This page includes information on antennas for:

- Cellular
- Wi-Fi
- Bluetooth LE (BLE)
- NFC Tag
- GNSS (Satellite Navigation)

# Cellular

The following cellular antennas are available:

Antenna	SKU	Details	Links
Particle Cellular Flex Antenna 2G/3G/LTE 4.7dBi, [x1]	ANTCW2EA	Tracker, B Series, E Series	Datasheet   Retail Store
Particle Cellular Flex Antenna 2G/3G/LTE 4.7dBi, [x50]	ANTCW2TY	Tracker, B Series, E Series	Datasheet
Taoglas Cellular Flex Antenna 2G/3G/LTE 5dBi, [X1]	ANT-FLXU	Boron and Electron/E Series LTE M1	Datasheet   Retail Store
Taoglas Cellular Flex Antenna 2G/3G/LTE 5dBi, [x50]	ANT-FLXU- 50	Boron and Electron/E Series LTE M1	Datasheet
Taoglas Cellular PCB Antenna 2G/3G 2.4dBi, [X1]	ANTELEC	Electron and E Series 2G/3G	Datasheet   Retail Store
Taoglas Cellular PCB Antenna 2G/3G 2.4dBi, [x50]	ANTELEC50	Electron and E Series 2G/3G	Datasheet

# COMPATIBLE DEVICES (CELLULAR)

The following devices have a cellular modem. The Tracker One includes a cellular antenna within the enclosure. All other devices require an antenna connected to the U.FL connector on the module.

Device	SKU	Included	Antenna	Alternate
Tracker One LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ONE402MEA	<b>√</b> ¹		
Tracker One LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	ONE523MEA	<b>√</b> ¹		
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	T402MEA	✓	ANTCW2EA	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	T523MEA	✓	ANTCW2EA	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T402MKIT	✓	ANTCW2EA	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	T402MTY		ANTCW2EA	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T523NKIT	✓	ANTCW2EA	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	T523MTY		ANTCW2EA	
B Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	B402MEA	✓	ANTCW2EA	
B Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	B402MTY		ANTCW2EA	
B Series LTE CAT-1/3G/2G (Europe) [x1]	B523MEA	✓	ANTCW2EA	
B Series LTE CAT-1/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	B523MTY		ANTCW2EA	
Boron 2G/3G Global Starter Kit, [x1]	BRN310KIT	✓	ANT-FLXU	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	BRN402	✓	ANT-FLXU	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm) Starter Kit, [x1]	BRN402KIT	✓	ANT-FLXU	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	BRN402TRAY50		ANT-FLXU	
Electron 2G/3G (Americas/Aus) Starter Kit, [x1]	E260KIT	✓	ANTELEC	
Electron 2G/3G (Americas/Aus), Tray [x50]	E260TRAY50		ANTELEC	
Electron 2G/3G (EMEA) Starter Kit, [x1]	E270KIT	✓	ANTELEC	
Electron 2G/3G (EMEA), Tray [x50]	E270TRAY50		ANTELEC	
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	E310KIT	✓	ANTELEC	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310), [x1]	E310MOD1	✓	ANTELEC	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310), Tray [x50]	E310TRAY50		ANTELEC	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>

E Series 2G/3G (Global - E313), Tray [x50]	E313TY		ANTELEC	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	E402KIT	✓	ANT-FLXU	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	E402MOD1	✓	ANT-FLXU	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	E402TRAY50		ANT-FLXU	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>
Electron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ELC402EA	✓	ANT-FLXU	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>
Electron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	ELC402TY		ANT-FLXU	ANTCW2EA <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Tracker One includes a custom antenna designed for optimal performance with the Tracker One.

<sup>2</sup>This device originally shipped with one antenna (ANTELEC or ANT-FLXU) however the ANTCW2EA is listed as an alternative. The ANTCW2EA (or ANTCW2TY) is recommended as most new designs will use this antenna and using this antenna will reduce the number of SKUs you need to stock when building a product at tray quantities.

#### **NOT COMPATIBLE (CELLULAR)**

These devices do not have a cellular modem and therefore do not need a cellular antenna.

Device	SKU
Argon [x1]	ARGN-H
Argon, Tray [x50]	ARGNTRAY50
P1 Wi-Fi Module, Cut tape [x10]	PIMODI0
P1 Wi-Fi Module, Reel [x500]	PIREEL
Photon with Headers, [x1]	PHOTONH
Photon with Headers, Tray [x50]	PHNTRAYH
Photon without Headers, Tray [x50]	PHNTRAYNOH
P0 Wi-Fi Module, Reel [x1000]	POREEL

### **CERTIFICATION AND ANTENNA SUBSTITUTION**

Full certification of a device typically involves three different certifications:

- Unintentional radiator. This is a certification that your completed device does not emit
  extraneous radiation that would affect other devices. This is almost always required, but is the
  least expensive and easiest test to complete. In the United States, this is FCC 47 CFR Part 15
  Subpart B. A test lab performs the measurements and you sign a Suppliers Declaration of
  Conformity (SDoC).
- 2. **Intentional radiator**. This test is more involved and requires testing the power output in each band the transmitters are capable of using. In the United States, this is FCC 47 CRF Part 15, Subpart A. If you use a similar antenna to the one Particle used during its tests, you may be able to avoid having to perform this certification again.
- 3. PTCRB. This is a certification for cellular devices in the United States. If you use a similar antenna to the one Particle used during its tests, you may be able to avoid having to perform this certification again.

In the United States this document from the FCC provides a great deal of information about the various certifications. The process is similar in Canada (IC). In the European Union you will need to

have a test lab perform similar tests, but there isn't the equivalent of an FCC or IC identification number for the EU.

In order to avoid having to complete steps 2 and 3 again, a substitute antenna must:

- 1. Be of the same type.
- 2. Have equal or lesser gain in all bands.
- 3. Similar in-band and out-of-band characteristics.

All Particle cellular devices include a trace-style PCB or flex monopole antenna, which are considered to be the same type. A different type of antenna is a dipole antenna ("duck antenna"), which would require recertification.

The equal or lesser gain in all bands test is why you can't substitute the ANTCW2EA (Particle cellular antenna) for the ANT-FLXU (Taoglas FXUB63) on the Boron, even though it works quite well. The ANTCW2EA has higher gain in some bands, so using it would require recertification. For example, ANTCW2EA has 1.42 dBi gain vs. 1.0 dBi in Band 13, the 700 MHz band.

This guide may be helpful in understanding this.

#### PROTOTYPING WITH OTHER ANTENNAS

For prototyping and personal use you may be able to use different cellular antennas.

All Particle cellular devices have a U.FL antenna connector. Most cellular antennas have a SMA connector, so you'll need an adapter. At Adafruit, you can get this adapter. At SparkFun this adapter. At Amazon this adapter.

This antenna from Amazon is about 4" long, has a magnetic mount, and a 3 meter cable. It is helpful in improving reception in fringe areas. Or for more gain, a 12" antenna.

### **CELLULAR BOOSTERS AND MICRO CELLS**

Cellular boosters like the <u>weBoost</u> generally work with all Particle cellular devices, assuming there is at least some faint, compatible signal available. For example, with the Boron 2G/3G in the United States, if you only have a weak T-Mobile signal they can be helpful. If you have no T-Mobile service at all in your area, they will not help.

Cellular micro/pico/femto cells that use the Internet to connect to a specific carrier generally do not work. For example, the AT&T MicroCell does not work with the Electron and E Series, even though they can use AT&T in the United States. The reason is that the Particle devices are roaming on AT&T, and the MicroCell product does not allow access to roaming cellular devices.

## Wi-Fi

The Particle 2.4 GHz W-Fi antenna is available in the <u>retail</u> and wholesale stores. Note: The same external antenna model is used for Wi-Fi and BLE.

Antenna	SKU	Links
Particle Wi-Fi Antenna 2.4GHz, [x1]	ANT-FLXV2	Datasheet   Retail Store
Particle Wi-Fi Antenna 2.4GHz, [x50]	ANT-FLXV2-50	Datasheet

### **COMPATIBLE DEVICES (WI-FI)**

Device	sku	Built-In Antenna	External Compatible	External Included
Tracker One LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ONE402MEA		✓	<b>√</b> 1
Tracker One LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	ONE523MEA		1	√1
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	T402MEA		<b>√</b>	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	T523MEA		✓	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T402MKIT		✓	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	T402MTY		✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T523NKIT		✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	T523MTY		√	
Argon [x1]	ARGN-H		1	<b>√</b> <sup>2</sup>
Argon, Tray [x50]	ARGNTRAY50		√	2
P1 Wi-Fi Module, Cut tape [x10]	P1MOD10	✓	<b>√</b> 3	
P1 Wi-Fi Module, Reel [x500]	PIREEL	✓	<b>√</b> <sup>3</sup>	
Photon with Headers, [x1]	PHOTONH	✓	<b>√</b> <sup>3</sup>	
Photon with Headers, Tray [x50]	PHNTRAYH	✓	<b>√</b> 3	
Photon without Headers, Tray [x50]	PHNTRAYNOH	✓	<b>√</b> <sup>3</sup>	
P0 Wi-Fi Module, Reel [x1000]	POREEL		✓	

<sup>1</sup>The Tracker One includes a Wi-Fi antenna inside the case, however it's a different antenna than the Particle 2.4 GHz Antenna. Note that the Wi-Fi on the Tracker One is only for Wi-Fi geolocation and cannot be used for data communication.

<sup>2</sup>The Argon [x1] includes ANT-FLXV2. The Argon Tray [x50] do not include a Wi-Fi antenna but are compatible and certified with with ANT-FLXV2 (and ANT-FLXV2-50).

<sup>3</sup>The Photon and P1 are certified with the built-in chip or trace antenna and also with the following external antenna:

Antenna Type	Manufacturer	MFG. Part #	Gain
Dipole antenna	LumenRadio	104-1001	2.15dBi

This antenna from Adafruit is compatible and can be substituted when an external dipole ("duck") antenna is desired on the Photon and P1 while using the existing Particle certification. Note that a RP-SMA to U.FL adapter is required to use this antenna.

These devices do not have a Wi-Fi modem and therefore do not need a Wi-Fi antenna.

Device	SKU	
B Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	B402MEA	
B Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	B402MTY	
B Series LTE CAT-1/3G/2G (Europe) [x1]	B523MEA	
B Series LTE CAT-1/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	B523MTY	
Boron 2G/3G Global Starter Kit, [x1]	BRN310KIT	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	BRN402	=
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm) Starter Kit, [x1]	BRN402KIT	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	BRN402TRAY50	
Electron 2G/3G (Americas/Aus) Starter Kit, [x1]	E260KIT	
Electron 2G/3G (Americas/Aus), Tray [x50]	E260TRAY50	
Electron 2G/3G (EMEA) Starter Kit, [x1]	E270KIT	
Electron 2G/3G (EMEA), Tray [x50]	E270TRAY50	
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	E310KIT	
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310), [x1]	E310MOD1	
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310), Tray [x50]	E310TRAY50	
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E313), Tray [x50]	E313TY	
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	E402KIT	
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	E402MOD1	
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	E402TRAY50	
Electron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ELC402EA	
Electron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	ELC402TY	

# Bluetooth LE (BLE)

Particle Gen 3 devices support BLE for short-distance communication. Most devices include a built-in chip antenna, and can optionally use an external antenna.

The exception is the B Series SoM, which does not have a chip antenna on the SoM and requires an external antenna if BLE is to be used. Use of BLE on the B Series SoM is optional.

The Particle 2.4 GHz BLE antenna is available in the <u>retail</u> and wholesale stores. Note: The same external antenna model is used for Wi-Fi and BLE.

Antenna	SKU	Links
Particle Wi-Fi Antenna 2.4GHz, [x1]	ANT-FLXV2	Datasheet   Retail Store
Particle Wi-Fi Antenna 2.4GHz, [x50]	ANT-FLXV2-50	Datasheet

#### **COMPATIBLE DEVICES (BLE)**

These devices include Bluetooth LE (BLE) capabilities.

Device	SKU	Chip Antenna	External Compatible	External Included
Tracker One LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ONE402MEA	✓	√¹	
Tracker One LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	ONE523MEA	✓	<b>√</b> 1	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	T402MEA	✓	<b>√</b>	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	T523MEA	✓	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T402MKIT	✓	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	T402MTY	✓	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T523NKIT	1	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	T523MTY	✓	✓	
Argon [x1]	ARGN-H	✓	✓	
Argon, Tray [x50]	ARGNTRAY50	✓	✓	
B Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	B402MEA		✓	✓
B Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	B402MTY		✓	
B Series LTE CAT-1/3G/2G (Europe) [X1]	B523MEA		✓	✓
B Series LTE CAT-1/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	B523MTY		✓	
Boron 2G/3G Global Starter Kit, [x1]	BRN310KIT	✓	✓	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	BRN402	✓	✓	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm) Starter Kit, [x1]	BRN402KIT	✓	✓	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	BRN402TRAY50	✓	<b>√</b>	

<sup>1</sup>The Tracker One includes an BLE antenna inside the case, however it's a different antenna than the Particle 2.4 GHz Antenna (ANT-FLXV2). A separate antenna is used because the Tracker SoM is mounted on the bottom side of the Tracker Carrier Board, so signals to the chip antenna would be adversely affected.

### **NOT COMPATIBLE (BLE)**

These devices do not have a BLE radio and therefore do not need a BLE antenna.

Device	SKU
Electron 2G/3G (Americas/Aus) Starter Kit, [x1]	E260KIT
Electron 2G/3G (Americas/Aus), Tray [x50]	E260TRAY50
Electron 2G/3G (EMEA) Starter Kit, [x1]	E270KIT
Electron 2G/3G (EMEA), Tray [x50]	E270TRAY50
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	E310KIT
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310), [x1]	E310MOD1
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310), Tray [x50]	E310TRAY50
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E313), Tray [x50]	E313TY
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	E402KIT
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	E402MOD1
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	E402TRAY50
Electron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ELC402EA
Electron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	ELC402TY
P1 Wi-Fi Module, Cut tape [x10]	PIMODI0
P1 Wi-Fi Module, Reel [x500]	PIREEL
Photon with Headers, [X1]	PHOTONH
Photon with Headers, Tray [x50]	PHNTRAYH
Photon without Headers, Tray [x50]	PHNTRAYNOH
P0 Wi-Fi Module, Reel [x1000]	POREEL

# **NFC**

Particle Gen 3 devices can optionally be used in NFC tag mode. This can only be ready by a device such as a smartphone app; it cannot read tags.

The Particle NFC Antenna is available in the retail and wholesale stores.

Antenna	SKU	Links
Particle NFC Antenna, [x1]	ANT-NFC	Datasheet   Retail Store

### **COMPATIBLE DEVICES (NFC)**

These devices have NFC tag capabilities. Only the Tracker One has a built-in NFC antenna, all other devices require an external NFC antenna to use the NFC tag feature. If you are not using NFC tag you do not need to add the antenna.

Device	SKU	Compatible	Included
Tracker One LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ONE402MEA	✓	<b>√</b> 1
Tracker One LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	ONE523MEA	✓	<b>√</b> ¹
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	T402MEA	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	T523MEA	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T402MKIT	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	T402MTY	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T523NKIT	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	T523MTY	√	
Argon [x1]	ARGN-H	√	
Argon, Tray [x50]	ARGNTRAY50	√	
B Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	B402MEA	√	
B Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	B402MTY	√	
B Series LTE CAT-1/3G/2G (Europe) [x1]	B523MEA	√	
B Series LTE CAT-1/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	B523MTY	√	
Boron 2G/3G Global Starter Kit, [x1]	BRN310KIT	√	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	BRN402	√	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm) Starter Kit, [x1]	BRN402KIT	✓	
Boron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	BRN402TRAY50	✓	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Tracker One includes an NFC antenna inside the case, however it's a different antenna than the Particle NFC Antenna (ANT-NFC).

## NOT COMPATIBLE (NFC)

These devices do not have an NFC radio and therefore do not need a NFC antenna.

Device	SKU
Electron 2G/3G (Americas/Aus) Starter Kit, [x1]	E260KIT
Electron 2G/3G (Americas/Aus), Tray [x50]	E260TRAY50
Electron 2G/3G (EMEA) Starter Kit, [x1]	E270KIT
Electron 2G/3G (EMEA), Tray [x50]	E270TRAY50

E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	E310KIT
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310), [x1]	E310MOD1
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E310), Tray [x50]	E310TRAY50
E Series 2G/3G (Global - E313), Tray [x50]	E313TY
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	E402KIT
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	E402MOD1
E Series LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	E402TRAY50
Electron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ELC402EA
Electron LTE CAT-M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	ELC402TY
P1 Wi-Fi Module, Cut tape [x10]	PIMODI0
P1 Wi-Fi Module, Reel [x500]	PIREEL
Photon with Headers, [x1]	PHOTONH
Photon with Headers, Tray [x50]	PHNTRAYH
Photon without Headers, Tray [x50]	PHNTRAYNOH
P0 Wi-Fi Module, Reel [x1000]	POREEL

# **GNSS (Satellite Navigation)**

The Tracker One includes a <u>Cirocomm PA035AQ0004</u> (T0004, 35x35mm) GPS/GLOSNASS antenna on the Tracker Carrier Board.

As the GNSS system is receive-only (no transmitter), you can use any GNSS compatible antenna without affecting the certification. Different GNSS systems use different frequencies. Many antennas are tuned to the United States GPS system, however you can also get multi-GNSS antennas that are compatible with other systems. All of these systems offer coverage world-wide.

System	Owner
GPS	United States
GLOSNASS	Russia
BeiDou	China
Galileo	European Space Agency

Some antenna options include from Adafruit this antenna and this adapter. At SparkFun this antenna and this adapter. At Amazon this antenna and this adapter.

The following devices have GNSS capabilities:

Device	SKU	Compatible	Antenna Included
Tracker One LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	ONE402MEA	✓	✓
Tracker One LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	ONE523MEA	✓	✓
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), [x1]	T402MEA	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), [x1]	T523MEA	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T402MKIT	✓	✓
Tracker SoM LTE M1 (NorAm), Tray [x50]	T402MTY	✓	
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe) Evaluation Kit, [x1]	T523NKIT	✓	✓
Tracker SoM LTE CATI/3G/2G (Europe), Tray [x50]	T523MTY	✓	

The discontinued Electron AssetTracker v2 and v1 included both an on-board GNSS antenna as well as a U.FL connector for an external GNSS antenna. These devices are no longer sold.

No other devices have GNSS capabilities.