

FUNFENCING™ OWNER'S MANUAL



What is FunFencing™?

FunFencing™ is a novel type of simple wireless fencing for children (6-14). Based on an innovative patented technology, it allows children to engage in electronic fencing with no reels, cables or strips. It is inexpensive and will work with any mask and any type of weapon including plastic weapons.

FunFencing™ is a very interesting tool for fencing masters who seek the opportunity to promote fencing outside of regular fencing clubs and circles. Since it can be practiced with plastic weapons and masks, it is not necessary to use regular certified clothing and masks.

The look and feel of the system is very similar to the wireless technology currently used at major F.I.E. events but is based on a different principle. The child is equipped with a simple jacket that contains a special textile pressure sensor. Whenever the opponent hits the part of the jacket that contains the sensor, the lights and a buzzer in the child's mask go on to signal the hit.

How can FunFencing™ kits be used ?

Here's one suggestion. We hope you will send us others you have tried out. We will share them with other fencing clubs.

Use FunFencing™ to top off your regular fencing lesson.

Instill a bit of fun and enthusiasm with your young fencers after the hard work of learning basic movements.

Here is a possible lesson

1/ Warming up exercises

2/ Regular fencing lesson: children, lined up facing the teacher, study basic fencing actions.

3/ Have the children sit on the floor in a circle around the combat area, as in judo. They will take turns being spectators and actors. Two or four children may fence at the same time.

Bouts should be short – two or three hits – so that all the children may take part several times.



The FunFencing™ kit

A FunFencing kit is made up of 3 elements:

- Jacket with pressure sensor
- Plug-in electronic board with lights and buzzer
- Textile connector between jacket and electronic board

Special jacket

The **FunFencing™** jacket is a very simple adjustable polyester garment that fits over existing jackets or clothing. It is easily adjustable through 2 velcros on the side. With the help of this adjustment, the jackets can suit a wide age range (6 to 14 years and more). The front of the jacket contains the special pressure sensor that is materialized by a colour rectangle (red or green). Any hit on this surface will set off the lights and buzzer in the mask.

In the back of jacket are 3 velcros. These are used to connect the jacket to the electronic board.



Plug-in electronic board

This small electronic board plugs into any wire mesh mask thanks to 3 grippers on the side. It is protected by a plastic case and powered by **3 standard AAA batteries**. We recommend that you use **rechargeable batteries**. Even when the board is not being used, the batteries are being discharged. Hence, it is necessary to take the batteries out when the kit is not being used. When the batteries become too low, the lights stays on all the time. At this point, the batteries must be changed or recharged.

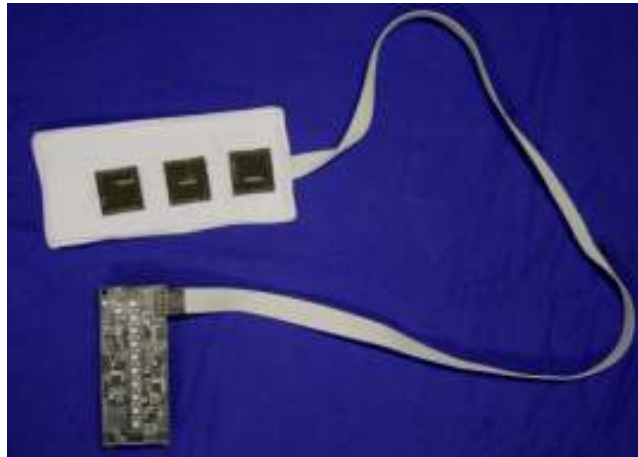


The board automatically recognizes whether a red or green jacket is connected to it. When a red jacket is used, the red LEDs will light up in case of a hit. In a similar fashion, the green LEDs will light up when a green jacket is used.

Textile connector

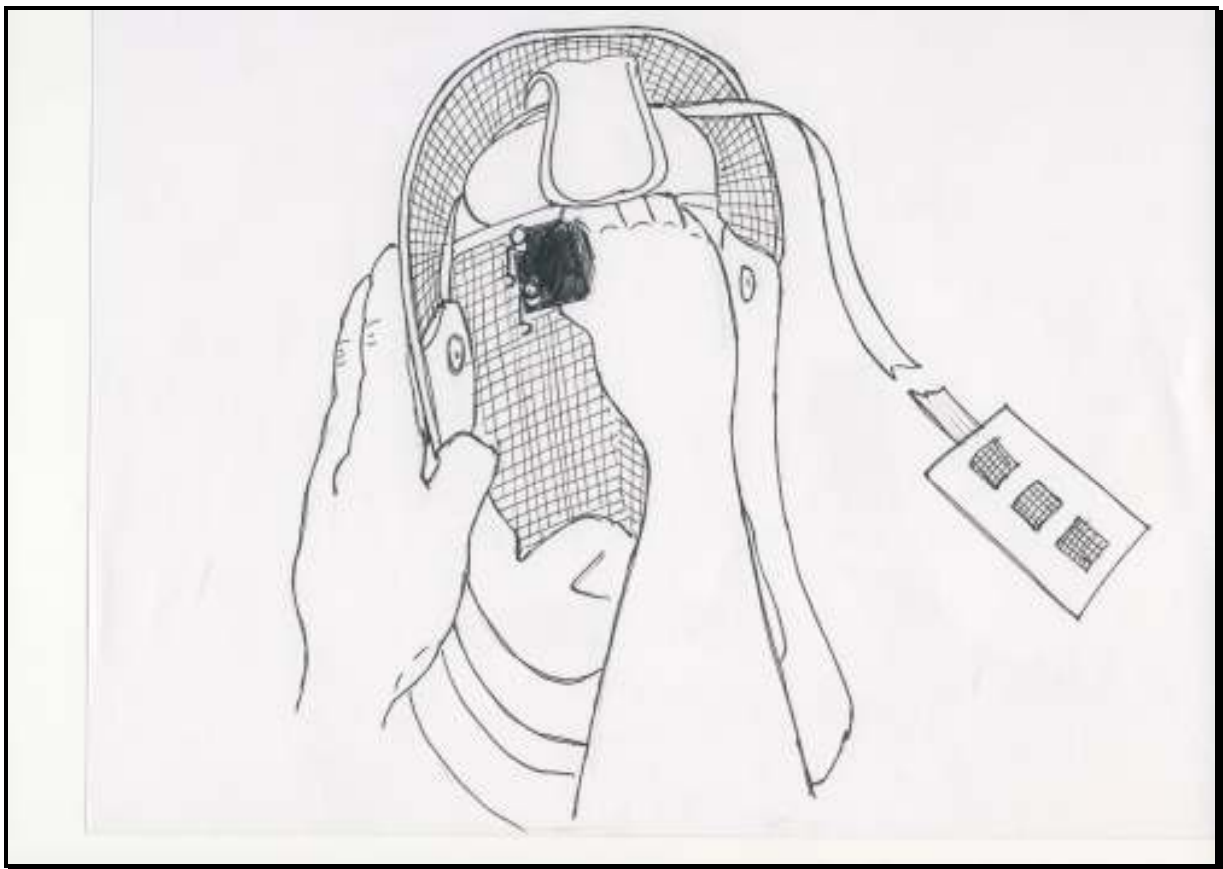
This special connector implements the link between the jacket on one side and the electronic board in the mask on the other.

The connection with the textile jacket is done through 3 velcros on one side while the connection with the electronic board is implemented with a classical electronic connector.



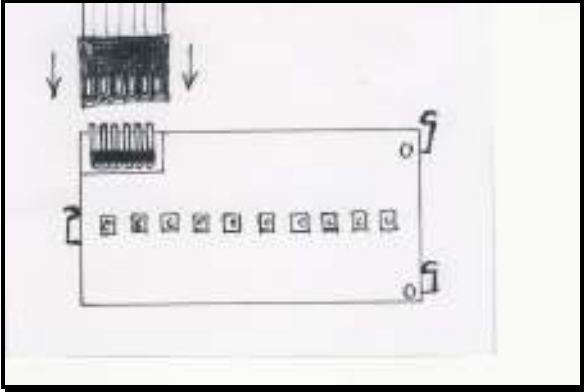
Installing FunFencing™

Placing the electronic board in the mask.

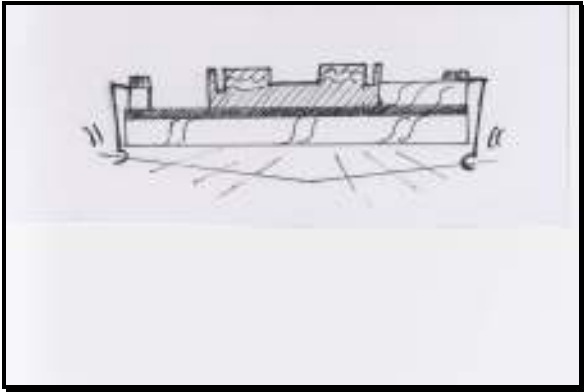
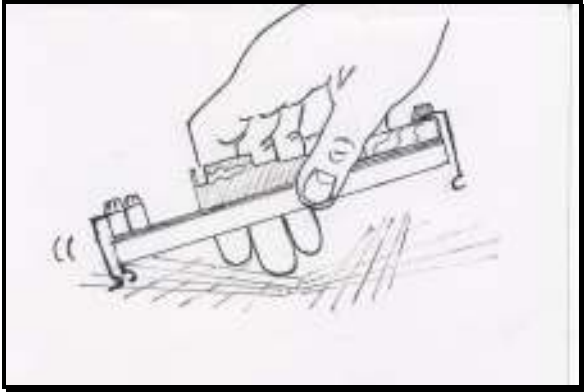


The board will typically be plugged into the wire mesh of the mask at the forehead level. It is easier to plug the board into a relatively flat piece of mesh rather than a very curved one.

Before placing the board into the mask, make sure you have connected the textile connector first. **This connector should be coming out of the top of the board when plugged into the mask.** The connection should be as displayed on the following figure.



Typically, you would begin by placing the board with the 2 grippers on the same side. The last gripper would then be used to secure the board into the mesh. Make sure your board has been properly plugged into the mesh by inspecting the grippers from the outside of the mask. These should be clearly coming out of the mesh and should cling to it. When properly installed, the board can't be unfastened by itself even in case of a violent shock.



The textile connector is then connected to the jacket through the 3 velcros at the back. Make sure that when you connect these two elements, the appropriate velcros are facing each other and that you have no overlapping velcros.

If you require absolute security, we provide a special extra fastener that can be used to “wire” one hole of the board to the mesh. This special fastener along with the 3 grippers will guarantee that the board can never fall off by itself.

When you take the board out of the mask, begin by first removing the lone gripper before taking out the other two on the same side. Be gentle and avoid destroying the grippers to ensure proper future use.

Washing instructions

The jacket may be washed but only through cold washing in order to prevent any damage to the special pressure sensor. The jacket must never be hot tumbled dried. In general, avoid any kind of excessive heating.



