TECHNICAL NOTE

*A PROCEDURE FOR CONCURRENTLY MEASURING
ELAPSED TIME AND RESPONSE FREQUENCY*

Rapid and reliable estimates of response rate may be obtained by using a wrist-worn golf score counter (Lindsley, 1968) in conjunction with a wrist watch that is equipped with an elapsed time indicator (ETI). The ETI consists of a movable outer ring attached by the manufacturer to a specially designed bezel. When rotated manually and aligned with the minute hand, elapsed time up to 60 min will be shown. A rate measure is then computed by dividing the elapsed time figure into the number of events recorded. The ETI may also be used to obtain behavior duration measures, or advanced to serve as a reminder when recording or other activities should be conducted.

Figure 1 shows a wrist counter and watch with an ETI that have been mounted on to a single watch band for comfort and ease of synchronization, although both components might also be attached to one wrist using the commercially supplied band for each.¹ For various behaviors, interrater agreement on behavior frequency between individuals using the wrist counter together with an ETI watch and recording by means of paper and pencil tallies with a stopwatch for measurement of elapsed time has averaged over 95%. Similarly, consistent agreement (at no time did discrepancies exceed 1 min) has been achieved between raters using the ETI and a conventional stopwatch in measuring the duration of behavioral events lasting from 1 to 60 min.

Coordinating the ETI watch and wrist counter enables the observer to transform frequency data into measures of response rate, after which valid comparisons of behavior across temporally unequal observation periods may be performed. Similarly, being wrist worn and relatively unobtrusive, the watch-counter combination provides a convenient alternative for observers who find it impractical to obtain measurements using the more cumbersome clipboard with accompanying stopwatch and recording sheets.

¹The watch shown in Figure 1 (Chalet "Skin Diver") sells for approximately \$9 at most K-Mart stores and comes with a 2-yr service guarantee. The cost of materials for the specially designed leather band was about \$1.50.

REFERENCE

- Lindsley, O. A reliable wrist counter for recording behavior rates. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 1968, 1, 77-78.

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Fig. 1. Conventional wrist counter and ETI equipped watch that have been mounted on to a single leather watch band for ease of synchronization.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Pursuant to the policy statement published elsewhere in this issue, no more Technical Notes will be published in JABA in this format. Brief papers con-

taining formal evaluations of products, *etc.*, will henceforth be published as Brief Technical Reports. Papers that do not contain formal evaluations will be condensed into a one-paragraph Communication.