

# 550zTX

Owner's  
Guide



**TRUE**



# Thank You For Selecting A True Treadmill

In 1981, Frank Trulaske launched True Fitness Technology, Inc. and began manufacturing hand-crafted treadmills.

His team's obsession with quality has propelled True to the top of the industry and has created one of America's oldest, largest and most respected treadmill manufacturers. True's 242,000 square foot facility, just outside St. Louis, Missouri, houses the manufacturing plant, engineering laboratory and testing facility.

Over the years, True has designed, developed and fabricated new and cutting-edge components for their complete residential and commercial treadmill line, including innovative frame and suspension systems.



*"Our original goal was to build the world's best treadmills, and today we believe we're doing it!"*

*-Frank Trulaske*

Intensive quality control standards guarantee excellence in every phase of production, resulting in the finest treadmills available in the marketplace.

True treadmills are consistently rated #1 for their smooth, quiet and comfortable performance. Today, True is the choice for workouts among beginners, rehab patients and top athletes world-wide.

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# Introduction

*In This Chapter:*

*Model Differences*

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Your new 550 ZTX treadmill, the finest home treadmill ever produced, is part of a family of three treadmills with a variety of combinations of features. Since this owner's guide covers all three models, you might notice explanations of features that are different from your treadmill.

## MODEL DIFFERENCES

Here are the differences between the three models:

### Programmed (P) model:

- ◆ 10 x 25 pixel tri-color LED matrix display
- ◆ all four pre-set workout programs
- ◆ no heart rate receiver or heart rate control



### Heart Rate Control (HRC) model adds:

- ◆ four different heart rate control modes
- ◆ Polar heart rate receiver



# Top Features

## INTRODUCTION

### Cardiointeractive (CI) model adds:

- ◆ larger 14 x 50 pixel tri-color LED matrix display
- ◆ motorized S.O.F.T. Select deck softness adjustment



Your 550 ZTX treadmill has all the expected features of a premium fitness product, such as four interesting pre-programmed workouts, a wide-ranging Manual workout mode, and displays of distance and calorie accumulation.

But it also has some unique and useful features that bring you increased convenience, comfort, and performance:

**S.O.F.T. Select:** actually change the way the treadmill deck feels to your footplants. (See Chapter 3.)



## Top Features



**User Programs:** record up to three different workouts simply by using Manual mode — the treadmill remembers each one individually so you can use them later as your own custom programmed workout. (See Chapter 6.)



**True Touch keys:** feather-light sensitivity eases data entry and control.

## In the HRC and CI models:

**Heart Rate Control:** the treadmill controls both speed and incline to keep your heart rate in a target zone. Nine different workout setups, mixed between time- or distance-based workouts, can be saved to use later. (See Chapter 7.)



**Interval Heart Rate Control:** a target heart rate work interval is mixed with a reduced workload rest interval, and you pick how long each of these is. Five different target and interval setups can be saved.



**Cruise Control:** set your current heart rate as your target heart rate by pressing a single key.

# For Your Safety

## INTRODUCTION

*For your maximum safety and comfort, make sure you read Chapter 9, Important Safety Instructions.*

**For Your Safety**

*Chapter 2: The Console.* Describes each console key and display window.

*Chapter 3: Basic Operation.* How to get the treadmill started and stopped; calorie consumption estimates; heart rate monitoring; the S.O.F.T. Select system.

*Chapter 4: Operation in Greater Detail.* All the details of manual and pre-set programs.

*Chapter 5: Heart Rate Control Workouts.* Four different kinds of treadmill-controlled heart rate feedback workouts.

*Chapter 6: User Programs.* You can record your workout to play back as a custom-designed workout.

*Chapter 7: Designing an Exercise Program.* Advice on various ways to use your treadmill in a rewarding exercise regime.

*Chapter 8: Care and Maintenance.* Basic requirements, as well as a simple troubleshooting and diagnostics guide.

*Chapter 9: Important Safety Instructions.* Make sure you familiarize yourself with this section.

**Where to Go From Here**

*Appendix A: Target Heart Rate Chart.* A guide to help you pick an initial target heart rate.

*Appendix B: METs Table.* How speed and incline affect workload, expressed in METs.

*Appendix C: METs Explanation and Formulas.* The metabolic calculations behind energy expenditure estimates.

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# The Console

*In This Chapter:*

*Lower Console*

*Cardiointeractive (CI) Model Console*

*HRC Model Console*

*Programmed Model Console*

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## Lower Console - Common to all Models

### Clear

Clears current numeric entry.

### Start/Reset

Starts the belt in motion. Also resets workout data when held for 3 seconds.

### Numeric Keys

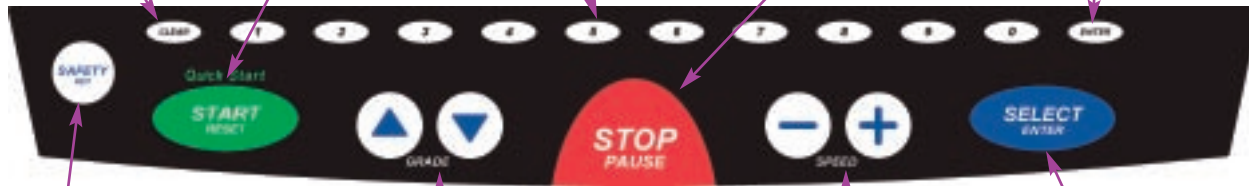
Direct entry of numeric data.

### Stop/Pause

Stops the belt and pauses workout. If held for 3 seconds, resets all workout information.

### Enter

Identical to Select/Enter with additional function when changing speed or incline using numeric keys.



### Safety Key

Removable magnetic key must be in place for treadmill to operate.

### Grade Up/Down

Adjusts incline. Also used to choose programs.

### Speed Slow/Fast

Adjusts speed in 0.1 mph increments. Also used to set weight and other workout parameters.

### Select/Enter

Accepts workout parameters, and toggles the dual function displays.

# CI (Cardiointeractive) Model Console

**Soft Select Adjustment**  
Changes the softness of the treadmill deck.

**Matrix Display**  
Shows workout progress.

**Message Center**  
Provides workout setup instructions, and data feedback during workout.

**Express Keys**  
Instantly change from program to program.



**Distance**  
Miles traveled in 0.01 mile increments up to 9.99 miles, or 0.10 mile increments past 10 miles. Can also be set to count down.

**Grade**  
Incline in percent grade in 0.5% increments.

**Time**  
Time remaining in your workout. (This is elapsed time in default Manual mode or Quick Start.)

**Pace**  
Time per mile at current speed.

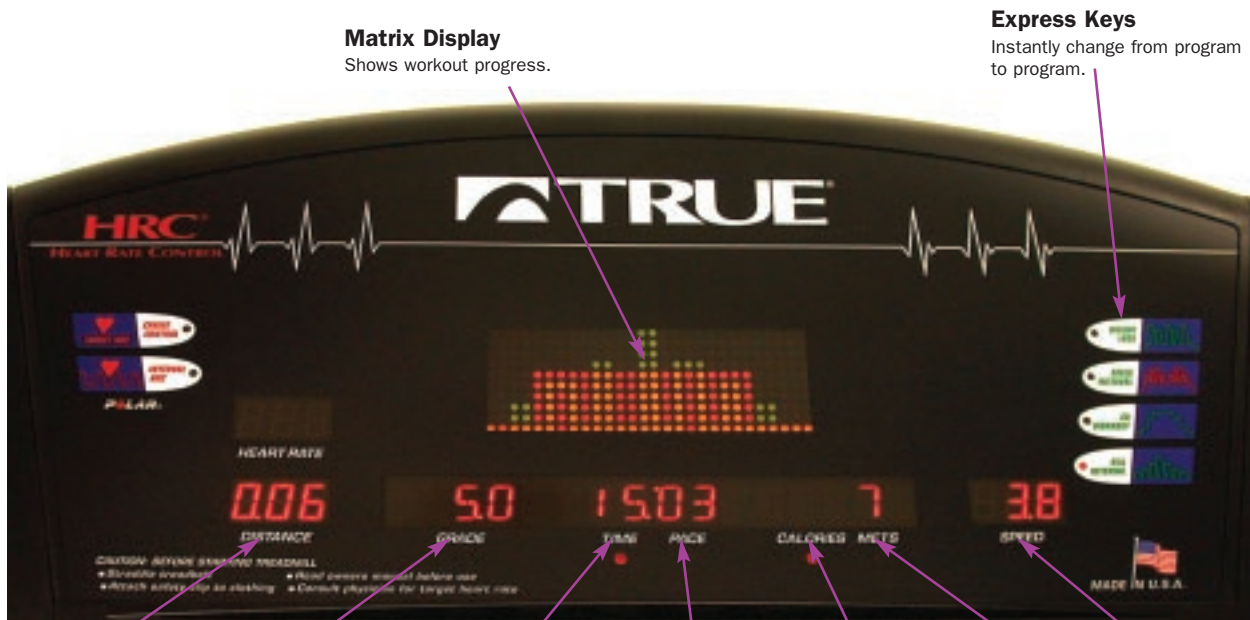
**Calories**  
Estimated total calories burned.

**METS**  
Energy expenditure rate. See Appendix C.

**Speed**  
Miles per hour in 0.10 increments.



# HRC Model Console



## Matrix Display

Shows workout progress.

## Express Keys

Instantly change from program to program.

## Distance

Miles traveled in 0.01 mile increments up to 9.99 miles, or 0.10 mile increments past 10 miles. Can also be set to count down.

## Grade

Incline in percent grade in 0.5% increments.

## Time

Time remaining in your workout. (This is elapsed time in default Manual mode or Quick Start.)

## Pace

Time per mile at current speed.

## Calories

Estimated total calories burned.

## METs

Energy expenditure rate. See Appendix C.

## Speed

Miles per hour in 0.10 increments.

# Programmed Model Console



### Matrix Display

Shows workout progress.

### Express Keys

Instantly change from program to program.

### Distance

Miles traveled in 0.01 mile increments up to 9.99 miles, or 0.10 mile increments past 10 miles. Can also be set to count down.

### Grade

Incline in percent grade in 0.5% increments.

### Time

Time remaining in your workout. (This is elapsed time in default Manual mode or Quick Start.)

### Pace

Time per mile at current speed.

### Calories

Estimated total calories burned.

### METs

Energy expenditure rate. See Appendix C.

### Speed

Miles per hour in 0.10 increments.



# Basic Operation

## *In This Chapter:*

*Starting Your Treadmill Safely*

*Speed and Incline Adjustment*

*Stopping your Treadmill Safely*

*Setting Your Weight*

*A Note About Calorie Expenditure Calculations*

*Monitoring Your Heart Rate*

*Using the Heart Rate Transmitter Strap*

*The Treadmill's Heart Rate Display*

*The S.O.F.T. Select System*

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### STARTING YOUR TREADMILL SAFELY


Straddle the treadbelt by placing your feet on the straddle covers.


Attach the lanyard to your clothing at roughly waist height.


Place the safety key on the key holder on the console.



Set your weight using the  and  keys or the numeric keys and press .

Press the  key for a quick start into a manual control workout, or...

Press  to set up a manual workout, or...

Press the   keys or an Express Command Key to begin setting up a different workout, as described in Chapter 4.

# Adjusting Speed and Incline

## BASIC OPERATION

## SPEED AND INCLINE ADJUSTMENT



**Speed Control:** use either the  $\oplus$  and  $\ominus$  keys by themselves to change speed. Or, to quickly go to a specific speed...

...enter a target speed with the numeric keys...



...then press the small Enter key






 ...

...and then press either the  $\oplus$  or  $\ominus$  key to change to that speed.



# Stopping and Setting Your Weight


BASIC OPERATION

**Incline Control:** use either the  and  keys by themselves to change incline. Or, enter a target incline with the numeric keys, then press the small Enter key, and then press  the  or  key to change to that incline.



## STOPPING YOUR TREADMILL SAFELY

Care should be taken when using the numeric keys to control your treadmill's speed and incline, since large changes in those values are possible with just a few keystrokes.

Slow the treadmill to below 2 mph using the  key. Press



## SETTING YOUR WEIGHT

Your body weight must be entered so that the treadmill accurately estimates your calorie expenditure. This weight must include your workout clothing, too, which typically adds about three pounds. The treadmill will work fine without your weight setting, but will be unable to calculate your total calories.

The treadmill will remember the last weight you entered.

# Calorie Expenditure Calculations

## BASIC OPERATION

True treadmills use the calorie expenditure formula as described in *Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription* from the American College of Sports Medicine. This is the most widely accepted formula for running and walking.

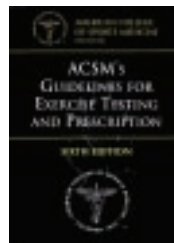
The ACSM guide says that running burns calories twice as fast as walking, e.g., a 150-pound person jogging at 5 mph requires 548 calories per hour, while walking at 5 mph requires 274 per hour. See Appendix C for more details.

(Other respected researchers such as David Costill think the ACSM overstates the energy difference between running and walking. Costill believes running requires 60% more energy than walking, not 100% as calculated by the ACSM. Using the same example, Costill's calculations result in 496 cal/hour for running 5 mph, with 313 cal/hour for walking 5 mph.)

One potential source of calorie estimate error is that the treadmill doesn't know if you are running or walking, so it has to make some assumptions. It assumes you are walking at 3 mph and slower, and running at 5 mph and faster. Between those two speeds, the treadmill combines the walking and running formulas to make its best guess.

Variations in human exercise efficiency are another potential source of error, with differences of plus or minus 10% common in the population.

## A NOTE ABOUT CALORIE EXPENDITURE CALCULATIONS





### MONITORING YOUR HEART RATE

The 550 ZTX treadmill (models HRC and CI) can monitor your heart rate when you wear the transmitter strap provided. It will display it as a digital beats-per-minute readout, and it is very accurate, typically within one beat per minute.



Although your treadmill functions fine without using the heart rate monitoring feature, this kind of monitoring gives you valuable feedback on your effort level. It also allows you to use the most advanced training system available on a treadmill: True's Heart Rate Control, where the treadmill automatically adjusts your workout level based on your heart rate. See the Heart Rate Control section of this manual for details.

### USING THE HEART RATE TRANSMITTER STRAP



The transmitter strap should be worn directly against your skin, about one inch below the pectoral muscles/breast line.

Women should be careful to place the transmitter below their bra line.

Some moisture is necessary between the strap and your skin. Sweat from your exercise works best, but ordinary tap water may be used prior to your workout if desired.

# The Heart Rate Display

## BASIC OPERATION

Before you start your workout, as you stand on or near the treadmill, you will know the treadmill is properly receiving your heart rate signal by the flashing LEDs in the Heart Rate window, or, on the CI model, a beating heart in the LED matrix.

## THE TREADMILL'S HEART RATE DISPLAY



Once you start your workout, your heart rate will be displayed in beats per minute.

## THE S.O.F.T. SELECT SYSTEM

One part of True's unique cushioning and stability system is the S.O.F.T. System. It cushions the initial impact of your foot plant near the front of the treadmill deck, then transitions to a firm, secure surface for push-off. The combination of softness, then firmness — right when you need them — reduces stress on ankles, knees, hips, and back.





The other part of True's comfort and performance system is the S.O.F.T. Select adjustable softness surface. You can adjust the deck support through a 22-inch range by moving the lever on the right side of the treadmill or, on the CI model, by pressing the Softer or Firmer keys on the console. The 1 setting is softest and the 12 setting is firmest.

S.O.F.T. Select is especially useful to accommodate users of differing weights or those with special physical needs.

### *The CI Model's Electronic S.O.F.T. Select:*



Press and hold the  or  keys to change the target setting in the message center. To review your S.O.F.T. Select setting, quickly press either S.O.F.T. adjustment key.





# Operation in Greater Detail

*In This Chapter:*

*Workout Setup*

*Pre-Set Program Operation*

*Tuning Your Workout*

*Pre-Set Program Profiles*

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### STARTING AND COOL-DOWN







Confirm that the body weight setting is correct. If it is not, adjust it with the   or numeric keys and press .

For a Quick Start, simply press . The treadmill will start moving at 0.5 mph.

During your workout, the treadmill will count down from your target time. When it reaches 0:00, it will enter a 2.5-minute cool-down period, with the treadmill at the same speed it was at 0:00 and the treadmill in Manual control mode. After 2.5 minutes, the treadmill will stop.

If you set a distance target in Manual mode, the cool-down period will begin as soon as either time or distance reach zero.

### MANUAL OPERATION

To use manual control, which is the first program suggested, press . Adjust your workout parameters using the   or numeric keys, then press  to accept each parameter. You can keep adjusting your workout setup by repeatedly pressing . Your workout won't begin until you press .

Note: if you don't choose a time or distance target, Time will be elapsed time instead of time remaining.

# Pre-Set Program Details

OPERATION IN GREATER DETAIL

## PRE-SET PROGRAM OPERATION





Press any Express Command key to select a program. (To get more program options, including re-selecting Manual, use the  $\oplus$   $\ominus$  keys.)...

...adjust the starting level using the  $\oplus$   $\ominus$  keys...



...Press  when done.





After program and level have been selected, set time using the  $\oplus$   $\ominus$  or numeric keys, from 5 to 99 minutes.


To stop or pause your workout: slow machine to below 2 mph by pressing  $\ominus$ , then press . This will stop the treadmill and remain in a Pause mode, saving your workout information. To restart your workout, press .






# Tuning Your Workout

## OPERATION IN GREATER DETAIL

To change level during your workout, press . Press   keys to change level, then press . If a new program is selected, it will join that program at the same point as the previously selected program.

To change to another pre-set program, press one of the Express Command Keys, then press . The treadmill joins the workout in progress at the same elapsed time as the previous workout.

To reset distance, time, and calories during your workout, press and hold  until zeros appear in the time, distance, calorie windows. To reset the treadmill back to workout setup mode, press and hold  for three seconds.

Note: All workouts can be set from 5 to 99 minutes, with the timer counting down from your chosen workout time. The default value (if no time entered) is 30 minutes. When the timer reaches 0:00 it will beep and begin counting up. You must press  to end your workout.

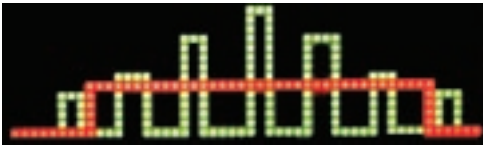
# Pre-Set Program Profiles

## OPERATION IN GREATER DETAIL

### Hill Interval Workout

Green is Incline

Red is Speed



Level	Speed		Grade	
	Min	Max	Min	Max
1	2.0	2.4	1.0	4.0
2	2.2	2.8	1.5	5.0
3	2.6	3.2	2.0	6.0
4	3.0	3.6	3.0	7.0
5	3.4	4.2	4.0	8.0
6	3.8	4.6	5.0	9.0
7	4.0	5.0	6.0	10.0
8	4.4	5.4	7.0	11.0
9	4.8	6.0	8.0	12.0

Level	Speed		Grade	
	Min	Max	Min	Max
1	1.4	2.6	0.0	2.0
2	1.6	2.8	0.5	3.0
3	1.8	3.0	0.0	4.0
4	2.0	3.2	1.0	5.0
5	3.4	3.4	1.5	6.0
6	2.4	3.6	2.0	7.0
7	2.6	3.8	2.5	8.0
8	2.8	4.0	3.0	9.0
9	3.0	4.2	3.5	10.0

### Weight Loss Workout

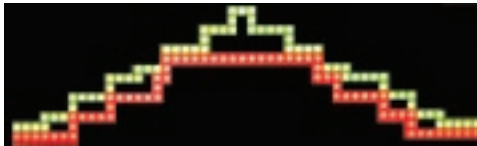
Green is Incline

Red is Speed



## Cardiovascular Workout

Green is Incline  
Red is Speed

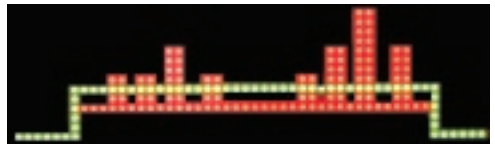


Level	Speed		Grade	
	Min	Max	Min	Max
1	2.0	2.4	1.0	4.0
2	2.2	2.8	0.5	5.0
3	2.6	3.2	0.5	6.0
4	3.0	3.6	1.0	7.0
5	3.4	4.2	1.0	8.0
6	3.8	4.6	1.0	9.0
7	4.0	5.0	1.0	10.0
8	4.4	5.4	1.0	11.0
9	4.8	6.0	1.5	12.0

Level	Speed		Grade	
	Min	Max	Min	Max
1	2.0	2.4	2.0	4.0
2	2.2	2.8	3.0	5.0
3	2.6	3.2	4.0	6.0
4	3.0	3.6	5.0	7.0
5	3.4	4.2	6.0	8.0
6	3.8	4.6	7.0	9.0
7	4.0	5.0	8.0	10.0
8	4.4	5.4	9.0	11.0
9	4.8	6.0	10.5	12.0

## Speed Interval Workout

Green is Speed  
Red is Incline







# Heart Rate Control Workouts

*In This Chapter:*

*HRC Workout Introduction*

*Four Kinds of Heart Rate Control Workouts*

*The Easy Steps to a Heart Rate Control Workout*

*More Details on Interval HRC*

*Tips on the Warm Up Stage*

*How the HRC System Controls Your Heart Rate*

*Examples of HRC Workouts*

*Cruise Control*

*Examples of Walking Workouts*

*Examples of Running Workouts*

*Important Points About HRC*

*HRC Safety Features*

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### HRC WORKOUT INTRODUCTION

True's patented heart rate control workout allows you to limit both speed and incline for your safety and comfort. While wearing a Polar or compatible chest transmitter strap, the treadmill adjusts speed and incline to keep you at your desired target heart rate, and it remembers these setup parameters for your next workout.



### CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN!



Consult your physician before using heart rate controlled workouts for advice on selecting a target heart rate range. Also, it is important to use the treadmill for several workouts in the manual mode while monitoring your heart rate. Compare your heart rate with how you feel to ensure your safety and comfort.



After you spend some time learning how your heart responds to different levels of speed and incline, you will have a better understanding of how to select the maximum speed and maximum incline required to reach your target heart rate.

See Appendix A for a chart that may help you pick a target heart rate.

# HRC Types and a Workout Quick-Guide

## HEART RATE CONTROL WORKOUTS


Your 550 treadmill has many different kinds of heart rate controlled workouts:

***Time-based constant heart rate control:*** pick a target heart rate and exercise for an amount of time you select.

***Distance-based constant heart rate control:*** set a target heart rate and one of four distances, just like you're running a road course: 2 miles, 4 miles, 5 kilometers, or 10 kilometers.

***Interval heart rate training:*** the treadmill alternates work intervals at your selected target heart rate with rest intervals that are at fi workload; you pick the length of both intervals.

***Cruise Control:*** while in any program, set your current heart rate as your target heart rate by pressing a single key.

- 1 - Put on a Polar or compatible transmitter chest strap.
- 2 - Pick one of the HRC workouts. Use the HRC Express Command keys. To select one of the distance-based workouts or one of the higher-numbered workout setups, keep pressing that HRC key.
- 3 - Enter your workout parameters. This includes target heart rate, maximum treadbelt speed, workout time or distance, and maximum incline. If you are using Interval HRC, pick your interval durations, too.
- 4 - Press .

(continued on next page)

## FOUR BASIC KINDS OF HEART RATE CONTROL WORKOUTS

## THE EASY STEPS TO A HEART RATE CONTROL WORKOUT





# Choices During Workout Setup

## HEART RATE CONTROL WORKOUTS







- 5 - Warm up. At the beginning of an HRC workout, the treadmill is in full Manual control mode. Gradually increase your work level to slowly raise your heart rate to within 10 beats per minute (bpm) of your target heart rate.
- 6 - Heart rate control stage. Now the treadmill takes control of speed and incline, keeping your heart rate within a few bpm of your target. If you are using interval HRC, the treadmill alternates between work and rest intervals.
- 7 - Cool-down. At the end of your workout time or distance, the treadmill reduces workload by half and goes back into Manual control mode, where you directly control your cool-down.

### DURING WORKOUT SETUP

- ◆ The treadmill can remember five different workout setups each for time- and interval-based HRC workouts. It stores each set of workout parameters under numbered workouts, e.g., "Target HR 1," "Target HR 2," "Interval HRC 1," etc. You can select these in later workouts so you don't have to re-enter your workout parameters, which tend to stay the same from workout to workout.
- ◆ During workout setup, if you keep pressing , you will continue to scroll through the workout setup parameters. You can press  at any time to accept the current parameters and begin your workout.

# During Your Workout

## HEART RATE CONTROL WORKOUTS

- ◆ Pressing any key other than  or  will exit HRC mode.
- ◆ Adjust your target heart rate at any time during your workout by pressing , using the   keys as needed, and pressing  again. If you are lowering your target, you are limited to a 5 bpm change.
- ◆ The time and distance accumulated during warmup are not counted against your selected workout time or distance; those values start at zero when the treadmill reaches heart rate control mode. This time and distance are accumulated into the workout summary data, as is your cooldown exercise.

- 
- ◆ Interval HRC works just like constant heart rate control up through the first work interval.
  - ◆ When your workout reaches your first rest interval, your workload is reduced by half, and kept at this rate throughout the rest interval.
  - ◆ The next work interval is initially set at an average of the workloads in the previous work interval.

**DURING YOUR  
WORKOUT**

**MORE DETAILS  
ON INTERVAL  
HRC**

# Tips and How HRC Works

## HEART RATE CONTROL WORKOUTS

### TIPS ON THE WARM UP STAGE

Increase speed and incline gradually to slowly increase your heart rate to within 10 bpm of your target. For best results, you should take about five minutes to get to that point.

The treadmill operates in a manual control mode during the warm-up stage. You control both speed and incline. You may only increase speed and incline to the preset maximum values entered.

It is important that you start at a low level of effort and gradually increase your work load over several minutes until you approach your target heart rate. This allows your body to adapt to your workout. Increasing work load gradually will allow you to enter the heart rate control stage without overshooting your target.

Warming up too fast may cause you to overshoot your target. If this occurs it may take several minutes before the computer software can control your heart rate. You may overshoot and undershoot your target for several minutes until stable control is achieved.

### HOW THE HRC SYSTEM CONTROLS YOUR HEART RATE

To raise your heart rate in HRC mode, speed will always increase until maximum speed is attained, followed by incline (if incline is used in the workout).

To lower your heart rate in the HRC mode, incline will always decrease until zero incline is reached, followed by speed (if incline is used in the workout).

Speed changes are in 0.1 mph increments. Incline changes are in 0.5% incline increments. This is equal to between 0.10 and 0.15 METs.

# Examples and Cruise Control

## HEART RATE CONTROL WORKOUTS

- 1 - A user who physically cannot walk over 2.5 mph can safely use heart rate control by entering maximum speed of 2.5 in an HRC workout.
- 2 - A runner can run up to a speed of 10 mph, without hills, by entering a maximum speed of 10 mph and a maximum incline of 0%.
- 3 - A walker enters a maximum speed of 4.0 mph and a maximum incline of 6%. The walker is limited to a maximum speed of 4.0 mph and incline will be used if required to elevate the heart rate up to a maximum of 6%.





## EXAMPLES OF HRC WORKOUTS

This is the simplest way to enter target heart rate training. While in manual or any program you can enter Target Heart Rate Control by simply pressing the Target HRC/Cruise Control key. Your current heart rate will be set as the target.

## CRUISE CONTROL

For best results, you should be at least five minutes into your workout and warmed up. This will allow Cruise Control to more accurately control your heart rate.

Remember, you must be wearing a chest strap, and your heart rate should be displayed in the Heart Rate window.

To change your target heart rate press . Edit the target using   and press . If you are lowering your target, you are limited to a 5 bpm change. It is important to note that if you are raising your target, the speed and grade change safety limits (described next) may prevent the treadmill from raising your heart rate to your desired new target.

### HOW CRUISE CONTROL DETERMINES HOW TO CHANGE YOUR EXERCISE INTENSITY

If you enter the HRC stage below 5 mph, the speed you enter will be the maximum speed of your workout. If you like to walk at a maximum speed of 3.8 mph, you should enter HRC at 3.8 mph.

If you enter the HRC stage above 5 mph, you will have an additional 1 mph of speed. If you enter HRC at 6 mph, your maximum attainable speed in the HRC stage will be 7 mph.

If at any time you enter the HRC stage with incline, you will have an additional 4% of incline available in the HRC stage. If you enter the HRC stage at 1% incline your maximum attainable incline will be 5%.

If you do not enter the HRC stage with incline, no incline will be available during the HRC stage of your workout. Only speed will be used to control your heart rate.

### EXAMPLES OF WALKING WORKOUTS USING CRUISE CONTROL

- 1 - Enter HRC at 3.5 mph and 4% incline to allow a maximum speed of 3.5 mph and 8% incline.
- 2 - Enter HRC at 4.2 mph and 6% incline to allow a maximum speed of 4.2 mph and 10% incline.

### EXAMPLES OF RUNNING WORKOUTS USING CRUISE CONTROL

- 1 - Enter HRC at 6 mph and 0% incline to allow a maximum of 7 mph and 0% incline.
- 2 - Enter HRC at 5 mph and 2% incline to allow a maximum of 6 mph and 6% incline.

# Important Points About HRC

## HEART RATE CONTROL WORKOUTS

The heart rate monitor transmitter strap provided with your treadmill should be worn directly against your skin at about one inch below the pectoral muscles/breast line. Women should be careful to place the transmitter below their bra line.

Some moisture is necessary between the strap and your skin. Sweat from your exercise works best, but ordinary tap water may be used prior to your workout if desired.

If the transmitter strap is adjusted or moved while exercising, communication may be temporarily affected.

If communication is lost for 30 seconds, the treadmill will automatically shut off.

The transmitter strap sends a low-level radio signal to the treadmill, so interference from other radio and sound waves (including everything from cordless telephones to loudspeakers) is possible. The good news is that interference is usually quite brief. If you continue to have intermittent heart rate display problems, consult your local service technician, as the transmitter strap batteries may be low.

Make sure you breathe smoothly and regularly.

Talking during your workout usually causes heart rate spikes of 5 beats per minute or more, so avoid talking as much as possible.

Maintain a smooth walking or running motion.



A grounded outlet is critical for the HRC system to function properly. Use a dedicated 110 VAC, grounded outlet to help prevent interference.

## IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT HEART RATE CONTROL

### TECHNICAL TIPS

Two users wearing the same kind of transmitter at the same time and in close proximity may cause false heart rate display readings.

Use only the transmitter provided with your True HRC Treadmill or a Polar brand standard transmitter.

True's Heart Rate Control is patented under USPTO #5,462,504.

### HEART RATE CONTROL SAFETY FEATURES

If your heart rate exceeds your target by 12 beats, there will be a 30% MET reduction in workload to reduce your heart rate.

If your heart rate exceeds your target by 20 beats, the unit will automatically shut off as a precautionary measure. (Be cautious when selecting your target heart rate so the 20 beat variance will not exceed your maximum heart rate as determined by your physician).







# User Programs

*In This Chapter:*

*How to Record and Run User Programs*

- CHAPTER 1: Introduction
- CHAPTER 2: The Console
- CHAPTER 3: Basic Operation
- CHAPTER 4: Operation in Greater Detail
- CHAPTER 5: Heart Rate Control Workouts
- CHAPTER 6: User Programs**
- CHAPTER 7: Designing an Exercise Program: The F.I.T. Concept
- CHAPTER 8: Care and Maintenance
- CHAPTER 9: Important Safety Instructions



# How to Record and Run User Programs


## USER PROGRAMS



### HOW TO RECORD AND RUN USER PROGRAMS

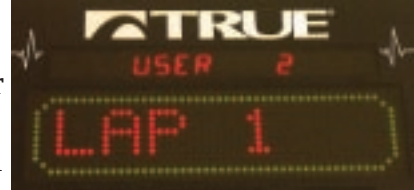
During a manually-controlled workout, your 550 ZTX treadmill always "records" the changes you make in speed or incline. Up to three of these recordings can be saved as User Programs that you can "play back" to use as custom-designed workouts.

Note that this workout recording only takes place when you use the default manual mode settings; you cannot choose a target workout time or distance. Time must be counting up during your workout in order for it to be recorded.

Up to 36 changes in speed or incline can be recorded. Each speed/incline pair of changes must be separated by at least 30 seconds.

To save a manual workout, press  as you normally would to end your workout. Now press and hold  until the display shows Save User 1.

You can save your workout in User 1, or press  to select User 2 or User 3. Press and hold  to save the workout program you have selected.



To use a User Program that you have saved, simply select it from the list of programs as described in "Pre-Set Program Operation" in the previous section.





# Designing an Exercise Program

*In This Chapter:*

*What is the F.I.T. Concept?*

*Using the F.I.T. Concept*

*Your Fitness Program*

*Determining Your Needs*

*Beginning Your Exercise Program*

*Establishing and Maintaining Aerobic Fitness*

*Managing Weight*

*Sports Training*

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### WHAT IS THE F.I.T. CONCEPT?

The workout portion of your exercise program consists of three major variables: Frequency, Intensity, and Time.

#### **Frequency: How Often You Exercise**

You should exercise three to five times a week to improve your cardiovascular and muscle fitness. Improvements are significantly smaller with less frequent exercise.

#### **Intensity: How Hard You Exercise**

Intensity of exercise is reflected in your heart rate. Exercise must be sufficiently rigorous to strengthen your heart muscle and condition your cardiovascular system. Only your doctor can prescribe the target training heart range appropriate for your particular needs and physical condition.

Start with exercise that stimulates you to breathe more deeply.

Alternate days of moderate and easy exercise to help your body adapt to new levels of exertion without unnecessary strain.

If you are just beginning an exercise program, you may be most comfortable walking at a speed of 1-2 mph. As you use your treadmill regularly, higher speeds may be more comfortable and more effective.

Inability to maintain a smooth, rhythmic motion suggests that your speed and/or elevation may be too great.

If you feel out of breath before you have exercised 12 minutes, you are probably exercising too hard.

# More F.I.T. Concept Overview

## DESIGNING AN EXERCISE PROGRAM

As your fitness level improves, you will need to increase your workout intensity in order to reach your target heart rate. The first increase may be necessary after two to four weeks of regular exercise. Never exceed your target heart rate zone. Increase the speed and/or incline on the treadmill to raise your heart rate to the level recommended by your doctor. The incline feature can be used to greatly increase the workload without increasing speed. The chart in Appendix B indicates how much the effort changes with each percent of incline at common speeds.

### METs

One MET is the amount of energy your body uses when you're resting. If a physical activity has an equivalent of 6 METs, its energy demands are 6 times that of your resting state. The MET is a useful measurement because it accounts for differences in body weight. See Appendix C for more details.

### Time: How Long You Exercise

Sustained exercise conditions your heart, lungs, and muscles. The longer you are able to sustain exercise within your target heart range, the greater the aerobic benefits.

To begin, maintain two to three minutes of steady, rhythmic exercise and then check your heart rate.

The initial goal for aerobic training is 12 continuous minutes.

Increase your workout time approximately one or two minutes per week until you are able to maintain 20-30 continuous minutes at your training heart rate.





# Utilizing the F.I.T. Concept

## DESIGNING AN EXERCISE PROGRAM

### USING THE F.I.T. CONCEPT

The F.I.T. concept and chart are designed to help you begin a program tailored to your needs. You may wish to keep an exercise log to monitor your progress.

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### YOUR FITNESS PROGRAM

You can get valuable fitness benefits from your True Treadmill. Using the treadmill regularly may increase the ability of your heart and lungs to supply oxygen and nutrients to exercising muscles over an extended period of time. The treadmill will also help you develop added muscle endurance and balanced strength throughout your body.

---

### DETERMINING YOUR NEEDS

Calculate your maximum heart rate as a first step in developing your fitness program. The formula to calculate average maximum heart rate for one minute is 220 beats per minute minus your age. To find your pulse, locate a vein on your neck or inside your wrist, then count beats for ten seconds, then multiply by six.

It's also important to know your target training zone or target heart rate. The American Heart Association (AHA) defines target heart rate as 60-75 percent of your maximum heart rate. This is high enough to condition, but well within safe limits. The AHA recommends that you aim for the lower part of the target zone (60 percent) during the first few months of your exercise program. As you gradually progress you can increase your target to 75 percent. According to the AHA, "Exercise above 75 percent of the maximum heart rate may be too strenuous unless you are in excellent physical condition. Exercise below 60 percent gives your heart and lungs little conditioning."

# Beginning Your F.I.T. Program

## DESIGNING AN EXERCISE PROGRAM

In addition to monitoring your heart rate as you exercise, be certain of how quickly your heart rate recovers. If your heart rate is over 120 beats per minute five minutes after exercising, or is higher than normal the morning after exercising, your exertion may be too strenuous for your current level of fitness. Reducing the intensity of your workout is recommended.

The age-adjusted target heart rates indicated in the chart in Appendix A reflect averages. A variety of factors (including medication, emotional state, temperature, and other conditions) can affect the exercise heart rate appropriate for you.

**Warning:** Consult your doctor to establish the exercise intensity (target heart rate zone) appropriate for your age and condition before beginning any exercise program.

### Warm-Up: Slow and Deliberate Exercise

You are not warmed up until you begin to perspire lightly and breathe more deeply. Warming up prepares your heart and other muscles for more intense exercise and helps you avoid premature exhaustion. Begin each workout by walking even if you plan to run. Start slowly, exploring different speeds until you can comfortably sustain your speed. A good suggestion is a minimum of three minutes. Perspiration on your brow is a good indicator of a thorough warm-up. The older you are, the longer your warm-up period should be.

### **Workout: Brisk and Rhythmic Exercise**

The workout trains and conditions your heart, lungs, and muscles to operate more efficiently. Increase exercise in response to your heart rate to train and strengthen your cardiovascular system. Concentrate on moving your arms and legs smoothly. Walk naturally and avoid jerking motions that can cause pulled muscles, sprained joints, and loss of balance.

### **Cool-Down: Slow and Relaxed Exercise**

Cooling down relaxes your muscles and gradually lowers your heart rate. Slowly reduce your workload until your heart rate is below 60 percent of your maximum heart rate. The cool down should last at least five minutes, followed by some light stretching to enhance your flexibility.

### **Beginning a Fitness Program**

If you cannot sustain 12 continuous minutes in your target heart rate zone, exercise several times a day to get into the habit of exercising.

Try to reach and maintain 60-65 percent of your maximum heart rate. Alternate exercise with periods of rest until you can sustain 12 continuous minutes of exercise at 60-65 percent of your maximum heart rate.

Begin exercising in three to five minute sessions.

---

# Establishing and Maintaining Fitness

## DESIGNING AN EXERCISE PROGRAM

If you can sustain 12 but not 20 continuous minutes of exercise in your target heart rate zone:

Exercise three to five days a week.

Rest at least two days per week.

Try to reach and maintain 60-75 percent of your maximum heart rate with moderate rhythmic exercise.

Begin with 12 continuous minutes. Increase your time by one to two minutes per week until you can sustain 20 continuous minutes.

## ESTABLISHING AEROBIC FITNESS

If you can sustain 20 continuous minutes in your target heart rate zone, begin to increase the length and intensity of your workout:

Exercise four to six days a week or on alternate days.

Try to reach and maintain 70-85 percent of your maximum heart rate with moderate to somewhat hard exercise.

Exercise for 20-30 minutes.

## MAINTAINING AEROBIC FITNESS

Consistent aerobic exercise will help you change your body composition by lowering your percentage of body fat. If weight loss is a goal, combine an increase in the length of your workouts with a moderate decrease in caloric intake. For weight control, how long and how often you exercise is more important than how hard you exercise.

## MANAGING WEIGHT

Exercise four to five times a week.

Try to reach and maintain 60-75 percent of your maximum heart rate with moderate exercise.

Exercise for 30-45 minutes at 60-65 percent of your target heart rate.

Here are some tips to achieving your weight management goal:

Consume most of your dietary calories at breakfast and lunch, and eat a light dinner. Do not eat close to bedtime.

Exercise before meals. Moderate exercise will help suppress your appetite.

Take exercise breaks throughout the day to help increase metabolism (calorie expenditure).

### SPORTS TRAINING

When you are training to improve strength and performance:

Exercise four to five days a week. Alternate exercise days and intervals of hard to very hard exercise with easy to moderate exercise.

Exercise for 30 minutes or longer.

**Warning:** these strategies are intended for average healthy adults. If you have pain or tightness in your chest, an irregular heartbeat, shortness of breath or if you feel faint or have any discomfort when you exercise, stop! Consult your physician before continuing. Remember, every workout should begin with a warm-up and finish with a cool-down.





# Care and Maintenance

*In This Chapter:*

*Treadbelt Lubrication*

*Regular Cleaning*

*Treadbelt Adjustment*

*Treadbelt Tension*

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CHAPTER 2: The Console

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Your True treadmill is constructed of quality materials and manufactured to provide many years of faithful service. Simple routine cleaning and a preventive maintenance program will extend the life of your treadmill.

*To prevent electrical shock, be certain the treadmill is turned off and unplugged from the electrical outlet before performing any cleaning or routine maintenance.*

### TREADBELT LUBRICATION

For average use of your treadmill, True recommends you lubricate under the treadbelt once per year. For heavy use, which is more than 10 hours per week, True recommends lubricating every six months.

Please contact your dealer to obtain the proper lubricants.

### REGULAR CLEANING

**Daily:** Perspiration should be wiped from the control console and treadmill surfaces after your workout.

**Weekly:** You should wipe down your treadmill once a week with a water dampened, soft cloth. Be careful not to get excessive moisture between the edge of the overlay panel and the console, as this might create an electrical hazard or cause the electronics to fail.

**Important:** *do not clean or wipe under the running belt.*

**Monthly:** Clean dust and dirt that might accumulate under and behind your treadmill once a month. Small rubber particles from the soles of walking shoes will accumulate alongside the belt and also behind the unit.

# Treadbelt Adjustment

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Expert service and maintenance at a reasonable cost are available through your factory-trained, authorized True dealer. The dealer maintains a stock of repair and replacement parts and has the technical knowledge to meet your service needs.

**EXPERT  
SERVICE**

Your treadmill's running belt has been properly aligned at the factory. However, when the treadmill is used on an uneven surface, please follow these instructions:

**TREADBELT  
ADJUSTMENT**

1 - Stand beside the treadmill, place the safety key onto the control panel and follow operating instructions for running the treadmill at 5 mph.

2 - If the belt is off-center to the right, turn the left roller adjustment bolt counter clock-wise  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn. If the belt is off-center to the left, turn the left roller adjustment bolt  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn clockwise.



3 - Let the machine run for several minutes to check the alignment. (Belt alignment does not need to be perfect). If more correction is needed, turn the adjustment bolt  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn and check again.

### TREADBELT TENSION

To assure maximum life of the treadbelt, roller and drive motor, make sure the treadbelt tension is set correctly. (Your treadbelt has been properly tensioned at the factory.)

Turn both rear roller adjustment bolts counter-clockwise until treadbelt just begins slipping when walking on it, then turn both rear roller adjustment bolts clockwise in equal quarter turn increments until treadbelt stops slipping.

**Note:** Be sure to run on treadbelt to ensure that the treadbelt does not slip while under load.

---

# Troubleshooting Guide

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

## TRoubleshooting GUIDE


SYMPTOM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Circuit breaker on treadmill trips when the power cord is plugged into wall.	A. Damaged motor. B. Damaged or defective motor power supply board. C. Damaged motor control circuit board.	Service required Service required Service required
Circuit breaker on treadmill trips when inputting speed and starting.	D. Restricted belt or flywheel. E. Treadbelt over-tensioned.	Check and remove obstruction or call dealer. See adjustments in Assembly Guide.
Computer display LED's do not illuminate.	A. No power to treadmill. B. Circuit breaker trip C. Upper wire harness not connected or not completely connected.	Restore power at electrical outlet or reset circuit breaker if in "on/off" position. Reset Circuit Breaker. Service required
Incline Motor and tread motor will not turn on.	A. Upper wire harness damaged or not connected or completely connected.	Service required
Incline motor does not operate but the treadbelt moves.	A. Incline wire harness damaged or not connected.	Service required
Scrambled digits on computer LED's.	A. Damaged computer board. B. Upper wire harness damaged or partially connected.	Service required Service required
Squeaking noise from motor while using the treadmill.	A. Poly V-belt slipping. B. Motor brush noise excessive.	Service required Service required

SYMPTOM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
Treadbelt tracks left to right.	A. Uneven floor.	Move treadmill to even surface or level with shims. See Adjustment section.
	B. Rear roller not properly adjusted.	See Adjustment section.
Treadmill trips household circuit breaker.	A. Defective breaker.	Replace breaker.
	B. Circuit too small.	Use 20 amp circuit.
	C. Circuit over-loaded.	Remove the other electrical appliances on same circuit.
	D. May trip GFI circuit.	Have circuit checked by electrician.
Treadbelt feels unsmooth, jerks intermittently.	A. Object between belt and deck.	Remove object between belt and deck.
	B. Object under belt.	Remove object from under belt.
	C. Loose tread motor drive belt.	<b>Service required</b>
	D. Loose treadbelt tension.	See Adjustment section.

# Error Codes

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

## ERROR CODES

<b>E1:INCLINE</b>	Incline moving when not commanded to.
<b>E1:RANGE</b>	Difference between zero position and maximum incline not sufficient.
<b>E1:STALL</b>	Incline not moving when commanded to.
<b>E2:OVERSPEED</b>	This error occurs when an acceleration of greater than 2.1 mph occurs. Error cleared by turning off power switch then turning it back on.
<b>E2:CAL</b>	Treadmill cannot achieve target speed. Re-calibrate treadmill.
<b>E3:RECAL</b>	This error occurs when a data error is detected in the EEPROM. Replace the control panel.
<b>E4:KEY STK [stop]</b>	Caused by pressing and holding the  key for more than five seconds.
<b>E5:SENSOR</b>	This message is displayed when there is no speed feedback.

*All errors require service by a qualified technician. To clear the error, turn power off and back on again.*

### DIAGNOSTICS - SERVICE MESSAGES

The following service messages will be displayed as they occur, as well as for the subsequent six safety key insertions. These messages will be displayed until a key is pressed. Every time these messages are displayed, a tone will sound twice.

**S1:LUBE** This message is displayed when lubrication of the deck is recommended.

**S2:CLEAN** This message is displayed every 500 miles. Prompt to clean treadmill.

**S3:MOTOR** This message is displayed every 2500 hours. Prompt to check motor brushes.

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# Important Safety Instructions

*In This Chapter:*

*Review for Your Safety*

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*When using this treadmill, basic precautions should always be followed, including the following:*

Read all instructions before using this treadmill.

Consult your physician before beginning any exercise program.

Do not use if you have an acute cold or fever.

**Danger:** To reduce the risk of electric shock, always unplug this treadmill immediately after use and before cleaning.

**Warning:** to reduce the risk of burns, fire and electric shock and injury to persons, follow these instructions:

This treadmill should never be left unattended when plugged in. Unplug it from the outlet when not in use and before any service is performed.

Close supervision is necessary when this treadmill is being used by or near children, invalids, or disabled persons.

Use this treadmill only for its intended use as described in this manual.

Do not use attachments not recommended by the manufacturer.

Never operate this treadmill if it has a damaged power cord or plug, if it is not working properly, if it has been damaged or dropped, or if it has been submerged in water. In these cases, the treadmill should be examined by a qualified service technician.

# Review for Your Safety

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

---

Use a dedicated 110 volt, alternating current, 15 amp three-prong grounded outlet.

Keep the power cord away from heated surfaces.

Never drop or insert any object into any opening.

To disconnect, turn the power switch to the OFF position, then remove the plug from the outlet.

Do not allow animals on or near your treadmill.

Make sure the power cord has enough slack to allow the treadmill to raise freely without being limited by the cord or caught in the incline rack. Do not run the power cord under treadmill.

Use the treadmill indoors only.

Never use your treadmill near water or while wet. Using the treadmill around a pool, hot tub or sauna will void the warranty.

Do not operate where aerosol (spray) products are being used or where oxygen is being administered.

Allow only trained personnel to service this equipment.

Keep the area under the treadmill free from obstruction, as the deck will return to 0% grade when the safety key is placed on the console.

# Review for Your Safety

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Avoid the possibility of bystanders being struck or caught between moving parts by making sure that they are out of reach of the treadmill while it is in motion.

Keep the space behind and on both sides of the treadmill clear should you lose your balance.

Allow only one person at a time on your machine.

Do not operate treadmill without the safety key attached to the console and the lanyard clipped to your clothing at approximately waist height.

Always straddle the treadbelt and allow the belt to begin moving before stepping onto the belt.

Use extreme caution when stepping onto moving treadbelt. Some programs begin at speeds as high as 4.8 mph.

Gradually slow down the belt before stopping. This will minimize the sensation of movement after you stop.

When making treadbelt adjustments, keep fingers, loose clothing, jewelry, and long hair away from moving parts.

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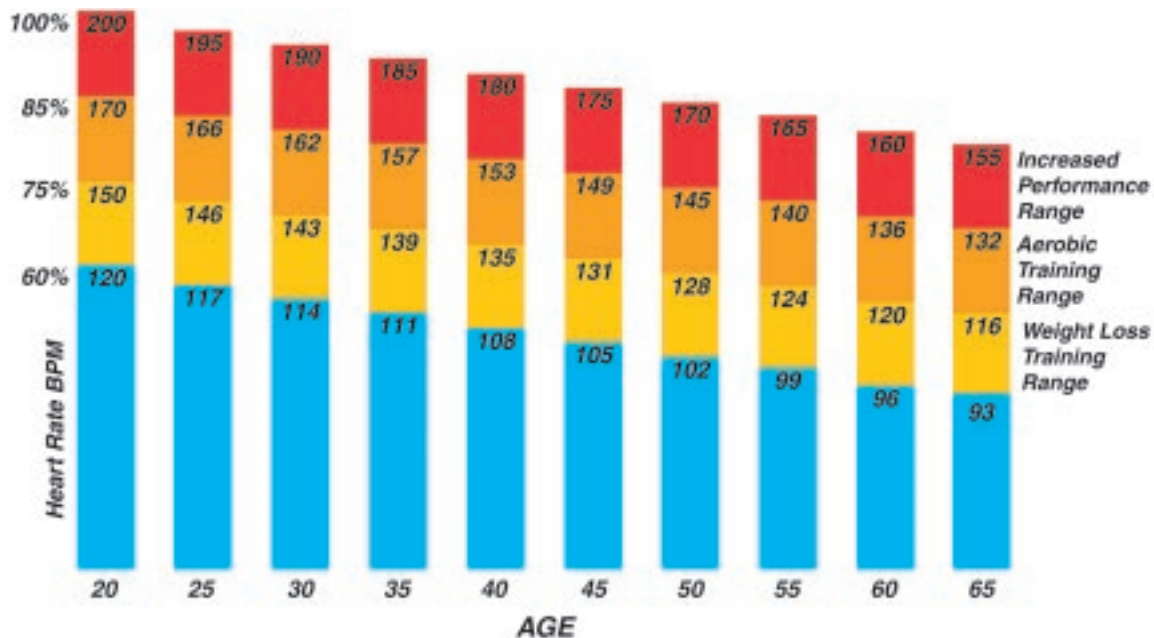


# Target Heart Rate Chart

*A Guide to Help You Pick an Initial  
Target Heart Rate*







Remember to check with your physician before beginning any exercise program. She can help determine an appropriate target heart rate. Medications often affect heart rate.





# METs Table

*How Speed and Incline Affect  
Workload, Expressed in METs*



METs Table		Grade															
		0.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	14.0	15.0
WALKING	1.0	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8
	2.0	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.4	6.7
	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.5	5.0	5.4	5.8	6.2	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.8	8.3	8.7	9.1	9.5
IN-BETWEEN	4.0	5.6	6.0	6.4	6.8	7.2	7.7	8.1	8.5	8.9	9.3	9.7	10.1	10.6	11.0	11.4	11.8
	5.0	8.7	9.0	9.3	9.7	10.0	10.4	10.7	11.1	11.4	11.8	12.1	12.4	12.8	13.1	13.5	138
RUNNING	6.0	10.2	10.6	11.0	11.4	11.8	12.3	12.7	13.1	13.5	13.9	14.3	14.7	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4
	7.0	11.7	12.2	12.7	13.2	13.6	14.1	14.6	15.1	15.6	16.1	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0
	8.0	13.3	13.8	14.4	14.9	15.5	16.0	16.6	17.1	17.7	18.2	18.8	19.3	19.9	20.4	21.0	21.5
	9.0	14.8	15.4	16.0	16.6	17.3	17.9	18.5	19.1	19.7	20.4	21.0	21.6	22.2	22.8	23.5	24.1
	10.0	16.3	17.0	17.7	18.4	19.1	19.8	20.4	21.1	21.8	22.5	23.2	23.9	24.6	25.3	26.0	26.7
	11.0	17.8	18.6	19.4	20.1	20.9	21.6	22.4	23.2	23.9	24.7	25.4	26.2	26.9	27.7	28.5	29.2
	12.0	19.4	20.2	21.0	21.9	22.7	23.5	24.3	25.2	26.0	26.8	27.6	28.5	29.3	30.1	31.0	31.8

Miles Per Hour





# **METs Explanation and Formulas**

*The Metabolic Formulas Behind Energy  
Expenditure Estimates*





## APPENDIX C - METS EXPLANATION AND FORMULAS

### **METS EXPLANATION AND FORMULAS**

The MET is a unit of exercise measurement that takes into account body weight. Since energy expenditure in a weight-bearing exercise such as running, walking, or stairclimbing is directly proportional to body weight, the formulas to calculate METs are a bit simpler than for, say, an exercise bike. For example, 7 mph running is always 11.7 METs, no matter who you are.

A MET is defined as 3.5 ml/min/kg of oxygen usage by the body, where

**ml** is milliliters, the actual measured volume of gaseous oxygen

**min** is minutes

**kg** is bodyweight in kilograms

This energy consumption rate corresponds to about 72 calories per hour for a 150-pound person, which approximates the average basal metabolic rate of the general population.

The best formulas for treadmill energy expenditure also use oxygen usage by the body, or VO<sub>2</sub>. The two formulas are:

**walking VO<sub>2</sub>** = (2.68 \* speed) + (0.48 \* speed \* incline) + 3.5

**running VO<sub>2</sub>** = (5.36 \* speed) + (0.24 \* speed \* incline) + 3.5

To get METs, divide the result by 3.5.

(Noted exercise physiologist David Costill's speed constants for walking and running are 3.06 and 4.86, respectively.)





# Specifications

*The Size and Performance Attributes  
of Your 550ZTX Treadmill*



<b>SPECIFICATIONS</b>	<i>Maximum speed:</i> 12 mph.
	<i>Maximum incline:</i> 15%
	<i>Drive motor:</i> 3 hp.
	<i>Treadbelt area:</i> 22" x 60"
	<i>Weight:</i> 330 pounds.
	<i>User weight capacity:</i> 400 pounds.

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# Bibliography

*References and Selected Readings*





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Design, page layout, headings, graphics, photography, and special effects by **Jay Doyle**.

Information architecture by **Jay Doyle** with **Bob Starr**.

Cover photography and design by the **Orca Partnership**.

"Designing an Exercise Program" chapter adapted from previous True owner's guides.

Proofreading by **Susan Rand**.

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**SPECIFICATIONS** | The body text in this book is set in Lucida Bright. Headlines are in Franklin Gothic in various weights.

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