



RoadRunner FAQs

Q: How is the RoadRunner system different from other timing systems?

A: The RoadRunner system is unique in that it has most of the functions of a fully automatic timing system but is priced similar to a hand timing system. Race times are started automatically by the starter and then the timers are wirelessly synced with the start time. The timers are stopped by hand but most of the error is eliminated with the synchronized start. All race times are stored in the timer's memory and the times are also transmitted to the PC interface unit so they can be managed by the RoadRunner PC application in real time.

Q: Is the RoadRunner system easy to learn how to use?

A: Yes! The RoadRunner system is designed to be very intuitive and easy to use. A new user should be able to have the system running out of the box in a matter of minutes. Most settings are preset at the factory so all you have to do is turn the units on, set the event and heat numbers and start a race. Even the RoadRunner PC application is straight forward and does not take long to learn how to use.

Q: Is the RoadRunner system hard to set up?

A: The RoadRunner system consists mostly of hand held, battery operated units and is therefore very portable. If a repeater is used there will also be a tripod but the entire system can easily be carried and setup by one person.

Q: How many people does it take to operate the RoadRunner system?

A: That all depends on what kind of races you are running. If you are only doing distance races, such as cross country, the system can be operated by a single person. If you have a PC and are using the RoadRunner PC application to monitor and manage the times, you will want another person for that. If you are running lane races, you will need to have a person timing each lane. If you are short on volunteers, it is possible to have each person timing operate two lane timers.

Q: Does the RoadRunner PC application talk to other meet management systems such as RaceTab or Hy-tek?

A: Yes. The RoadRunner PC application is fully integrated with most major meet management systems. The RoadRunner PC application can import events, team rosters and lane assignments from these systems and then export FAT style result files that can be detected and read by most other meet management systems. See the RoadRunner system integration page in the user guide for a full list of compatible systems.

Q: Is a PC required to run the RoadRunner system?

A: No. The RoadRunner PC application can help you monitor and manage times in real time but is not required when timing events. All times are saved in the timer's memory. These times can be accessed in the timer's memory screens or can be downloaded to the PC application after the meet is over. This makes it very convenient to use the system in practices as well as meets.

Q: Does the RoadRunner system come with a warranty?

A: Yes. The RoadRunner system comes with a two year limited warranty against defects.

Q: Can timers or other system components be purchased separately?

A: RoadRunner timers, starters, repeaters and PC Interface units can only be purchased separately if you have already purchased a complete RoadRunner system and need to add additional units or replace damaged units. Contact Colorado Time Systems for pricing.

Q: How can the RoadRunner system be used to time distance races where the racers are not kept in lanes?

A: The RoadRunner system comes with two types of timers. For timing lane races you would use one lane timer per lane. Each lane timer records only times for its specified lane and can record up to ten splits per lane. For distance races, where the racers do not stay in lanes, you would use a group timer. A single group timer is used to record finish times each time a racer crosses the finish line. Group timers can be configured to handle up to 7000 finish times per race but group timers do not take split times.

Q: Is the starter unit required for distance races?

A: No. When using the group timer, you have the option of putting the timer in stand-alone mode. When in this mode, the group timer is used to start the race as well as register the finish times. If you are using the RoadRunner PC application to monitor the race, you must go to the settings screen of the application and check the option for monitoring the group timer in stand-alone mode.

Q: What is a repeater needed for?

A: By law, handheld transmitters can only operate at a very low power, limiting the operating distance of the timers. Other things like the relative humidity and crowds of people can also reduce the effective range of the devices. Repeaters are used to make sure that all of the hand held units can communicate without disruption. Typically only one repeater is needed in a track stadium if it is located near the center of the field. Repeaters are normally placed on top of a tripod to get them above the crowd. They are battery operated so AC power is not required.

Q: How does the starter unit start a race?

A: The starter unit can be hand operated or can be connected to a starting system or a transducer which detects the sound of a starting pistol. Either way, the starting unit is typically located at the starting line and wirelessly sends the start time to all of the timers. Patented technology is used to precisely sync all timers involved in the race.

Q: Is the RoadRunner system a Fully Automatic Timing (FAT) system?

A: No. Although the RoadRunner system has most of the features of a fully automatic system, the fact that the timers are manually stopped prohibits it from being classified as a FAT system. The RoadRunner automatically writes Finish Lynx style files so that most major meet management systems will recognize the RoadRunner as a FAT system for purposes of importing data.

Q: Does the RoadRunner PC application produce result reports?

A: Yes. The RoadRunner system will produce result reports in a variety of formats including PDF and HTML. The RoadRunner also exports results in file formats that allow other meet management systems to easily import the data.

Q: How long do the batteries typically last in the timers and in the starter?

A: The RoadRunner system uses patented technology to turn the transmitters and receivers on and off as needed to conserve as much energy as possible. Batteries will last for approximately 40 hours of continuous use.

Q: Does the RoadRunner system take split times?

A: Yes. Lane timers can take up to 10 splits per race. Splits times and lap times are both displayed on the timers.

Q: What if a person timing misses a time? Is there a way to edit the times after the race?

A: Yes. The RoadRunner PC application allows the user to edit all finish times and split times. Times cannot be edited on the timers themselves.

Q: Can the RoadRunner PC application send messages to the starter?

A: Yes. The PC can send messages up to 16 characters long to the starter unit. The starter unit will beep to alert the operator that there is a new message.



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