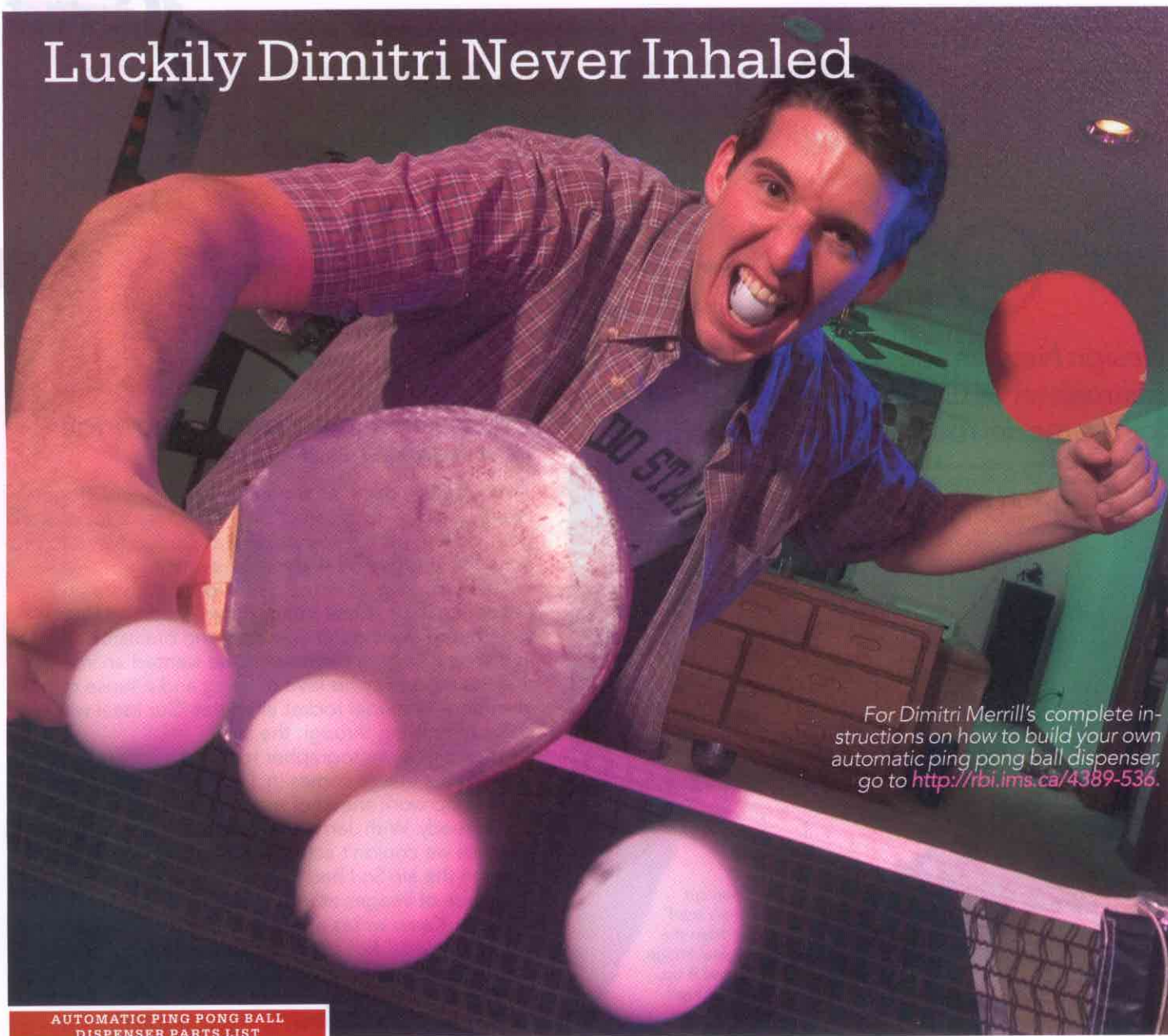


Luckily Dimitri Never Inhaled



For Dimitri Merrill's complete instructions on how to build your own automatic ping pong ball dispenser, go to <http://rbi.ims.ca/4389-536>.

AUTOMATIC PING PONG BALL DISPENSER PARTS LIST

Amt	Part Description	Allied Part #
1	H-bridge, 3A, 55V	288-1572
1	Acoustic buzzer	623-1997
1	12V, 42A dc power supply	653-0242
2	10 nF capacitor	881-3322
3	330 Ω resistor	296-5216
2	Normally open button	948-7199
1	Proto board	977-1951
3	1,000 microF capacitor	852-0011
1	Optical detector	263-0909
1	Infrared emitter	980-9991

Additional parts required: 1 Xilinx Spartan-3 Starter Kit (Xilinx part number DO-SPAR3-DK)

Preferring his tennis games to be of the table-top variety, Dimitri didn't like to repeatedly bend down and pick up balls. It slowed down his play and created wear-and-tear on his back. So he built a microcontroller-based, automatic ball dispenser. A player simply pushes a switch on the four-ball device, releasing one ball at a time. Using an infrared optical detector, the system automatically counts down the ball inventory, updating and displaying the number remaining. When the last ball is released, a buzzer sounds, notifying players to replenish.

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