Priefert®
Rodeo & Ranch Equipment

www.priefert.com 800-527-8616

Roping Chute

MODEL RC98M & RC98AI

Operator's Manual

Safety related warnings and instructions follow this Alert Symbol and are used to get your attention so you may avoid serious injury or death to you and others. Read the Operator's Manual in it's entirety!

Congratulations on choosing "Priefert's RC98 or RC98AI Remote Controlled Roping Chute."

Priefert Roping Chutes simply dominate the market. Their smooth action, durability, and proven performance has made them the obvious choice for competition and practice arenas across the country.

Priefert Roping Chutes are the official chute of the PRCA, USTRC, NTRL, WTRC, PTR, the World Series of Roping and many other major roping organizations.

Priefert's roping chute is the most widely used roping chute in the country. The RC98 is the quietest, most durable chute on the market. It's ingenious design provides years of dependable service with virtually no maintenance at an affordable price.

Priefert products are used and tested in our manufacturing facility and on the Priefert Ranch. The Priefert family personally tests and uses every product they build before sharing it with their friends around the world

REMEMBER SAFETY FIRST!

Be Alert - Eliminate unsafe habits and risky behavior, recognize hazards as they exist and read and follow these Operational Instructions to successfully operate the Priefert Steer Roping Chute.

READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE OPERATING.
Follow all safety warnings and recommendations.

FCC Compliance Statement:

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:[2]

(1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and

(2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

—Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.

—Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.

—Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.

—Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Using this manual:

These Operating Instructions are a compilation of engineering data and field experience, and are designed to help you with proper safety, operation and adjustments. Read these instructions completely prior to using this roping chute, and follow the recommendations to help ensure safe and efficient operation.

The information contained herein was current at the time of printing. Your model may vary in design and configuration from those shown in this manual. There is a possibility that some illustrations in our manuals were of prototype models. Design of production models may vary in detail from those shown in our manuals.

Priefert Manufacturing maintains an ongoing program of continuous product improvement. Therefore, Priefert reserves the right to make improvements or modifications in design, or specification changes without incurring any obligation to replace said items on units previously sold.

Your RC98M manual, or RC98AI Remote Controlled Roping Chute, comes with an instructional DVD and is also available online in PDF format. Both have been designed to assist you in achieving optimal results with your Roping Chute.

Terminology

"Right" or "Left" as used in this manual is determined by facing forward in the direction the equipment will operate while in use unless otherwise stated.

"NOTE:" provides the operator a brief summary of information that will assist in operating the equipment.

"IMPORTANT:" denotes that the following content has significance in the operation or maintenance of the equipment.

"REMINDER:" provides information previously addressed, but important enough to address again for equipment or assembly familiarization.

Owner Assistance

If customer service or repair parts are required, contact Priefert Manufacturing to reach our trained personnel who will assist you with repair parts and equipment needed to service your Roping Chute. The parts on your Roping Chute have been specifically designed and should only be replaced with genuine Priefert parts. Therefore, should your Priefert Roping Chute require replacement parts, contact our Support Center.

Customer Service

Priefert Manufacturing wants you to be satisfied with your new RC98 Roping Chute. If for any reason you are not satisfied with the equipment, the following actions are suggested:

Contact your Priefert Ranch Equipment dealer and discuss any problems that you may be experiencing. Allow them the opportunity to assist in correcting any problems that you may be experiencing.

For further assistance contact:
Priefert Manufacturing
Attention: Customer Service
2630 South Jefferson
P.O. Box 1540
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75456-1540
1-800-527-8616

Web-site address:
www.priefert.com
sales.priefert.com

Safety Alert Symbols

The **SAFETY ALERT SYMBOL** indicates there is a potential hazard to personal safety involved and extra safety precaution must be taken. When you see this symbol, be alert and carefully read the message that follows it. In addition to design and configuration of equipment, hazard control and accident prevention are dependent upon the awareness, concern, prudence and proper training of personnel involved in the operation, transport, maintenance and storage of equipment.

Owner/operator can prevent, and may be responsible for, accidents or injuries occurring to other people, themselves, and/or property and equipment.

Thoroughly read and understand the operation, references and other material supplied with the Roping Chute. If the installer or operator cannot read English, it is the owner's responsibility to explain this material to them.

We strongly recommend that children are <u>not allowed</u> to operate or play on this equipment. Do not allow untrained people to operate or service equipment.

Caution

Be familiar with equine activities and handling livestock prior to use of this equipment. Working with livestock carries inherent risk of injury or death.

Roping Chute and Equine Safety

Due to the inherent dangers associated with equestrian activities, many states have adopted statutes pertaining to the liabilities of horse owners, handlers, and individuals involved in equestrian activities. Some states also require that you post signs at your facility with the specific "Warning Law" on them, for personal and/or professional equine activities. Posting these warning signs may help protect you and/or your organization in the event an accident or injury does occur. Please check the legal statute information in your state[2].

Horses can be easily spooked and this is when injuries may occur. One in three horse-related injuries happen when the rider/handler is dismounted. These injuries typically involve the handler being kicked or stepped on by the horse. Making sure all equine handlers are aware of the dangers posed by frightened horses and what actions can scare them can help prevent injuries. Some examples of things that can spook a horse include, sudden or unexpected movements; loud or sudden noises such as mobile phones or horns; other animals (i.e. unleashed and/or barking dogs) and biting or stinging insects.

Priefert advises that individuals using this roping chute have knowledge of equine activities, horse riding skills, and, prior experience and training with cattle roping.

Installation / Operation Safety

- Read and understand the operation instructions completely before using this equipment. Locate equipment in a dry, level area.
- Make sure any individuals operating this equipment understand the instructions as well.
- Priefert also recommends wearing personal protective clothing while setting-up this roping chute, including gloves and safety glasses, as well as, arm, leg, head and foot protection.
- Allow only trained, qualified individuals to operate forklifts, tractors, loaders or other vehicles used during installations; and that those individuals are familiar with the operation of the specific vehicle used during installations.
- Operate equipment only during fair weather conditions.
- Disconnect electric and/or pneumatic connections before performing any service or repairs to the equipment. Remove all tools used during installation from equipment before operation.

Safe Operation Guidelines

- Use caution introducing livestock into the steer chute due to the inherent danger associated with livestock.
- Do not let children play in or on roping chute or its components.
- Do not allow children to operate roping chute or its components.
- Do not stick arms or legs through the chute rails anytime, especially when a steer is loaded.
- Make sure all guests or observers are clear of moving components prior to chute operation.
- Be cautious to prevent being confined between alleys while livestock is present. Be cautious to prevent being caught between calves and chute gates.
- Be sure that horses used in roping activities are accustomed to the actions of the roping chute, and handlers are familiar with equine behavior.
- Wearing proper clothing can help prevent injuries.
- Always take into consideration the age, physical condition and specific characteristics of calves used to prevent exceeding their limitations and causing injury.

BE AWARE OF SIGNAL WORDS: A signal word designates a degree of level of hazard seriousness.

NOTE: Provides helpful information to the operator.

IMPORTANT: Indicates failure to observe may cause damage to equipment.

WARNING: Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury, and includes hazards that are exposed when guards are removed. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices.[1]

CAUTION: Indicates an imminently hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices. [1]

DANGER: Indicates an imminently hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. This signal word is limited to the most extreme situations, typically for machine components that, for functional purposes cannot be guarded. [1]

1. Sentry Insurance, FEMA, *Owner's and Operators Manuals for Farm Equipment*, Sentry Insurance, Stevens Point, WI, revised Management Bulletin No. 112, 90-42; March 2007, pp S-2.

Precautionary Measures

The following are precautionary measures that are recommended to anyone when working with livestock.

Be alert. It is impossible to fully know or predict an animals actions. Always be aware of what is happening around you. This is particularly important when handling livestock at sunrise and sunset when livestock are most active.

Keep animals together. Livestock will be more calm and cooperative when in groups. When alone, they quickly become agitated and frightened making them dangerous and difficult to handle.

Carefully approach animals. Because of the placement of their eyes, cattle have approximately a 270 degree range of vision. Despite their range of vision, cattle have poor depth perception, and are unable to see behind them. To reduce risk, always announce yourself when approaching an animal.

Leave yourself an out. Never enter small enclosed areas with livestock. If unavoidable, always be sure there is always a fast and easy method of escape.

Avoid quick movements and loud noises. Livestock can startle and frighten easily. Move slowly and deliberately around livestock. Be careful not to create excess noise.

Be patient. When working with livestock in a crowding pen, chute, or squeeze, prodding an animal when it has no place to go is dangerous. Animals can react quickly and violently.

Respect livestock. Do not fear them. Underestimating an animal's size, strength, and speed can result in serious injury. Always consider mature males to be dangerous. Be aware of animals who are sick, injured, or otherwise frightened.

Livestock Safety[3]

One of the most important issues for consideration when handling livestock is safety. Although considered domesticated animals, working with livestock carries with it an inherent risk of danger. It is important to understand that livestock have both instincts and habits, known as behavior patterns, that are based on actions that make them the most comfortable. These instincts and habits allow them to react to changes in their environment.

Many instincts and habits are strong and potentially dangerous. Using common sense, practicing caution, and understanding livestock behavior can greatly reduce a handlers risk and enable him or her to work safely with livestock. The following information details some important livestock behaviors as well as cautionary tips to practice when handling livestock.

Livestock Behaviors[3]

- Animals who are used to being around other livestock can become frightened and agitated when separated, becoming dangerous and difficult to handle.
- The maternal instinct is also very powerful. Many times these instincts are not evident in an animal's behavior until shortly after giving birth. It is important to recognize these behavior patterns and use appropriate caution.
- Another behavior pattern that livestock may exhibit is a territorial instinct. Feed time is when this instinct is most readily observable.
- A valuable behavior is the instinct to follow the leader. Often times, all that is required is to begin one animal moving and the rest will follow.
- Livestock exhibit the most activity at sunrise and sunset. In contrast, livestock are the most inactive during night and at midday.
- The flight zone is one of the most important principles regarding livestock behavior and safe handling. It is an animal's personal space. Livestock will react in a variety of ways according to a handlers activities relative to their flight zone. For example, livestock will face a handler and maintain a safe distance, when the handler is outside their flight zone. In contrast, livestock will turn away from a handler who enters their flight zone. Individual animals will have flight zones of varying size. Working from the edge of the flight zone will generally keep livestock calm and manageable.
- The point of balance is another important behavioral principle to understand. An animal's point of balance is located at their shoulders. An animal will move depending on a handlers position relative to their point of balance. This principle can be used to calmly and easily encourage livestock through crowding pens, chutes, and squeezes. For example, when a handler stands behind the animal's point of balance, the animal will move forward. When the handler stands in front of an animals point of balance, the animal will stop or back up. To encourage an animal forward, simply walk towards the animal, crossing the point of balance, and it will move forward.

Remember that livestock draw upon past experiences and treatment when reacting to a situation.

Additional information is provided in the Appendix at the end of this manual.

Safety Labels

Your implement comes equipped with all safety labels in place. They were designed to help you safely operate your Roping Chute.[2]

1. Read and follow their directions.
2. Keep all safety labels clean and legible.
3. Replace all damaged or missing labels. To order new labels go to your nearest Priefert Dealer.
4. Some new equipment installed during repair requires safety labels to be affixed to the replaced component as specified by Priefert. When ordering new components make sure the correct safety labels are included in the request.
5. Refer to this section for proper label placement.

Applying new labels:

1. Clean the area the label is to be placed.
2. Wipe the surface dry.
3. Peel backing from label.
4. Press firmly onto the surface.

Use a small straight edge plastic (credit card) to squeeze out air bubbles working from the center out towards the sides.

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NOTICE

USE OF LUBRICANTS ON COMPRESSED AIR SYSTEMS OF THIS CHUTE CAN CAUSE COMPONENT FAILURE!

DO NOT Lubricate Air Cylinder Rods Externally.

DO NOT Lubricate Air System Internally.

DO NOT Clean Components with Solvents.

Read and follow additional notices within this manual

Manual Roping Chute
Operating Instructions (RC98M)

Roping Chute Hook-Up

The RC98M Roping Chute can attach to almost any steer alley or panel configuration with standard chain connections. Lubricate all working parts including tailgate before operating the RC.

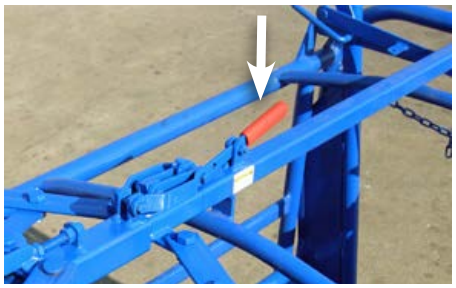
Use WD-40 or other light lubricant. Heavier oil collects dust and restricts proper operation. Frequent lubrication will be necessary until excess paint is worn off working parts.

Note: *Be aware of specific locations that should not be lubricated. These locations are noted with decals stating DO NOT OIL*

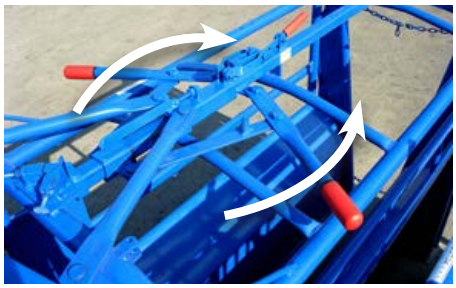
Roping Chute Operation

All of the RC98M controls are accessible from Header or Healer side.
Familiarize yourself with their operation using the illustrations provided below.

Tailgate Handle
Pull Handle to open Tailgate and allow steer to enter chute.
Push Handle to close Tailgate.

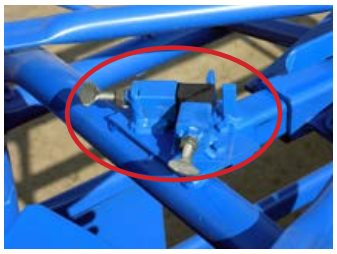


Front Gate Release Handle
Push Handle down to open spring-loaded front gate and release steer; resets automatically.



Front Gate Close Handle
Pull Handle back to close spring-loaded front gate and reset for next release.

Front Gate Brake
The urethane brake system on top front of chute & springs on each side of the chute are pre-adjusted at the factory and should not need to be adjusted until chute has considerable use on it.



Automatic Roping Chute
Operating Instructions (RC98AI)

Roping Chute Connections

Step 1: On the back panel of the Automatic Control Box (ACB), is a standard 1/4" NPT, male, quick-connect air fitting marked "Compressed Air In". Be sure that this fitting is the correct size for the air line you intend to use. (See Diagram 1)

Step 2: Connect air supply line from compressor to the fitting at the back of ACB. Set regulator on air compressor at 90 psi.

Proper performance requires a minimum of 2hp air compressor that will produce 3.1 cfm at 90 psi, with a 4 gallon tank.

Step 3: Connect electrical cord to standard 110/125 volt, grounded outlet.

NOTICE: ***Priefert Manufacturing Recommends using a dedicated Air Compressor to prevent damage of contamination to the ACB Compressed Air System.***

Use Clean & Dry Compressed Air Supply.

Drain Compressor & Air Tanks Daily.

Caution
Be aware of air hose and electric cord layout and arrangement to prevent trip hazards or entanglement of persons or livestock.

DIAGRAM 1 - Connect Air Supply
(Male, 1/4" NPT Quick-Connect Shown)

Remote Functions

The Upper buttons of the Remote operate the Front Gate of the Roping Chute

Pressing this button will OPEN the FRONT GATE of the Roping Chute

Pressing this button will OPEN the REAR GATE of the Roping Chute

The Lower buttons of the Remote operate the Rear Gate of the Roping Chute

Pressing this button will CLOSE the FRONT GATE of the Roping Chute

Pressing this button will CLOSE the REAR GATE of the Roping Chute

Automatic Mode

Using the button on the right rear of the Control Box, the chute can be switched into the "Automatic" mode, where the chute uses an electronic eye to detect the presence or absence of a steer. A red light will appear. To release the steer, push the "Front / Open" (1) button on the upper left of the remote control. The headgate opens and a few seconds after detecting that the steer has left, the headgate closes; the tailgate then opens and upon detection of the next steer having entered the chute, the tailgate closes. One push of a single button has completed the entire cycle and ropers have the next steer loaded and ready to go upon return to the roping box. To take the chute out of auto mode, simply push the button again on the back right side of the Control Box.

This chute also offers the operator the option to *override* the Automatic mode and "score" his horse by opening and closing the tailgate with the push of buttons (3 & 4). This will not take the chute out of Automatic mode and continues to be a great training tool to keep your horse from leaving the box at the sound of the chute rather than from a cue from the rider.

Delay Setting

Another control feature located on the back left of the Control Box is a "Delay" setting. Just to the right of the green "on" indicator light is a silver knob used to activate and set the delay timing (See Diagram 4). Each click clockwise gradually delays the activation of the opening of the headgate from 2-30 seconds. When no one else is around, this great feature offers ropers improved practice opportunities by allowing the roper/operator to be fully prepared before the steer is released.

DIAGRAM 4 - Delay Setting

Appendix

References

1. Sentry Insurance, FEMA, *Owner's and Operators Manuals for Farm Equipment*, Sentry Insurance, Stevens Point, WI, revised Management Bulletin No. 112, 90-42; March 2007, pp S-2.
2. American Equestrian Alliance; State Equestrian Liability Limitation Laws; © Copyright, American Recreation & Entertainment Alliance <https://www.americanequestrian.com/equinelaws/>
3. Jill Webster Ph.D., & Mark Gonzalez; Livestock Safety; Agricultural Systems Technology and Education, Utah State University Extension; Utah State University , <http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/AHS-11.pdf>

Suggested References

Priefert assumes no liability for the use, claims, or accuracy of information provided in the following references:

Rodeo 101: Team Roping - PRCA
https://www.prorodeo.com/prorodeo/rodeo/rodeo101/team-roping

The Team Roping Journal; © 2020 Cruz Bay Publishing, Inc.
https://teamropingjournal.com

Compressed Air Regulators; © Copyright 2019 - Understanding-Air-Compressors.com
https://understanding-air-compressors.com/compressed-air-regulators/

TEAGASC, Agriculture and Food Development Authority,
https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/farm-management/farm-health--safety/

NASD, National AG Safety Database, Federal Laws and Regulations Affecting Farm Safety,
http://nasdonline.org/document/1842/d001777/federal-laws-and-regulations-affecting-farm-safety.html

What are the Rules of the Road for Farm Vehicles?; Foster Swift Agricultural Law News, 2018,
https://www.fosterswift.com/communications-Rules-of-the-Road-Farm-Vehicles.html

Limited Warranties:

Priefert Manufacturing Company, Inc., ("Priefert") 2630 South Jefferson, P.O. Box 1540, Mount Pleasant, TX 75456-1540, warrants for one (1) year from the purchase date to the original non-commercial, governmental, or municipal purchaser ("Purchaser") and warrants for six (6) months to the original commercial or industrial purchaser ("Purchaser") that the product purchased are free from defects in material or workmanship. Priefert will replace or repair, free of charge to the original purchaser any part(s) found, upon examination at our factory, to be defective under normal use and service due to defects in material or workmanship, provided that the original purchaser:

a. Notifies Priefert in writing of any defect in material or workmanship within the above specified warranty period.
b. Returns must be routed through an authorized Priefert dealer or distributor from whom the purchase was made.
c. Purchaser is responsible for cost of shipping.

In no event will Priefert be held liable under this warranty unless written notice is received and failure must have occurred within the warranty period. Genuine Priefert replacement parts and components will be warranted for 90 days from date of purchase, or the remainder of the original equipment warranty period, whichever is longer.

This limited warranty does not apply to any part of the product which has been subjected to improper or misintended use, negligence, alteration, modification, or accident, damaged due to lack of maintenance or use of wrong oil or lubricants, or repairs that have been made with parts other than those obtainable through Priefert, or which has served its usual life. This limited warranty does not apply to any expendable item such as blades, shields, guards, or pneumatic tires, or other trade accessories since these items are warranted separately by their respective manufacturers, except as specifically noted in your Operator's Manual.

Except as provided herein, no employee, agent, Dealer, or other person is authorized to give any warranties of any nature on behalf of Priefert. Only Priefert is authorized to make any representation to the purchaser concerning "normal" use and service for its product as described in the Operator's Manual, or in authorized printed materials or stickers affixed to the product.

If after examination of the product and/or part(s) in question; Priefert finds them to be defective under normal use and service due to defects in material or workmanship,

Priefert will:

1. Repair or replace the defective product or part(s); if Priefert has made several reasonable number of attempts in repairing the product and/or part(s) to conform to the warranty; then
2. Priefert will replace part(s) or product.
3. Purchaser is responsible for any labor charges exceeding a reasonable amount as determined by Priefert and for returning product and/or part(s) to the Dealer, whether or not the claim is approved. Purchaser is responsible for the transportation cost for the product or part(s) from the Dealer to the factory.

The choice of remedy shall belong to Priefert. Repair or replacement are the only remedies against Priefert under this limited warranty.

Limitation of Liability:

1. Priefert disclaims any express (except as set forth herein) and implied warranties with respect to the product including, but not limited to, merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.
2. Priefert makes no warranty as to the design, capability, capacity, or suitability for use of the product.
3. This warranty shall not be interpreted to render us liable for injury or damages of any kind or nature to person or property. Priefert will not be liable for any special, incidental or consequential damages based upon breach of warranty, breach of contract, negligence, strict tort liability, or any other legal theory. Such damages include but are not limited to loss of crops, loss of savings or revenue, cost of capital, loss of use of equipment, facilities or services, down time, expense or loss incurred for labor, supplies, substitute machinery, rental, and claims of third parties including customers, and injury to property.

Supplementary:

1. Proper venue for any lawsuits arising from or related to this limited warranty shall be only in Titus County, Texas.
2. Priefert may waive compliance with any of the terms of this limited warranty, but no waiver of any terms shall be deemed to be a waiver of any other term.
3. If any provision of this limited warranty violates any applicable law and is held unenforceable, then the invalidity of such provision shall not invalidate any other provisions.
4. Applicable law may provide rights and benefits to purchaser in addition to those herein.

Priefert®
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2630 South Jefferson P.O. Box 1540 Mount Pleasant, Texas 75456-1540