

SHOP TALK

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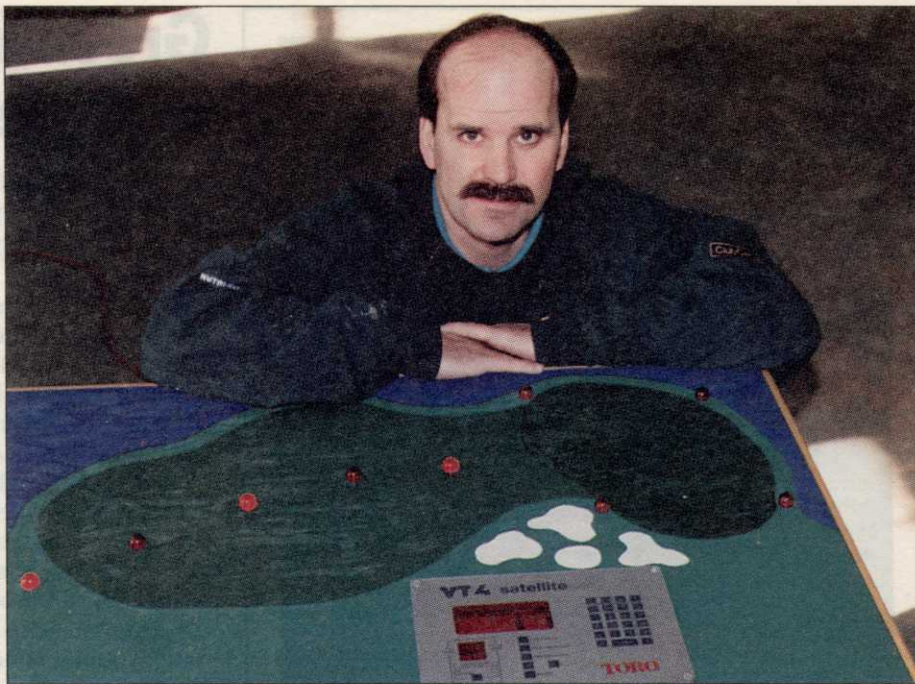
# Irrigation test table saves time, money

By KEVIN ROSS

FALMOUTH, Maine — Many individuals have commented on various ideas in our golf course management facility, but one stands out the most: our irrigation test/training table.

Why make an irrigation test/training table? Each fall, when the golf course closes, we bring our Toro VT4 timing mechanisms indoors. During the winter, we need to test these for proper functioning. So, using a spare satellite (left from when we built the course), we removed the internal components, built a table, and installed that assembly.

We purchased some small 24V light fixtures at an auto supply store, and small red transparent covers from a hobby shop. The fixture is similar to a car brake light, but much smaller. We then cut a piece of plywood and hinged it to the table. On the



Kevin Ross with his homemade Test Table Golf Course hole.

surface of the table, we played golf course architect and designed our Test Table Golf Course hole. Our VT4 control system has 12 stations (zones) per timing mechanism. To match the stations, we drilled 12 holes into the plywood and positioned the holes as sprinkler heads.

Then, light fixtures were attached into these holes on the bottom of the plywood, and red transparent covers were placed over the bulbs on the top of the table. The light fixtures were wired directly to the

clock and stations that went from tee to green. Finally, a hole was cut in the table top for a spot to drop in the VT4 timing mechanism.

We also installed was a common 110V power switch, so the power could easily be turned on or off to change timing mechanisms. When completely assembled, we plugged in the first VT4 timing mechanism and the red lights worked in sync with whatever station(s) were programmed.

This table gives us the ability to test all

**SHARE THE INGENUOUS**

There is no doubt golf course superintendents and their staffs are some of the most creative individuals around.

How many times have you visited a fellow superintendent's course and come away with three or four ideas you thought were really creative?

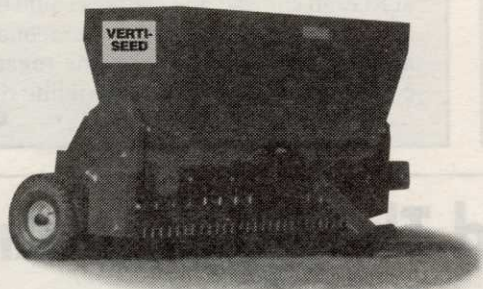
Many ideas can be found on the course, but the real gold mine at a lot of operations is the maintenance facility. So many great ideas can be found there that I like to visit those facilities as much as I like to see the courses.

I'm sure many superintendents have their Einsteins to talk about. Let's use this new, informative column to discuss them.

Just write or call: Shop Talk editor, Golf Course News, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, Maine 04096; 207-846-0600; or fax 207-846-0657.

Peter Blais photo

timing mechanisms and repair them, if needed, in-house. We also found that the table had another big benefit for us: training new employees to program the irrigation system. A new employee is now able to learn and practice how to program the clocks without stepping a foot out the door. This past year, my new assistant took the table for a couple of weeks and learned the programming in the comfort of his own home. We have found this table to be of great benefit to our operation.



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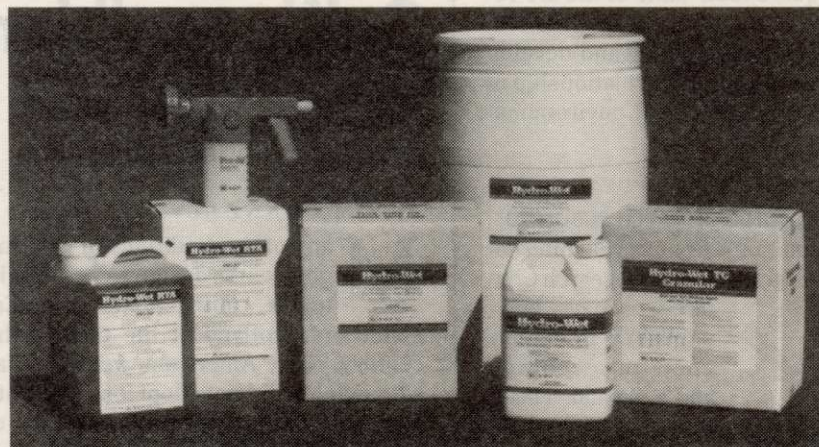
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