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Robot User Guide
Introduction – What’s New (July 2008)

The *Robot* has evolved into a full-blown horseracing test laboratory. With the newest version you can test and extract an almost unlimited amount of information. The valuable feedback gained will assist you in making better choices as a horseplayer. All users can profit from the easy extraction of winning spot plays and angles.

The HTR2 *Robot* was originally designed as a simple method of testing various factors from the software and filtering with an assortment of race conditions. The early versions were a reasonable alternative to the demands of learning database (i.e. MS Access) function.

While the *Robot* cannot provide the flexibility of a database application using our *Export* output, it has become very popular with users seeking a fast method of testing that required no initial learning curve.

July 2008 Version / Changes and Additions

New Options

- **Quick Test:** (see page-9) rapid test results for the most recent 100 races
- **Daily Report:** day-by-day, and weekly log for the past 8 weeks; profit loss
- **Spot Play “Get List”:** Concise list of your all your qualifying spot plays for the day sorted by post-time.

New Filters

- **Won Last:** horses that finished first in their most recent race (including DQs)
- **First Time Gelding:** has been gelded since the last outing (available only since Feb 2008 – present)
- **L1** (1st Lasix)
- **L2** (2nd Lasix)

These filters appear at the bottom of the second filter area. They replace the previous items.

Robot User Guide Getting Started

To use the Robot you'll need to download races and results from HTR2. Here are the three file types you'll need.

1. Racefiles
2. Result Files + Charts

HTR subscribers can always download the last 45 days of these files from active tracks from our Internet archives. The Chart (text) files are optional and are used only for the Tote-Odds function. It is not mandatory to download the Charts, but you won't be able to test your data with final odds otherwise.

Your Available Tracks and Dates Listing

The drop-down box at the top-left of the HTR2 *Main Screen* can be accessed to view the list of tracks and dates. * = Results included. ** = Charts and Results available.

Note: While our file contents certainly include the year (2007, 2008, etc), our file names do not. When a file is processed by HTR2, the year is extracted internally as part of the data, but the physical file name that sits on your hard drive are not distinguishable from year to year. So to keep organized, delete or move older files into a backup folder continually. I keep exactly 365-days in my HTR folder for testing. Each day, I delete the files from the previous year for the same date as today before downloading the new ones.

Decades of research and testing have proven to me the value of using current and rotated data. Studies of more than 1-year should be done only if sample sizes are too small – horseracing statistics are dynamic and constantly in flux – keep your studies current.

File management is the only aspect of using the *Robot* that seems to be complicated for some. Stay on top of it, you can delete races easily from within the software (“Delete Files” button at the bottom of the *Main Screen*) therefore not allowing your data to get stale.

Once you have a month or more of races + results available – you can begin using the *Robot*.

- Initial Software Load: After you click on the binoculars icon for “HTR2” – just below the ‘eye’ there is a single race load option. **DO NOT** use this feature if you intend on testing with the *Robot*. You need to let HTR2 load all your files initially. This may take a minute or two (but gets faster each time you do it), but it is necessary to load all your files for testing.
- Click the [*Robot*] button at the bottom of the Main Screen after the files have loaded. That's it - you are ready to start testing.

Robot User Guide Filters

The first look at the (2008) *Robot* screen can be both exciting and overwhelming -- "there is a lot of stuff on here!" In a few minutes you'll be in the flow with the organization of the screen and it will become second nature in no time. Most of the items and filters are instantly familiar to any experienced handicapper.

[Clear / Reset Screen]

This large red button is located toward the right middle of the screen. When selected it will reset all the boxes on the Robot to the default settings.

In general, the race-specific filters will remain checked by default and at startup. These include class types, distance, surface, etc. So you'll need to *un-check* them to prevent those types of races from your test. On the other hand, the horse-specific filters are not checked by default and must be selected if you want them included. Plenty of examples follow to help clarify this.

Starting at the top left of the screen, you'll see the following Class Type filters =

Alw/Stakes
 Claiming (non-mdn)
 Msw
 Mdn Claiming

Normally your test will include all race types. But sometimes you'll want to separate them. For example, suppose you want to run a test of *non-maidens*. Simply un-check the Msw and Mdn Claiming boxes and maiden races will be ignored in the test.

Races for 2yr Only
 Races for 3yr Only
 Races for 3up/4up

Females
 Males/Open

This section allows you to separate your studies by age type and gender. Many researchers will exclude 2yr races as they have so little in common with older horses. If you un-check the "Females" box, you'll be skipping races exclusive to Fillies and Mares, but some female horses may be found racing in the Male/Open category (rare these days).

State Breds Only

This one is *not* checked by default; so use it only to test horses that have been bred in the state where the track is located. For example, if testing AP (Arlington Park) this filter will skip all 'open' races and only test those with 100% Illinois-breds. Within the Race Filters Section you'll find the option to exclude State-Breds. This box applies to Canadian bred races as well.

Purse < 10k (purse value less than \$10,000)
 Purse 10k+ (purse is \$10,000 or more)

A simple method of separating minor tracks from the majors is to use this purse filter. Most handicappers have access to bet on races with purses above \$10,000. I tend to test my data with Purse \$10,000 + because these are the races that are televised and available to bet for most handicappers.

Robot User Guide

Filters

Vi Section

The Vi rating (volatility index) has four setting options. The lower the Vi the more likely the race will have a large and puzzling field and longshot winners. Higher Vi races are more stable and the favorites are more likely to win. In fact, the Vi was created on the premise that the number relates to the approximate probability that the favorite will win the race. Example: Vi = 40: the favorite will typically win about 40% of these races. You'll find more longshots in the lower Vi range and higher percentages of low priced hits with the higher Vi numbers. The Vi is located in the header of every race in HTR2.

K - Section

The K-rating is the primary contender selector in HTR2. You have 100% latitude with testing the K ranks here. (You can test the K rating number with another function of the robot). Normally, all these boxes are checked. But remove the ones you don't want included in your test. K = 9 includes all horses ranked 9th or higher and they rarely win.

Class Rating – Section

You can test the Class ranks 1-2 here or the (+) and (-) Class factors. The (+) refers to horses that have proven class success at the level. The (-) are horses that have not proven they can win at this level (but doesn't mean they cannot improve).

Surface Categories

If you used the previous *Robot*, you'll see a big change with this section. Now you can check and uncheck any surface/course type alone or in combination. The "Artificial" category refers to any track, such as the *PolyTrack*, that is made of synthetic materials. If all the surface types are checked-off then all race surfaces will be tested together. This is not ideal. Normally you'll want to separate Turf and Wet races from the Fast Dirt.

Distance Categories

Most of the commonly used distances are separated individually here. Use this section in conjunction with the surface filters. For example, suppose you want to test Turf Routes. To do this un-check all of the items in the surface section that are non-grass related (i.e. Fast Dirt) and then un-check all the distance below 8.0f (i.e. 6.0f) and your test result will be exclusive to Turf Route. Note: Distances > 14.0f, such as Steeplechase races, are not tested in the *Robot*.

Odds Type and Odds Range

This is one of the more advanced areas of the *Robot* screen. The default is to test horses with "ANY" odds (meaning, the odds are not part of the test). You can select one of the three odds options if wish to use odds as a filter, but never more than one at a time.

MLO odds = program odds as submitted by the track prior to the race; these don't change with scratches. KLINE odds = based on the (K) rating. These odds do adjust with scratches or paceline selection. Tote Odds = these are the final odds as shown on the tote board. To use TOTE odds function you'll need the Chart for the race.

Once you have selected the Odds Type above, use the Odds Range toggle to set a parameter for the range you want to filter. For example, suppose I want to test or extract (Get My Plays) all horses with MLO 3.5 – 8.0. I'll set the Odds Type for "MLO" and use the little arrows on the Odds Range to set the numbers [7/2] on the left, and [8/1] on the right. The output will exclude all horses outside of these odds.

Robot / Tester User Guide

Filters

PL-Mode

The default is PL-5. You can also test any of the other pacelines as desired. For more on the PL modes, see the Glossary at the end of this report.

Test Days

This is set to ALL by default – meaning any race in the current folder can be tested. If you desire a shorter test range set this number by clicking the little arrows. I sometimes like to follow up an “ALL” test by setting it to 30-days to find out if the win% or ROI uncovered in the initial test has been continuing during the most recent month period.

Note: the *Daily Report* option does not utilize the days-back setting as it always runs through the last 8-weeks only.

Factor Range - Toggle Boxes (advanced)

EPR (par) – **(K)** rating – **TRN** (trainer rating) – **JKY** (jockey rating) – **Layoff Range**

PED (pedigree rating) – **WK** (workout rating) – **Field Size** (number of horses that ran)

If you are familiar with the common ratings and numbers used in HTR, you’ll find this section a real treat for testing ‘outside the box’.

All of these item work the same way – and **REMEMBER** – be sure to check the box for the item so that it will be included. Setting the range and forgetting the checkmark will not pick up the item in the test even if you set the range numbers.

Example: I want to locate all horses with a TRN rating of 370 or higher combined with a workout rating 83 or higher. First I check the box for the TRN range. Next I set the low number (left side) to [370]. The number on the right is left at its maximum [550]. The WK box is also checked-off and I set the minimum to 83 and leave the maximum at 95. Now when I run my data only those horses that fit both these parameters are included. Keep in mind that the more of these you select the less data you’ll find because they are all used together when selected. You’ll find all the minimum and maximums numbers for these ratings in the Glossary herein. *Read more in “Tips and Tricks” herein.*

Rank Filters

See the glossary for the explanation of each factor in this section. This large filter area with the light-gray shading contains options to select or test horses with various top-ranked items. These boxes will remain un-checked normally unless you select them. Once selected the horse **MUST** be ranked accordingly or it will be skipped. If you check more than one of these items the horse will usually have to match all the items selected (see exceptions in the glossary).

Example: suppose I select the following two items →

[**x**] **PAC** = 1

[**x**] **TRN** = 1

The output or test result will require a horse to match **BOTH** rankings (not one or the other). So do not check too many different factors at once or you won’t get any matches.

Important Note: Factors that are grouped together, such as [x] **FR1=1** and [x] **FR1=2**, can be selected independently or together. If chosen together the horse will qualify if either is true.

Robot Tester User Guide

Filters

Item Filters (Angles)

This section of the screen (darker gray) has a diverse array of items and angles. The full glossary is listed in the back of this report. As with the Rank Filters, selecting these items is usually a 'must match' situation. For example I select three items →

[x] **bo**
[x] **JT>=30%**
[x] **2TS**

A horse will have to match all three items in order to find its way to the output:

Blinkers Off --- Jockey + Trainer Win Rate 30% or more --- Second Start Lifetime

The number of horses found with this trio will be infrequent, but consistent identification of this spot play on a daily basis might produce profits.

There are a couple of item groups that do not require a 'must match'.

RS = F, E, P, S, R (Running Style Designations)

You can select any combination of these five running styles and they will all be included in the output.

\$ and/or **\$\$** (Longshot Indicators) **L1** and/or **L2** (Lasix 1st or 2nd)

If both are selected, any horse that shows either will be selected for output.

[Race Filters] Drop-down selection list.

There are several advanced race filters you can select from a drop-down list. Normally this list will display **[none]** by default. Select one of the items from the list (one at a time, not multiples) to filter the race. See Glossary for explanation of each item.

[Connections] Drop-down selection list

You can test by individual trainer or jockey or sire using this feature. Only one name can be selected at a time. The default is **[none]** as individual trainer and jockey filtering requires a large number of races to test for optimal results. It is also somewhat slower than normal data tests in the *Robot* because it requires a text search to match the name.

The 'Connections' list is initially filled with the present race in memory (the race currently shown on the Main Screen). If you wish to test a specific trainer or jockey, select a race from the Main Screen (before entering the Robot) that has the name you want. When you enter the Robot, the names of all the trainer and jockeys from that race will be available on the 'Connections' list.

NOTE: the 'connections' names can NOT be saved for Spot Plays, use this item for testing only

Track Selection

The Robot allows you total flexibility over racetrack selection. The list on the far right of the screen contains 80 choices (scroll down to view the entire list). Use the check-boxes to select any combination of tracks you want – often selecting by circuit – and the output will include only horses entered at those tracks. Many tests are done with ALL tracks and you can instantly choose them all with the **[Check All]** button at the bottom of the list box. Also you can **[Save to Favorites]** if you have certain tracks you want to play daily. Finally, the **[Current Race]** selects the track and basic race filters according to the current race in memory (the race shown on the 'Main Screen'). If you change your track/race selection from the *Main Screen*, the 'Current Race' will select accordingly.

Robot User Guide Statistical Output

Statistical Output has been formatted in a standard layout for all options in the Robot

FYI: During any Robot test, the counter shown on the screen will often appear to stop its tally and the test appears stalled. This is usually *not* a problem. Chances are good that the test is still going – check the hard drive light on your computer – but the counter has stopped. This happens because your computer’s ability to test the data is moving faster than the screen refresh rate. This is actually a positive technical advantage, but many users panic and think the test has stopped and shut down their computer. Don’t make this mistake – allow the test to finish and display.

All of the Robot test printouts have similar statistics →

Factor

“Play All” is always the top listing and displays the results of the total test for all horses matching the filters set. Note: If you run a test with no filters at all, the “Play All” will be a useless tally of every single horse in every race. But the various reports separate the output into many different categories for you, so it is perfectly ok to run an “all burger”.

Plays

The number of horses matching the criteria filters or category listed. You will often see more “Plays” (horses) than races tested. For example, this would happen if you tested a broad category such as “RS = P” (running style Presser). There are often 3 or more such horses in the same race and they will make it into the test. Look at the I.V. (Impact Value) column for statistical comparison when this happens.

Winners

Number of winners from the test category.

Win ---W+P --- ITM

These are the percentages for Win, (Win + Place) and (Win + Place + Show) in each category.

WROI – PROI – SROI

Return on (\$1) Investment for the Win, Place and Show categories. 1.00 = break even. Example, suppose the test shows a SROI = 1.10. This means that a Show bet of \$1 on every horse in the test category will result in profit of 10-cents on the dollar (10% profit).

\$AvgM (Average Win Mutuel)

The average win price paid in the test category.

\$20 + (Longshot Winners)

Tally of winners that paying \$20 or more to Win in that category.

High (High Win Payoff)

The highest Win price paid in the test category.

I.V. (Impact Value)

Important statistical measure of expectation vs. outcome. Excellent comparative measure if the test category has a variance of horses per race. Irons out problems with ties and field size.

Robot User Guide Get My Plays / Spot Play Tools

[Get My Plays]

You can instantly pull out horses for today's races that target your spot plays. Any angle, spot play or combination of items that interest you can be fished out with a click of the mouse. You can also save and extract them on a daily basis with one-click and print them all at once.

Today's Races

The large aqua 'Get My Plays' button is located at the top of the *Robot* screen. When you click it a search is conducted with the current day's entrants based on the filters set.

Normally, today's date is shown as active on the button. But you can run "Get My Plays" for any past date (or the next day if you have the files) simply by selecting a race from the Main Screen for the date desired before you enter the *Robot*.

After the search of today's races for your filter parameters, the output screen appears sorted in post-time order. Each horse that matches the filters set has a single line of pertinent data with the specific filters listed at the bottom of the list.

Saving Spot Plays

It would be a taxing process to manually enter your favorite plays on a daily basis so the *Robot* offers an interactive section to save/delete/extract your favorites on demand. The 'Spot Plays' tools section is located at the top of the screen.

1. First, select an unused spot play number from the list.
2. Set all the filters you want and click the [Save] button.

The (*) will instantly appear next to the spot play in the box indicating it is saved to the hard drive. Later, the user can move directly to any spot play by using the drop-down arrow and displaying the entire list or by toggling

Delete one play at a time or all of them if desired by using the [Delete] buttons. This will remove the (*) and you'll know that 'Spot Play' slot is blank and ready to use again.

You can save up to 99 different plays.

[Get All] and [Get List]

The [Get All] button performs exactly the same as the single action [Get My Plays] button but automatically cycles through all your plays. Printout includes all the items and filters pertaining to the spot play, and this can create a lot of paper. A better option is the...

[Get List] which prints an organized (but less detailed) list of your daily plays. It is sorted by post-time and the spot play # is identified. If you run the [Get List] after the results are in, it will tally your entire list for win% and profits. Use this option to *grab and go* with your daily plays.

The Printout

The output for any of the spot play options is presented on an interactive text screen. Using your mouse you can highlight and delete portions. It is possible to Copy/Cut/Paste the information for use in another text document such as MS Word. Do all this by right-clicking the text. For most users the [Get List] makes this unnecessary, just click the [Print] button at the bottom of the screen and run with it.

Robot User Guide LearnX / Learn All

[LearnX]

The LearnX is a terrific tool that exposes the best and the worst of the HTR factors in one test result. Whether you are querying a broad category such as a single track by itself, or a specific spot play, the LearnX will find out when it works and when it doesn't.

LearnX report has four sections (below). Each requires at least 10 sample races for its output.

Money Makers

If the Robot can uncover factors that produce a profitable ROI, they will be listed here. If there are several profitable situations, the top 10 will be shown. If nothing is shown there were either no ROI > 1.00 or the sample sizes were too small and you need to broaden your test parameters.

What's Winning?

This section seeks out the top Win rates (Win% and I.V.) – period. It may not have a profitable ROI, but you'll discover the most prolific winning patterns here.

Bombs Away

This one tallies the races with winners paying \$20 and up. The list is sorted by the race category, factor or filter that produces the most of these longshot winners and has a minimum 1.10 Impact Value.

Big Losers

This is the negative category and locates the factors, filters and race categories that are costing the most money (lowest ROI sort).

[Learn All]

This option lists every single category, factor and filter in the Robot. Best option for pure research. This is the data- set from which the 'LearnX' pulls and extracts its listings. Prints 2-3 pages of data.

[Learn More]

This option has complete list of all the tracks and expanded data analysis including month-by-month calendar results, (K), Vi and tote odds ranges. Several pages of printout present the maximum extra analysis for Robot users.

[Quick Test]

Quickly tests the most recent 100 races. Best used for single-track information as 100 races is not enough data for a universal query.

Robot User Guide
Creative Tips and Query Advice

Using a little imagination and creativity you can combine the filters for virtually any imaginable angle or spot play from the HTR data. Let's look at some examples below.

2nd After Layoff

The second start after a layoff can be a productive angle. Try various day ranges that would produce a query such as "2nd after a layoff of 90 days or more". Here is how you would set that up →

[x] Layoff Range

[*] 2nd

Min Days (left) **090**

Max Days (right) set to **990** (maximum)

The results of this test would be horses that had run last out after a layoff of 90-days or more and now are returning to race again (2nd after layoff).

Additional notes on the 'Layoff' box.. The default setting is "1st" (days since raced).

[x] Layoff Range Activates the layoff filter and all FTS are ignored.

{*}1st This is the typical layoff (LAY) days found throughout HTR2 – 'days since raced'

(*)2nd Second start after layoff of xxx days.

(*)3rd Third start after a layoff of xxx days.

1st Lasix/Not FTS: Testing 1st Lasix runners that are *not* first-time-starters (FTS). Nearly all horses making their debut will start their racing career on Lasix, so we want to remove them from our L1 test and find out if the Lasix is making a difference. Here are two strategies to accomplish this →

1. Eliminate the maiden races from the test by un-checking the [] Msw and [] Mcl filters. This will eliminate more than 99% of all FTS from the study.
2. If you want to test the maiden races for 1st Lasix but ignore the FTS, check the filters [x] 2TS and [x] 3TS. This will test only the horses making their second and third maiden run. Very few maidens that get 1st Lasix will have more than 3-starts, so this will catch most of them that are not FTS.

Super Trainer Claim: Find horses that were claimed in their last start by a top trainer.

- Click the TRN Rating box.
- Set the TRN range 350 – 550 (max). (Alternate: select TRN 400+ item filter).
- Check the [x] Tr Chg (c) filter. The "c" indicates a trainer change due to claim.

Robot User Guide

Glossary

Below you'll find a description of all the factors and items found in the two filter sections: "Rank Filters" and "Item Filters". This list is not alphabetical but sorted in the order of the items on the screen. Note: fps = 'feet per second velocity'

Rank Filters

FR1 = (Ev) first call (2f sprint, 4f route) fps ranking

FR2 = second fraction (turn time) fps ranking

E/P = second call fps rank (4f sprint, 6f route)

A/P = average pace fps rank

S/P = sustained pace fps rank

F/X = (Fr1 + Fr3) fps rank

L/P = (Lv) Late Pace fps rank

FR3 = final fraction fps rank

VEL = overall velocity rank

FC = Form Cycle rank

PAC = Quirin-style pace figure ranking

PER = Quirin-style performance figure rank

PED = Pedigree Rating rank

TRN = Trainer Rating rank

JKY = Jockey Rating rank

Wk = Workout Rating rank

IMP = Impact (Total) ranking

HTR = HTR Consensus ranking

Item Filters

HF = 'Hyper Favorite' (high percentage K=1 plays)

RS F = Running Style "F" (front runner)

RS E = Running Style "E" (early)

RS P = Running Style "P" (presser - stalker)

RS S = Running Style "S" (sustained)

RS R = Running Style "R" (rear runner)

QP6+ = horse has 6 or more Quirin Speed Points

\$ = Longshot Flag (one positive factor)

\$\$ = Double Strength Longshot Flag (two or more positive factors)

@ = Lost last race by 20 or more lengths ("pulled up", "lame", etc)

bx = Blinkers OFF

bo = Blinkers ON

FTS = first time starter - debut - first lifetime start

FT = first time out in one of the following categories

1. Debut (FTS)
2. First Start on Grass
3. First Start on Dirt
4. First Start in a Route race (8.0f or more)

FT>50 = FT (pedigree) rating is above average

FC85+ = FC rating is 85 or higher

FR3>50 = The final fraction velocity is 50.00 fps or higher.

FR3>53 = The final fraction velocity is 53.00 fps or higher.

Robot User Guide

Glossary

K110 = K rating is 110 or more (high percentage win rate)

TRN400+ = Trainer rating is 400 or higher (Super Trainer)

JKY350+ = Jockey rating is 350 or higher (Super Jockey)

PED450+ = Pedigree is 450 or higher (excellent for dist/surf changers or FTS)

Wk85+ = excellent workout pattern

JT>30% = Jockey + Trainer 1yr win rate is 30% or more (10+ starts)

TRN CHG = Trainer change from last start
claim (c)
barn change, not a claim (n)

JKY CHG (+) = Positive Jockey change from last start

1. New jockey rating > 300
2. Jockey has won with the horse in the past

Beat Fav = Beaten favorite, was the betting choice last out, but lost

Won Last = finished 1st last out

1. Won the race and was the official winner
2. Won the its last start but was disqualified

BF = Bad Favorite - ML choice w/ certain negative factors indicating it may be vulnerable to losing

2TS = second time starter, horse is making its second lifetime start

3TS = third time starter, horse is making its third lifetime start

New Geld = 1st time gelding, 1st start since reported as having been gelded

L1 = 1st start on lasix

L2 = 2nd start on lasix

[Race Filters]

Rule of 50 = races in which all the entrants have Fr3 < 50.00 fps

No HF or K110+ = removes races that may feature a dominant favorite

Q5=1 / Q6=1 = race has a single Quirin Speed point leader of +5/+6 or higher

Unknowns=0 = The race has no unknown (unrateable) horses such as FTS or Foreign Shippers

Chaos / No Chaos = filters in/out races designated "Chaos" (wide open)

No State-Breds = ignores races carded for State-Bred (only) horses

BF / No BF = filters in/out races with a "bad favorite"