

ExcelMate

- an application that reads from a Trackmate into Excel spread sheets
This application is intended to be used at slalom skateboard races to help getting the race data correct. The application reads data from a Trackmate (timing device) into a text area from where the user can insert the data with one click into an Excel spread sheet.

The application is very easy to setup and use and can be used by pretty much any PC.

Requirements:

- Trackmate of version 6.0 or later (the ones with PC port on the side)
- Computer (at the moment only PC is supported) with preferably a COM port.
- If no COM port is available then you need to get a USB to RS232 converter cable (cost 15€).
- A modem cable (cost 5€).



Usage

Connect the modem cable to the Trackmate and the computer. If no COM port exists insert the USB to RS232 converter into any USB port on the computer and connect the modem cable to the converter. Start the Trackmate and click "Exit" to get it into ready mode.

Start the application from the start menu on the computer (Start->Programs->EttSexEtt->ExcelMate).



Select the COM port that you connected the cable to (or the one you have assigned your USB converter to act as during installation of your USB to RS232 converter cable). All available COM ports on the computer should be in the dropdown list and selectable.

Click connect, and then click Reset/Start. If everything is alright then the Trackmate should restart each time you click.

Click "Select Excel file" and browse to the excel sheet that contains all the racers for this race. The application is shipped with blank templates of the de facto standard Excel spread sheets used in slalom racing, courtesy of Dan Gesmer at Seismic Skate. Please use these templates each time you create a new start list for a race.

The available worksheets will be listed in the right topmost list. Please select the event you wish to run. Once you select the event, the spread sheet will be visible, and perhaps be the topmost window. If so, switch back to the ExcelMate and keep it at the top, and the Excel spread sheet visible behind.

If the event is an elimination round then you will be prompted to select which round you are currently running.

Once these settings are done you are ready to start the first heat. Select the riders for each lane in the lists, and click Reset/Start (you can of course select the riders after you click Reset/Start, the names only need to be selected when you hit "save")

Once the riders cross the start and finish the Trackmate will send the times to the PC and the times will be showed in the program. Once the cones are counted select the correct number in the list and click "Save". The times will be saved in the Excel spread sheet and be cleared in the application. In order to send next rider down the hill.

If a rider DQs, just write "DQ" in the text field and click "Save", and this will be written to the spread sheet.

Everytime you click "Save" the actual Excel sheet will be saved to disk using the same name and path as you opened it as. Of you wish to edit something manually in the spread sheet while you are using the program, feel free. The program is just an add on and when ever you feel like not using it, just skip it. Perhaps you like to use the reset/start button on the Trackmate, well then just use that one instead.

As a bonus feature you can click "show previous" and a log that keeps track of the saved times will show. This is not saved anywhere and once the program closes it will be lost. This is there to make sure in case of conflict when someone feel like they got the wrong time saved or so.

Also you can check the "Do not require reaction times" in case you run the Trackmate in single lane mode and no start times are recorded.

When people get their second run in, the application will sense that there are data present for the first round and will ask you if you wish to save this time as second run OR if you wish to overwrite the first time in case of a rerun. If you have saved both first and second run and are trying to save another time, then the program will ask you what time to overwrite.

It is a very simple program that hopefully can help all timekeepers out there from losing their minds. Please try it out and give me some feedback so that it can be improved.

Email me at marcus@ettsexett.com

The program is of course free of charge and anyone who feels like it can get the code. It is written in Microsoft.Net C# Framework 2.0 using Visual Studio 2005.

Thank you Daniel Gesmer for providing the spread sheets. Any questions regarding them could or should be sent to him, but I'll relay the emails so please contact me for any questions.

Enjoy! /Marcus Seyffarth