

PCBuddy Interface

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing this PCBuddy interface, which has been developed as a result of requests from several different sources. We believe that PCBuddy is the only PC serial port to RC buddy box interface on the market.

The PCBuddy interface is designed to be used with standard radio control equipment, to enable remote robotic vehicles to be controlled using a computer program. At the transmitting end, the equipment configuration is a PC with the PCBuddy interface plugged into a free COM port, linked to an RC transmitter via its training socket, or 'buddy-box interface'. At the receiving end, a standard RC receiver may be connected to servos, electronic motor speed controllers or any of the many RC auxiliary-function accessories available. PCBuddy will generate up to 8 channels of standard PPM encoded data.

In Use

In order to verify the unit's operation, and to provide a possible starting point for further program development, a small PC application, complete with the source code and manual (in Adobe Acrobat format), is included as part of the product package. If you have not already done so, then please download this from the website: <http://www.rc-electronics.co.uk/PCBuddy.exe>

The program is a self-extractor and, when run, will create a folder, c:\pcbuddy, into which it will copy the installation files. The source code and manual will be copied to appropriate sub-folders. Finally, it will launch the setup program for the actual application. Note that both the setup and the application itself, are 16-bit and do not understand long filenames. It is therefore suggested that the defaults are accepted.

Buddy Box Connections

In most cases, the unit is factory-configured to "idle high" by means of a solder bridge across pins 1 & 2 of the PIC. This will work with most transmitters except those Sanwa/Airtronics fitted with 5-pin, 180 degree DIN plugs, where the interface will have been configured to "idle-low" by bridging pins 2 & 3.

If the solder bridge is removed, output sense is indeterminate, and the interface may even change between one sense and the other!

Bear this in mind if you want to change the connector for use with a different make of radio or make up adaptors for use with different makes. Some transmitters may allow sense to be changed, for instance, by setting PPR on the Airtronics RD6000.

Contacting Us.

If you have any problems, please first check out the web site for any updates to this instruction sheet or the manual, and the FAQ page for any common questions. If this does not help, then email us (info@rc-electronics.co.uk).