sent to the collar, activating an electronic stimulus and tone (optional). The water resistant transmitter contains electronic circuitry and should not be immersed in any liquid.
- B. Training Collar - The training collar consists of a receiver box attached to a durable nylon strap. The water resistant receiver houses the electronic circuitry and should not be immersed in any liquid.
- C. Collar Probes - The probes deliver the stimulation, and two sets of probes are provided. Use the short probes for shorthaired dogs and the longer probes for longhaired dogs. Special probes are available for dogs with extra thick coats. Contact Innotek to order.
- D. 6-Volt Alkaline Battery - This battery is the power source for the collar receiver. A fresh battery should last up to 60 hours depending on use.
- E. 12-Volt Alkaline Battery - This battery is the power source for the hand-held transmitter. A fresh battery should last up to 2 months depending on use.
- F. Test Light - The test light allows you to verify that the system is operating properly.
- G. Training Video - A short video showing training techniques using the electronic collar.
- H. Lanyard - Innotek recommends attaching the lanyard to the eyelet of the transmitter for safekeeping.

SECTION 1.

UNDERSTANDING THE HAND-HELD TRANSMITTER

All of the transmitter's settings may be easily changed by accessing the internal switches found within the transmitter's battery compartment. To access the switches, use the supplied screwdriver to remove the battery cover. With the transmitter positioned with the antenna down, Switch 1 is on the left and Switch 8 on the right. The features of your Free Spirit Training Collar can be customized by changing the positions of these switches.

A. Selecting a Stimulation Level

The BT-50A offers 7 levels of stimulation. Level 1 is the mildest and level 7 is the most intense. To select a stimulation level, position Switches 1, 2, and 3 according to the chart. "Up" is toward the battery; "Down" is toward the white button.

Stimulation	Switch Position		
	Switch 1	Switch 2	Switch 3
Level 1	Down	Up	Up
Level 2	Up	Down	Up
Level 3	Down	Down	Up
Level 4	Up	Up	Down
Level 5	Down	Up	Down
Level 6	Up	Down	Down
Level 7	Down	Down	Down

A continuous stimulation will be delivered for as long as the white button is pressed, up to a maximum of 10 seconds. After 10 seconds of stimulation, stimulation will be locked out for 10 seconds. The button must be released and pressed again to deliver stimulation. This is a safety feature to prevent overcorrecting the dog.

Innotek recommends always using the lowest level of stimulation necessary to get the desired response. For occasions when a stronger level of stimulation is immediately required, the Booster Switch on the side of the hand-held transmitter can be slid toward the antenna. When the white but-

ton is pressed, the stimulation delivered will be 2 levels higher than the setting on Switches 1, 2, and 3. If level 6 or 7 is selected by the configuration of Switches 1, 2, and 3 inside the transmitter, the Booster Switch will deliver the strongest stimulation, Level 7. To return to the selected stimulation level, simply slide the Booster Switch toward the battery cover. The next time the white button is pressed, the stimulation will be the intensity selected by Switches 1, 2, and 3.

B. Selecting a Tone Option

There are three tone options from which to choose: Tone with stimulation, no tone with stimulation, and tone for 1.5 seconds followed by stimulation.

To select tone with stimulation, position Switch 4 up toward the battery and Switch 5 down toward the white button.

To select no tone with stimulation, position Switches 4 and 5 up toward the battery.

To select tone with delayed stimulation, position Switches 4 and 5 down toward the white button.

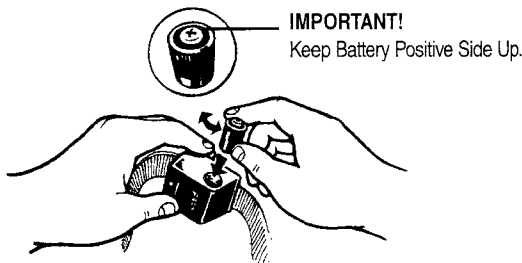
C. Selecting an ID Code

Your BT-50A offers 8 independent ID Codes. By changing the configuration of Switches 6, 7, and 8, the transmitter accepts a different ID Code. Whenever the ID Code is changed, the transmitter and collar receiver must be synchronized for the collar receiver to respond to signals from the hand-held transmitter.

If you experience any problems from other nearby training units evidenced by your dog receiving a stimulation from another source, remove the collar from the dog, change the ID Code, and re-synchronize the components. This should solve the problem of unwanted interference.

SECTION 2. COLLAR RECEIVER BATTERY INSTALLATION / REPLACEMENT

Using a dime or slotted screwdriver and a counterclockwise motion, loosen and remove the battery screw cap on the collar receiver. Discard the spent battery and insert a fresh 6-volt alkaline battery with the positive (+) side up or closest to the battery screw cap. With a clockwise motion, secure the battery screw cap in place. Whenever the battery in the collar receiver is changed, the collar receiver must be synchronized to the hand-held transmitter as outlined in Section 4.



SECTION 3. TURNING THE COLLAR ON AND OFF

The collar's ON/OFF switch is indicated by the red paper dot on the side of the receiver. It is activated by the transmitter's magnet, also indicated by a red paper dot. To turn the collar ON, briefly touch the transmitter's red paper dot against the red paper dot on the collar receiver. A flashing green light on the collar receiver verifies the collar is on and ready for use.

To turn the collar OFF, touch the transmitter's red paper dot against the red paper dot on the collar receiver. A brief, solid red light and tone followed by no light on the collar receiver verifies the collar has been turned OFF.

SECTION 4. SYNCHRONIZING THE TRANSMITTER AND COLLAR RECEIVER

The collar receiver and hand-held transmitter must be synchronized or matched. This allows the signal and information from the hand-held transmitter to be received by the collar receiver. This must be done after changing the battery in the collar receiver or transmitter and after changing the ID Code.

A. After Changing the Battery in the Collar Receiver

After installing or replacing the 6-volt alkaline battery in the collar receiver, the light on the collar receiver will be yellow for 30 seconds. Holding the collar receiver by the case (not the probes), press and hold the white button on the hand-held transmitter for approximately 3 seconds. The light on the collar receiver will pulsate red to indicate the two components have been successfully matched or synchronized. Once the button is released, the light on the collar receiver will blink green. The collar will now respond to signals from the hand-held transmitter. Be aware that whenever the collar receiver has a pulsating red light, stimulation is being delivered.

B. After Changing the ID Code or Transmitter Battery

Hold the red paper dot of the collar receiver to the red paper dot of the hand-held transmitter for 5 to 8 seconds. The light on the collar receiver will first be a solid color, then go out, and come back on solid yellow. (It is important that you see the solid yellow light before proceeding.)

When the solid yellow light appears on the collar receiver, separate the two components about one foot. The light on the collar receiver will blink yellow.

Holding the collar receiver by its case (not the probes), press and hold the white button on the transmitter for approximately 3 seconds. The light on the collar receiver will pulsate red to indicate the signal from the hand-held transmitter is activating the collar receiver. Be aware that whenever the collar receiver has a pulsating red light, stimulation is being delivered. THEREFORE, MAKE CERTAIN THE COLLAR RECEIVER IS NOT ON THE DOG WHEN PERFORMING THIS PROCEDURE.

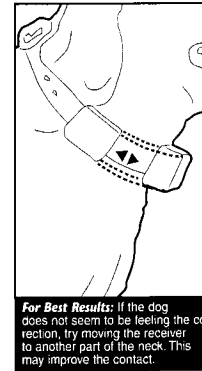
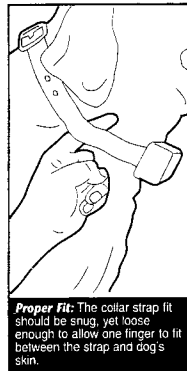
SECTION 5. TESTING THE COLLAR RECEIVER

Before putting the collar receiver on your dog, manually test the system using the supplied test light. To manually test the system, position the test light on the probes so that the tips of the probes make contact with the wires inside the two openings. Gentle pressure may be needed. Press the white button on the hand-held transmitter, and the test light should illuminate. The light will be dim for mild stimulation and bright for intense stimulation. Only when certain the collar is responding properly to the signals from the hand-held transmitter should you proceed with fitting the collar to your dog.

SECTION 6. FITTING THE COLLAR TO YOUR DOG

A. Probes

Use short probes for shorthaired dogs. Use long probes for longhaired dogs. Special probes are available for dogs with thick coats. Call Innotek to order (800-826-5527).



Finger-tighten the probes, then turn them one additional revolution with the probe wrench. Do not over-tighten.

B. Collar Strap

Place the collar around the dog's neck with the receiver box under the chin. Fit the strap as snugly as possible, without restricting breathing. There should be enough room to fit only one finger between the strap and the dog's skin at the back of its neck. Make sure both probes contact the dog's skin.

Remove the collar from the dog and trim the excess strap, leaving 4-6 inches (if desired). A lighted match can be used to singe the ends of the strap to prevent fraying.

SECTION 7. TIPS FOR USING THE TRAINING COLLAR

- A. Always use the rubber insulators between the collar strap and probes to provide insulation in damp conditions.
- B. If needed, a small amount of hair removal or thinning will improve probe contact with the skin. DO NOT shave the dog's neck.
- C. Check your dog's neck daily for skin irritation while using the electronic training collar.
- D. Never leave the collar on your dog for more than 12 hours a day or when you are away. Leaving the collar on the dog for extended periods could result in skin irritation.
- E. Other metal collar should be removed from the dog when it wears the electronic training collar. They may interfere with the proper operation of the system.
- F. This product is not recommended for dogs under six months of age.
- G. Check the tightness of the probes regularly and frequently to prevent loss of the receiver box.
- H. The hand-held transmitter and collar receiver are water resistant and should never be submerged in any liquid. The damage caused by getting it wet is not covered under the manufacturer's warranty.
- I. Never place the hand-held transmitter or collar receiver in the dishwasher.
- J. Do not attempt to dismantle or repair any of the components of your electronic training system; this will void the manufacturer's warranty in full. These components contain computerized circuitry that should be serviced only by an authorized expert.

SECTION 8. TRAINING TIPS

When you begin your training with the Free Spirit Basic Trainer, keep in mind these tips:

- A. Use conventional training methods to teach your dog basic commands. Wait until the dog understands your commands before introducing the collar as a reinforcement tool.
- B. Have the dog wear the collar for a few hours each day for a week or two before using it for training.
- C. The goal of training is to condition your dog to respond to your verbal commands regardless of whether it is wearing a training collar. Put the collar on the dog at least 30 minutes before beginning a training session. This can help prevent the dog from becoming collar-wise (obeying commands only when wearing the training collar).
- D. Always make sure the collar is functioning properly BEFORE putting it on the dog.
- E. The collar must be on relatively tight to keep the probes making skin contact without restricting breathing. You should be able to slide only one finger between the strap and the dog's skin at the back of its neck.
- F. Always use the lowest stimulation level when beginning training. Proceed to higher stimulation levels only if necessary.
- G. You will know when you have found the proper stimulation level when your dog responds to the stimulation with only a mild twitch of the neck, shoulder, head, or perk of the ears. If the dog cries out upon receiving the stimulation, you need to go to a less intense level. The dog should never cry out when the hand-held transmitter is set at the proper stimulation level.
- H. Keep training sessions brief, about 10 minutes. After a 30-minute rest period, repeat the training process. Dogs acquire habits through repetition, not necessarily through duration.
- I. Never continue a session after the dog has lost interest. Take a break to rest or play.
- J. Once you have started a program with your electronic remote trainer, never start a training session without it.
- K. You should plan on using the collar for at least four months. A good rule is never take the dog out without the collar on. This will ensure that the dog is imprinted only with the correct response to your commands, and that you always have complete control.
- L. Always end each session on a positive note. Have the dog repeat a mastered task. This will keep the dog's interest for the next training session.
- M. Always praise your dog for good behavior!

SECTION 9. TROUBLESHOOTING AND MAINTENANCE

A. If the dog appears to not be receiving the stimulation:

1. Adjust the collar fit.
2. Trim the dog's hair or use longer probes to make better skin contact. DO NOT shave the dog's neck.
3. Replace the battery in the collar receiver.
4. Resynchronize the collar receiver and hand-held transmitter.
5. Use a stronger stimulation level.
6. Test the collar receiver as described in Section 5.
7. If using tone with delayed stimulation, press the white button on the transmitter longer than 2 seconds to activate the stimulation.
8. If there is no light on the hand-held transmitter when pressing the white button, replace the 12-volt alkaline battery in the transmitter and synchronize it to the collar receiver.

B. General Maintenance Tips

Your BT-50A Free Spirit Basic Trainer requires very little maintenance. The collar receiver is water resistant and should not be immersed in water. To remove dirt, simply wipe with soap and water. Never place the collar in the dishwasher.

The hand-held transmitter is also water resistant and should not be immersed in water. Do not attempt to clean it with any liquid, including water. Never place the hand-held transmitter in a dishwasher.

If the hand-held transmitter or collar receiver is accidentally submerged in water, remove the battery, drain any water from the battery compartment, and allow it to dry. When completely dry, install a new battery and resynchronize the transmitter to the collar receiver.