

Claw Machine Operator Reference Guide

Grip strength, capsule fitting, refill best practices, and maintenance reminders in one clean reference.

Section 1: Calibrate Claw Strength by Prize Type

Match plush size and capsule packaging to your machine's strength settings. Avoid over-gripping or dropping prizes.

Prize Fit & Grip Strength Chart

Prize Type	Weight	Grip %	Capsule	Claw Type
Mini Plush (2")	10-25g	20-30%	2" Round or Acorn	Standard 3-Prong
Medium Plush (3")	25-50g	35-55%	3" Capsule	Wide 3-Prong or Scoop
Large Plush (4"+)	50-90g+	60-90%	Loose-fit or None	Jumbo Claw or Scoop

Tip: Use matte capsules or reduce tension in warm environments to prevent slippage.

Section 2: Match the Right Prize to Each Claw Strength

This chart helps you select the best claw type for each item. Light claws for capsules. Strong claws for large plush or irregular shapes.

Prize Compatibility by Claw Strength

Prize Type	Light Claw	Medium Claw	Strong Claw	Comments
1.1" Capsules	Best	Caution	Avoid	Use light tension. Strong grip may crush or eject capsule.
2" Capsules	Caution	Best	Acceptable	
Mini Plush (2-3")	Needs Soft Tips	Reliable	Firm Hold	Multiple grip points make this size forgiving.
Irregular Shapes		Grips Well	Best	
Large Plush (4"+)	Avoid	Weak Grip	Required	Use wide claws. Flat bottom centers best.

Legend: Best · Caution (Acceptable with adjustments) · Avoid

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Operator Tips & Maintenance

Refill & Rotation Best Practices

- Keep top-performing prizes visible at the front.
- Group similar prizes together to avoid visual clutter.
- Rotate out older stock monthly to refresh appeal.
- Top off machines regularly to avoid running empty.

Monthly Maintenance Checklist

- Inspect claw tension cable and test grab strength.
- Wipe down claw arms and remove any buildup or dust.
- Test coin slot, chute, and payout mechanisms.
- Ensure capsule track and prize drop area are clear.