

Installation and Setup of HTR2 (upgrade to HTR2001)

HTR2001 will be renamed HTR2.exe for all future editions. You can setup the program fresh by downloading the *DEMO* or *FULL INSTALLATION* from the HTR website. Otherwise take the following faster steps.....

1. Use your C-drive and an HTR folder as the base location for your HTR2.exe software. Work files (racefiles, charts, results, etc) can be placed in another drive or folder, but the main program file should always remain on the C-drive and in your primary HTR directory.
2. **Creating a Shortcut and Icon.** Download the HTR2.exe file to your c:\htr folder return to the Windows interface. Right-click on a blank spot on the Windows Desktop. Click NEW / SHORTCUT. In the 'command line' text box type: **c:\htr\htr2.exe** - Click: FINISH. The new HTR2 'binoculars' icon should appear on your Windows Desktop. You can delete the older HTR2001 icon and program if you wish.
3. To use the new download utility from within HTR2, you will need to copy a new control named csftxctl.ocx to your c:\windows\system and/or c:\windows\system32 folder. You can get this file when downloading the installation or demo. Or you can request it from Rick or Ken on the bbs or via email. Your \windows folder may be named \win, \WINNT, or something else. Check for the subdirectory \system32 and/or \system.

What's New

- Download Screen (see page 3).
- On-screen odds display via ATR tote (see page 4). Includes important Auto-Scratch feature (see page 5).
- [KM] custom screen for "live longshots" (read page-2). Full card printing and print-to-file are available with this option.
- **Workout score/rating.** Appears on [KM] and [TLC] and default program screen under the "Wks" or "Wk" columns. Score ranges from 00-99 and has a very specific relationship to perceived fitness (read page-3).
- The fast selection buttons for the tracks at the top of the main screen now list the actual track name for the current race card on that circuit, instead of the State. For example, the [NY] will now display [BEL] [SAR] or [AQU]. If there is no track running for the button, it will remain blank and you need to choose
- You can save your screen color and font size settings by clicking the little "save" box at the bottom of the main screen next to the color change buttons. Next time you load the program, your favorite color scheme and font size will be setup automatically.
- Tester: fixed a bug that was displaying zeros for one of the P-scan ranges.
- Impact screen cleaned up and now allows print-to-file and full card printing.

Export HX4 adds the workout rating and ranking. HX5 is new and has past-performance details for up to 10 lines per horse. Please read HX4.txt and HX5.txt for the details and file specifications. Contact our discussion board hosts Rick Bush or Mike Dee regarding the HX5 extraction for use with custom reports and queries.

HTR2 Download Function

The updated HTR2 software contains a new utility for direct downloading of your HTR files. It may prove to be a more efficient system for many users in lieu of having to navigate the HTR download-site and hunt for the various files; not to mention it eliminates the need for the "Download Cart" and its file limits. This is the first edition of the new utility and it is still evolving. Recognize that not all tracks or file types have been added to this first version. And it may not work perfectly for all, especially those with dial-up modems.

1. Establish an Internet connection. Those with DSL, Cable or high-speed connections will benefit the most from this function. If you are using a 56k modem, be patient with the process and wait until the hour glass disappears and a completion message pops up. It should save some time and hassle regardless of your connection speed.
2. Load HTR2 software. From the initial screen, click the button for "Download" and you will be taken to the download interface. Enter your HTR subscriber Username and Password into the boxes shown. They will be saved for later use.
3. Currently, you may choose "Tomorrow", "Today", and "Yesterday" files - the dates are shown. Select the types of files you want (Results and Charts are never available for "Tomorrow"!). Finally choose the Track List you want (see below).

4. Click the "Get My Files Now" button and the process will begin. Your mouse-pointer "hour glass" lets you know that the utility is active. A message area displays the file count as it is working.

Issues and problems with remote download

- Username and Password. If incorrect you will be alerted to re-type. No Internet Connection; an alert message will warn you to check your Internet connection. If you get this message despite having a normal experience with your web browser, then discontinue use of the utility and report the error to me via email.
- Firewalls can prevent the utility from accessing the HTR website. My Norton Firewall alerted me the first time, but allows me to override the "Block" and save my access request for the future with HTR2. Your firewall may prompt you also, you can allow the connection to take place - it's safe.
- Zero Files Downloaded. Error Messages. Try several combinations of the file types, date and track options and see if you can get it to work at all. If not, continue to use the regular Internet download, but please report your experience to me so I can gather some knowledge about how to better implement the system for all of us in the future. Thanks for the help.

Track List-A (Major Circuits). Usual tournament and simulcast tracks. **AQU, BEL, SAR, HOL, DMR, FPX, SA, CD, KEE, ELP, TP, LRL, PIM, DEL, AP, HAW, LAD, FG, LS, OP, BM, GG, MTH, GP, CRC**

Track List-B - Includes most other common simulcast tracks in North America such as **WO, MNR, TUP, PHA, FL, HOU, NoCal Fairs, EMD, PRM** and dozens more.

Make the trip next year and take advantage of one of the best weekends of handicapping instruction and social interaction that is available for so little out of pocket.

Using the Real-Time Odds - ATR Tote + HTR2 Software

ATR Software ('At the Races' Tote Utility) can now be combined with the updated HTR2 version for display of current odds and automatic scratching directly displayed into the HTR2 program. Below are the steps you need to take to get this going, but first here are some of the exciting highlights with this new technology...

- Accurate and up-to-the-minute *real time* odds can be viewed from within HTR2.
- Automatic scratching and re-computation of the data as it happens.
- Auto-race forwarding. Select your track - click [Odds] - it sends you to the current race.
- Auto-Scratch all tracks for the day with one click from the Scratch screen.

You need two software applications to use the new features.

1) HTR2.exe (read page 3).

2) *ATRproForHTR* available for 30day trial download from the link below

http://www.homebased2.com/atr/at_the_races.htm

(this link and download are available from our website ATR discussion forum)

The ATR software is shareware (not free) and distributed by *At the Races* and Gary Pizzigati (an HTR subscriber). Please read the registration information in the program, or write to Gary or Rick on our bulletin board ("At the Races" forum) to learn how to acquire it inexpensively. The program is also a great stand alone toteboard with many interesting functions. Once you have the ATR for HTR version setup use the following steps to get things going with HTR2.

First and foremost - please establish and Internet connection on your computer.

1. Load the *ATRproForHTR* software and immediately click the [GO] button.
2. On the next screen, click the button on the left [Cycle and Display All Tracks...]
3. Wait about 1-2 minutes for the cycling and exporting of odds to take place.
4. Minimize the ATR program [Min] button.
5. Load and Run HTR2 software (August 2003 or later version).
6. Select a track. Click the blue [Odds] button at the top and you are taken to the [KM] screen + current odds if available (if not available, a message will alert you).
7. Click the [Odds] button regularly to update the on-screen display.

Note: currently the user must manually update the odds screen by clicking the [Odds] button every minute or two. There are conflicting programming issues in HTR that prevent me allowing a continual refresh. I'll try to remedy this in the future.

Using the Auto Scratch Function - ATR + HTR2

Even if you don't use the tote odds or the [KM] screen, the ATR program may still be very valuable to you for its automatic scratch function. To use this, take the following steps...

1. Load and Run the *ATRproForHTR* software as instructed above.
2. When the track list appears, click the Scratch: ALL button. This will export a list of scratches from all the available tracks that HTR2 imports in step 6.
3. Close or Minimize the ATR software displays.
4. Run HTR2 software and click to the [Scratch] screen immediately.
5. On the Scratch screen, you should see a red button for ATR Auto-Scratch. This button will only appear if the scratch file is available.
6. Click the ATR-Scratch button and the scratches are removed for all applicable tracks. Run the Auto-Scratch as often as necessary to update throughout the day.

This is obviously a terrific tool for tournament players and anyone that plays multiple tracks. As of now, there is no function to upgrade the track condition ("wet", etc) automatically. We'll work on that for the next update and we expect many other advances in the future.

Please contact Gary P or Rick on our ATR discussion forum if you have any questions about installation, working with or registering the ATR program.

"Live Longshot" Identification

The 'public' is highly efficient at correlated win prediction. But they are also very good at cutting their own throats - and they will kill us off too if we play their game. Unless you can bet very large amounts of money and take advantage of generous rebates, the sobering math of playing low odds horses or obvious spot plays just will not carry forward for profits because the public will stampede the odds down with incredible ferocity. You must resist the public betting and out-flank them to win money at the horse races if you are a normal sized bettor.

Race Circumstance - the most important aspect of thoroughbred outcomes. Horse racing is unlike almost any other sport or event we will encounter (auto-racing is the exception). Chaos reigns and the domino effect of a single incident can change the entire result. Besides the obvious and unexpected race trouble (bumping, stumbling, wide, blocked, taken up, etc) there is the more predictable circumstances that we can relate to such as post-position, pace and track bias. Physical or mental conditions also have an effect, as do heat, cold, wind and precipitation. For the public, the chalk players and those working hard to uncover the "best" horse - race circumstance is their arch-enemy; yet it is the best friend of the longshot player. Longshots are rarely the "best" horse in the race or on paper. They win for two basic reasons:

1. They are "live" (ready to fire their best effort).
2. Race circumstances intervene or fall positively on their behalf.

We cannot control (2) for the most part. But we can do a great deal to reveal "live".

"Live Longshot" is defined on page 11. These horses have the most profound impact on the parimutuel economy. Payoffs in all types of wagers are dramatically influenced; carryovers; tournament winners, player psychology and confidence: *homeruns*, *touchdowns*, momentum --- power come from big payoffs. Yet with these horses, it is not necessary and usually not even expected that they will win.

Some interesting new ideas that reveal "live longshots" from HTR

1. Shock Speed (defined below)
2. Workout Rating (see report)
3. Freshening (layoff 28-63 days)
4. Positive Jockey Switch.
5. Pedigree in special situations (FTS, first time grass or route)
6. "Live Longshot" last time / sudden improvement / "top" / form-cycle figs
7. Late Speed and General Velocity Strength

Shock Speed is defined as follows =

1. Horse is ranked-1 in Fr1 velocity ($Ev = I$).
2. "F" or "E" running style.
3. Quirin Speed Points +8 or +7.

When a "shock speed" is entered, the preliminary attention for the trainers and jockeys and horseplayers revolve around this single horse. They have a substantial impact on the entire strategy and understanding of the race. If the "shock speed" is a longshot, the favorites will have a difficult decision as to early engagement. HTR bettors should always understand that "shock speed" horses are relevant to the race (except perhaps in turf routes over 1 mile). The "shock speed" are excellent key horses as longshots as they often win unexpectedly, or hang around for 2nd and 3rd place. This item is marked by (+) in the running style column in the [KM] screen and with an "Ss" in the Longshot (Spade) report.

A full page is necessary for the new workout rating - see next page. The other items on the list above will be discussed in a later newsletter.

The (new) Workout Score and Rating

HTR always listed workout data in conventional methods including distance, time and days ago. A letter grade was assigned (A,B,C,D,F) depending on the relative ranking of all workouts taking place that day and the A-grade= *bullet*. The betting public, and particularly the serious bettors and insiders are well informed about workout information for all horses these days. Retail clocker reports and past-performances from all sources highlight fast or meaningful morning information. You won't uncover any price plays with a 2yr Msw entrant that worked :59.0 gate at Del Mar or Saratoga!

It also has to be recognized that workout reportage is often very inaccurate, kept secret from the public, omitted on purpose or in error. Outright larceny is probably rare but mistaken identity (assigning a workout to the wrong horse) is not uncommon as many works take place in the early morning darkness. Depending on racing circuit and the State, workouts can be very accurate (Southern California) or downright horrid (Maryland). There is also an East/West vernacular with the "breezing" / "handily" tags respectively that is confusing as to the effort taking place.

So how can a rating be created that absorbs both problems? On one hand we want to accentuate the positive fast workouts, but those horses will be spotted easily and over-bet. The secondary problem is working around the mish-mash of inaccuracy and missing data that plagues the workout details. I'm happy to report that I have accomplished a scoring method that deals with both issues.

I directed my research with workouts toward successful *patterns*, not time/distance. Developing race fitness is accomplished through a targeted process of scheduling works (and races in-between) at specific intervals and distances. Most horseplayers are aware that 5f workouts are the trainer's key weapon for fitness. Statistics bear this out, but a visual approach that focuses only on the single good 5f work will usually result in finding one of the favorites or a horse that may not really be "live". Yet how that 5f exercise relate to the horse's overall fitness pattern is not well understood by the public - it could have more or less meaning depending on other works and races taking place over time.

I won't reveal the exact formula. But this workout score seeks to understand the pattern in a context that reveals a trainer in the process of coaching and coaxing fitness into his horse - they care about their runner - they want him in top shape to 'fire'. Only a computer can dig through the thousands of possible pattern combinations, create a hierarchy and formulate a user-friendly scoring scheme. A horseplayer with past-performance style workout data will never be able to configure such a comparative analysis by visual clues only. Here is the general lowdown on the workout scores and what it means in general terms.

- 90-99 Outstanding pattern of fitness revealed. Certainly a scheduled and targeted effort.
- 85-89 Excellent and revealing pattern. Targeted for sure.
- 80-84 Probably a distinct pattern, certainly a positive.
- 75-79 Above average, but perhaps inconclusive.
- 70-74 Murky area, consider only if top-rated in the race.
- 00-69 Pattern not detected or not recognizable. Not a negative - just no solid information.

This workout rating should only be used as a positive identifier. Ignore bad scores. A low rating may really be revealing missing or vague workout information - *not* poor training. You will be scratching your head if you try to relate the HTR workout score to visual workout data in print. Either trust it or ignore it. Great tool for "live longshots".

The [KM] "Live Longshot" Screen

I designed this one as my own custom screen for tournaments and regular play. It contains fewer elements than most other HTR outputs. I rarely find time for detailed handicapping or lengthy analysis; and my entire modus-operandi is to uncover a "live longshot" and configure them as a key horse in the exotics. A 40/1 bomb that finishes 3rd behind two favorites and inflates the trifecta has far more impact on profits than betting the low priced horses to win. Longshots are rarely the "best" horse in the race - but because of the circumstances that occur in thoroughbred racing - the "live" ones regularly run better than expected. The factors and symbols used.....

(*) = *interesting*

(+) = *compelling*

(% or &) *significant change: class, surface or route distance*

From left to right on the [KM] screen =

The **LAY** (layoff) contains a (*) symbol to indicate a "freshening" 28-63 days off.

Wk rating (*) = ranked 1-2 and workout 70-79 points.

Wk rating (*) = ranked 1-3 and workout rating 80-84.

Wk rating (+) = ranked 1-5 and rating 85 or more.

Qp (+) for those with probable forward position.

(+) **RS** to those with 'shock speed' (ranked strongly in three early speed factors).

(+) **E/P** Fr1 rank = 1

(*) **E/P** Fr1 rank = 2

E/P (*) = ranked 1 or 2 E/P

E/P (+) = ranked 1 in both Fr1 and Fr2

(+) **Fr3** = ranked 1-4 A/P and within 0.40 fps of top A/P in race.

Fr3 (+) = ranked 1 Lv (Fr2 + Fr3) or L/P

Fr3 (*) = ranked 2 in Lv or ranked 1 Fr3

(+) **K** = ranked 1-2 in nVEL (velocity score)

K (*) = ranked 1-4 K-rating

(+) **TRN** = trainer switch (claim?) to a trainer ranked 350 or higher.

TRN (*) = trainer ranked 1-5 and rated 350 or higher.

(+) **JKY** = positive jockey switch, jockey has won with horse prior, or is rated 320+.

JKY (*) = jockey ranked 1 in race.

PED (*) = Pedigree rating 450 or higher or top ranked in field

Live = number of "live" efforts last 9 or lifetime.

(%) **Live** = class shift Alw/Stk to Clm; Msw to Mcl

(&) **Live** = trying a new surface or attempting a route first time.

Live (*) = ran a "live" (good effort) last outing

Live (+) = ran a "live" effort last out and was a longshot (9/1); an unexpected improvement?

Live Definition =

1. Finish position in top half of field (i.e. 5th or better in a field of 10).
2. Ran within 2pts of the race PAC rating, and/or within 3.5 pts of race PER rating.
3. A "live longshot" fits 1+2 above and 9-1 odds or higher.