

THE POINT

AN HONEST APPRAISAL?

HIT ME, SERIOUSLY

— Kathy Schifferle

Do you hate dragging equipment around for demonstrations? Are you a nomadic club that gets tired of choosing between dry fencing and carrying reels and boxes around with you? Do you end up with a long line at the club for the electric strip? Or maybe, you are just looking for a cost effective solution to electric fencing?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you will be very interested in the HitMate system recently introduced to this country by Fencing.Net. The HitMate system comes in a small 3" x 8" x 10.5" black plastic case with handle – similar to a small handgun case. Inside, neatly tucked into foam recesses, are three units: two are wireless transmitters that are stuffed into the back pocket of each epee fencer (foil and saber yet to come). Body cords get plugged into them. One is coded with red on the end and the other coded green.

The third unit is a small scoring 'box'. A mere 1.5" x 3" x 5.5", it provides bright scoring lights and a very loud sound. The blue protective rubber cover also has a kick stand so that the unit can be upright on the floor or a table.

The HitMate is simple to use, as there is literally NO setup, and is very effective. To test it out, I used two set up in the same room. There was no interference, and they both performed flawlessly: each HitMate system set is keyed to a different frequency channel, and each of the three devices in a set are labeled with a matching number. All three units come with the required 9v batteries, so you are ready to go out of the box. According to the unit's manufacturer, touches to a metal strip do not register though touches to wooden floors do.

Developed by a UK company, this product is well-designed, compact, attractive, and looks very durable, all for the amazing price of \$359. For more information, or to order the product, you can find it at Fencing.Net, or www.hitmate.co.uk.

