DT2U MANUAL UPDATE

USB DRIVERS:

The DT2U manual suggests that you install the USB driver from the CD rather than having Windows Update install it automatically from the internet. When the manual was written this was a good idea; today the Windows Update database has progressed to the point that it isn't necessary. If your computer is connected to the internet, you can simply have Windows install the proper USB drivers when you plug the DT2U into your computer (unless you have set up your computer to specifically NOT do this, it will probably do so anyway without asking). If you plug in the DT2U and the driver appears to be installing automatically, you can disregard the steps in the DT2U manual regarding USB driver installation.

To see if you have installed the USB driver properly, try disconnecting the USB cable from the computer, run the data capture program, and pull down the COMM port menu. Note what is listed. Then quit the program, plug the USB cable into the computer and DT2U board (plugging in the altimeter isn't important yet), run the program, and note what is listed now. If another port is now listed, it is the one you should be using.

You can also check to see if the USB driver is loaded using the Windows Device Manager. Plug the USB transfer kit into your computer's USB port, go into the Windows Device Manager, double click on "Ports (COM & LPT)" and see if you have an entry for "USB Serial Port (COMx)". If you do, make a note of the number "x" in "COMx", this is the port that you will select in our download software. By default it should have installed as the next free COM port starting at COM3.

If there is no listing for a "USB Serial Port (COMx)", then the USB driver software is not loaded.

If there is a listing for a "USB Serial Port (COMx)", but the number "x" is greater than 10, then you have other devices that have pushed the DT2U's COM port number to COM10 or above, and you will need to change it to a number less than 10: With the USB transfer kit plugged into your computer's USB port, go into the Windows Device Manager, double click on "USB Serial Port (COMx)", select "Port Settings", click "Advanced" and you can change the COM port number to an *unused* number less than 9 -- try COM4 for instance (assuming that it is unused.) If you do have other devices using COM1 - COM9, they should be listed in the device manager too. Make sure that you don't try to set the DT2U to a COM port number that is being used by another device.

As an example: If you had an existing device at COM3 (a modem, for instance) and the DT2U was originally installed as COM12, after you change the DT2U ("USB serial port") to COM4 the DataCap program should list:

    * COM3
    * COM4
    * Not present (or COMx)
    * Not present (or COMy)

You would then select COM4 to access the altimeter.

WINDOWS VISTA AND WINDOWS 7:

The USB driver is fully compatible with 32 and 64 bit Windows 2000, XP, Vista and Windows 7. If you are manually installing the driver, make sure you are using the latest version of the driver (it is available at http://www.ftdichip.com/drivers/vcp.html). If your computer is connected to the internet, the latest version should install automatically.

The download application is compatible with XP, Vista and Windows 7 in 32 bit mode.

If you are running the 64 bit version of Vista or Windows 7, the OS does not report the port name properly to the download application, and as a result all of the ports will be labeled as "not present". Despite the ambiguous labeling, the port connected to the DT2U data transfer kit will be selectable, and if you select it the program will work properly. We are working on a more formal solution to this issue.

"ALTIMETER NOT FOUND":

A15K: Please note (as described in the data transfer kit manual) that the altimeter will only respond properly to the serial port during the period before the "ready" chirps begin (i.e. while the last flight and battery voltage are beeping out) and at any time after a flight. If you try to access the altimeter when it is chirping "ready" it will be in flight-ready mode and will not respond properly to the serial port. This is intended to keep any spurious electrical noise that could be induced on the serial input from switching the altimeter to download mode and interfering with flight operations.

MAWD: Please note (as described on page 10 of the data transfer kit manual) that the altimeter will only respond to the serial port during the period before the continuity check beeps begin (i.e. while the switch settings are beeping out) and at any time after a flight. If you try to access the altimeter when it is silent (after the switch settings have been reported) it will be in flight-ready mode and will not respond to the serial port. This is intended to keep any spurious electrical noise that could be induced on the serial input from switching the altimeter to download mode and interfering with flight operations.