

SOUTH WEST TIMEKEEPING

SPEED EVENT RESULTS SYSTEM USING PTB606—2008 EDITION

The results system integrates data collection, data processing & data dissemination systems into one package, thus making the production of error free professional looking results quick, easy & affordable in almost any venue where the results team are located close (within 200-300 metres) of the timekeeping team. In its basic form it consists of a TAG Heuer PTB606 timebase, beam interface unit, two laptop computers running custom software, a printer for the timekeepers & a printer for the results team. In addition there are other optional components available, other computers with different functionality, printers & displays.

BASIC SETUP

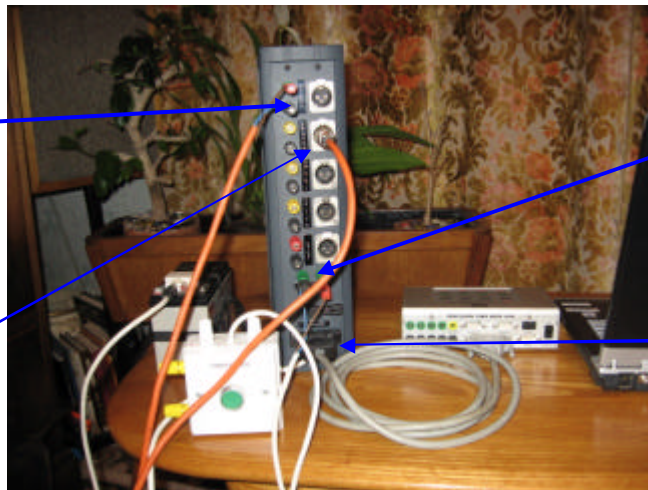
1. Connections to beam interface unit.

The beam interface unit can deal with up to five beams, start, finish & three intermediate or “split” beams. One of these is normally used for a 64 foot “launch” time. Connect all required beams to either the 4mm or XLR connectors on the rear panel. The start beam has an additional pair of 4mm connectors towards the bottom of the rear panel where the start switch is connected (if required) to provide a “beam masking” function. If you are at Clay Pigeon or Dunkeswell (or any other venue that uses the multi-lap function), connect the finish beam to Split1 & put a shorting link across the Finish beam to silence the buzzer. For the “3 car shuffle” at Castle Combe connect the finish beam to Split2 & again connect a shorting link across the Finish beam to silence the buzzer. Connect the beam interface unit to the PTB606 using the multiway connector at the bottom of the unit. Plug the unit into a 12V supply & check that all the beams that are to be used are OK. There is a buzzer on the finish beam that sounds when the beam is broken, the volume control for this is on the rear panel.



Front view

Start beam cable (in 4mm sockets)
Launch beam cable (in XLR socket)



Rear view

Start switch beam mask cable
Cable to PTB606

2. Precision Timebase 606 power-up.

To ensure that the timebase remains stable, it is recommended that it is powered from the mains PSU at all times. If the green power LED starts to flash it means that the internal battery is almost flat. After the timebase has been powered up it must be synchronised. This is easiest done by pressing one of the green buttons on the timebase box. Once you have done this the unit is ready for use. Connect the timebase to the timekeepers PC using a black cable with a 9 pin D plug at one end & a small flat plug at the other. This can be extended with a the double ended 9 pin D cable if necessary.



Overall view

Cable to PC COM port
Cable to Beam interface unit

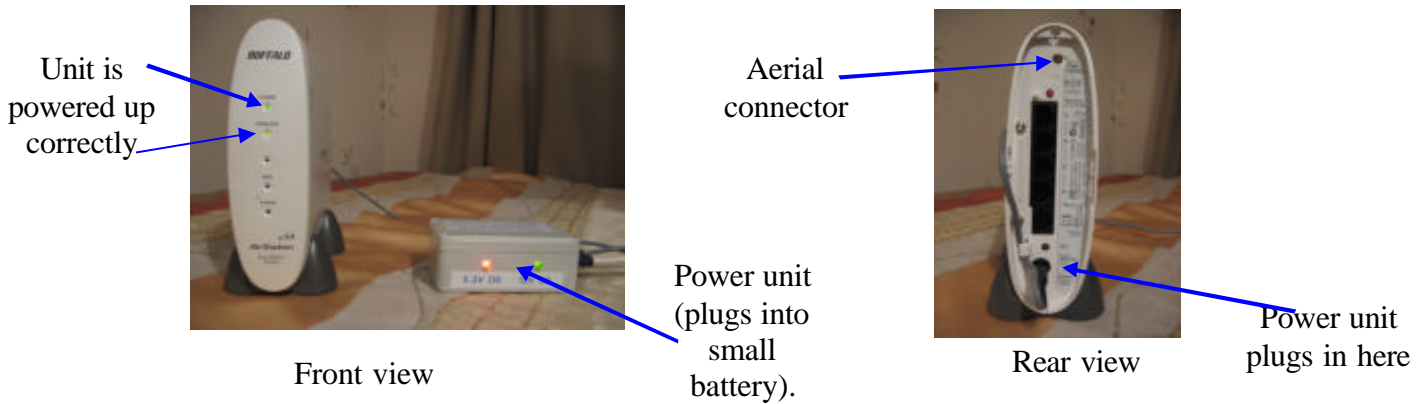


Rear view

Power cable

3. Connecting the Wireless LAN Access Point.

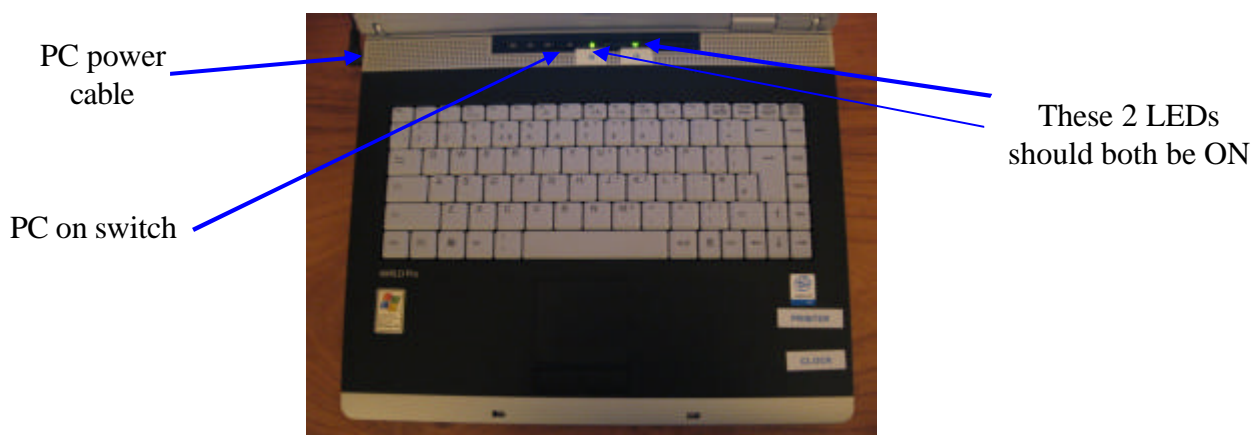
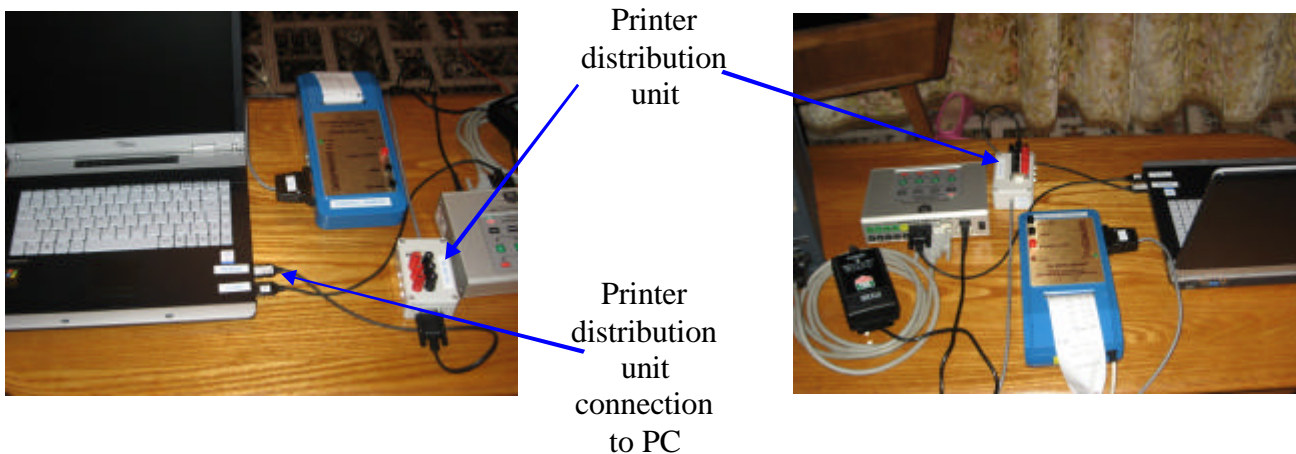
This unit is vitally important to the correct functioning of the timing & results system. It must be powered from a small 12 volt battery via the small power unit to ensure that the power supply is not interrupted. When the power is connected the lights on the front will cycle & flash for anything up to one minute. At the end of this time there will be two green lights on permanently. Connect the unit to either the big outdoor antenna via a long cable or a small indoor antenna depending on the venue & the distance to the results computer. The unit should be connected & powered up before either of the PCs.



4. Connecting the Timekeepers PC.

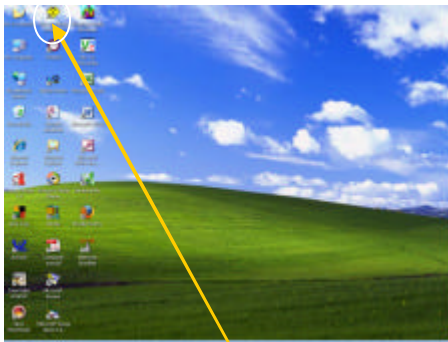
The printer distribution unit plugs into the rear socket of the PC Card, which is situated on the right hand side of the PC. The blue plug on the end of the grey cable coming out of the printer distribution unit plugs into the timekeepers blue printer which is labelled "Control Printer". The cables that go to any other blue printers that we are supplying connects to any red/black pair of 4mm terminals on the box. The PC uses built in components to connect to the wireless LAN & must be within 10 metres of the Wireless Access Point.

Connect the mouse to one of the USB ports on the left side or the rear of the PC. Connect the mains PSU to the power socket at the rear left hand end of the PC.

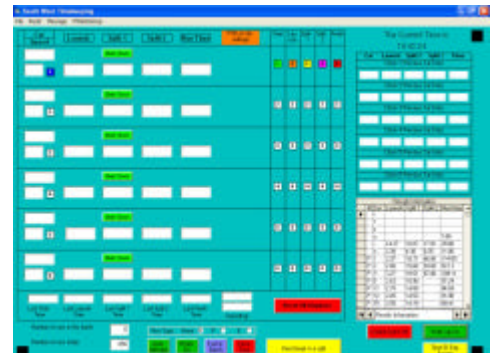


5. Timekeepers PC power-up.

Turn on the mains to the PSU either from our generator or the venue mains supply. Turn on the PC by pressing the power button between the screen & the keyboard for 3 seconds. The power switch is the right hand one of the four switches in the row. When the PC has booted, which takes 2 to 3 minutes, click on the desktop icon that says “Use this computer as a timing computer”. This will bring up a “Beam Selection Screen”. Click the check boxes for which beams you are using & click OK when ready. This will bring up the main timekeeping screen, but can take 10-15 seconds to happen – so please be patient!

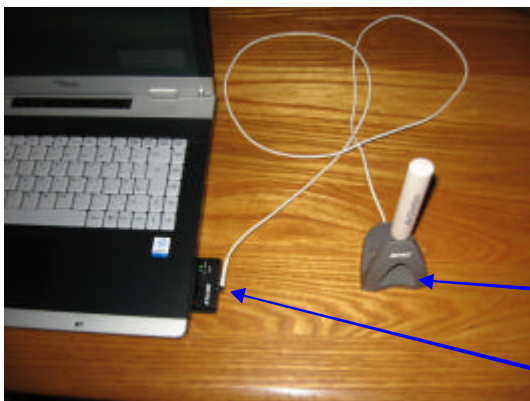


Timing PC icon

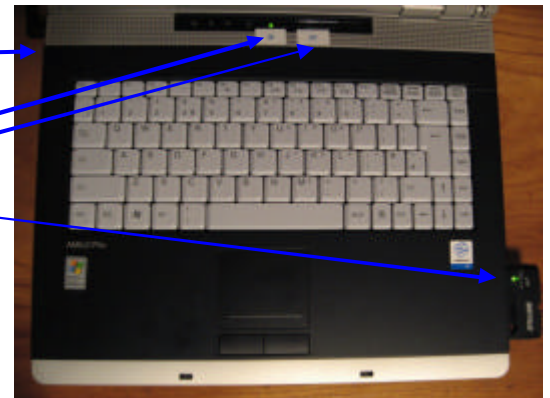


6. Results PC & printer setup.

The results PC is an identical model to the timekeeping PC, except that it has a wireless LAN PC Card in the slot at the right hand side at the front instead of the connections to the timebase & printers. Connect the mains PSU to the power socket at the rear left hand end of the PC. Plug the mouse into one of the USB ports at the left front side of the PC. Connect the printer cable to another USB port to the USB connector on the printer. Connect the mains PSU or the 12 volt supply to the printer. Insert a wireless LAN card into the PC Card socket on the right hand side of the PC. Connect an aerial to the wireless LAN card, being careful as the connectors are small & fragile.



- PC power cable
- Only 1 LED ON
- Wireless card
- Power LED ON
- Wireless LAN antenna
- Wireless LAN card



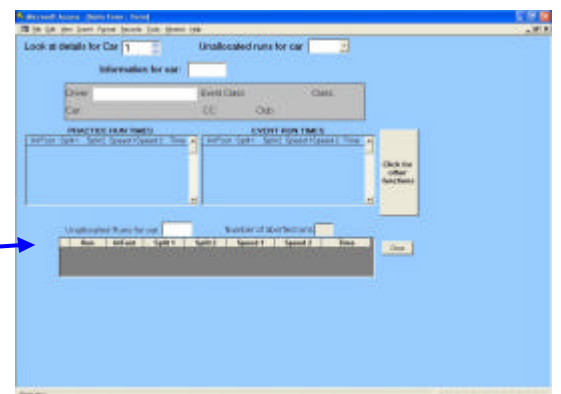
7. Results PC & printer power-up.

Turn on the mains to the printer or connect the 12 volt supply. Press the power on switch & allow the printer to power-up. Turn on the mains to the PC. When the PC has booted, which takes 2 to 3 minutes, check the lights on the wireless LAN card. One light should be on all the time & the other should be flashing. Click on the desktop icon that says “Use this computer as a results computer”. This will bring up the main blue results screen. This will take about one minute so be patient. If the link fails to work, open Microsoft Office Access 2003 & then open the database (P:\Data\Access\PTB606Results.mdb) using File, Open & selecting the database from there.



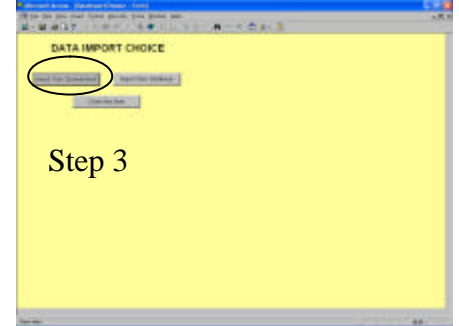
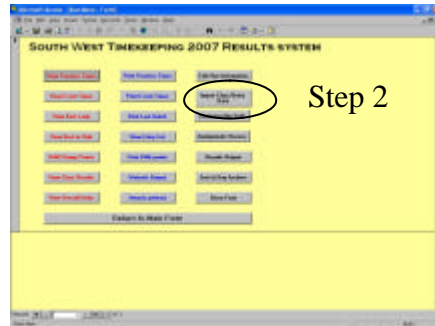
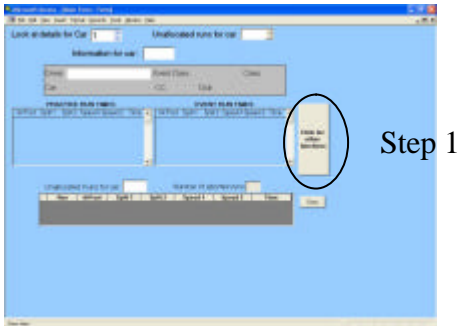
Click for results database

Results database screen



8. Importing the competitor information.

If the event organisers are providing the name & number information on a memory stick, it will have to be imported into the results system. To do this, click on the large button called “Click for other functions” on the right hand side of the blue screen in the results database. A yellow screen with three columns of buttons on it will appear. Plug the memory stick into a spare USB socket on the PC. Once the stick has been recognised, click on the 2nd button down in the right hand column entitled “Import Class/Entry Data”. This will open a screen that will give you the option to import data from a spreadsheet or a database. Click the spreadsheet button as the database option doesn’t work at present. You will then get a confirmation box, click Yes & the data will be imported. When this is finished another screen will appear to say that the data has been imported. Click OK, & return to the blue form by clicking the button that says “Return to main screen”. Check that the data has been imported, clicking the down arrow beside the “Look at details for car” box (top left corner) & clicking on a car number. The details for that competitor will appear in the grey box in the middle of the screen.



9. Packing up.

Below are pictures of how the transit cases should look when packed. It is important for the wellbeing of the equipment that it is packed away correctly.

Access point & power supplies



PTB606

PTB 606 & PC Power supplies

Mouse etc.

Mouse mat on top



PC on top



Above: PC transit case.

Left: Beam interface unit transit case

Below: Results transit case



Aerial WLAN card Power supply

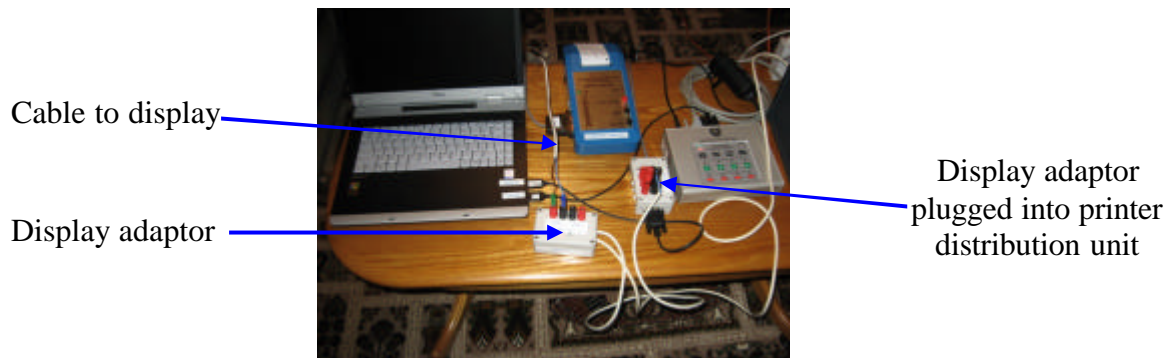


PC on top of mouse mat

OPTIONAL ITEMS

Display adaptor

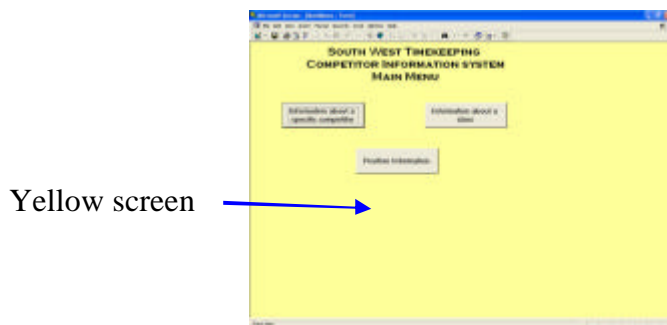
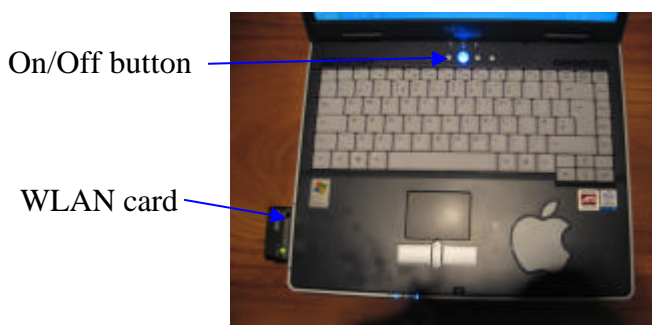
The new type data processor for the big display runs from any output of the printer distribution unit & so doesn't have to be located in the timekeeper's accommodation. Connect as shown in the picture below, power up & it should work! When a time for a car is printed, the adaptor will receive the data & first output the car number to the display, after several seconds it will output the time then the car number & finally the time once more. The whole process takes about 8 to 10 seconds (a slightly longer time than a printer takes) so any further printouts should be slightly delayed in order that the display can catch up.



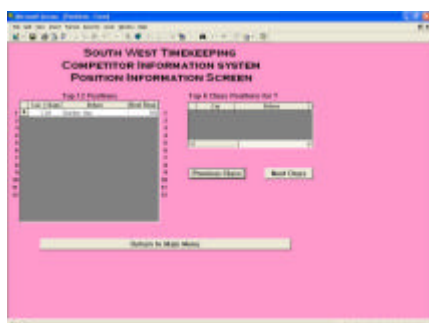
Competitor or Commentator Information computer

This is the same program, just different selections from the opening screen. Power up the PC by pressing the button in the middle of the keyboard below the screen for a couple of seconds. When the PC has booted, plug in the Wireless LAN card on the left hand side of the PC at the front. Allow a couple of minutes for the computer to synchronise with the network. Open Windows Explorer & in My Computer, click on the *Data on 'PTB606 Timekeeper (Ptb606timer)'* (P:) link & ensure that it connects to the remote computer which is indicated by folders called Access & Excel becoming visible.. This may take a minute or two to happen. Close Windows Explorer & click on the "CompInfo PTB606 system" icon on the desktop & the yellow screen will open. Leave the computer like this if being used for competitors & click on the bottom "Commentator" button if being used by a commentator. On the pink screen that opens, the class listing that is displayed can be changed either by using the mouse or the up/down buttons.

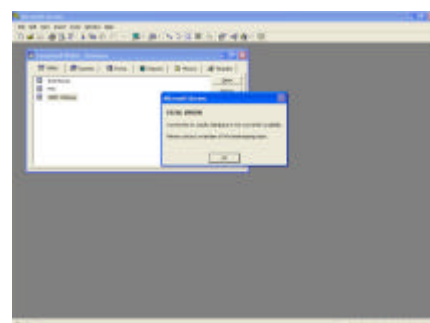
If a screen saying "FATAL ERROR" appears when the program is opened, close the PC down & restart it. When the PC has restarted, open Windows Explorer & check that you can access the Timekeepers PC via the P: drive before attempting to open the program again. Oh yes, the screen does wobble a bit!!



Pink commentator's screen



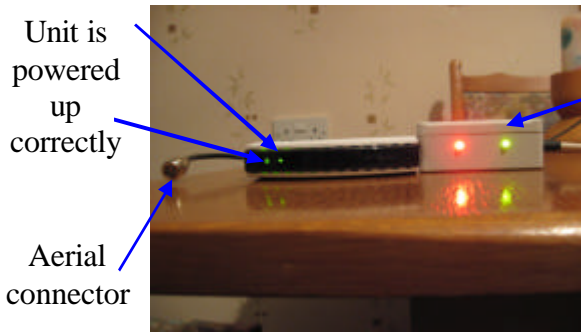
Fatal error screen



OPTIONAL ITEMS Continued

Wireless LAN extender

If the distance between a computer (results or competitor info/commentator) and the Access Point is quite large it may be necessary to use another Access Point to extend the WLAN range. This Access point is kept in the case with the results computer. After powering up the main Access Point (known as “Timekeeper” on the network), power up the second Access Point (known as “Timekeeper Repeater” on the network). When the power is connected the lights on the front will cycle & flash for anything up to one minute. At the end of this time just the top two green lights should be on. You can either use the antenna on the top of the unit or connect to another antenna. When the distant computer is powered up it should then automatically connect to “Timekeeper Repeater” & hence to the network.

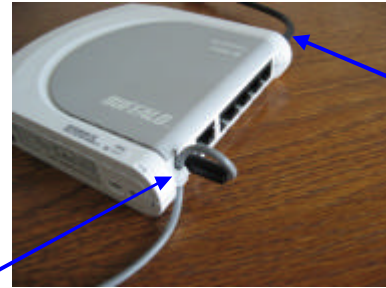


Unit is powered up correctly

Aerial connector

Front view

Power unit (plugs into small battery).



Aerial cable connector

Power cable. Note that the cable should be clipped in the hook on the casing to stop it falling out.

Rear view