



iPigeon 4-Channel Antenna Pad - Architecture

how to optimise your Trap and Antenna Pads setup

First of all, and this should go without saying, before every Training and Race flight you must check that all Antenna Pads are connected. To check this, go into the HOME page of your iPigeon Timer and you'll see how many pads are connected, and check this is the correct number of Pads!

In terms of other standard measures, please ensure that the Antenna Pads are never exposed to rain or moisture.

We occasionally hear Fanciers comment, don't we, that one or more birds didn't get timed in from Training, sometimes even a Race (on any ETS system). Sometimes this arises when a group of birds land together, and the Fancier can't understand why some timed and some didn't, as every bird must have walked over the same pad(s), right? But as we'll see further down this document it can also arise for a single bird, if the Trap/Pads setup isn't correct.

To understand how arrivals can be 'missed', we also need to observe and understand the internal architecture of an **iPigeon 4-Channel Antenna Pad** (which is very similar to all other ETS brands). These notes apply equally to our smaller 1-Channel Antenna Pad

So, this is what our 4-Channel pad looks like inside:-



- Each of the four 'channels' has wiring wound in a rectangular shape
- There are the readable areas for ChipRings, four in all
- Any space outside of these areas is non-readable area!
- A chipring (containing a transponder) going through this area will be read by the Pad, so long as at some point the ring gains exclusive occupancy of one of these readable areas (i.e. not shared with another)
- A readable area can only read one ring, it can only read another ring when the previous ring exits the readable area

- Any pigeon that occupies and then stays within a readable area will prevent other pigeons' rings being read, even if they walk directly through that area!
- Note also the not insignificant 'dead' areas (15%-20%) between the readable areas ... if a pigeon walks directly through a dead area its ring will not be read!

So, understanding all the above, whatever design of trap you use, in combination with your Antenna Pads, you must ensure that every pigeon's chipring goes through one of these readable areas, one at a time, and then quickly leaves it to allow a following pigeon's ring to then also be read. Ideally, using our 4-Channel Pad as an example, you should create a 4-hole arrangement that 'makes' the birds walk quickly and directly over and through the center of a readable area. You can/should take the 'dead' areas out of play by blanking them off.

Do not, for example, position your Pads under a very large external landing board, where birds can perhaps land and mob the readable areas, 'occupy' and tie up the readable areas, meaning that some rings may not get read when they finally go through the trap.

In summary, you should absolutely be able to avoid birds being 'missed' as this situation is 100% within your control ... please have a look at your current setup and modify if necessary ... for sure you won't want to lose a good position because your trap/pad design is deficient.

Of course, for any advice, please email PBO at poleary72@hotmail.com we're here to help!