

LEICESTERSHIRE ORIENTEERING CLUB

SportIdent Splits printer / Download Station (DS) guidance

Introduction

At most larger events the Download process will rely on SI Master Station(s) connected to laptops using Aut-O-Download to produce printed results and split times. The Download Station (DS) can store times and splits easily with no requirement for laptops, external power or software. Used in conjunction with the Mini-printer it can produce printed splits on the day, so it is particularly useful for smaller events. The times stored in the DS can be subsequently analysed to produce full results with more thorough checking.

Contents

The Download / Printer kit contains the following

- 1) Download Station (DS) – Looks like a large old type SI control box with lead terminating in a 9pin male DB9 RS232 serial port plug.
- 2) GEBE Flash printer with 9 pin female DB9 RS232 plug. This takes thermal printer paper and has a 4.8v NiMh rechargeable battery
- 3) Serial cable with 9pin female plugs at both ends. Not needed for on the day printing – it can be used to connect the DS to a computer.
- 4) Mains charger for printer
- 5) Four purple special purpose dibbers
 - a) “Service Off” to turn DS off after use (saves battery)
 - b) “Clear Backup” to clear data from the DS. **Please use this prior to an event, but DO NOT use during an event or until you have safely downloaded results.**
 - c) “Print Results” ‘Does what it says on the tin’. It will try and print simple results (dibber number and time) by course based on the first few controls on course.
 - d) “Start” can be used for mass starts. [No information on how to use this]
- 6) Spare Thermal Printer rolls (Just drop into printer)
- 7) Sets of instructions for the DS and printer.

The blue carrying case should also contain a small blue control box labelled SI Master – CLEAR. This can be used as a Time Master Station to synchronise controls.

Downloading Times and Splits

The DS can be used with or without the printer and will hold all the times and splits for over 1000 old style red dibbers. It can therefore be used for most, if not all, LEI events. The newer style dibbers require 3 times as much memory so will fill the DS more quickly.

It is **highly desirable to Synchronise the DS with the** controls being used at the event to avoid problems with negative split times. An accuracy of plus / minus 10 seconds should suffice.

Clear DS with “Clear Backup” dibber- then put away to prevent ‘accidents’!

The DS is now ready to use.

Set up to use for printing results at the event

You should charge the printer. **Plug in, charge for at least 2-3 hours after the green light stops flashing.** (i.e.. Continuous light)

Connect Printer to DS.

Now ready to go - Just place competitors’ dibbers in DS and printer will print splits.

Although you can download twice to get a copy of the results this should not be necessary, You can use the “Print Results” dibber every so often to get a summary of times. Whatever you do, you have to reconcile dibber numbers to names and possibly courses (if not clear from control numbers) at the end of the event- so must have records of this from registration.

Getting results out of the Download Box after the event

This assumes you are going to use Aut-O-Download to process the results and that you have created the event and set up all the courses.

If your computer has a serial port or a working USB to Serial adapter you can use Aut-O-Download to read the DS directly. The alternative is to use SIConfig to read the data from the DS using an SI Master Station in Remote mode. The SIConfig file can then be saved and imported into Aut-O-Download. In practice the SI config method has been more reliable.

Direct connection (DS to PC, no Master Station)

If you are using an RS232 serial port on your computer, you will need the RS232 (DB9 female to female) lead to connect the DS to the male socket your computer. The print station connects at 38400 baud. In Aut-O-Download go to your event then “Other Downloads > Download Master/Print station” and follow instructions.

Using SI Config (DS to SI Master Station to PC)

Connect Master Station (Serial or USB) to computer.

Read into SI-Config: Click on “Commands”> “Read Out station” then “Ascii Interface” “File”> “Store SI Card Data file” and choose comma as delimiter and “ as string delimiter.

Read SI Config data file into Aut-o-download: In Aut-O-Download go to your event then “Other downloads” > “Download from SI-config” and follow instructions.

If you wish to process the file manually, say using Excel, you can save the SI Config file using different delimiter options. Excel can read txt or csv files but can automatically parse files with the correct delimiters.

Printer Settings

These are set up as

Density:	25
Speed/Quality:	Med (64)/med
Interface:	RS232/USB/Blue
COM:	4800,n,8,Tx+
Sleep Time:	5 sec
Font #:	1
Char Format:	D0,W0,H0,S0,48

Please don't change unless printout is illegible!

Press both large buttons on printer for about 3 seconds to view and if necessary change settings. The interface and COM settings are the ones likely to need changing. (See printer instructions for more information.)

Press small button in middle to put printer immediately into sleep mode.

Questions/Updates- Please contact Mark Foxwell or John Marriott