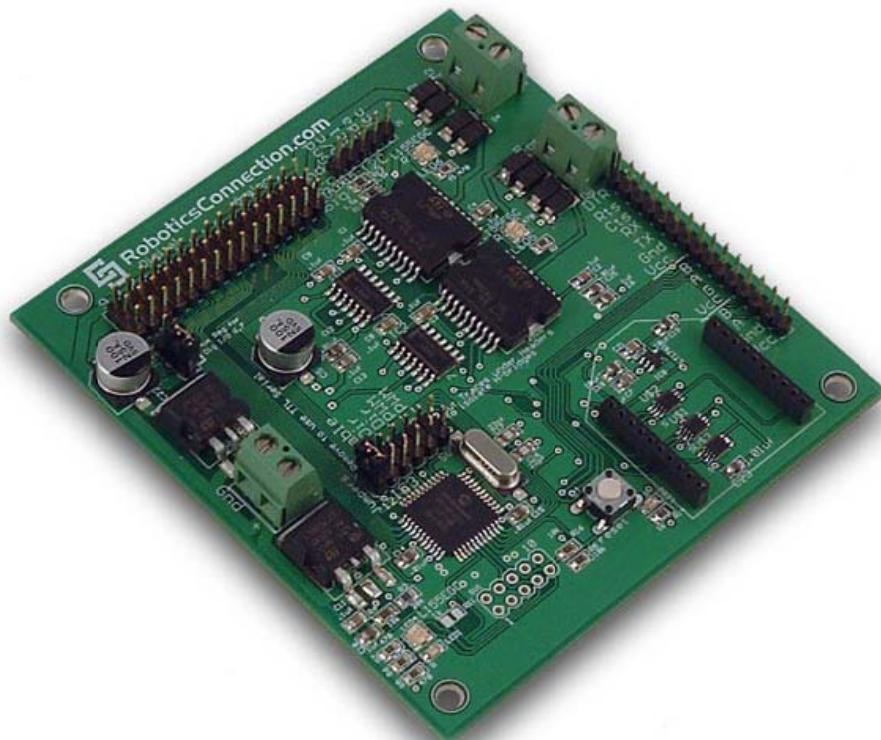


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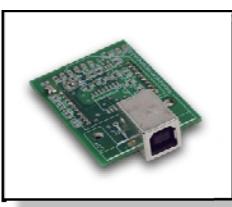
Summerour Robotics Corporation, www.roboticsconnection.com, 2004-2008.



Multiple Supported Serial Interfaces



RS-232



USB



Bluetooth



XBee

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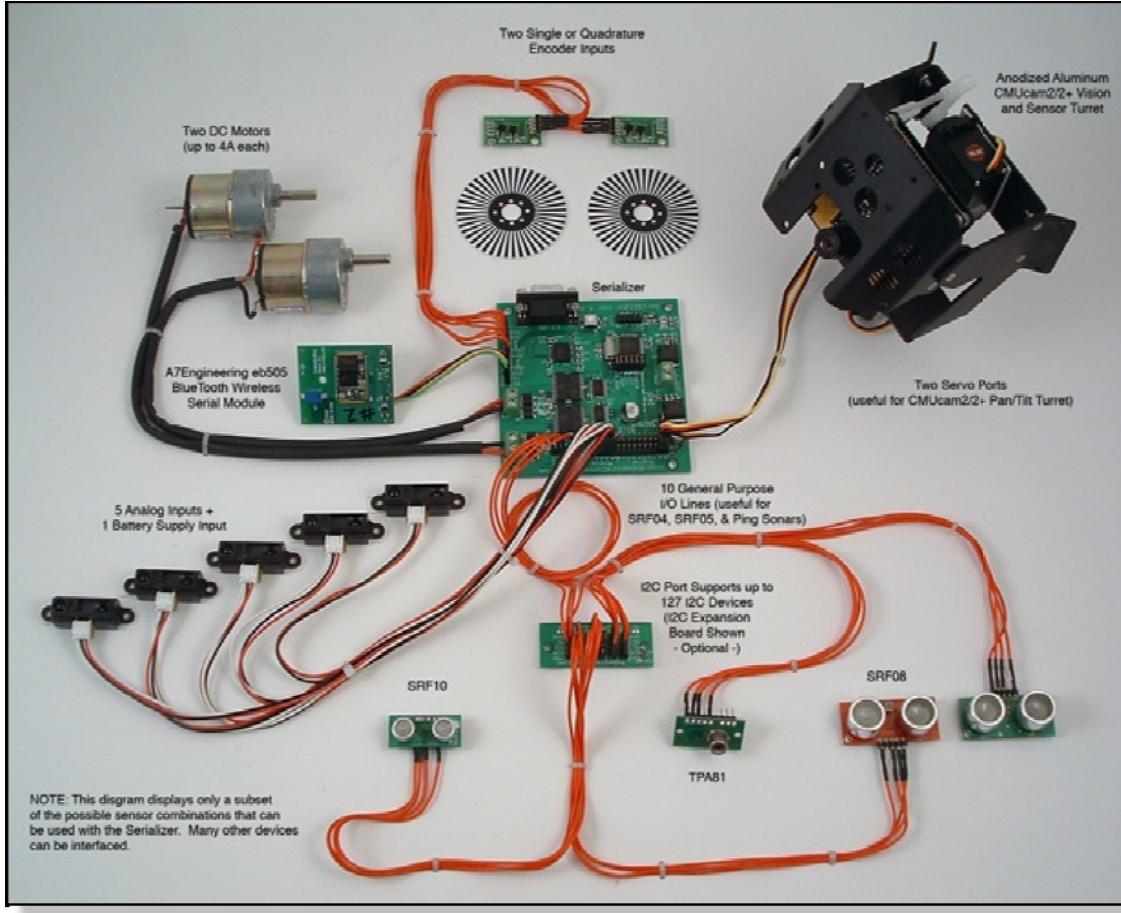


Figure 1 – Original Serializer with a subset of all of the various components interfaced to it.

Overview

Second Generation Serializer:

The Serializer WL™ is the second generation of the Serializer. It has been updated to provide customers with a selection of serial interfaces, which now include RS-232, USB, Bluetooth, and XBee. Since two of the serial interfaces are now wireless, we decided append 'WL' to the end of the name to differentiate the new board from the original one. The 'WL' basically stands for 'Wireless'.

Each serial interface quickly plugs into the two single row headers (where the old DB-9 connector used to be), and communication w/ the board can be established in less than a minute. Only one serial interface can be used at a time with the Serializer WL™.

The serial protocol used between the original Serializer™, and the Serializer WL™, are identical. Hence the firmware is identical between the two models as well.

Easy Robot Control using .NET:

The Serializer WL™ board provides a ready-to-use solution to interface Microsoft™ .NET applications, Microsoft™ Robotics Studio Services (MSRS), and C++ applications to common robotic hardware. Never

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before has it been this easy to interface DC motors, servos, analog sensors, I2C devices, single and quadrature encoders, switches/relays, and other devices. Although the Serializer was developed for computers running Windows Vista, XP, XP Embedded, or WinCE and the Microsoft .NET Framework, it can also communicate with any controller which contains a free serial port.

Develop Smarter Applications:

We wanted to enable .NET developers and Robotics Studio developers interested in developing robotic applications to hit the ground running. Why waste time re-implementing bit-twiddling routines when that time could be better spent developing a higher level (and smarter) application that allows your robot to do something meaningful? With the exception of configuring a few parameters, there's no low level programming involved. The Serializer WL™ links both the .NET framework, and Robotics Studio, with low level robotic hardware using a simple serial port.

Free .NET library with Full Documentation:

Our freely available .NET Serializer™ library assembly allows customers to quickly develop applications which can instantly communicate with the Serializer™. Once an application links in the SerializerLib.dll, the entire Serializer™ interface will be available.

We also offer a C# GUI application example, which contains a user control to invoke every method in the SerializerLib.dll assembly. Developers can use it to test out their Serializer™, or as a source for examples for their own application. The How-To document provides the exact steps for adding the library to your application.

We realize that it's important that developers have easy and quick access to the Serializer Library interface. Therefore, we provide excellent [MSDN style web pages](#) to document the entire interface, as well as provide links to the supported sensors and components.

Free Serializer Services for Microsoft Robotics Studio (MSRS):

We also provide our Serializer Services for free, which allow customers to quickly leverage the features of the Serializer using Microsoft™ Robotics Studio Services. The Serializer Services include our Traxster Drive Service, which serves not only as a functional service that allows customers to immediately control one of our Traxster Robot Kits (using a Serializer/Serializer WL), but it also serves as an example for interfacing the various Serializer Services.

Free Serializer C++ Library:

James Y. Wilson (<http://www.learningce.com>) has graciously written a Serializer C++ library, which closely follows the same interface as our .NET library. The C++ Library also includes a very useful Testing Harness to help you understand how to use the library. Please see the [License.txt](#) file before using.

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All you need is a serial port:

Using our simple serial control protocol, the Serializer™ can be controlled by any device featuring a serial port. This could be a Personal Computer, a PDA, a PC104 board, a Single Board Computer, or a microcontroller. To make developing applications with .NET and Robotics Studio faster, we provide both a Serializer™ assembly library, as well as Serializer Services, which implements the protocol, and provides an easy to use interface. All the customer has to do is invoke the interface to make the magic happen.

Serial Protocol:

The Serializer™ Protocol is a simple set of rules defined to allow a program running on a host computer to communicate with a Serializer™ board over a serial connection. The protocol commands are made up of 8-bit ASCII characters for ease of use and to reduce bandwidth usage. The use of ASCII characters also allows users to send/receive commands to/from the Serializer™ via a simple Hyperterm program, or a dedicated application running on another computer for debugging purposes.

Upgradeable Firmware:

New sensors and components, appropriate for use in robotics, are introduced to the market daily. We realized that the ability to add support for these new sensors and components would make the Serializer WL™ even more useful. Therefore, we provided a firmware upgrading facility within the Serializer WL™. Not only can the firmware be upgraded, but it is as easy as 1-2-3.

Upgrading the firmware is as easy as 1.) Download the latest firmware from our site, 2.) Upload the firmware to the Serializer WL with the help of Hyperterm, and 3.) Cycling power.

We are also open to requests to add new sensors and components to the current lineup. Customers can send requests to techsupport@roboticsconnection.com for consideration. If we believe the request is appropriate, we will add support to the firmware, if possible. Since the Serializer's initial launch, we have added the following functionality to the Serializer per customer requests:

- Velocity and Distance PID Control and State
- Setting multiple GPIOs simultaneously
- Pre/Post (.NET) events before/after establishing serial communications w/ the Serializer
- Bipolar Stepper motor control (step and sweep)
- Maxbotix MaxSonar-EZ1 Sonar interface
- Generic I2C interface
- Pwm Ramping
- Factory Restore interface
- Reset interface
- Line Following Sensor interface
- Add four extra servo ports for a total of six available servo ports

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Supports the most popular robotic sensors and components:

The Serializer™ provides an interface to query and control some of the most popular robotic components on the market. The current list includes:

I2C Devices:

- Any I2C device (using generic I2C interface)
- [RoboticsConnection Line Following Sensor](#)
- [Devantech SRF02](#)
- [Devantech SRF04](#)
- [Devantech SRF05](#)
- [Devantech SRF08](#)
- [Devantech SRF10](#)
- [Devantech TPA81 Thermopile](#)
- [Devantech SP03 Speech Synthesizer](#)
- [Devantech CMPS03 Electronic Compass](#)
- [Devantech LCD03](#)

Analog Sensors (5 Sensor Inputs):

- [RoboticsConnection Ambient Temperature Sensor Board](#)
- [RoboticsConnection Potentiometer Sensor Board](#)
- [Sharp™ GP2D12](#) infrared distance sensor
- [Sharp™ GP2D120](#) infrared distance sensor
- Onboard battery voltage level monitor– analog input 5

Digital I/O Lines (10 I/O Lines + 4 Encoder Input lines):

- [RoboticsConnection Pushbutton I/O Board](#)
- [Parallax PING\)\)™ Sonar](#)
- [Maxbotix MaxSonar-EZ1 Sonar](#)
- [Single and Quadrature Encoder](#) inputs
- NOTE: Six I/O lines are used for Servo control (4,5,6,7,8, & 9) and two are used for I2C communications (1,2). Thus if you're using Servos or I2C devices, on any of these pins, you won't be able to use them for any other I/O.

Motors:

- Two [DC drive motors](#) up to 4A each
- One Bipolar Stepper Motor
- Six [Standard or Digital Hobby Servos](#)
- [Gamoto](#) External PID Controller (uses generic I2C interface)
- External H-Bridge control
- Built in Velocity and Distance PID Motor Control Algorithms

LEDs:

- One Red Power LED
- Two Green LEDs are used as a programmable heartbeat
- Two Bi-Color (Green/Red) are used to display the PWM duty cycle percentage (0-100) and direction of current through each motor (and thus motor direction).

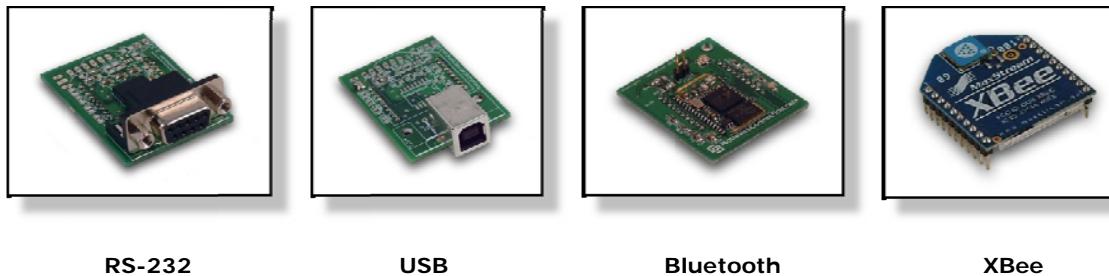
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No need for serial logic level conversion:

The Serializer WL™ can be interfaced using any of the following serial interfaces modules:

- RS-232
- USB
- Bluetooth
- XBee
- TTL (header located on Serializer WL™, not on modules)

Figure 2: **Multiple Supported Wired and Wireless Serial Interfaces**



RS-232

USB

Bluetooth

XBee

If you want to communicate with the Serializer WL™ from your PC, simply plug in one of the serial interface modules mentioned above into the Serializer WL™. While only one module will work with the Serializer WL™ at a time, you can swap the modules out as needed. If you have a microcontroller or embedded device which needs to talk serially at TTL voltage levels, simply use the 0.100" header on the Serializer WL™ base board, and remove one jumper.

Flexible H-Bridge Control:

Not only can you use the onboard h-bridges to drive two DC motors (up to 4A each), but you can also drive external h-bridges (with a higher or lower capacity) with the change of a jumper. If that's not enough, you can drive the onboard h-bridges from an external controller.

This flexibility allows the customer to use the Serializer™ in many applications.

Using the Generic I2C command, you can ALSO easily interface up to 8 [Gamoto PID Motor Driver boards](#), without tying up the onboard h-bridges. This allows you to use the onboard h-bridges to control two motors (or a bipolar stepper motor), and use the Gamoto PID Drivers to control extra motors.



Figure 3: Gamoto PID Motor Controller Board

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Single and Quadrature Wheel Encoder and PID Control Algorithm support included:

Since it's important to know where your robot has been, where it is now, and where it's going, we also added the capability to query two single or two quadrature encoders with fully configurable PID control. You can guarantee that your robot travels the exact distance you command it, at the specified speed.

Each Proportional, Integral, Derivative, and Loop parameter can be configured for your personal drive train (with some exceptions). Robot velocity, distance, and direction can be extracted from the encoded inputs. The current PID state can also be queried, so you can determine when the latest PID distance command has finished. Please see the PID configuration section at the end of this document for information regarding PID configuration.

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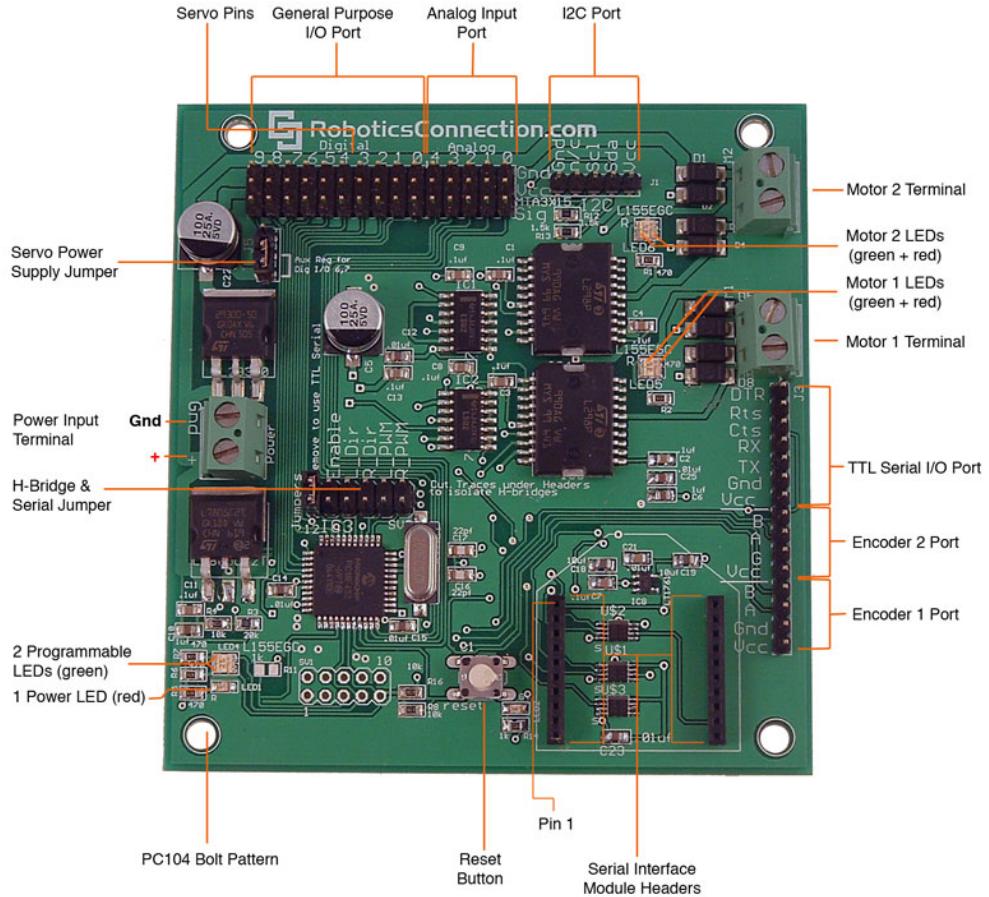


Figure 4: Serializer WL Pinout

Serializer WL™ Pinout:

Before you can interface any components to the Serializer WL™, you need to know how they interface. The picture above shows all of the I/O lines and Connectors on the Serializer, which includes:

- One Power Input Terminal (0-12V)
- One Serial Interface Module Header (please note location of Pin1)
- One TTL Serial I/O Communication Port
- Two Encoder Ports – Single and Dual Quadrature Channels supported
- Two DC Motor Terminals – Handles motor current draw up to 4A, each terminal
- One I2C Port – SDA, SCL, 5V, Gnd – These lines tie up I/O pins 1 and 2 when used.
- One Analog Port with six analog inputs – one input is tied internally to the supply voltage
- One General Purpose I/O Port with 10 I/O lines – 4,5,6,7,8, & 9 can be used to control six servos
- One Reset Button
- Jumper bank to configure H-Bridges and Serial I/O communication
- Servo power regulator jumper
- Two Green User programmable LEDs, and one Red Power LED
- One Green & one Red LED per DC Motor Port to show current flow direction through motors

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The eb505 EmbeddedBlue Bluetooth module was developed by A7Engineering, Inc.

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Applying Power:

This is one of the most important steps in getting the Serializer WL™ up and communicating with your host controller. You MUST make sure that you apply power to the Power Terminal using the correct polarity. Reverse Polarity will damage the Serializer WL™. *We are not responsible for such damage, nor do we warranty against such damage.* Make sure you take time to apply power correctly. Otherwise, it could get costly.

To power the Serializer WL, simply connect the ground wire from your supply to the screw terminal labeled "Gnd", and then connect the positive wire from your supply to the screw terminal labeled "+".

NOTE: Maximum supply voltage cannot exceed 12V DC.

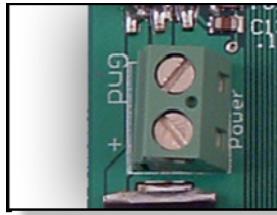


Figure 5 – Power Supply Terminal

Once power is supplied, you should see the Red Power LED light up, and the two User definable Green LEDs should be twiddling back and forth. Also make sure you have a power supply which can supply at least 1 amp of power out or more, especially if you have many components connected (e.g. sensors, etc.). In fact, **If you have components attached, we suggest you use a power supply rated at 1.5A to 2A.**

Configuring the onboard H-Bridges:

Not only can you use the onboard h-bridges to drive two DC motors (up to 4A each), but you can also drive external h-bridges (with a higher or lower capacity) with the change of a jumper. If that's not enough, you can drive the onboard h-bridges from an external controller.

There are four jumpers used to configure the H-Bridges (pictured below). Note: The leftmost jumper is used for Serial Communication configuration, and doesn't affect h-bridge operation. If you want to drive external h-bridges, the traces between the pins can be cut, and the h-bridges can be connected via jumper wires to the pins at this header. (v1.0 boards came with jumpers, which also need to be removed if driving external h-bridges) If you decide to go back to using the onboard h-bridges, you can add jumpers back at that time, to restore it to factory operation.



Figure 6 – H-Bridge Jumpers

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The internal H-Bridges (rated at 4A each) are configured to be driven by the onboard controller from the factory. In this configuration the traces on the bottom of the board connect the pins so Jumpers are not needed.

If you wish to surpass the internal H-Bridges, and drive external H-Bridges w/ a higher rating, you can cut the traces on the bottom of the board, and connect the h-bridges to the pins w/ jumper wires as shown (in orange) below:

If you cut the traces and then decide to go back to using the onboard H-bridges, simply make sure all jumpers are installed across the five H-Bridge pins (as shown above).

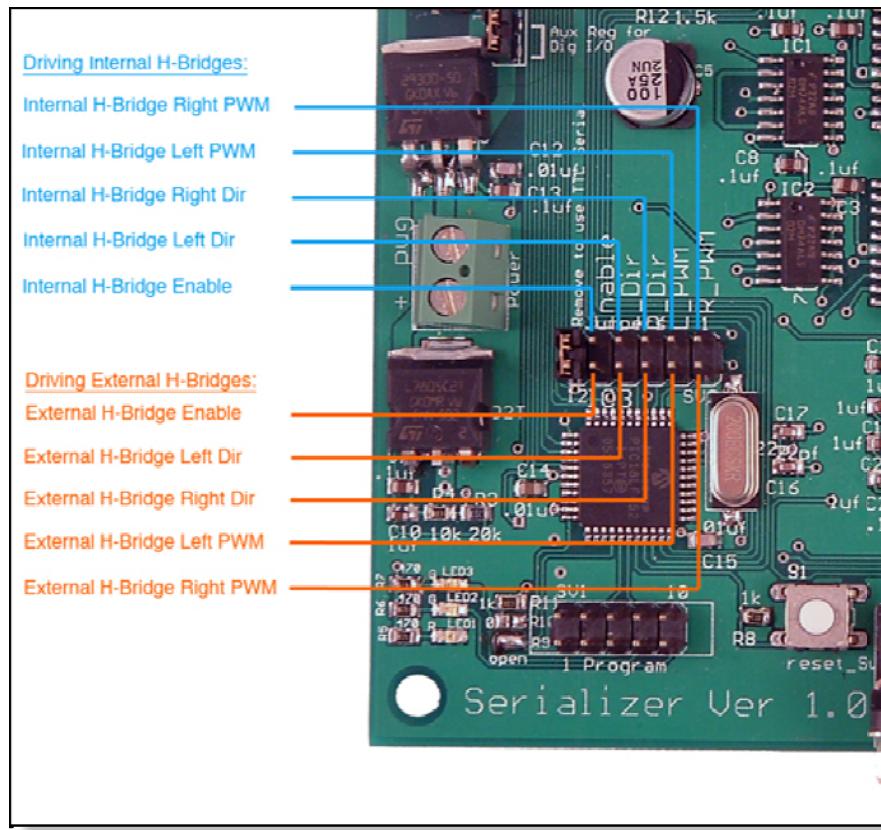


Figure 7 – H-Bridge Jumper Configuration

If you wish to drive the internal H-Bridges from an external controller, you can simply connect the pins (labeled in blue) to the appropriate step and direction pins as shown above with jumper wires.

You also have the ability to interface Gamoto PID Motor Controller boards via the I2C port using the Generic I2C command.

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Serial Hardware Configuration:

You probably have a good idea at this point how you're planning on interfacing the Serializer WL™ to your computer. As you have seen, the Serializer can communicate over five different serial interfaces, but care MUST BE TAKEN to ensure that you don't damage the internal Serializer WL™ communications hardware or serial modules. The serial interface modules should be inserted as shown in the diagrams below.

RS-232 Serial Interface Module:

If you are communicating with the Serializer WL™ using a typical COM port from your PC or from a PC104 board which uses an RS-232 DB-9 connector, then you'll plug in the RS-232 Serial interface module, and connect a serial cable between the PC and the Serializer™.

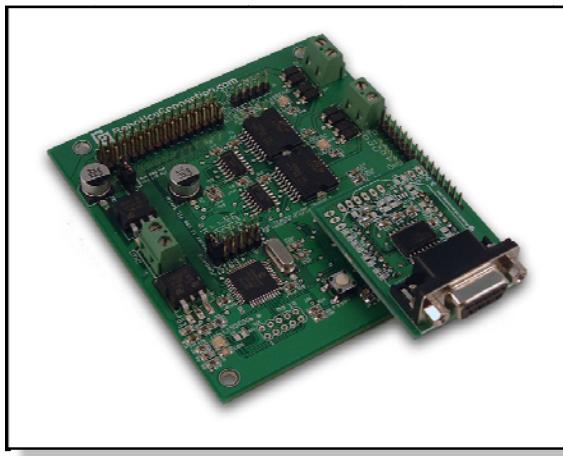


Figure 8: Serializer WL™ with RS-232 Module

USB Serial Interface Module:

If you are communicating with the Serializer WL™ using a USB connection from any computer, then you'll connect the USB serial interface module as shown below:

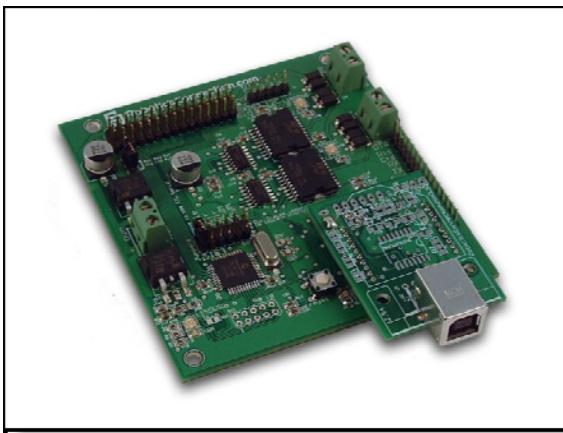


Figure 9: Serializer WL™ with USB Module

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Bluetooth Serial Interface Module:

If you are communicating with the Serializer WL™ using a Bluetooth connection from any computer, then you'll connect the Bluetooth serial interface module as shown below. NOTE: The Bluetooth board also has an external antenna connection. If you are using the Serializer WL with a Traxster Robot, you must use the external antenna; otherwise, signal quality will be very low (since the Serializer is inside of the Traxster, which acts as a Faraday Cage). The Bluetooth board also has two holes in it, which can be used to tie wrap the antenna connector to the board, to ensure the antenna doesn't come off during operation.



Figure 10: Serializer WL™ with Bluetooth Module

XBee Serial Interface Module:

If you are communicating with the Serializer WL™ using an XBee connection from any computer, then you'll connect the XBee or XBee Pro module as shown below. NOTE: The XBee modules we sell also have an external antenna connection. If you are using the Serializer WL with a Traxster Robot, you must use the external antenna; otherwise, signal quality will be very low (since the Serializer is inside of the Traxster, which acts as a Faraday Cage).



Figure 11: Serializer WL™ with XBee Module

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TLL Voltage Levels:

If you are communicating with the Serializer WL™ using a device which uses TTL voltage levels (such as a microcontroller, or wireless device) then you'll need to perform two steps.

First, remove the jumper in the figure below labeled "Remove to use TTL Serial". This basically enables the TTL_Serial port in the figure above, and disables the RS-232 port (on original Serializers), and the serial interface modules on the Serializer WL – if plugged in).

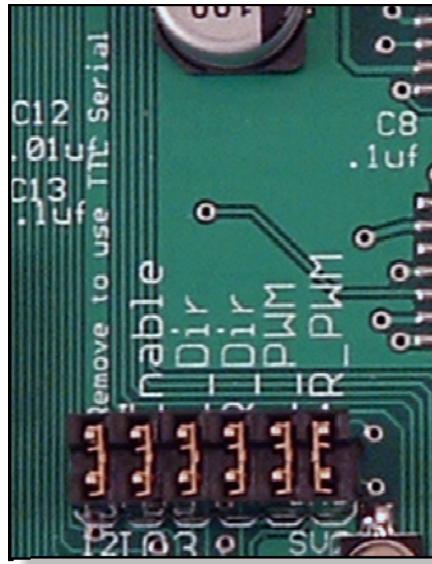


Figure 12: RS-232/TTL Select Jumper

Next, connect the pins on the TTL Serial port (see image below) with correct pins on the device communicating with the Serializer. This will include RX, TX, Gnd, and Vcc. Vcc is used as a +5V supply power (if needed) to the host device. Ground should ALWAYS be connected between the Serializer WL™ and Host device. Otherwise, serial communications will most assuredly not work, since the voltage levels won't have a common ground from which to measure voltage levels from.

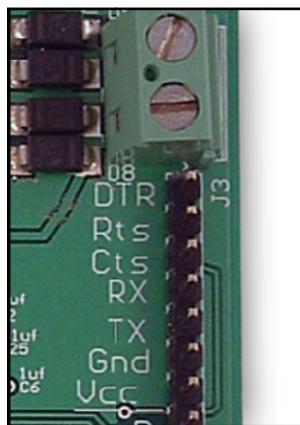


Figure 13: TTL Serial I/O Pins

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We have provided an example below where we have an A7Engineering eb505 EmbeddedBlue Bluetooth Module connected to the Serializer's TTL serial port. *NOTE: The new Serializer WL™ uses the Bluetooth Serial Interface Module to provide a Bluetooth interface, therefore using an eb505 with the new Serializer WL™ should be considered deprecated functionality (although it will still work w/ the WL).* However, the original Serializer™ versions can still use the eb505. An eb505 is not only configured to talk with the Serializer WL™ at 19200, but it is also powered by the Serializer™ as well. This basically allows any device using Bluetooth to communicate wirelessly with the original Serializer™.

The wire connections are quite simple. The Red wire connects the Vcc pin from the Serializer WL™ TTL Serial Port with the Vcc pin on the eb505 to provide power. The Black wire connects the Gnd (Ground) from the Serializer TTL Serial with the Gnd pin on the eb505. The Green wire connects the TX pin from the Serializer TTL Serial Port with the RX pin on the eb505. The Yellow wire connects the RX pin from the Serializer TTL Serial Port with the TX pin on the eb505. Note that the TTL Serial jumper has been removed.

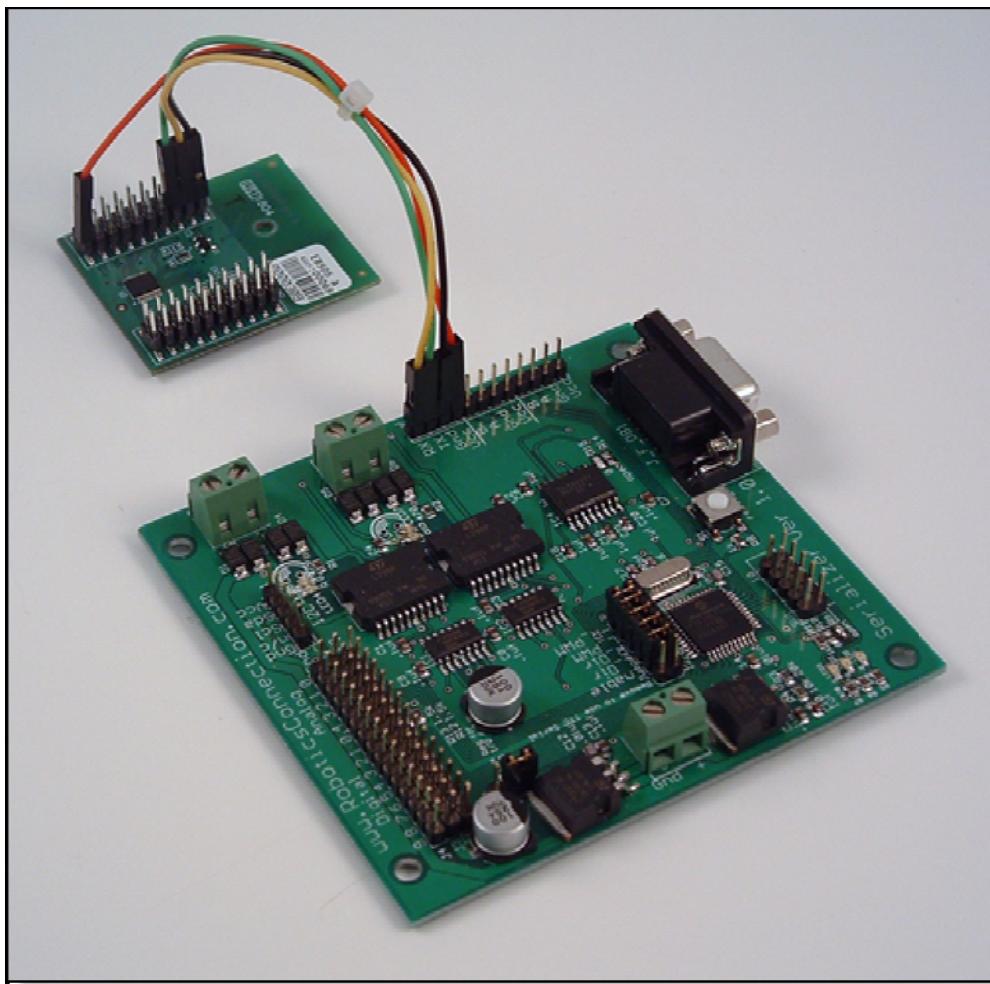


Figure 14: Original Serializer™ configured to communicate via TTL Serial to
A7Engineering Eb505 EmbeddedBlue Bluetooth module

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NOTE: All eb505 modules purchased from RoboticsConnection.com come pre-configured to communicate with the Serializer™ at 19200 baud. No changes are necessary to enable proper communications between the eb505 and the Serializer™. If you purchase the eb505s elsewhere, then they will be configured for a baud rate of 9600, which means that you will have to manually change the baud rate.

General Purpose, Analog, and I2C I/O lines:

The Serializer™ contains 10 General Purpose I/O (GPIO) lines, 6 10-bit Analog input lines, and an I2C port.

Below is a diagram showing the detailed pin out of the I/O lines. The topmost row of pins for the GPIO and Analog port is Gnd (Ground). The middle row of pins is Vcc (+5V) power supply to devices connected to the ports. The lower row are the input/output signals. **Make sure you connect the appropriate pins between the ports and your device to ensure that damage doesn't ensue. Also do not connect a sensor or device which is capable of producing more than 5.3V to any of the I/O or Analog lines (damage will ensue).**

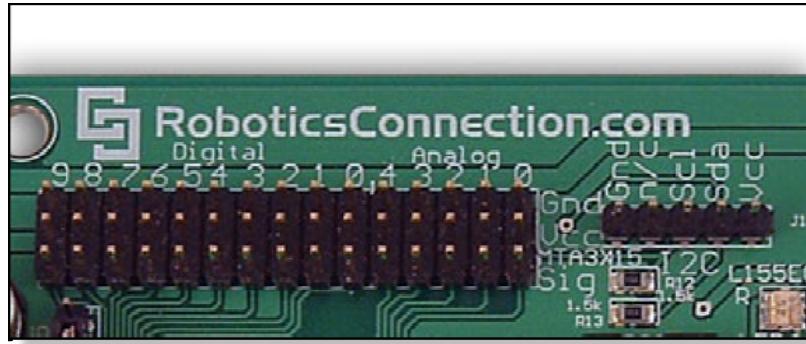


Figure 15: General Purpose, Analog and I2C I/O Line Pinout

The leftmost port is the General Purpose I/O port (labeled Digital). Pins are numbered 0-9. Pins 4,5,6,7,8, & 9 can be used to control up to six standard or digital hobby servos. **If you are controlling Six servos**, make sure you are using the secondary voltage regulator to drive I/O lines 6,7,8, and 9, and monitor the temperature of the voltage regulators – You May Need A Heatsink! (see Servo Power Select section below). NOTE: When you use an I/O line to control a servo, it obviously can't be used for any other functionality.

The middle port is the 10-bit Analog port (labeled Analog). Pins are numbered 0-4, and provide 5 analog inputs. However, there is an extra analog pin which is internally tied to 1/3 of the supply voltage level to allow users to read the supply voltage to the board.

The rightmost port is the I2C port (labeled I2C). Pins are labeled Gnd (Ground), N/C (no connection), Scl (Serial Clock), Sda (Serial Data), and Vcc (+5V supply). **When the I2C Port is used, GPIO lines 1 and 2 cannot be used.**

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Servo Power Select Jumper:

Power is supplied to Servo/GPIO lines 8 and 9 via a separate regulator to drive servos on those lines. Power is supplied to the other Servo/GPIO lines 4,5,6, and 7 from the main power input regulator. You can use the separate servo regulator to also provide power to Servo/GPIO lines 6 and 7 to drive two additional servos. You do this by moving the Servo Power Select Jumper from the lower two pins to the upper two pins (see jumper diagram below). The figure below shows the default factory position.

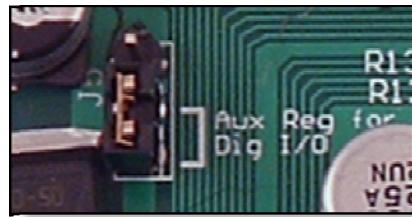


Figure 16: Servo Voltage Regulator Select

Thus, if the jumper is moved to the upper position, then the separate voltage regulator will power Servo/GPIO lines 6,7,8, and 9, and Servo/GPIO lines 4 and 5 will remain powered from the main voltage regulator on the Serializer.

NOTE: If you are using a total of six servos under moderate to heavy loads, monitor the temperatures of both voltage regulators, and be prepared to mount heat sinks to extract the heat away. Failure to do so will cause the voltage regulators to overheat, and cause permanent damage to your Serializer!

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Protocol Details

All commands and parameters are separated by spaces. There are two types of parameters: Simple and Complex. Simple parameters are basically simple strings, such as "hello" or "1". Complex parameters are simple strings separated by colons ":", such as "hello:world" or "2:1". Think of a complex parameter as a key:value pair. Complex parameters are used in commands where multiple ids are used in a single command. This allows multiple objects to be interrogated on the Serializer™ in a single atomic command. The number of required parameters depends on the command being issued.

All commands (and associated parameters) are terminated by an ASCII carriage-return character "\r" (0x0D), which is denoted by a <CR> in the command set below. The <CR> in the command examples below simply means that each command needs to have a "\r" appended to it before it will be processed. If you are using Hyperterm to send commands by hand, it simply means that you hit the 'return' key.

All responses will be appended with a "<CR><LF>", followed by a prompt ">" string, which will signify that the Serializer™ has processed the command, and is ready to receive another command. If an error condition occurs, then a "NACK<CR><LF>" followed by a prompt ">" string will be returned. For commands which do not return a value, an "ACK<CR><LF>" followed by a prompt ">" will be returned if the command was successfully executed. NOTE: The light grey portion of the command example below depicts the characters sent by the Serializer.

```
>command param1 param2<CR>  
ACK|NACK<CR><LF>  
>
```

Booting Up:

Once the Serializer™ boots up, the following information is printed out (NOTE The example below is what you would see if you were using Hyperterm):

```
Serializer, firmware v1.5.0  
Copyright 2006, RoboticsConnection.com  
>
```

If you're not using Hyperterm, then this information isn't really useful. Thus remember to ignore this sequence the first time you read your serial port. We basically added it to aid in debugging communication troubles. If you do not see the information above appear during power up, the Baud Rate, Data Bits, Stop Bits, and/or Parity are probably not configured correctly on the host computer which is communicating w/ the Serializer. The Serializer™ ships communicating at 19200 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, No Parity, and no Flow Control.

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Serial Software Configuration:

Below are some screen captures of a known working HyperTerm configuration to aid in your configuration:

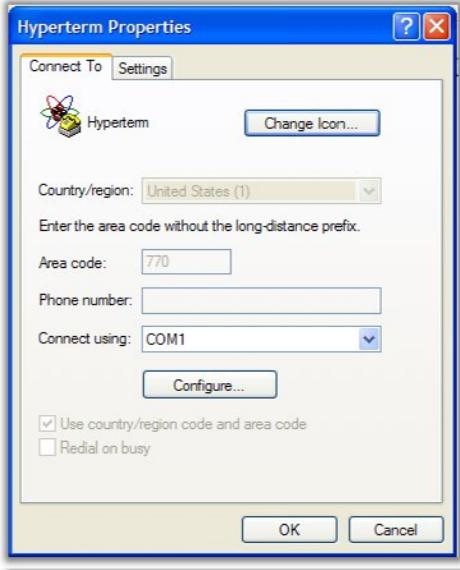


Figure 17 – Hyperterm COM properties

Clicking the "Configure" button above brings up the following dialog:

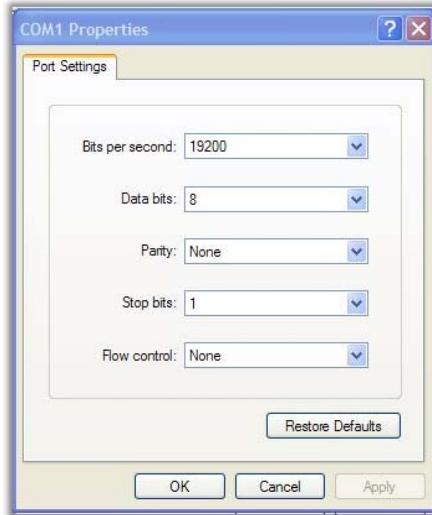


Figure 18 – Hyperterm Baud, Data Bits, Parity, Stop Bits, and Flow Control Settings

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Clicking on the Settings Tab brings up the following dialog

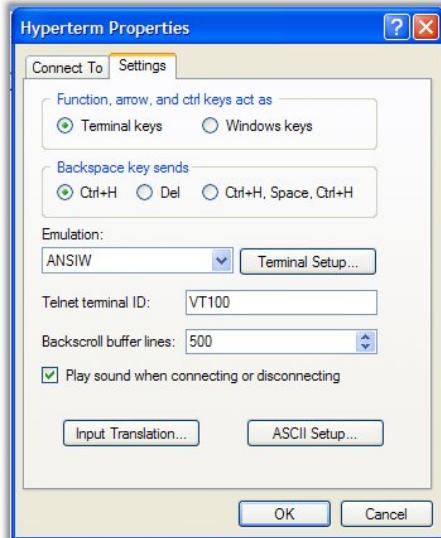


Figure 19 – Hyperterm Properties

and if you click on the ASCII Setup button, the following dialog appears:

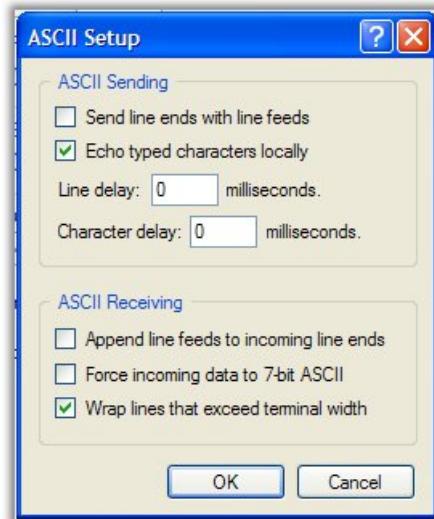


Figure 20 – Hyperterm ASCII Setup

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Command Set Summary

fw The *fw* command returns the current firmware version

Example:

```
>fw<CR>
1.5.0
>
```

reset The *reset* command resets the Serializer™ board and reboots it. You will see the Serializer™ welcome screen appear after a short delay. Once the welcome string appears, the Serializer™ is ready to accept commands.

Example:

```
>reset<CR>
Serializer, firmware v1.5.0
Copyright 2004-2008, RoboticsConnection.com
>
```

blink ledId:rate [ledId:rate] The *blink* command can blink one of the two onboard green LEDs simultaneously, or individually. Each complex parameter is comprised of an <ledId:blinkRate> pair. The ledId specifies which of the two green LEDs to blink, and blinkRate specifies the delay between blinks. The minimum blink rate is 1, and the largest is 127. A value of 0 turns the led off. Each complex parameter must be separated by one or more spaces.

Example 1: Blink LED 1 at a rate of 50:

```
>blink 1:50<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 2: Blink LED 1 at a rate of 50, and LED 2 at a rate of 100:

```
>blink 1:50 2:100<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 3: Turn off both LEDs:

```
>blink 1:0 2:0<CR>
ACK
>
```

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cmps03 [i2c addr]

The *cmps03* command queries a Devantech CMPS03 Electronic compass module attached to the Serializer's I2C port. The current heading is returned in Binary Radians, or BRADS. To convert BRADS to DEGREES, multiply BRADS by 360/255 (~1.41). The default I2C address is 0xC1, however another I2C address can be supplied as an optional parameter.

Example: Query a CMPS03 for the current heading:

```
>cmps03<CR>
176
>
```

cfg enc [encoderType]

The *cfg enc* command configures the internal encoder type to be either single (0) or quadrature (1) type. This information is saved in the EEPROM, so that the configuration will be retained after a reboot. If you are using a quadrature encoder (dual channels), and the Serializer is configured for single encoder operation, then the second quadrature channel will be ignored. Thus make sure the correct encoder type is configured according to your setup. The *cfg enc* command without a parameter returns the value currently stored in EEPROM.

Example: Configure internal encoder type to be of quadrature type:

```
>cfg enc 1<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example: Query internal encoder type stored in EEPROM:

```
>cfg enc<CR>
1
>
```

cfg baud [baudRate]

The *cfg baud* command configures the serial baud rate on the Serializer™. Values can be 0=2400, 1=4800, 2=9600, 3=19200, 4=57600, or 5=115200. You can also type in the actual baud rate string as well (e.g. "19200"). The default baud rate used to communicate with the Serializer is 19200. The *cfg baud* command without a parameter returns the value currently stored in EEPROM.

Example: Set the baud rate of the Serializer to 115200:

```
>cfg baud 5<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example: Set the baud rate of the Serializer to 19200:

```
>cfg baud 19200<CR>
```

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ACK

>

Example: Query value of baud rate stored in EEPROM:

>cfg baud<CR>

19200

>

cfg units [unit type]

The cfg units command sets the internal units used for sensor readings. Values are 0 for metric mode, 1 for English mode, and 2 for raw mode. In raw mode, srf04, srf05, pping, and maxez1 return reading in units of 0.4us. srf08 and srf10 return readings of 1us. The cfg units command without a parameter returns the value currently stored in EEPROM.

Example 1: Set internal units to Metric system

>cfg units 0

ACK

>

Example 2: Set internal units to English system:

>cfg units 1

ACK

>

Example 3: Query internal unit configuration stored in EEPROM:

>cfg units

1

>

getenc encoderId [encoderId]

The *getenc* command returns the values of the encoder count (channel B) for the specified encoder Id(s). NOTE: The encoder counts for channel A are used for internal VPID and DPID algorithms.

Example 1: Query encoder input 1 and input 2 for their current count:

>getenc 1 2<CR>

2400 2388

>

Example 2: Query encoder input 1 for its current count:

>getenc 1<CR>

2388

>

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clrenc encoderId [encoderId]	The <i>clrenc</i> command clears the values of the encoder count (channel B) for the specified encoder Id.
	Example 1: Clear encoder count for encoder input 1 and input 2: ->clrenc 1 2<CR> ACK >
	Example 2: Clear encoder count for encoder input 1: ->clrenc 1<CR> ACK >
setio pinId:value [pinId:value]	The <i>setio</i> command sets the specified General Purpose I/O line <i>pinId</i> (range 0-9) on the Serializer™ to the specified <i>value</i> . Each complex parameter is a <pinId:value> pair, where the valid range of pinId is 0 thru 9, and value can be 0 or 1 which corresponds to 0V or +5V respectively. NOTE: I/O lines 1 and 2 cannot be used if an I2C device is being used. Also I/O lines 8 and 9 cannot be used if you have servos connected to them.
	Example 1: Set general purpose I/O pins 1 and 2 to 1(+5V) and pins 6 and 8 to 0 (0V) ->setio 1:1 2:1 6:0 8:0<CR> ACK >
getio pinId [pinId]	The <i>getio</i> command changes the pin, <i>pinId</i> (range 0-9), to an input (if it was an output), and gets the value of the specified General Purpose I/O lines on the Serializer™. The valid range of I/O pin Ids is 0 thru 9. Pins need to be separated by one or more spaces.
	Example 1: Query the values of the general purpose I/O pins 1, 2, 6, and 8: ->getio 1 2 6 8<CR> 1 1 0 0 >

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maxez1 triggerPin outputPin The maxez1 command queries a Maxbotix MaxSonar-EZ1 sonar sensor connected to the General Purpose I/O lines, triggerPin, and outputPin, for a distance, and returns it in Centimeters. **NOTE: MAKE SURE there's nothing directly in front of the MaxSonar-EZ1 upon power up, otherwise it won't range correctly for object less than 6 inches away!** The sensor reading defaults to use English units (inches). The sensor distance resolution is integer based.

Example 1: Query MaxSonar-EZ1 using pin 3 as the trigger pin, and pin 4 as the output pin.

```
>maxez1 3 4<CR>
10
>
```

mogo motorId:vel [motorId:vel] The *mogo* command sets motor speed using one or more complex parameters containing a <motorId:spd> value pair.

The motorId can be either 1 or 2, which corresponds to the Motor Terminal port.

The vel value specifies the motor velocity, and its range depends on your VPID settings. See the [VPID parameters](#) section below to determine your MAX velocity. A positive value rotates the motors in one direction, while a negative value rotates the motors in the opposite direction.

You will have to determine which direction is positive for your motors, and connect the motors wires to the terminals on the Serializer board in the appropriate configuration.

Example 1: Set motor speed to a velocity of 45 in positive direction for both motor 1 and motor 2. Again your VPID settings determine what the MAX values are for the velocity.

```
>mogo 1:45 2:45<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 2: Stop motor 1 and motor 2.

```
>stop<CR>
ACK
>
```

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Example 3: Turn motor 1 and motor 2 in opposite directions at a velocity of 55.

```
>mogo 1:55 2:-55<CR>
ACK
>
```

vpid prop integ deriv loop

The vpid command gets/sets the PIDL (Proportional, Integral, Derivative, and Loop) parameters for the Velocity PID control on the Serializer™. If the PIDL parameters are absent, the PIDL values are returned. Otherwise the PIDL parameters are parsed, and saved (in eeprom). For more information on PIDL control, see the [PIDL configuration section](#) below. By default the Serializer VPID parameters are configured to work with our Traxster Robot Kit.

Example 1: Get the PIDL parameter values:

```
>vpid<CR>
P:10 I:0 D:0 L:25
>
```

Example 2: Set the PIDL parameter values on the Serializer™ to 10, 0, 0, and 700, respectively:

```
>vpid 10:0:0:700<CR>
ACK
>
```

digo id:distance:vel [id:distance:vel]

Simply put, the digo command allows you to command your robot to travel a specified distance, at a specified speed. This command uses the internal VPID and DPID algorithms to control velocity and distance. Therefore, you must have dual motors, and dual wheel encoders connected to the Serializer motor ports and encoder inputs.

You must also configure the VPID and DPID parameters so match the physical configuration of your robot. Please see the [VPID](#) and [DPID](#) configuration sections below to configure the parameters for your robot. By default, the Serializer VPID and DPID parameters are configured to work with our Traxster Robot Kit.

Id specifies the motor id, and can be either 1 or 2, which corresponds to the Motor Terminal port.

Distance specifies the distance (in encoder ticks) which you want your robot to travel.

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Vel specifies the motor velocity. **NOTE!!! The MAX velocity that can be used for this command depends on your VPID settings.**
For the default Traxster Robot PID parameters, the max velocity that can be used is 28. **If you use a velocity higher than your max velocity, the the PID algorithms will NOT WORK!!!** Please see the PID section below to determine your MAX velocity value.

The best way to disable the digo command is to issue a 'stop' command.

Please note that you can query the state of the PID distance algorithm to determine when it has completed the last command by using the 'pids' command (see below).

Example 1: Tell Serializer to command your robot to go a distance of 2500 encoder ticks, using a velocity of 25.

```
>digo 1 : 2500 : 28  2 : 2500 : 28<CR>
ACK
>
```

dpid prop integ deriv accel

The dpid command gets/sets the PIDA (Proportional, Integral, Derivative, and Acceleration) parameters for the distance PID control on the Serializer™. If the PIDA parameters are absent, the PIDA values are returned. Otherwise the PIDA parameters are parsed, and saved (in eeprom). For more information on PIDA control, see the [DPID configuration section below](#). By default the Serializer VPID parameters are configured to work with our Traxster Robot Kit.

Example 1: Get the PIDA parameter values:

```
>vpid<CR>
P:10 I:0 D:0 A:25
>
```

Example 2: Set the PIDA parameter values on the Serializer™ to 1, 0, 0, and 10, respectively:

```
>vpid 1:0:0:10<CR>
ACK
>
```

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pids

Once a digo command is issued, an internal state variable within the firmware is set to '1', and it stays in that state until the algorithm has completed. Upon completion, the state is set to '0'. The 'pids' command simply returns the value of the internal variable to determine if the algorithms is currently busy, or if it has finished, thus allowing subsequent digo commands to be issued w/o clobbering previous ones.

Example 1: Query PID state: (PID algorithm busy)

```
>pids<CR>
1
>
```

Example 2: Query PID state: (PID algorithm completed)

```
>pids<CR>
0
>
```

pwm [r:rate] id:pwm [id:pwm]

The pwm command sets the Pulse Width Modulation value for Motor 1 & Motor 2. Each complex parameter is a motor <motorId:pwm value> pair, where the motor id can be 1 or 2, and the pwm value can be -100 to 100. Each complex parameter pair is separated by one or more spaces.

The optional r:rate complex parameter is a switch that allows the motor(s) speed(s)s to be ramped up or down to the specified speed from the current motor speed. **NOTE: the r:rate parameter MUST occur before any id:pwm parameter for proper operation, and it is optional!** A ramping value of 0 produces no ramping, where a value equal to the pwm value produces the slowest amount of ramping. A ramping loop is executed every 51 milliseconds. Therefore, if you specify a ramp value of 100, for a pwm of 100, the motor will reach full velocity within 5.1 seconds. If your current motor speed is 0, and you want to ramp to 100% velocity within 2 seconds, then:

```
Ramp = 2000 msec / 51 msec
Ramp = 39
```

PWM values can be ramped from any negative value to any positive value, and vice versa, so long as the pwm values are within range (-100 to 100).

NOTE: The firmware caps the ramping value to the pwm value to ensure calculations are performed correctly. So if you specify a

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ramping value of 85 for a pwm value of 75, the ramping value will be limited to 75.

The pwm value does not take the PID parameters into account. So, if you want to control motor speed without the use of PID, control it with the pwm command.

Example 1: Set motor 1 to -50% pwm:

```
>pwm 1:-50<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 2: Set motor 1 and 2 to 100% pwm:

```
>pwm 1:100 2:100<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 3: Set motor 1 and 2 to 100% pwm, and ramp up to full speed within 3 seconds (assumes motors are stopped):

```
>pwm r:59 1:100 2:100<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 3: Ramp both motors up to 100% pwm in the positive range, then ramp them down to full speed in the opposite direction. This will ramp their pwm values from 100 to 0, then from 0 to -100 in one step. This would be useful if you wanted to stop and reverse your robot in a very smooth fashion.

```
>pwm r:100 1:100 2:100<CR>
ACK
>pwm r:100 1:-100 2:-100<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 4: Ramp motor 1 and 2 from their current speed (could be any speed), down to 0 slowly.

```
>pwm r:100 1:0 2:0<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 5: Stop motor 1 and 2:

```
>stop<CR>
ACK
>
```

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step dir:speed:steps

The step command is used to step a bipolar stepper motor in direction dir, at the specified speed, for the specified number of steps.

The *dir* parameter specifies a CW or CCW rotational direction, and its value can be either 0 (CCW) or 1(CW). Your specific direction is based on the way that you have your bipolar motor connected to the Serializer. The *speed* parameter can be a value from 0 to 100.

The *steps* parameter specifies the maximum number of steps to take. A value of 0 means step infinitely. Internally, this number is stored in an unsigned 32 bit variable, so the user can specify a larger number of steps.

You may stop the step by either issuing a step command w/ a 0 speed, or simply sending a 'stop' command.

Example 1: Step a bipolar direction 1 at 100% speed for an infinite number of steps

```
>step 1 100 0<CR>  
ACK  
>
```

Example 2: Stop the bipolar stepper motor:

```
>stop<CR>  
ACK  
>
```

sweep speed:steps

The sweep command is used to sweep a bipolar motor, for *step* number of steps, at *speed* (0-100), thus providing a sweeping motion. The initial rotational direction of sweep is in the CW direction.

Upon initial receipt of the command, the firmware will sweep the motor for $\frac{1}{2}$ of the number of *steps* specified, starting in a CW direction. Once that number of steps has occurred, the sweep direction will change, and subsequent sweeps will rotate for the full amount of steps. Thus, the starting point for the motor is in the middle of each sweep.

You may stop the sweep by either issuing a sweep command w/ a 0 speed, or simply sending a 'stop' command.

Example 1: Sweep a bipolar stepper motor 125 steps in a CW motion, the 125 steps at 75% speed, starting in the CW direction.

```
>sweep 1 75 125<CR>
```

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ACK

>

Example 2: Stop the bipolar stepper motor from sweeping:

>stop<CR>

ACK

>

stop

The stop command immediately stops motor 1 and 2 connected to the motor ports. This will override any pwm, mogo, or digo commands which are currently active.

Example 1: Stop all motors:

>stop<CR>

ACK

>

sensor id [idN]

The sensor command returns the raw A/D (8 bit) reading from the analog sensor ports 0-5. Multiple values can be read at a time by specifying multiple pins as parameters (range 0-5). Pin 5 is 1/3 of the voltage of the power supply for the Serializer™. To calculate the battery voltage, simply multiply the value returned by Sensor 5 by 15/1028.

Example: Read the value of analog port 3

>sensor 3<CR>

768

>

Example: Read multiple analog values. NOTE: Readings will be returned in the same order as the pins which they represent.

>sensor 0 1 2<CR>

768 522 242

>

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servo id:pos [id:pos] The servo command sets a servo connected to General Purpose I/O port the specified position. The value of the position can range from -99 to 100, where 0 is the center position. Setting the position to -100 will disable the servo, allowing it to turn freely by hand.

Each parameter is a <servo id:position> pair, where the servo id can be 1,2,3,4,5, or 6.

Below is the mapping table depicting servo Id to GPIO pin relationship:

Servo Id (firmware)	1	2	3	4	5	6
GPIO Pin Id (header)	8	9	6	7	4	5
Servo ID to GPIO Pin Mapping						

Each complex parameter is separated by one or more spaces.

Example 1: Set servo 1 and 2 to position 35:

```
>servo 1:35 2:35<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 2: Center servo 4 and 5:

```
>servo 4:0 5:0<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 3: Set servo 2 to position -85:

```
>servo 2:-85<CR>
ACK
>
```

sp03 [i2cAddr]

The sp03 command instructs a Devantech SP03 Speech Synthesizer to speak the appropriate phrase. If a character representing a number in the range of 0 to 30, then the SP03 will speak previously programmed canned phrases. If a phrase is sent, then it will speak the phrase. An optional I2C address can also be specified. Otherwise, the default I2C address of 0xC4.

Example 1: Speak canned phrase 12:

```
>sp03 12<CR>
ACK
>
```

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Example 2: Speak the following phrase:

```
>sp03 Please visit w w w dot robotics connection dot com for your  
robotic needs<CR>  
ACK  
>
```

srf04 triggerPin outputPin

The srf04 command queries an SRF04 sonar sensor connected to the General Purpose I/O lines triggerPin and outputPin, for a distance and returns it in the units configured (default is English – inches).

If the Serializer units are configured (using “cfg units”) for raw mode, srf04 returns readings in units of 0.4us, and the max distance returned is 65000 (out of range). When configured for English units, max distance returned is 100 inches (out of range), and when configured for Metric units, max distance returned is 255 (out of range). NOTE: Sonar distance resolution is integer based.

Example 1: Query SRF04

```
>srf04 5 6<CR>  
7  
>
```

srf05 pinId

pping pinId

The srf05/Ping command queries an SRF05/Ping sonar sensor connected to the General Purpose I/O line pinId for a distance, and returns it in the units configured (default is English – inches).

If the Serializer units are configured (using “cfg units”) for raw mode, pping and srf05 return readings in units of 0.4us, and the max distance returned is 65000 (out of range). When configured for English units, max distance returned is 100 inches (out of range), and when configured for Metric units, max distance returned is 255 (out of range). Sonar distance resolution is integer based.

Example 1: Query SRF05

```
>srf05 3<CR>  
14  
>
```

Example 3: Query Ping

```
>pping 2<CR>  
8  
>
```

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srf08 [i2cAddr]

srf10 [i2cAddr]

The srf08/srf10 command queries a Devantech SRF08/SRF10 sonar sensor at address i2cAddr for a distance reading in the units configured (default is English – inches). The i2cAddr parameter is optional, and defaults to 0xE0 for both sensors. The i2c address can be changed for any i2c module using the i2cp command. Sonar distance resolution is integer based.

If the Serializer units are configured (using “cfg units”) for raw mode, srf08 and srf10 return readings in units of 1us.

Example 1: Query an SRF08 for distance:

```
>srf08<CR>
32
>
```

Example 2: Query an SRF10 for distance:

```
>srf10<CR>
40
>
```

tpa81 [i2cAddr]

The tpa81 command queries a Devantech TPA81 thermopile sensor for temperature values. It returns 8 temperature values.

Example:

```
>tpa81<CR>
11 11 12 17 19 21 16 13
>
```

vel

The vel command returns the left and right wheel velocities. The velocity returned is based on the [PIDL parameter configuration](#).

Example:

```
>vel<CR>
200 203
>
```

restore

Restores the factory default settings, and resets the board. NOTE: This will erase any configurations you have saved to EEPROM, including VPID, DPID, and baud rate settings.

Example:

```
>restore<CR>
> Serializer, firmware v1.5.0
Copyright 2006-2008, RoboticsConnection.com
>
```

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Line[7] <addr> [-a addr] Queries a RoboticsConnection Line Following Sensor at address *addr*. If the '-a' option is specified, then the address of the module will be changed to the new address associated w/ the '-a' switch.

If the optional '7' is appended to the end of the 'line' command, e.g. 'line7', then two additional values will be returned from those Line Following Sensors (manufactured after 11/1/07) which have additional sensor inputs on the sides of the board. This can be used to read additional Single Line Following sensors, or read any type of on/off momentary switch, such those used for bumpers.

Example 1: Get the line sensor reading at address 80:

```
>line 80<CR>
0 1 1 1 0
>
```

Example 2: Change the address of the line sensor from 80 to 85:

NOTE: The valid address range of a Line Following sensor is 80d (0x50) to 90d (0x5A).

```
>line 80 -a 85<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 3: Read a Line Following sensor capable of returning 7 values. **NOTE 1:** two additional Single Line Follower sensors have to be plugged into the sides of the Line Following sensor (manufactured after 11/1/07). **NOTE 2:** The **two additional values** will be returned at the end of the original line following sensor string.

```
>line7 80<CR>
1 1 1 1 1 0 0
>
```

Example 4: Get the line sensor reading at address 4 using the Generic I2C command:

```
>i2c r 80 1<CR>
28
>
```

i2cp currAddr newAddr

The i2cp command programs an I2C device connected to the I2C port on the Serializer™ from the current I2C address specified (currAddr) to the new I2C address specified (newAddr). NOTE: no other devices can be connected to the I2C port/bus while programming a single device. This command is **ONLY** used for the Devantech SRF08, SRF10, and TPA81 I2C Devices.

Example: Set an I2C device with the current address 240 to the new I2C address 250.

```
>i2cp 240 250<CR>
ACK
>
```

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i2c <r|w> <addr> [data] The flexible i2c command allows you to execute a generic i2c *read*, or *write* command to the specified device at address *addr*. Depending on whether you issue a read or write, additional parameters vary.

If you are issuing a read, then the following attributes should be used:

```
>i2c r <device address> <numBytesToRead>
```

If you are issuing a write, then the following attributes should be used:

```
>i2c w <device address> <byte2write 0> <byte2write 1>...
<byte2write N>
```

An i2c read returns a value queried from the device at the specified address. An i2c write returns an ACK if the write was successful. Both command flavors return a NACK if the command fails.

If you have a device which communicates over the I2C bus, you should be able to communicate with that device from the Serializer using the i2c command. A good example of a device which uses I2C that can be interfaced using the i2c commands is the [Gamoto PID Motor Controller](#). We have included many examples below to show you how to use this flexible command.

Example 1: Read the firmware version of a Gamoto PID Motor Controller:

```
>i2c w 158 178<CR>
ACK
>i2c r 158 1<CR>
16
>
```

Example 2: Set the speed of the motor, connected to a Gamoto PID Motor Controller to 50%:

```
>i2c w 158 43 17<CR>
ACK
>i2c w 158 60 64<CR>
ACK
>
```

Example 3: Stop the motor, connected to a Gamoto PID Motor Controller:

```
>i2c w 158 43 17<CR>
ACK
>i2c w 158 60 0<CR>
ACK
>
```

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Example 4: Query an SRF08 sonar module (at address 244) for distance and light reading, using English units:

```
>i2c w 244 0 80<CR>
ACK
>i2c r 244 3<CR>
20 0 63
>
```

Example 5: Query the temperatures on a TPA81, located at address 214:

```
>i2c w 214 1<CR>
ACK
>i2c r 214 9<CR>
38 35 36 38 38 37 36 36 35
>
```

Example 6: Query a RoboticsConnection Line Following Sensor, at address 4:

```
>i2c r 4 1<CR>
28
>
```

Example 7: Command an SP03 to speak the phrase 'hello' on the fly.

```
>i2c w 196 0 0 0 5 3 104 101 108 108 111 0<CR>
ACK
>i2c w 196 0 64<CR>
ACK
>
```

// NOTE: The characters in the word 'hello' were spelled out in the command using their ASCII decimal equivalents (highlighted in bold).

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Upgrading the Firmware:

The Serializer's firmware can be upgraded using the Hyperterm program using a few easy steps:

- 1.) Download the latest firmware to a known location on your PC from
<http://www.roboticsconnection.com/pc-16-5-serializer-net-robot-controller.aspx>.
- 2.) Connect the Serializer to your PC using a serial cable (Make sure the Serial Communications jumper is installed so that RS232 Voltage levels can be used to communicate with the PCs serial port)
- 3.) Make sure you have your Serializer configured to communicate at a baud rate of 19200, else the bootloader won't be able to upgrade the firmware.
- 4.) Open Hyperterm (Start->All Programs->Accessories->Communications->Hyperterm)
- 5.) Set up Hyperterm Settings as shown below:

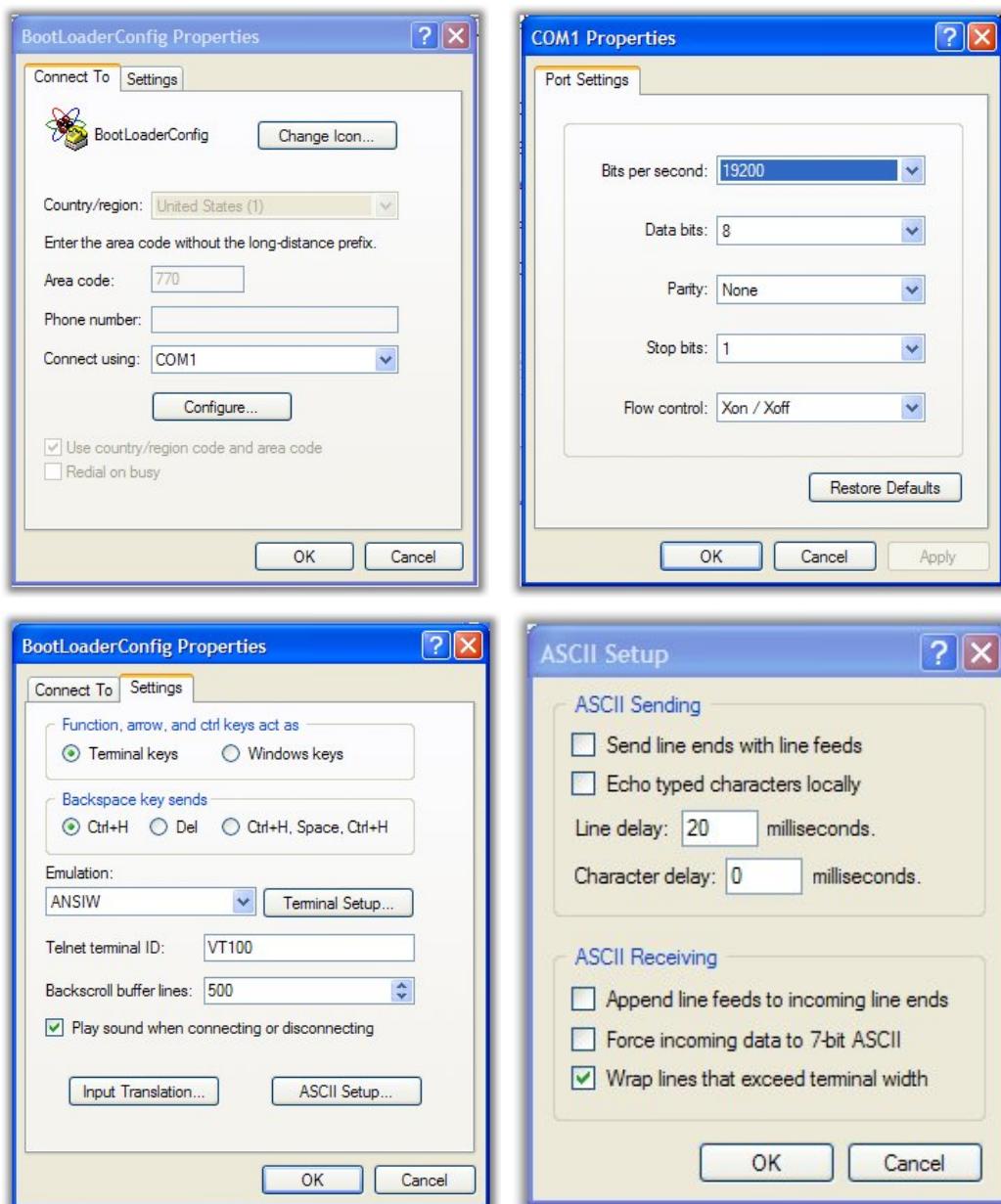


Figure 23: Hyperterm settings for the Bootloader

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- 6.) Once you finish with the settings, you may want to "Save" the configuration, in case you upgrade the firmware at a later time. We saved ours as "BootLoaderConfig".
- 7.) While holding down the "=" key on your keyboard, cycle power to the Serializer. Keep the "=" key pressed down.
- 8.) You should see a "Wait" appear in the Hyperterm window. Once you see this, release the "=" key, and you should see a "Load" in the Hyperterm window.
- 9.) Once you see the "Load" command, select "Transfer", then "Send Text File" in Hyperterm.
- 10.) Navigate to the location of the firmware file, "SerializerFirmware_vX.X.hex", which you downloaded in step 1, and select it. You may have to change the file filter at the bottom of the open file dialog to "All Files" to see the hex file.
- 11.) Hyperterm should immediately start programming the Serializer.
- 12.) It should take about 50 seconds to 5 minutes to re-program the firmware, depending on the amount of changes from the previous firmware revision. You should also see a number string being incremented as the bytes are being programmed. Once the firmware has been programmed, you should see a screen like the one below:

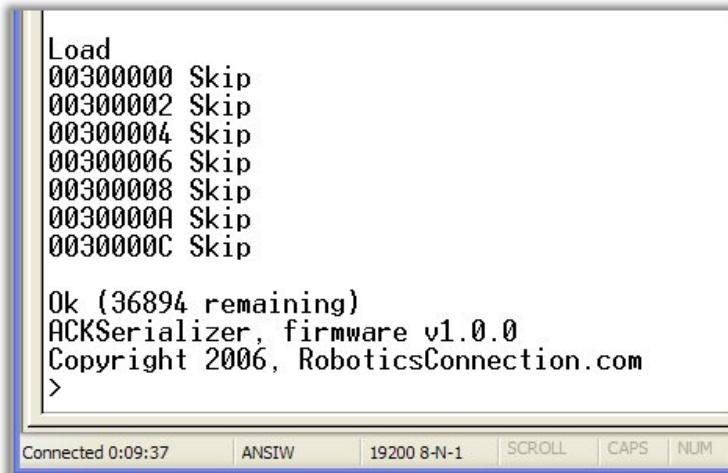


Figure 24: Hyperterm Firmware Programming Finished Screen

13.) You're finished!

14.) TroubleShooting:

If you're having troubles getting your firmware upgraded, try the following:

- Set the value of the character delay (under ASCII Setup) to a value between 1 and 500. We have found that for computers using USB to Serial adapters, setting this value is a must, since the adapter is slower than a native serial port (hence a delay needs to be added). This will make uploading the firmware very slow, but it fortunately, that's something that doesn't happen often. ☺ This will probably be the answer to most customer's problems.
- Repeating the procedure on another computer. We have seen a few instances where differences in serial port speeds between computer manufacturers, affects the customers ability to re-program the firmware. Again, try the step above first.
- Make sure you have the jumper installed on the 'Remove to use TTL Serial' pins on the Serializer, and that you're programming it using the RS-232 port.

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- Double check the Hyperterm settings above.
- Make sure you have the internal baud rate of the Serializer, as well as the baud rate of Hyperterm, set to 19200. You will not be able to reprogram the Serializer at any other baud rate (since the bootloader is configured to use 19200).
- Make sure you have at least 6 volts of power applied to the Serializer when re-programming.
- Make sure you have a power supply capable of supplying at least 1 Amp out, maybe even more if you have sensors, servos, and other components connected.

Warranty & Disclaimer Information:

The Serializer is guaranteed to be free of defects in hardware and craftsmanship upon delivery. The Serializer is not warranted against damage caused by user error, such as reverse polarity damage, over voltage, or simple abuse. Please handle and use the Serializer responsibly. Please note that we perform a software test on every Serializer before it leaves our facility, so we know for a fact that they arrive in working order.

We do not guarantee the firmware to be free of defects. If you do find a bug please report it to us, and we will fix it as soon as possible, and provide an updated firmware version. Please post bugs and/or questions to our online forum at:

<http://www.roboticsconnection.com/dnn>

The Serializer should not be used in any form of life support devices used in hospitals or doctors offices under any circumstances. The Serializer should only be used for robotics development and research where there is no risk to life.

Serializer Libraries & Documentation:

The Serializer comes with several full featured libraries, including a .NET, C++, and Microsoft Robotics Studio Services.

The Serializer .Net Library, QuickStart Guide, & Documentation can be found under the Docs/HowTo/Library tab here:

- Installer: <http://www.roboticsconnection.com/pc-16-5-serializer-net-robot-controller.aspx>
- Documentation: <http://www.roboticsconnection.com/multimedia/libraries/MSDNDocumentation/>

The Serializer C++ Library (written by James Y. Wilson) installer can be found under the Docs/HowTo/Library tab here:

- <http://www.roboticsconnection.com/pc-16-5-serializer-net-robot-controller.aspx>

Serializer Services for Microsoft Robotics Studio:

- <http://www.roboticsconnection.com/t-microsoftroboticsstudio.aspx>

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PID Configuration Examples:

Velocity PID (VPID)

This section provides some help on the PID configuration. Before using the mogo command, the PID settings should be set depending on your max motor velocity, drivetrain gearing, encoder resolution, etc. It is important to understand that the PID algorithm is already implemented in the Serializer's firmware, so all you have to do is figure out your drivetrain specifics so that the PID algorithm works.

What are the PIDL parameters? Well, the P is for Proportional, I is for Integral, D is for Derivative, and L is for Loop multiplier. There are many good tutorials on PID loops available on the web, reading some of these should help.

- http://www.seattlerobotics.org/encoder/200108/using_a_pid.html
- <http://www.engin.umich.edu/group/ctm/PID/PID.html>

The only thing not covered in these tutorials would be the L parameter. The basic loop for the PID calculations occurs approximately every 1.6ms. This is too fast for many wheel-encoder combinations so the L is used to multiply the number of basic loops before the PID calculations are done. For example if the L is set to 10 then the PID loop will occur every 16ms.

So, how are the PIDL parameters determined for your robot? Follow either example below.

Configuration by Experimentation:

The way to determine the proper setting for L is to set the PIDL settings to a known value like 10 0 0 100, then use the pwm command to set the value to 100. This will cause the motor to run at its maximum velocity. Remember, pwm is not affected by the PIDL parameters. Only the mogo and digo commands use the PIDL parameters.

You can then use the vel command to get the motor velocities in ticks/loop. If the number is in the 50-250 range then it is good, otherwise change the L setting until this range is reached. If the VEL is too high you will not be able to reach 100% power, if it is too low the velocity will "Hunt" for the correct speed.

After the proper L is determined the rest of the PID parameters can be set. When setting the P it is important to realize that the larger the number the faster the response will be, but if it is too high then again the motor may overshoot the desired velocity then undershoot when it tries to correct and therefore again "Hunt" for the correct speed.

A D value of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the P value will help to dampen the oscillations. The I parameter is not used that often in Velocity PID loops but is included for completeness in the algorithm.

Configuration by calculation:

Let's say your robot has the following measurements and specifications:

- Wheel diameter: 2.5" Wheel Circumference: 7.854"
- Max Motor RPM: 175 RPM
- Gear Reduction Ratio: 50:1
- Encoder Resolution (ticks per rev): 8
- Distance per encoder tick: $7.854" / 8 \times 50 = 0.020"$
- Ticks per unit distance: 51.02 ticks/inch of linear travel
- Ticks per second: 1166.67 ticks/sec (calculated using motor RPM, gear reduction, encoder resolution, and wheel circumference)

$1166.67 \text{ ticks per second} * 1.6\text{msec per pid loop} = 1.867 \text{ ticks every time the pid calculation runs}$. Let's say that we choose a target velocity of 130. Thus, $130/1.867 \text{ ticks per pid loop execution}$, we would arrive at an L value of 69.6, or basically 70.

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From here, you can customize the PID parameters as outlined above.

Distance PID (DPID)

For the DIGO command there is another PID configuration that oversees the VPID controls to allow the robot to travel a specific distance and then stop.

The VPID parameters above should be tuned first so that the MOGO command works smoothly. The DIGO command simply modifies the velocity on-the-fly that the mogo function is trying to maintain. By doing this all VPID parameters are still valid and must work correctly before trying to use DIGO.

The DPID parameters are similar to the Vpid parameters except that the last parameter is an Acceleration value. This is the value that determines how long it will take the motors to reach the full speed set by the DIGO command. A smaller value will allow a smoother ramp up of speed, while a larger value will get you to maximum speed faster (but may lurch at the beginning).

The default value is 1. The acceleration value is added to the speed every time a motor control loop is executed (Based on the L parameter). Thus, if L is set to 50, the loop is performed every $50 * 1.6\text{ms} = 80\text{ms}$, then, the speed is increased by A. If you set A =1, and use digo to go a speed of 25, then it will take $25 * 80\text{ms} = 2\text{ seconds}$ to reach full speed. This is a nice smooth takeoff speed for most robots.

The default Values for the DPID is 1 0 0 1, More discussions on the PID portion of the DPID parameters will be coming shortly.

Default PID settings:

The Serializer has Velocity and Distance PID default parameters set to work with our Traxster Robot Kit. If you change the parameters, and wish to put them back to factory default settings, simply send or type a 'restore' command.

Querying PID Status:

The current state of the PID algorithms can be queried using the 'pids' command. This is useful if you want to poll the state of the PID algorithm to determine when it has completed it's latest command.

For instance, if you issue a 'digo' command to make your motors rotate for 20,000 ticks, it may take up to 30 seconds to complete. If you want to issue a command to rotate the motors a specified distance after the initial command completes, simply use the 'pids' command to query the state until it reads '0', then issue your next 'digo' command. The state will be '1' while the PID algorithm is busy, and '0' when it has completed.

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Serializer™ Dimensions:

The Serializer™ dimensions and bolt hole locations are based on the PC104 spec. Exact dimensions are shown below.

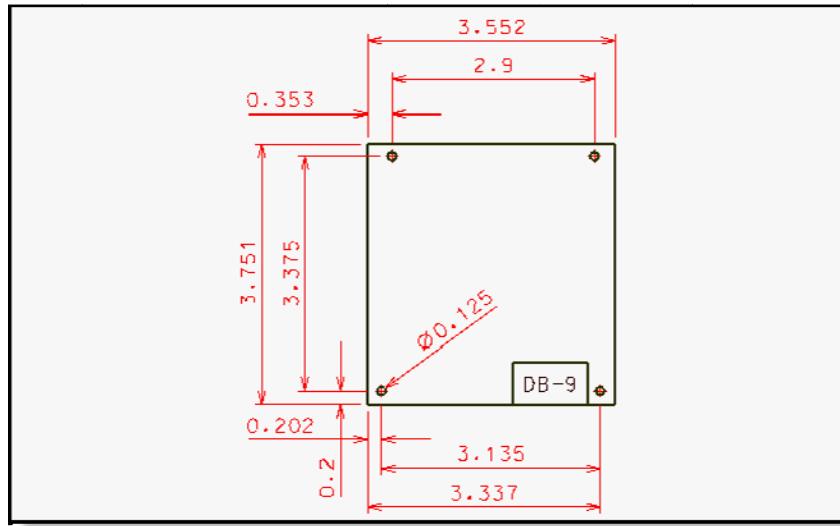


Figure 25 – Serializer™ Dimensions

Serializer™ Maximum Ratings

DC Characteristics:

Symbol	Characteristic/ Device	Min	Typ†	Max	Units	Conditions
VDD	Supply Voltage	7.5	9.6	12.0	V	Using on-board H-bridge
VDD	Supply Voltage	6.5	9.6	12.0	V	Using off-board H-bridge
IDD	Supply Current	-----	100	200	mA	Excluding H-bridge and servo current
IDD	Supply Current	-----	100	2200	mA	Excluding H-bridge current
IDD	Supply Current	-----	100	10200	mA	Including H-bridge and Servo current

Absolute Maximum Ratings †

Ambient temperature under bias.....	-55 to +125°C
Storage temperature	-65°C to +150°C
Voltage on any pin with respect to VSS.....	-0.3V to (VDD + 0.3V)
Voltage on VDD with respect to VSS	-0.3 to +7.5V
Total power dissipation on digital I/O pins.....	1.0W
Maximum current out of VSS pin.....	300 mA
Maximum current into VDD pin	250 mA
Input clamp current, IIK (VI < 0 or VI > VDD).....	20 mA
Output clamp current, IOK (VO < 0 or VO > VDD).....	20 mA
Maximum output current sunk by any I/O	25 mA
Maximum output current sourced by any I/O pin.....	25 mA

† NOTICE: Stresses above those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress rating only and functional operation of the device at those or any other conditions above those indicated in the operation listings of this specification is not implied. Exposure to maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

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ASCII Character Set

We have provided the ASCII character set below as a quick reference:

Char	Dec	Oct	Hex		Char	Dec	Oct	Hex		Char	Dec	Oct	Hex		Char	Dec	Oct	Hex
<hr/>																		
(nul)	0	0000	0x00		(sp)	32	0040	0x20		@	64	0100	0x40		`	96	0140	0x60
(soh)	1	0001	0x01		!	33	0041	0x21		A	65	0101	0x41		a	97	0141	0x61
(stx)	2	0002	0x02		"	34	0042	0x22		B	66	0102	0x42		b	98	0142	0x62
(etx)	3	0003	0x03		#	35	0043	0x23		C	67	0103	0x43		c	99	0143	0x63
(eot)	4	0004	0x04		\$	36	0044	0x24		D	68	0104	0x44		d	100	0144	0x64
(enq)	5	0005	0x05		%	37	0045	0x25		E	69	0105	0x45		e	101	0145	0x65
(ack)	6	0006	0x06		&	38	0046	0x26		F	70	0106	0x46		f	102	0146	0x66
(bel)	7	0007	0x07		'	39	0047	0x27		G	71	0107	0x47		g	103	0147	0x67
(bs)	8	0010	0x08		(40	0050	0x28		H	72	0110	0x48		h	104	0150	0x68
(ht)	9	0011	0x09)	41	0051	0x29		I	73	0111	0x49		i	105	0151	0x69
(nl)	10	0012	0x0a		*	42	0052	0x2a		J	74	0112	0x4a		j	106	0152	0x6a
(vt)	11	0013	0x0b		+	43	0053	0x2b		K	75	0113	0x4b		k	107	0153	0x6b
(np)	12	0014	0x0c		,	44	0054	0x2c		L	76	0114	0x4c		l	108	0154	0x6c
(cr)	13	0015	0x0d		-	45	0055	0x2d		M	77	0115	0x4d		m	109	0155	0x6d
(so)	14	0016	0x0e		.	46	0056	0x2e		N	78	0116	0x4e		n	110	0156	0x6e
(si)	15	0017	0x0f		/	47	0057	0x2f		O	79	0117	0x4f		o	111	0157	0x6f
(dle)	16	0020	0x10		0	48	0060	0x30		P	80	0120	0x50		p	112	0160	0x70
(dc1)	17	0021	0x11		1	49	0061	0x31		Q	81	0121	0x51		q	113	0161	0x71
(dc2)	18	0022	0x12		2	50	0062	0x32		R	82	0122	0x52		r	114	0162	0x72
(dc3)	19	0023	0x13		3	51	0063	0x33		S	83	0123	0x53		s	115	0163	0x73
(dc4)	20	0024	0x14		4	52	0064	0x34		T	84	0124	0x54		t	116	0164	0x74
(nak)	21	0025	0x15		5	53	0065	0x35		U	85	0125	0x55		u	117	0165	0x75
(syn)	22	0026	0x16		6	54	0066	0x36		V	86	0126	0x56		v	118	0166	0x76
(etb)	23	0027	0x17		7	55	0067	0x37		W	87	0127	0x57		w	119	0167	0x77
(can)	24	0030	0x18		8	56	0070	0x38		X	88	0130	0x58		x	120	0170	0x78
(em)	25	0031	0x19		9	57	0071	0x39		Y	89	0131	0x59		y	121	0171	0x79
(sub)	26	0032	0x1a		:	58	0072	0x3a		Z	90	0132	0x5a		z	122	0172	0x7a
(esc)	27	0033	0x1b		;	59	0073	0x3b		[91	0133	0x5b		{	123	0173	0x7b
(fs)	28	0034	0x1c		<	60	0074	0x3c		\	92	0134	0x5c			124	0174	0x7c
(gs)	29	0035	0x1d		=	61	0075	0x3d]	93	0135	0x5d		}	125	0175	0x7d
(rs)	30	0036	0x1e		>	62	0076	0x3e		^	94	0136	0x5e		~	126	0176	0x7e
(us)	31	0037	0x1f		?	63	0077	0x3f		_	95	0137	0x5f		(del)	127	0177	0x7f

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