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GREMSY SDK INTEGRATION GUIDE

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Introduction

SDK Documentation Home

This document helps you get started with the various aspects of building an SDK application and describes the protocol which can be used by software to control Gremsy's gimbal. The gimbal can be controlled using serial via the COM2 connector.

Besides, Gremsy gimbal also supports MAVProxy with command gimbal point and MAVSDK to control the gimbal and autopilot system.

MAVProxy

Link: [Gimbal Management — MAVProxy documentation \(ardupilot.org\)](https://ardupilot.org/docs/master/gimbal-management.html)

MAVSDK

Link: [Introduction · MAVSDK Guide \(mavlink.io\)](https://mavlink.io/en/master/introduction.html)

Coordinate System

Earth Frame

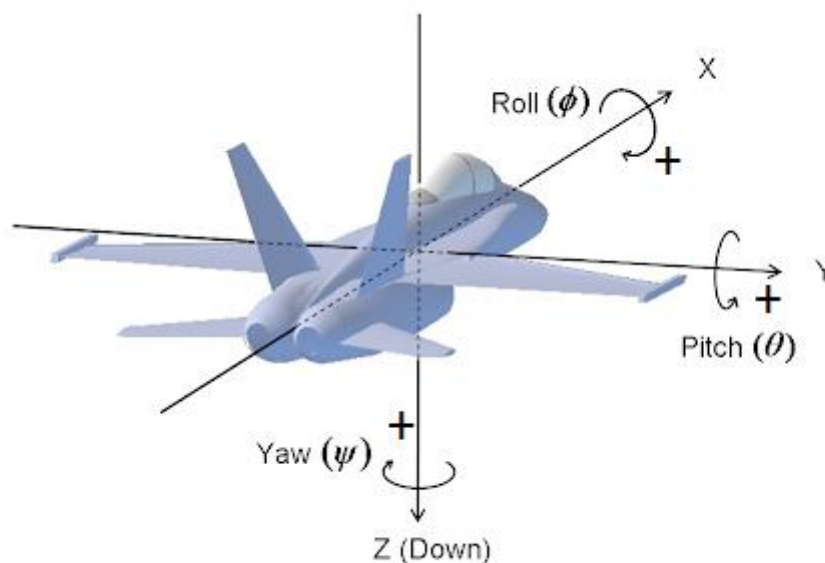
The Earth frames are aircraft's location dependent, the frames are defined tangent to the lines of geographical coordinates. The convention used in SDK is Local North, East, Down (NED) coordinates. Three perpendicular axes are defined such that the origin is the center of

mass, the **X-axis** is pointing North, and the **Y-axis** is pointing East. Using the coordinate right-hand rule, the **Z-axis** is pointing Down.

Body Frame

The body frame is in the Earth frame rotated so that the **X-axis** is pointing forward the aircraft heading, the **Y-axis** is pointing to the right, and the **Z-axis** is pointing down.

Gimbal rotation is also described in these frames with Euler Roll, Pitch, and Yaw angles rotating around X, Y, and Z axes.



Works Modes

The gimbal has several work modes that define how the gimbal follows aircraft movement, and how many axes are available for control.

- Follow Mode: Yaw will follow the aircraft heading.
- Lock Mode: The gimbal can move independently from the aircraft.

Moving the Gimbal

The gimbal can be controlled in two input modes:

- Angle Mode: Move to a target attitude
- Speed Mode: Move at a target rate for the individual axis.

When using Angle Mode, the gimbal moves to target attitude in Earth frame if operating in Lock mode. Otherwise, the gimbal moves to the target attitude in the Body frame if operating in Follow mode.

When using Speed Mode, the gimbal moves at the absolute rate in the Earth frame.

General Protocol Overview

The API is implemented based on the [MAVLink protocol](#). Mavlink provides an open data format for interaction as well as a suite of tools to assist the programmer in developing and testing the interface.

Gimbal uses Mavlink v2.0 message and communicates with other components at 115200 baudrate and 8N1.

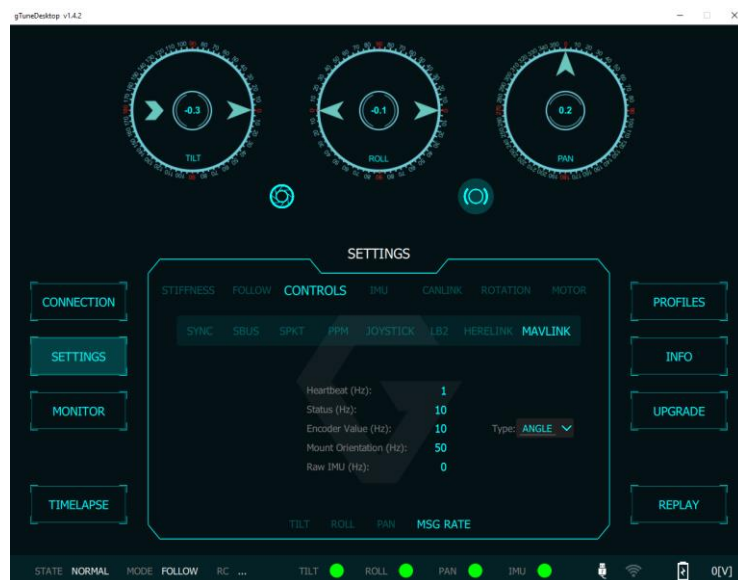
NOTE:

- **Firmware:**
 - Pixy Series: v756_Official and above.
 - T3 Series: v756_Official and above.
 - T7V1: v756_Official and above.
 - S1V3: v756_Official and above.
 - Mio: v756_Official and above.
- **gTune Desktop**
 - gTuneDesktop_v1.4.2 or above.
- **Link:** <https://github.com/Gremsy>

Enable SDK API

Gimbal Data Transmissions over MAVLink

- Gimbal sends status data through MAVLink messages. Other components can configure the gimbal to transmit data at the desired rate via MAVLink commands.
- The SDK supports reading data and configuring the gimbal with open APIs.



HEARTBEAT (Message ID: #0)

The Gimbal sends HEARTBEAT messages at approximately 1Hz. It sends through COM2 and COM4 on the QR after receiving any HEARTBEAT messages from other components. Take advantage of this message to check the connection between your devices and the gimbal.

SYS_STATUS (Message ID: #1)

The gimbal pushes status information with SYS_STATUS messages at approximately 1Hz. Status information includes the working modes, sensor states, and motor states.

See Gimbal_Interface::gimbal_status_t structure for more details.

RAW_IMU (Message ID: #27)

The gimbal provides raw imu data for applications that want to inspect data and develop algorithms.

Acceleration (raw): range $4g = 8192$.

Gyro(raw): range $1000dps = 32768$.

Field	Type	Description	Gimbal Implementation
time_usec	uint64_t	Timestamp (us)	Same as official
xacc	int16_t	X acceleration (raw)	Same as official
yacc	int16_t	Y acceleration (raw)	Same as official
zacc	int16_t	Z acceleration (raw)	Same as official
xgyro	int16_t	Angular speed around the X-axis	Same as official
ygyro	int16_t	Angular speed around the Y-axis	Same as official
zgyro	int16_t	Angular speed around the Z-axis	Same as official
xmag	int16_t	X Magnetic field	Ignored
ymag	int16_t	Y Magnetic field	Ignored
zmag	int16_t	Z Magnetic field	Ignored

MOUNT_STATUS (Message ID: #158)

This message provides raw encoder values or encoder angle values of the gimbal.

The encoder resolution: 2^{16} bits.

Field Name	Type	Description	Gimbal Implementation
pointing_a	int32_t	Pitch (cdeg)	Tilt encoder value
pointing_b	int32_t	Roll (cdeg)	Roll encoder value
pointing_c	int32_t	Yaw (cdeg)	Pan encoder value
target_system	uint8_t	System ID	Target system ID
target_component	uint8_t	Component ID	Target component ID

MOUNT_ORIENTATION (Message ID: #265)

This message contains information about gimbal attitude. Use this message as feedback when controlling the gimbal.

Field Name	Type	Description	Gimbal Implementation
time_boot_ms	int32_t	Timestamp (ms)	Same as official
roll	float	Roll in the Earth frame (deg)	Same as official
pitch	float	Pitch in the Earth frame (deg)	Same as official
yaw	float	Yaw in the Body frame (deg)	Same as official
yaw_absolute**	float	Yaw in the Earth frame	Same as official

GIMBAL_DEVICE_INFORMATION

This message contains gimbal information.

Field	Type	Description	Gimbal Implementation
time_boot_ms	uint32_t	Timestamp (ms)	Same as official
vendor_name	char[32]	Vendor's name	Same as official
model_name	char[32]	Model's name	Same as official
custom_name	char[32]	A custom name is given by the user	Same as official
firmware_version	uint32_t	Firmware version	Same as official
hardware_version	uint32_t	Hardware version	Ignored
uid	uint64_t	Hardware uid	Ignored
cap_flags	uint16_t	Capability flags	Same as official
custom_cap_flags	uint16_t	Specific capability flags	Ignored
roll_min	float	Minimum hardware roll angle	Same as official
roll_max	float	Maximum hardware roll angle	Same as official
pitch_min	float	Minimum hardware pitch angle	Same as official
pitch_max	float	Maximum hardware pitch angle	Same as official
yaw_min	float	Minimum hardware yaw angle	Same as official
yaw_max	float	Maximum hardware yaw angle	Same as official

GIMBAL_DEVICE_ATTITUDE_STATUS

The gimbal broadcast this message to report status.

Field	Type	Description	Gimbal Implementation
target_system	uint8_t	System ID	Same as official
target_component	uint8_t	Component ID	Same as official
time_boot_ms	uint32_t	Timestamp (ms)	Same as official
flags	uint16_t	Gimbal flags	Same as official
q	float[4]	Gimbal attitude	Same as official
angular_velocity_x	float	X component of angular velocity (rad/s)	Same as official
angular_velocity_y	float	Y component of angular velocity (rad/s)	Same as official
angular_velocity_z	float	Z component of angular velocity (rad/s)	Same as official
failure_flags	uint32_t	Failure flags	Same as official

Gimbal Control Messages

Common Messages

Common messages are those used for gimbal control and are independent of the MAVLink Gimbal Protocol version.

COMMAND_LONG (Message ID: #76)

Field	Type	Description
target_system	uint8_t	Gimbal System ID
target_component	uint8_t	Gimbal Component ID
command	uint16_t	Command ID
confirmation	uint8_t	0
param1	float	Parameter 1. Default 0
param2	float	Parameter 2. Default 0
param3	float	Parameter 3. Default 0
param4	float	Parameter 4. Default 0
param5	float	Parameter 5. Default 0
param6	float	Parameter 6. Default 0
param7	float	Parameter 7. Default 0

command: MAV_CMD_USER_1

This command is used to turn the gimbal motor on or off.

Param (: Label)	Description	Values
7:	ON/OFF	0: OFF, 1: ON

command: MAV_CMD_DO_MOUNT_CONFIGURE

This command is used to configure gimbal mount mode. Detail implementation is in SDK.

Param (: Label)	Description	Values
1: Mode	Mount operation mode	See MAV_MOUNT_MODE and APIs

command: MAV_CMD_PREFLIGHT_REBOOT_SHUTDOWN

This command is used to reboot the gimbal.

Param (: Label)	Description	Values
4: Flag	Flag to check reboot command	1

command: MAV_CMD_REQUEST_MESSAGE

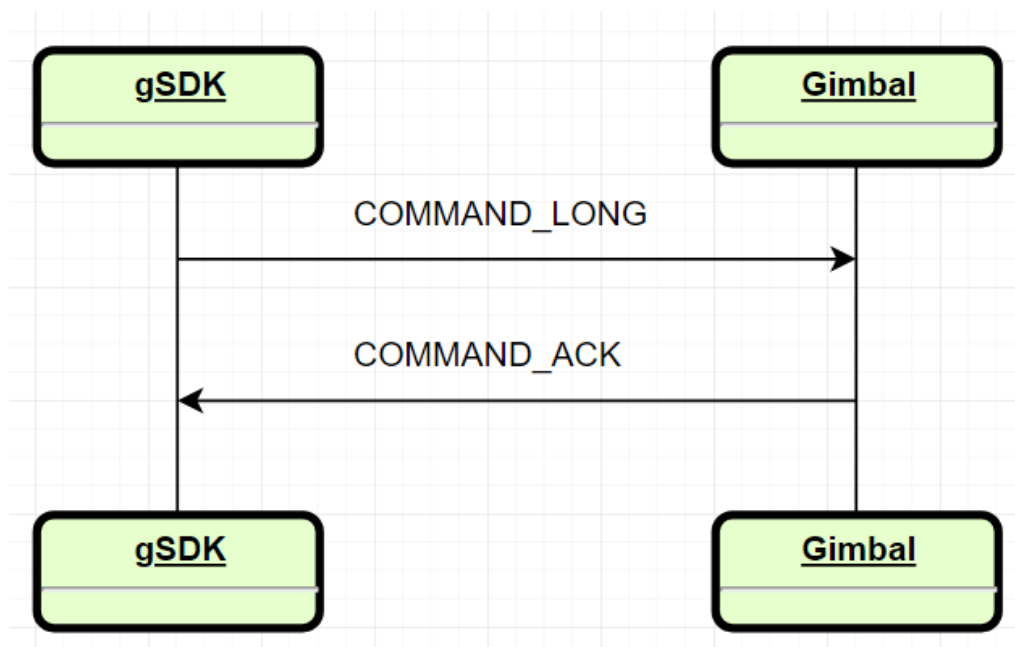
This command is used to request gimbal emit a single instance of a specified message.

Param (: Label)	Description	Values
1: Message ID	The MAVLink message ID of the requested message	Message ID

command: MAV_CMD_SET_MESSAGE_INTERVAL

This command is used to request and set the interval between messages for a particular MAVLink message ID.

Param (: Label)	Description	Values
1: Message ID	The MAVLink message ID of the requested message	Message ID
2: Interval	The interval between 2 messages. Set to -1 to disable and 0 to request the default rate	Interval (us)

COMMAND_ACK (Message ID: #77)

The MAVLink command protocol allows for guaranteed delivery of MAVLink commands. The gimbal responds to commands from other components with COMMAND_ACK. Additionally, the gimbal waits for a COMMAND_ACK response from other components when sending commands.

Field	Type	Description
commad	uint16_t	Command ID
result	uint8_t	Result of command.
progress **	uint8_t	Ignored
result_param2 **	int32_t	Ignored
target_system **	uint8_t	Target System ID
target_component **	uint8_t	Target Component ID

MAVLink Gimbal Protocol V1

The messages below are specific messages implemented for gimbal control in MAVLink Gimbal Protocol V1.

COMMAND_LONG (Message ID: #76)

command: MAV_CMD_DO_MOUNT_CONTROL

This command is used to control the gimbal to move to the target attitude or at the target speed.

Param (: Label)	Description	Values
1: Pitch	Pitch control value	Depends on the input mode (deg or deg/s)
2: Roll	Roll control value	Depends on the input mode (deg or deg/s)
3: Yaw	Yaw control value	Depends on the input mode (deg or deg/s)
6: Input mode	Input mode	See Gimbal_Protocol::input_mode_t
7: Mount mode	Mount mode	MAV_MOUNT_MODE_MAVLINK_TARGETTING

command: MAV_CMD_USER_2

This command is used to change the gimbal control mode Lock/Follow.

Param (: Label)	Description	Values
6: Reset mode	Reset mode	See Gimbal_Protocol::gimbal_reset_mode_t
7: Control mode	Control mode	See Gimbal_Protocol::control_mode_t

MAVLink Gimbal Protocol V2

GIMBAL_DEVICE_SET_ATTITUDE

This message is used to control the gimbal device.

Field	Type	Description
target_system	uint8_t	Gimbal System ID
target_component	uint8_t	Gimbal Component ID
flags	uint16_t	Low level gimbal flags.
q	float[4]	Target attitude in quaternion form
angular_velocity_x	float	X component of angular velocity (rad/s)
angular_velocity_y	float	Y component of angular velocity (rad/s)
angular_velocity_z	float	Z component of angular velocity (rad/s)

AUTOPILOT_STATE_FOR_GIMBAL_DEVICE

This message contains the autopilot state for the gimbal device.

Field	Type	Description
target_system	uint8_t	Gimbal System ID
target_component	uint8_t	Gimbal Component ID
time_boot_us	uint64_t	Timestamp (us)
q	float[4]	Autopilot attitude in quaternion form
q_estimated_delay_us	uint32_t	Estimated delay of the attitude data

v_x	float	X Speed in NED (m/s)
v_y	float	Y Speed in NED (m/s)
v_z	float	Z Speed in NED (m/s)
v_estimated_delay_us	uint32_t	Estimated delay of the speed data
feed_forward_angular_velocity_z	float	Feedforward Z component of angular velocity (rad/s)
estimator_status	uint16_t	Bitmap indicating which estimator outputs are valid
landed_state	uint8_t	The landed state

APIs Reference

Public Types

Type	Description
struct Gimbal_Interface::time_stamps_t	Gimbal messages timestamps
enum Gimbal_Interface::control_direction_t	Gimbal axis control direction
enum Gimbal_Interface::control_motor_t	Gimbal motor mode ON/OFF
enum Gimbal_Interface::operation_state_t	Gimbal operation state
struct Gimbal_Interface::fw_version_t	Gimbal firmware version
struct Gimbal_Interface::gimbal_status_t	Gimbal status
struct Gimbal_Interface::gimbal_config_axis_t	Gimbal axis motion parameters
struct Gimbal_Interface::gimbal_motor_control_t	Gimbal axis stiffness parameters
enum Gimbal_Interface::MAVLINK_PROTO	MAVLink gimbal protocol version
struct Gimbal_Interface::limit_angle_t	Gimbal axis software limit
struct Gimbal_Interface::imu_t	Gimbal imu data type
enum Gimbal_Protocol::result_t	Enum described function return status
enum Gimbal_Protocol::control_mode_t	Gimbal control mode
enum Gimbal_Protocol::gimbal_reset_mode_t	Gimbal reset mode

Public Member Functions

Type	Name	Description
	Gimbal_Interface(Serial_Port *serial_port, uint8_t sysid, uint8_t compid, MAVLINK_PROTO proto)	Constructor. Creates a gimbal interface for a specific system and MAVLink Gimbal Protocol version.
	~Gimbal_Interface()	Destructor.
void	start()	Starts the gimbal interface.
void	stop()	Stops the gimbal interface.
void	start_read_thread()	Internal use only.
void	start_write_thread()	Internal use only.
void	handle_quit()	Quit handler.
bool	get_flag_exit()	Checks if the interface has stopped.
bool	get_connection()	Check if the interface has connected to the gimbal device.
bool	present()	Check if the gimbal is ready to control.
Gimbal_Protocol::result_t	set_gimbal_reboot()	Reboots gimbal.
Gimbal_Protocol::result_t	set_gimbal_rc_input_sync()	Sets the gimbal to RC Input mode, will return when the command is responded to. This function is blocking.
Gimbal_Protocol::result_t	set_gimbal_motor(control_motor_t type)	Sets the gimbal motor ON/OFF.
Gimbal_Protocol::control_mode_t	get_gimbal_mode()	Gets the gimbal control mode.

Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_reset_mode(gimbal_reset_mode_t reset_mode)	Resets the gimbal with a specific mode.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_lock_mode_sync()	Sets the gimbal to Lock mode, will return when the command is responded to. This function is blocking.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_follow_mode_sync()	Sets the gimbal to Follow mode, will return when the command is responded to. This function is blocking.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_rotation_sync(float pitch, float roll, float yaw)	Rotates the gimbal to target attitude, will return when the command is responded to. This function is blocking.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_rotation_rate_sync(float pitch, float roll, float yaw)	Rotates the gimbal at target rate, and will return when the command is responded to. This function is blocking.
Gimbal_Interface:: gimbal_status_t	get_gimbal_status()	Gets the gimbal status.
Gimbal_Interface:: imu_t	get_gimbal_raw_imu()	Gets the gimbal raw imu data.
attitude<float>	get_gimbal_attitude()	Gets the gimbal attitude.
attitude<int16_t>	get_gimbal_encoder()	Gets the gimbal encoder value, depending on the encoder type send.
Gimbal_Interface:: timestamps_t	get_gimbal_timestamps()	Gets the gimbal timestamps.
Gimbal_Interface:: fw_version_t	get_gimbal_version()	Gets the gimbal firmware version.

Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_config_tilt_axis(const gimbal_config_axis_t &config)	Configures the gimbal tilt axis motion parameters.
Gimbal_Interface:: gimbal_config_axis_t	get_gimbal_config_tilt_axis()	Gets the gimbal tilt axis motion parameters
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_config_roll_axis(const gimbal_config_axis_t &config)	Configures the gimbal roll axis motion parameters.
Gimbal_Interface:: gimbal_config_axis_t	get_gimbal_config_roll_axis()	Gets the gimbal roll axis motion parameters
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_config_pan_axis(const gimbal_config_axis_t &config)	Configures the gimbal pan axis motion parameters.
Gimbal_Interface:: gimbal_config_axis_t	get_gimbal_config_pan_axis()	Gets the gimbal pans axis motion parameters
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	get_gimbal_motor_control(gimbal_motor_control_t &tilt, gimbal_motor_control_t &roll, gimbal_motor_control_t &pan, uint8_t &gyro_filter, uint8_t &output_filter, uint8_t &gain)	Get the gimbal motor configuration.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_motor_control(const gimbal_motor_control_t &tilt, const gimbal_motor_control_t &roll, const gimbal_motor_control_t &pan, uint8_t gyro_filter, uint8_t output_filter, uint8_t gain)	Configures the gimbal motor parameters.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_msg_encoder_rate(uint8_t rate)	Sets the gimbal encoder messages rate.s
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_msg_mnt_orient_rate(uint8_t rate)	Sets the gimbal mount orientation messages rate.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_msg_attitude_status_rate(uint8_t rate)	Sets the gimbal attitude status messages rate.

Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_msg_raw_imu_rate(uint8_t rate)	Sets the gimbal raw imu messages rate.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_encoder_type_send(bool type)	Sets the gimbal encoder type send.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	request_gimbal_device_info()	Requests the gimbal device information.
bool	get_gimbal_encoder_type_send()	Gets the gimbal encoder type send.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_gimbal_combine_attitude(bool flag)	Sets the gimbal enabling reduced yaw drifting.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_limit_angle_pitch(const limit_angle_t &limit_angle)	Sets the gimbal pitch axis limit.
Gimbal_Interface:: limit_angle_t	get_limit_angle_pitch()	Gets the gimbal pitch axis limit.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_limit_angle_yaw(const limit_angle_t &limit_angle)	Sets the gimbal yaw axis limit.
Gimbal_Interface:: limit_angle_t	get_limit_angle_yaw()	Gets the gimbal yaw axis limit.
Gimbal_Protocol:: result_t	set_limit_angle_roll(const limit_angle_t &limit_angle)	Sets the gimbal roll axis limit.
Gimbal_Interface:: limit_angle_t	get_limit_angle_roll()	Gets the gimbal roll axis limit.

NOTE: Please refer to the [User Manual](#) to configure gimbal parameters for the best performance.

Development Workflow

Prerequisites

To build an SDK based application the following are required

- Programming experience C/C++.
- A compatible gimbal.
- Your Onboard Computer with an available TTL UART port.
- Software tool to build the SDK .
- PC to run the required software tool.

Hardware setup guide

This guide will help you connect your Onboard Computer with the Gimbal (T3, S1, PixyF, PixyU).

Data

The onboard computer communicates to the Gimbal through a UART interface.



Power

Power can be drawn directly from the COM2 port (1A max@5V).

UART

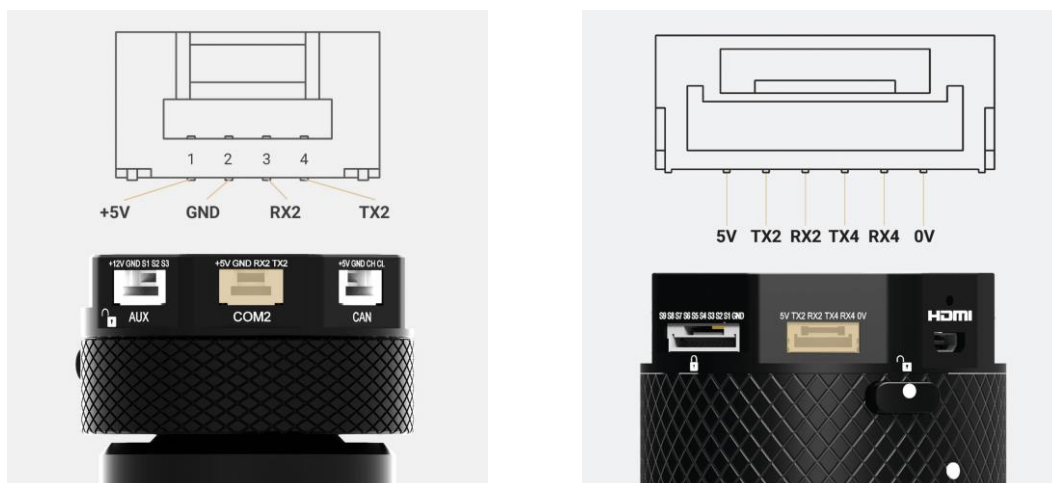
Interface Details

- The UART electrical interface for all SDK compatible Gremsy Gimbal is 3.3 volt TTL.
- You must ensure that your onboard computer UART port operates at the same voltage to avoid damaging the Gimbal Controller. For example, RS-232 ports will need a level-shifting circuit.
- The UART interface does not require power from the onboard computer.

Connector Pinout S1



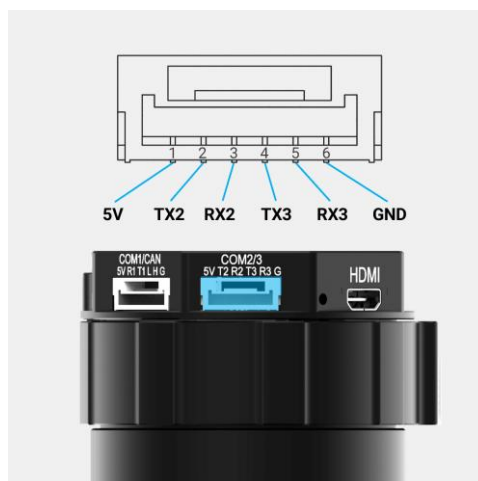
Connector Pinout T3



T3V2_QR

T3V3_QR

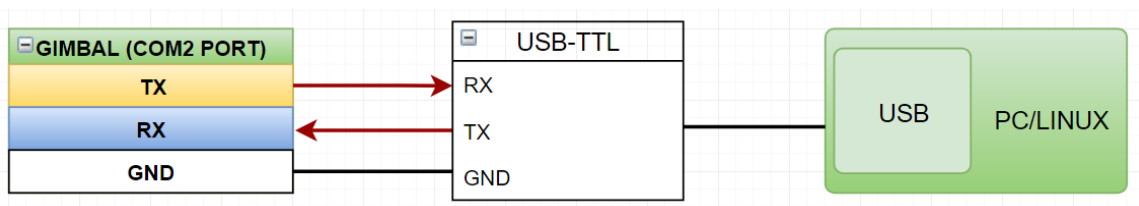
Connector Pinout PIXY



Connecting to your Onboard Computer

The diagram below shows the hardware connection between a GIMBAL and a PC or LINUX machine. Note that:

- The recommended choice of USB to TTL cable is the FT232 module.
- Baudrate: 115200
- Bit data: 8 bits
- Parity: No Parity



Software Environment Setup Guide

This guide details the software environment needed to work with the SDK

Download the gSDK and Required tools

- ❖ Installing gTune app [Gremsy Store](#) → Support → Product Support → Choose your gimbal → Download

Update Firmware

Please follow the gimbal [User Manual](#) to update the new firmware for the gimbal.

Configure Linux Development Environment

Install Development Tools

To build standalone Linux applications based on the gSDK, you need:

- A supported C++ compiler.
- A bash shell.
- A modern Linux distribution.

Add UART Permissions

Please follow the steps below to add UART read and write permissions for users specified in Linux:

- Use the `sudo usermod -a -G dialout $ USER` command to add the user to the `dialout` group.
- After logging in to the added account again, the account can obtain UART read and write permissions.

Setting up samples

Before you start

1. Make sure you have followed the steps in the **Hardware Setup Guide** to get your connection right.
2. Follow the steps in the Environment Setup guide to get your software ready to run samples.

Run The Sample On The Linux

This is a simple MAVLink to UART interface example for Linux systems that can allow communication between a gimbal and an Onboard Computer.

This example will receive Mavlink messages from the gimbal and send MAVLink messages for controlling and setting the gimbal.

Building the gSDK and running the example

1. Clone (or download as a zip) the gSDK

<https://github.com/Gremsy/gSDK.git>

2. Open a terminal, cd into the gSDK folder, and follow these steps to build the gSDK:

```
$ cd gSDK
```

```
$ make
```

Execution

You have to pick a port name, try searching for it with

```
$ ls /dev/ttyACM*
```

```
$ ls /dev/ttyUSB*
```

Run the example executable on the host shell:

\$ cd gSDK

\$./gSDK -d /dev/ttyUSB0

To stop the program, use the key sequence Ctrl-C

```

OPEN PORT
Connected to /dev/ttyUSB0 with 115200 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit (8N1)
|
START READ THREAD

  Lost Connection!
  Lost Connection!
Found

GOT GIMBAL SYSTEM ID: 4
START WRITE THREAD

Got message gimbal status
Gimbal is operating
Got message RAW IMU.
  raw imu: time: 1591149964954814, xacc:20, yacc:-60, zacc:8534, xgyro:1287, xgyro:110, xgyro:124(raw)
Got message Mount orientation.
  orientation: time: 2020804268, p:-0.002313, r:0.058161, y:-0.032959 (degree)
Got message Mount status
  Encoder Angle: time: 1591149964954833, p:0, r:0, y:0 (Degree)
  SETTING TILT: dir 1, speed_follow: 65, speed_control: 50
  MOTOR_CONTROL: GYRO: 2, OUT 3, GAIN 120
  TILT  stiff 80, hold: 40
  ROLL  stiff 90, hold: 40
  PAN   stiff 100, hold: 40

FW Version: 7.5.0.OFFICIAL
READ SOME MESSAGES

Got message gimbal status
Gimbal is operating
Got message RAW IMU.
  raw imu: time: 1591149965057013, xacc:103, yacc:-168, zacc:8289, xgyro:502, xgyro:-43, xgyro:-14(raw)
Got message Mount orientation.
  orientation: time: 2020874504, p:-0.049958, r:0.079474, y:-0.032959 (degree)
Got message Mount status
  Encoder Angle: time: 1591149965057037, p:0, r:0, y:0 (Degree)
  SETTING TILT: dir 1, speed_follow: 65, speed_control: 50
  MOTOR_CONTROL: GYRO: 2, OUT 3, GAIN 120
  TILT  stiff 80, hold: 40
  ROLL  stiff 90, hold: 40
  PAN   stiff 100, hold: 40

^C
TERMINATING AT USER REQUEST

CLOSE THREADS

CLOSE PORT

```