

Robotronics®

The Leader In Safety Education Products

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Sparky® the Fire Dog Costume

Care and Use Instructions

Limited Warranty and Service

Warranty

All costumes and accessories have a **limited one year warranty** that covers all parts and labor. This period covers the normal burn-in for electronic components. Experience has shown that this warranty period catches most component defects and other possible flaws. If you have a problem, we are anxious to help. Our desire is to be certain that you receive a quality product at a fair price. Warranty work is specifically limited to correction of defects by repair or replacement of faulty equipment or parts.

The costume or accessories shall be repaired or replaced at Seller's option. Equipment returned to the factory for repair must have pre-authorization from our service department and must be sent freight pre-paid, and will be returned freight pre-paid by UPS ground or common carrier. If you need parts sent by air shipment you will be responsible to pay the additional shipping charges.

In no event shall ROBOTRONICS, Inc. be liable for any incidental or consequential damages in connection with or arising from the use of the costume or accessories.

The buyer is responsible to ensure that proper and complete training is given to those using the Sparky Costume as all aspects of such use cannot be covered in a brief manual such as this. In no event shall ROBOTRONICS, Inc. be liable for any incidental or consequential damages in connection with or arising from the use of these instructions or any procedures contained herein.

Service

If you experience any difficulties after the purchase of a costume, call our Service Department. It is important that you call when you are aware of any problems so that we can solve the matter quickly. Most problems you may have can easily be solved over the phone. We can ship most parts right away in order for you to meet your show dates. Any air shipments are the responsibility of the customer. Service hours are Monday through Friday 8 AM to 5 PM mountain time. Call (801) 489-4466.

If you must return a part for repair; pack it carefully and send it prepaid according to instructions. Include a letter explaining the problems. There is a return for repair form on our website to fill out. Go to **Robotronics.com**, service and repair form. Send this back with the repair.

Safety Precautions and Guidelines

Precautions

- The wearer should use caution when walking in the Sparky costume. Visibility is restricted.
- Always have someone accompany the wearer of the costume, to help guide Sparky and indicate when there are children in his path. This person can also let Sparky know when someone wishes to speak to him, or when steps or other obstacles are nearby.
- Do not wear the costume if you have a heart condition, neck problems, or other medical condition. If in doubt, consult your physician.
- Exercise caution to avoid the effects of heat on the costume wearer. Use cooling techniques and take turns wearing the costume. During hot weather, limit the length of wearing the costume to 15-20 minute periods.
- Do not operate any machinery or eat or drink while wearing the costume.

Sparky the Fire Dog Guidelines

- Use the costume only to further public information, education, and awareness in the prevention of fires.
- Use the costume only in programs or events where fire prevention is a factor.
- The costume should be put on and taken off in private.
- The character is to appear only in the full costume.
- The character should always be dignified, friendly, and professional.
- Keep the costume under cover before and after use.
- The character must always have an escort.
- The wearer should be careful not to frighten or startle children.
- Never engage in any activity that may detract from the important image of Sparky.

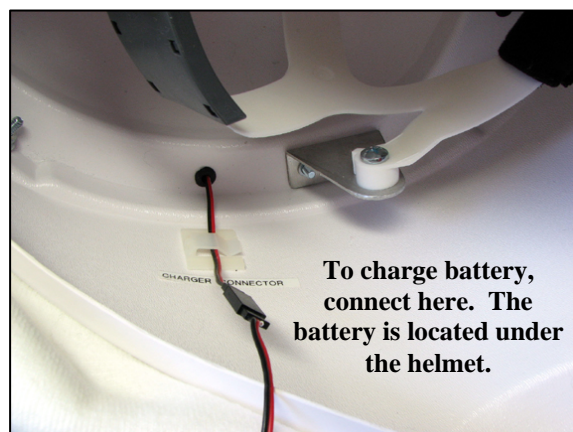
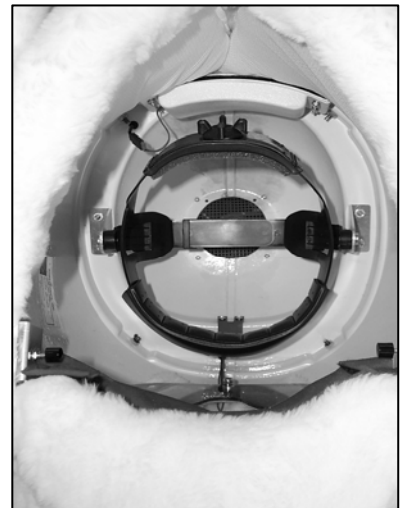
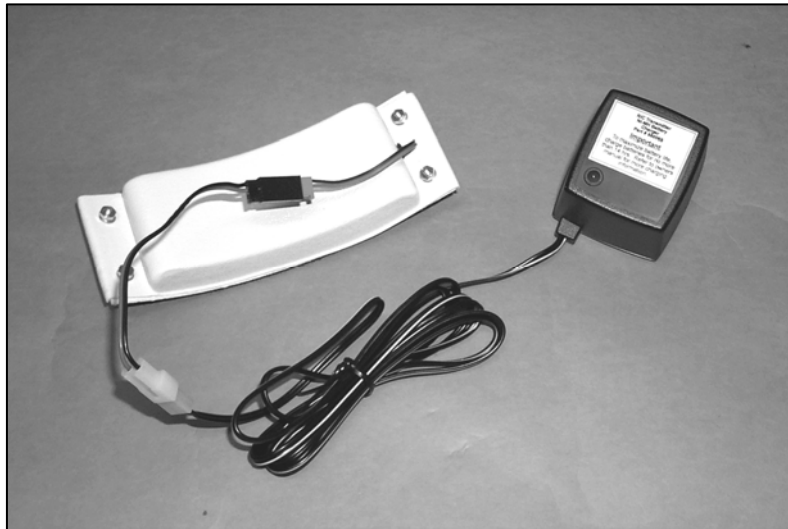
Operation and Features

Charge the battery pack

The battery pack is located under the helmet. Velcro holds it on. To charge it there is wire and connection in the back of the head. Connect the charger to this. Charge it for 12-14 hours for a full charge. Disconnect the charger after the charge time because it will not turn off automatically. Typically the battery will run the fans for about 5 hours. If you have an extra battery pack, you will need to remove the helmet to change batteries. You can charge the extra one outside the costume head as shown below. The helmet can be removed by removing the 4 Phillips screws around the outside of the helmet.

Storage and Maintenance of the Battery

- Before storage, make sure the battery has a full charge because there will be some natural self-discharge while in storage. If the costume will be in storage for a long time, charge the battery to start with and then every 2 months during this period.
- It is best not to allow the battery to go completely dead as this shortens the life of the battery and makes recharging more difficult.
- Avoid overcharging the battery by leaving it on charge beyond the 14 hours.



Operation and Features

Putting the head on

Adjust the headgear for a comfortable fit on your head. There are two adjustments. First is the knob at the back for the fit around your head. Second, adjust the band for support on the top of your head. Set this so that most of the weight rests on your head and the headgear does not slip down over your eyebrows.

Tip: You may find it more comfortable to wear a hat under the headgear.

To operate the fan

The pushbutton switches are located on the lower inside of the head. One switch is for the top fan and the other for the front fan. This gives you the option of using one fan or both depending on how hot your environment is.



Mouth Assembly



Switch Bracket and
Screws



Mouth Screw

Mouth Disassembled
from Head



Threaded Pem Nut
in Mouth

Costume Care and Maintenance

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Care Tip: Use a large sports bag or plastic container to transport the costume and keep it clean. It is much easier to keep the fur clean than to clean it.

General maintenance of your costume should include caring for the fur. After each use, clean and brush the fur and clothing so the oils and dirt do not become permanent. Keep the costume covered when not in use to keep dust and dirt off and to protect the fur and clothing.

1. Store in a well-ventilated area away from excessive temperatures. Car trunks and back seats are very hard on the costume.
2. The head should be brushed regularly, stored in its natural shape, and kept clean with a sponge and mild detergent. You can also use a damp soft cloth and a fabric cleaner such as 303 Fabric /Vinyl Cleaner. Spray disinfectant/deodorizer can be used on the inside of the head to eliminate odor. Never store damp! Store in a plastic bag.
3. The boots can be damp sponge cleaned. Spray deodorizer can be sprayed inside to eliminate odor. If needed shoes can be touched up with latex paint and a sponge roller.
4. Turn out Gear: Use a soft damp cloth with a mild soap. You can also use the 303 Fabric cleaner on this. Dry cleaning is an option for the turn out gear.
5. Paws: The paws can be washed on gentle cycle and dried on low or drip dried. To fluff out again, use a soft brush or compressed air.
6. Remember that minor repairs with hot glue, contact adhesive, or needle and thread can keep small problems from becoming large ones. Replacement parts are available.
7. Remember also that a clean costume lasts longer.

WARNING:

WARRANTY WORK WILL ONLY BE DONE ON CLEAN COSTUMES!
NONADHERENCE TO THESE CARE INSTRUCTIONS MAY VOID WARRANTY!

Costume Care and Maintenance

Plastic Repair

Materials

ABS or PVC clear medium bodied glue

Fiberglass mesh

Rubber gloves

1. Hold the crack together tightly so that the glue you put on the inside of the body does not run through the crack on to the outside of the body.
2. If there are pieces of plastic reinforcement across the seam or crack that are unglued, PVC or ABS glue can be used between the reinforcement piece and the body. A clamp could be used to hold the plastic tightly together while drying.
3. Cut a piece of fiberglass mesh to cover the crack.
4. Position the part, so that the seam or crack is horizontal to the table. This will keep the glue from running. Apply some of the PVC glue along the seam or crack. Check to make sure that the glue is not running through the crack on to the outside of the body. Note: Avoid getting the glue on your hands.
5. Immediately put the fiberglass mesh on the glue and pat it down to saturate into the glue.
6. Apply some more PVC glue over the fiberglass mesh to saturate it some more.
7. It will dry to the touch in about 30 minutes. Allow 24 hours for complete drying.
8. For cracks that need more strength, glue a piece of ABS plastic across the crack with PVC glue.

General Precautions:

Use in a well ventilated area.

Use gloves to avoid getting glue on your hands.

Avoid getting the fiberglass on your skin or clothing. The fiberglass will not hurt you, but could cause skin irritation.

For further precautions, read the PVC glue labeling.