Step 1: Determining the COM port

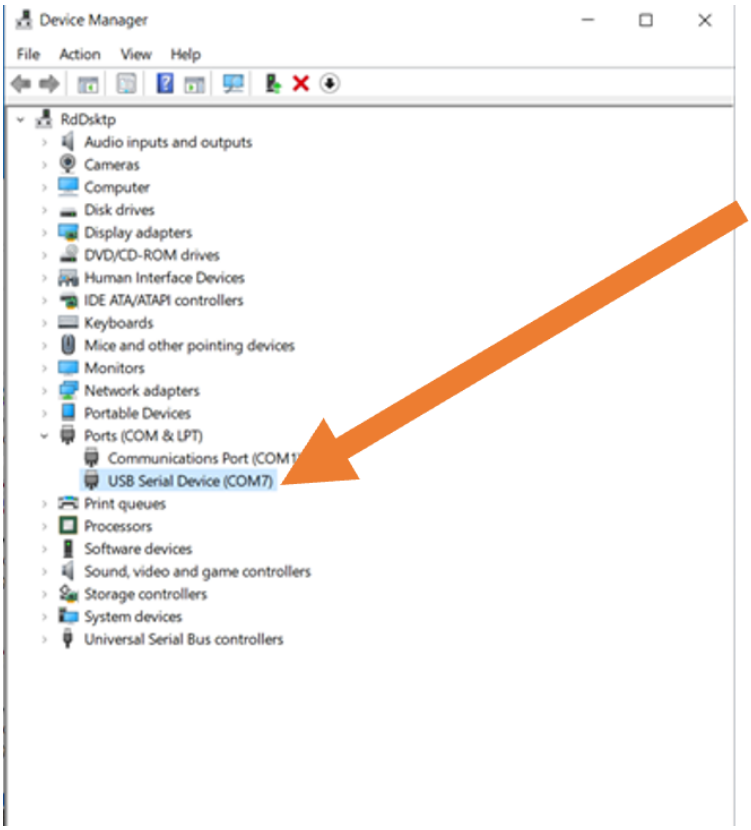

Figure 1: Checking the Sidekick COM port in Windows 10 device manager

The Sidekick reads commands from the USB serial port, allowing any application or programming environment that supports serial I/O to communicate with it. We recommend using Thonny or a serial terminal program such as Putty (on Windows), or the built-in “screen” command line program (on Mac/Linux).

To use Putty, first find the Sidekick’s com port, and baud rate. These are easy to find in Windows with the device manager. Go to Device Manager -> Ports -> USB Serial Device (Fig. 1). Our Sidekick is located at COM7 (on Windows) or /dev/tty.usbmodem0000000000001 (on Mac/Linux). If you are unsure which port your Sidekick occupies, unplug it, and see which port disappears.

Step 2: Determining Baud

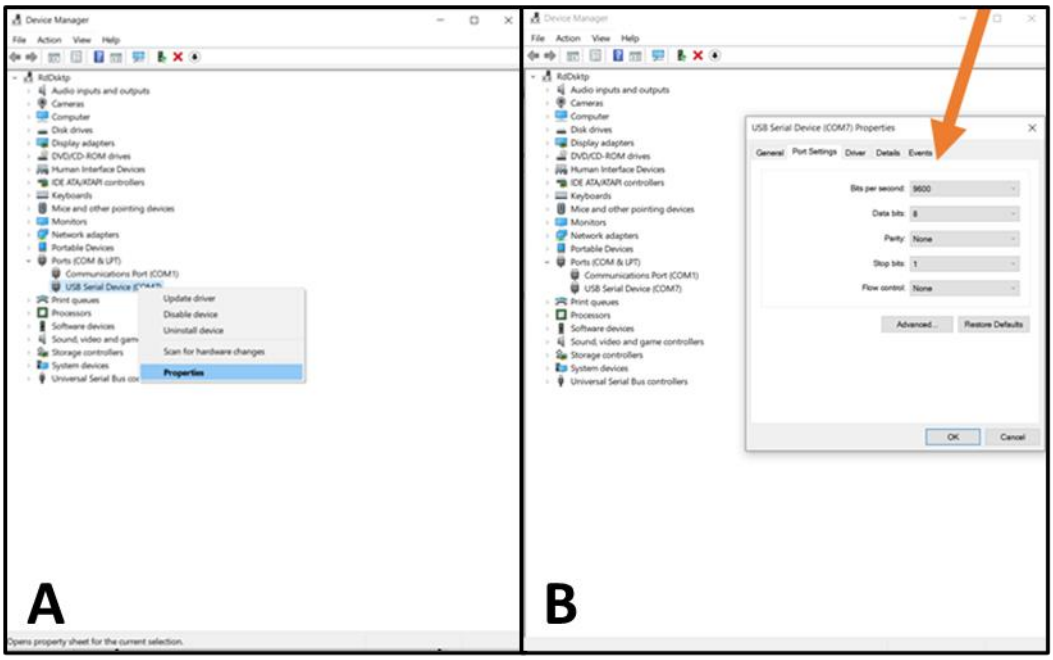

Figure 2A: Device Manager drop down. *B: Sidekick Baud in Device Manager Properties*

Right click on the USB Serial Device. Click “Properties” in the drop down (Fig. 2a). Then click port settings. Make a note of the indicated bits per second, or baud (Fig. 2b).

Step 3: Connecting Via Putty

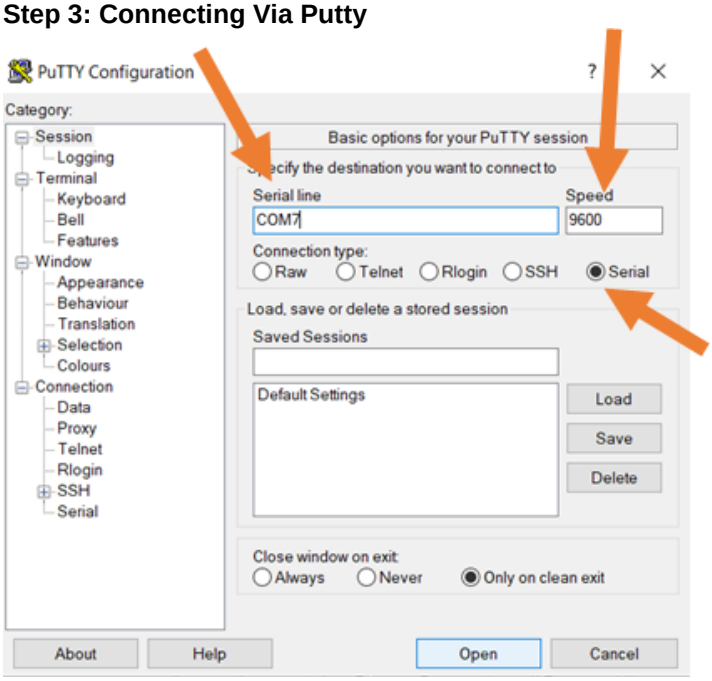

Figure 3: Putty startup UI

Now that we have the com port and the baud, we can use Putty to open a serial connection. Download and install Putty: https://www.putty.org/
Once Putty is installed, open the application. Press the “Serial” option, and then input the correct com port we found in Step 1 under “Serial line”. Then input the baud rate we found in Step 3 under “Speed” (Fig. 3).

Step 4: Opening Putty and Sending Commands

Figure 4a: Putty terminal *B: Sending the Sidekick an “initialize” command*

After pressing open, the command line screen will appear (Fig. 4a). Type “initialize” (followed by return) to test communication with the Sidekick (Fig. 4b). The Sidekick should home against the limit switches, and output to the terminal. The Sidekick is now online and prepared to receive commands.