



Manual

Congratulations for buying your EASY-ROTOR-CONTROL Mini (shortly **ERC-Mini**). This document will guide you through the needed steps for installation, configuration and calibration of the **ERC-M Mini**. You will reach the best result by following these instructions step by step.

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Safety-Instructions



- Don't continue using the product if it is damaged.
- Keep electronic assemblies and components away from children!
- Products that carry electric voltages must be handled by taking care about the valid instructions and regulations.
- If the product must be repaired, only use original spare parts! Using different parts may cause property damage and personal injury! The repair has only to be done by an expert!
- The installation has to be done by a skilled expert.
- Connection-cables have to be chosen according to the needed diameter.
- Before working on the product all supply-voltages have to be securely cut of.
- The product is designed to work in clean and dry areas inside buildings.
- Prevent the product of humidity, water and heat.
- Don't use the product in areas where explosive gases, vapour or dust are or may occur.
- Don't let the product fall or apply mechanical stress as the product may be damaged.

1. Description

ERC-Mini is a computer-interface designed to connect various Rotators of the manufacturers Yaesu, Kenpro, Create and Emotator to a computer.

- Yaesu/Kenpro: models ending with DXA/DXC
- Yaesu/Kenpro: models ending with SDX
- Create: models ending with -P with a 6-pin DIN remote-connector
- Emotator: models with a 5-pin DIN remote connecting socket

On The computer-side it provides an USB-interface and a build-in COM/serial-interface with a FTDI-chip to provide a virtual-comport on any Windows, MacOS or Linux-machine.

On the rotor-control-box-side it can be easily connected to the control-box with the cable that came with your interface or, in case of Yaesu/Kenpro SDX, can be easily mounted inside the control-box and fixed with 2 screws.

All further technical information can be retrieved from the appendices in this manual.

2. ERC-Mini for Yaesu/Kenpro SDX

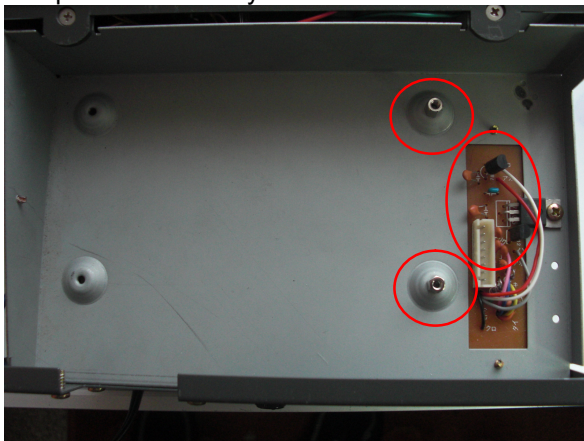
2.1 Bill of material (BOM)

ERC-Mini SDX V1.3 Bill Of Material				
QTY	Type	Value	Reference	Comments
1	PCB assembled	ERC-Mini SDX V1.3		
2	Distance-bolts	M3x6x8		
3	Screws	M3x6		
2	Spring-washers	3.2mm		
1	Strain-relief	4mm		for USB-cable
1	USB-cable	A to B 1.8m		

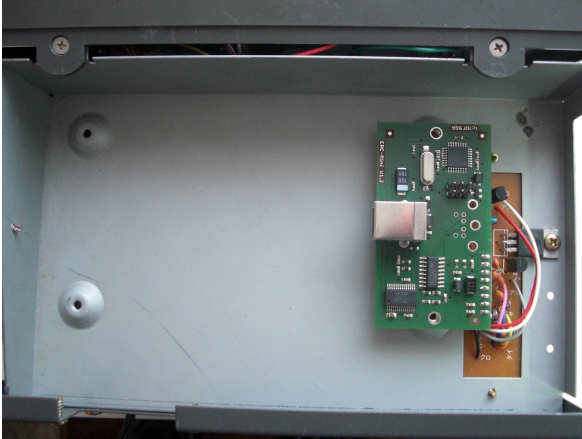
2.2 Mechanical Installation

For the mechanical integration of the ERC-Mini SDX please go ahead like this:

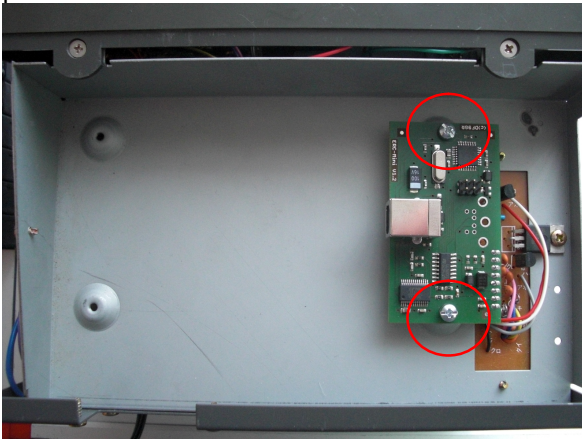
- unplug the SDX-control-box from its main-supply and the rotor-cable
- open the cabinet of the SDX-control-box by removing the 2 screws on the side of the cabinet and the 4 screws on the bottom of the cabinet that also hold the rubber-feet
- mount the 2 distance-bolts M3x6x8 as shown in the next picture and slightly bend the components that may conflict with the ERC-Mini SDX-PCB



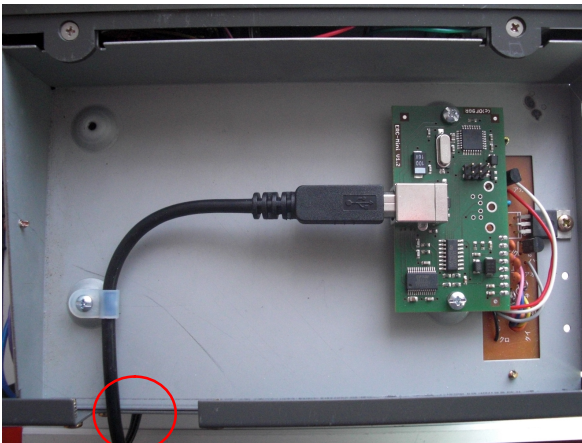
- plug the ERC-Mini SDX into the 8-pin-pinheader as shown in the next picture



- fix the ERC-Mini SDX with 2 screws M3x6 and 2 spring-washers 3.2mm as shown in the next picture



- connect the USB-B-connector to the ERC Mini SDX and let the USB-cable exit on the back-side of the cabinet
- fix the USB-cable with the strain-relief as shown in the next picture



- close again the cabinet with the 6 screws and the 4 rubber-feet you removed before
- connect the rotor-cable and the main-supply

3. ERC-Mini for Yaesu/Kenpro DXA/DXC, Create, Emotator

3.1 Bill of material (BOM) for Yaesu/Kenpro DXA/DXC

ERC-Mini V1.3 DX Bill Of Material				
QTY	Type	Value	Reference	Comments
1	Interface	ERC-Mini V1.3		In enclosure
1	Cable to control-box	Mini-DIN6 – Mini-DIN6 2m		
1	USB-cable	A to B 1.8m		

3.2 Bill of material (BOM) for Create -P

ERC-Mini V1.3 -P				
QTY	Type	Value	Reference	Comments
1	Interface	ERC-Mini V1.3		In enclosure
1	Cable to control-box	Mini-DIN6 – DIN6 1m		
1	USB-cable	A to B 1.8m		

3.3 Bill of material (BOM) for Emotator

ERC-Mini V1.3 EMO Bill Of Material				
QTY	Type	Value	Reference	Comments
1	Interface	ERC-Mini V1.3		In enclosure
1	Cable to control-box	Mini-DIN6 – DIN5 1m		
1	USB-cable	A to B 1.8m		

3.4 Connection of ERC-Mini to the control-box

Plug the cable with the Mini-DIN6 into the ERC-Mini and the other side into the control-box.



Plug the USB-cable with the USB-B-connector into the ERC-Mini.



4. Establishing the USB-connection

Plug the USB-A-connector to a free USB-connector on your computer.

Depending on your operating-system, you will be asked to install an USB-driver. This driver is available in the Drivers-folder on the CD delivered with your ERC-Mini.

After successful installation of the driver, a new COM-Port (COMn) is available. You can identify the COM-port-number by inspecting the hardware-settings of your computer. In case you have a conflict with another COM-port (e.g. virtual COM-port), change the COM-port-number in the properties.



5. The Service-Tool for Windows

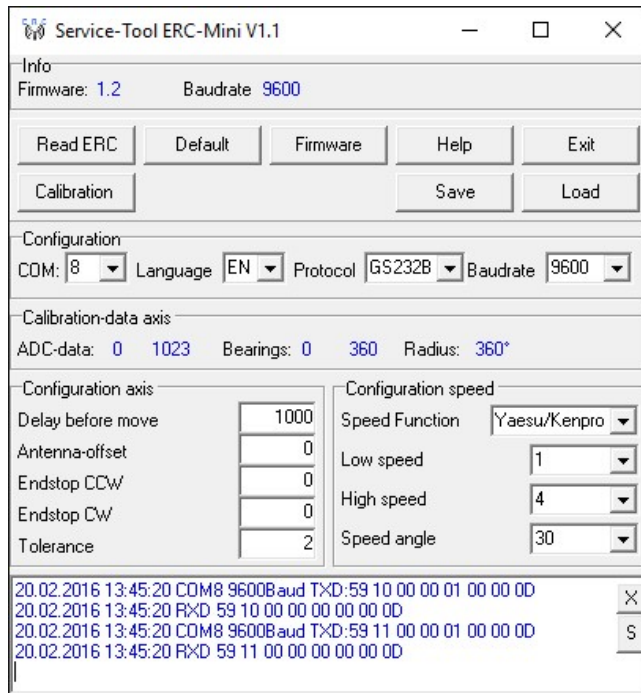
If you use another OS than Windows (e.g. MacOS or Linux), please read the appendix 5 for calibration and configuration of the ERC-Mini.

The Service Tool is on the CD supplied with the kit.

Start the Setup-File **SETUP ERC-Mini_Vnn.EXE** (nn=version) directly on the CD and follow the instructions.

The installation-wizard will automatically install the Service Tool in the program directory (or any other if you choose a different one) and put an icon on your desktop.

Start the Service Tool by double-clicking the Icon on the desktop.



5.1 Configuration of the COM-Port

On shipment, the Service Tool is configured to COM1, which is most properly not the com-port, which was assigned to the ERC-Mini by the hardware-manager of your computer, hence after Start-Up the program may bring up an error-message because of the wrong COM-Port.

Choose the right COM-Port. COM:

The Service Tool will check the availability of the ERC-Mini at the chosen COM-Port. If successful, the Service Tool will read the configuration-parameters of the ERC-Mini and populates the configuration- and the calibration-panels.

5.2 Read the ERC-MINI-configuration-parameters

The parameters of the ERC-MINI can be read by clicking the button.

5.3 Language

The Service-Tool and the help-files are available in different languages. Choose the language with the -box.

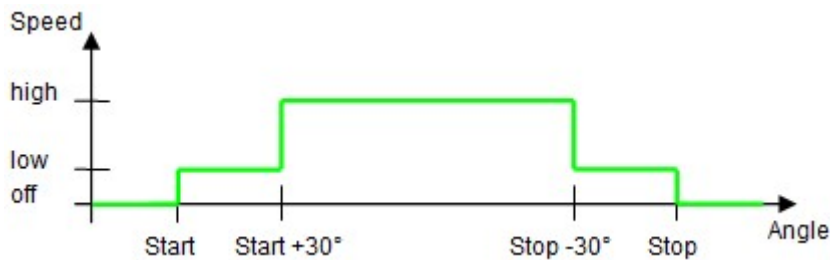
5.4 Speed-control

ERC-Mini provides an automatic speed-control like this (example for a speed angle of 30°):

- rotator starts moving with low-speed
- after 30° the rotator speeds up to high-speed
- 30° prior to reaching the target-position, rotator will again slow down to low speed.



This takes away stress from the whole structure, especially with large antenna-arrays or heavy antennas.



The rotators from Create Yaesu-Kenpro allow the speed-control in 4 stages: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4, where 1 is the lowest speed and 4 is the highest speed

Configuration speed	
Speed Function	Yaesu/Kenpro
Low speed	1
High speed	4
Speed angle	30

Speed-Function

Possible values: none – Yaesu/Kenpro - Create

- choose Yaesu/Kenpro for their rotator-series DXA/DXC and SDX
- choose Create for their rotator-models ending with -P
- choose none for Emotator (no Speed-Control)

Low speed (only available if Yaesu/Kenpro has been chosen)

possible values: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

- configured to 1: low speed will be performed with speed 1
- configured to 2: low speed will be performed with speed 2
- configured to 3: low speed will be performed with speed 3
- configured to 4: low speed will be performed with speed 4

High speed (only available if Yaesu/Kenpro has been chosen)

possible values: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4

- configured to 1: high speed will be performed with speed 1
- configured to 2: high speed will be performed with speed 2
- configured to 3: high speed will be performed with speed 3
- configured to 4: high speed will be performed with speed 4

Speed angle (only available if Yaesu/Kenpro or Create has been chosen)

possible values: 0 / 10 / 20 / 30

- defines the angle for low-speed at the beginning and end of a turn

5.5 Calibration

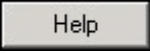
After the ERC-Mini is connected to the computer, it has to be calibrated. This calibration is a one-time-task and the result of calibration will be stored inside the ERC-Mini.

To calibrate the ERC-Mini, it has to measure the rotor-feedback-voltages at both ends including a possible overlap (turning radius > 360°). The calibration is a software-guided procedure, which will be

started by pressing the  button of the service tool.

Just follow the instructions given by the calibration assistant and for questions, read the Calibration-section of the help-file available through the Help-button of the Service-Tool.

5.6 Other functions of the Service Tool

The other functions of the Service Tool and the other configuration-items are well described in the help-function of the Service Tool. Click the  button.

6. First check of calibration with Rotor-Control G

The rotor-control-program Rotor-Control G is on the CD supplied with your interface.

Set the ERC-Mini with the Service-Tool to Baudrate 9600 and Protocol GS232B and than close the Service-Tool..

Start the Setup-File **SETUP RC-G_Vnn.EXE** directly on the CD and follow the instructions.
The installation wizard will automatically install Rotor-Control G in the program directory (or any other if you choose a different one) and puts an icon on your desktop.

Start Rotor-Control G by double-clicking the Icon on the desktop.



The green pointer and number show the current position of the rotator.

A target can be put at the red number and rotation starts by clicking the the GO-button. You can stop the rotation any time by clicking the STOP-button.

You can also move the rotator to a target-position by clicking on any point of the graphic.

By clicking the button PARK, the rotator moves to the configured parking position.

7. Connection of ERC-Mini to other programs

Please take care about the following issues, if you want to control your ERC-Mini with other programs:

- Choose the right COM-port
- COM-port-speed (baudrate) in the program must be same as in ERC-Mini
 - o The speed of ERC-Mini is shown in the service-tool
- Adjust the comport in the program to: N-8-1 (No Parity, 8 databits, 1 stopbit)
- Use the same protocol in program and ERC-Mini (Yaesu GS232B, GS232A or Hygain DCU-1)
 - o The protocol of ERC-Mini is shown the service-tool



Appendices

Appendix 1: Specification

ERC-Mini specification

Mechanical Dimensions

- PCB: 67mm x 37,5mm
- Enclosure: 78mm x 40mm x 24mm

DC Supply

- USB-powered 5VDC
- current consumption: max 10mA

Temperature-range

- 0°C to 70°C

Measurement input circuits (rotor feedback voltage)

- range : 0 to 6V against ground
- input-impedance : > 25KOhm
- protected against high voltage bursts coming through the cable
- measurement-resolution: 10 Bit

Outputs

- CW, CCW: Open collector-outputs against ground
- max. current per open-collector-output with 2 outputs simultaneously at 100% duty-cycle and 70° C: 380mA
- Speed: 4 stage DAC with high-Impedance output-voltages of 0,6V to 4,7V

Communication-interface

- USB through type B connector
- USB/serial converter with FTDI-chip

Controller

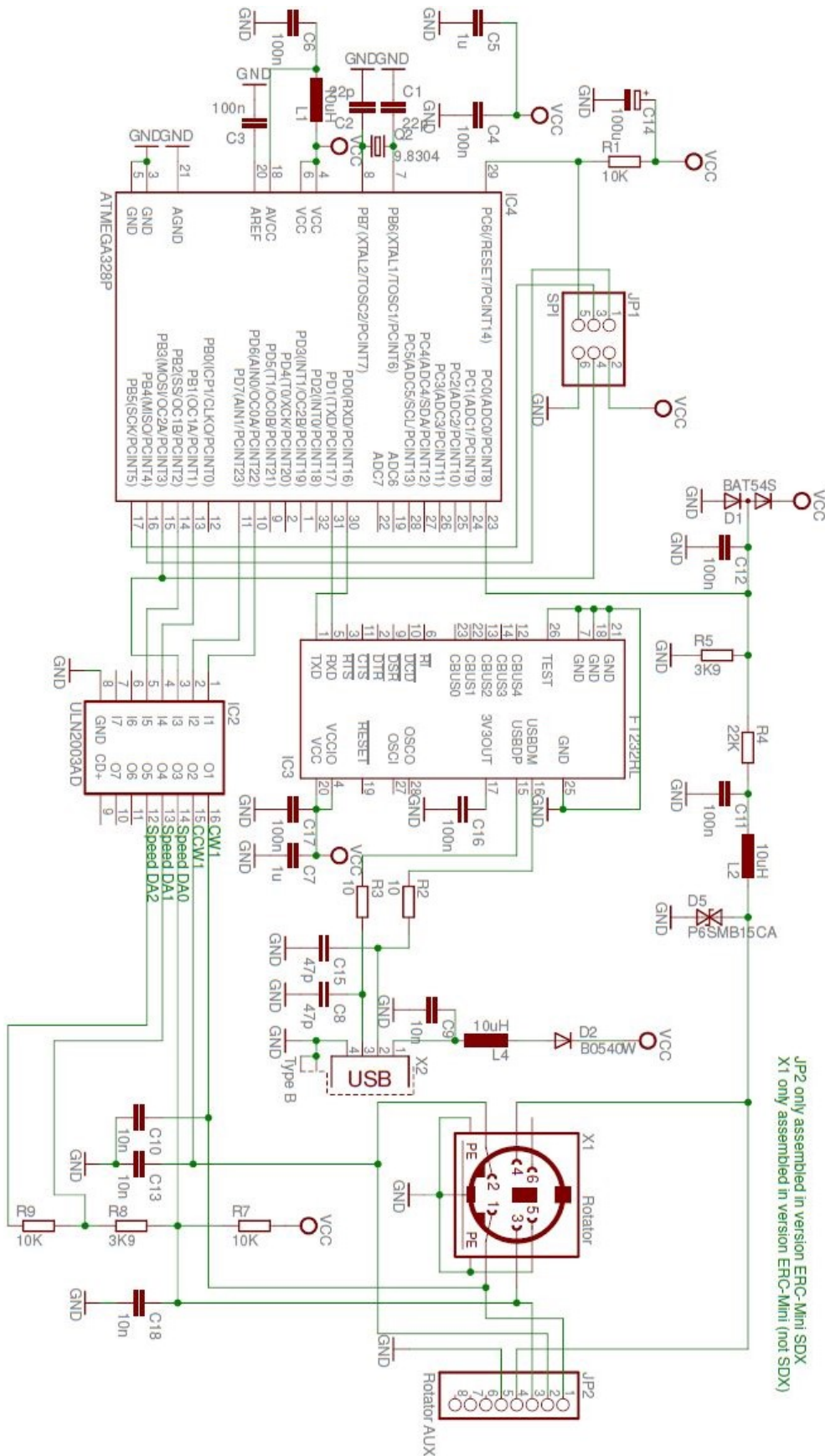
- 8-bit RISC-architecture
- bootloader to update firmware through USB
- supported protocols for rotor-control
 - o subset of Yaesu GS232A / GS232B
 - o subset of Hygain DCU-1 and extensions for position feedback

Firmware supported features

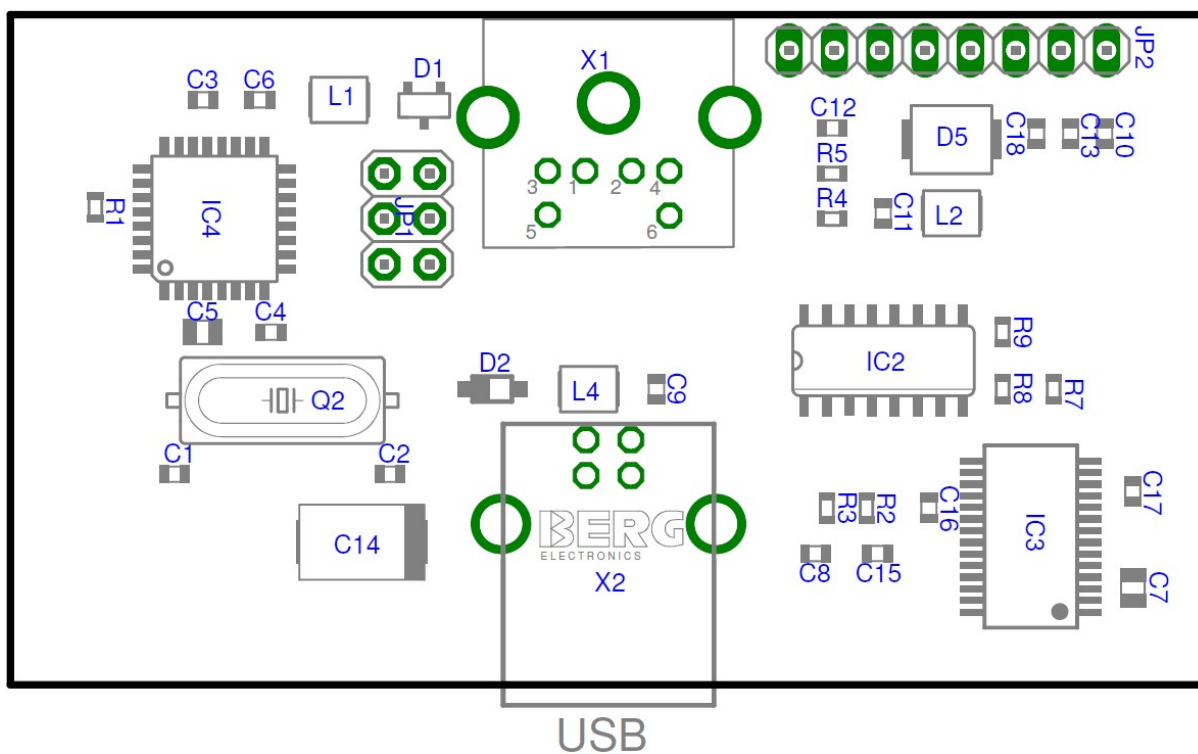
- delay before rotator starts moving
- programmable end stops
- antenna offset
- support of overlap up to 180°
- speed-function
- tolerance of position
- software-calibration
- security stop if rotor doesn't move
- configurable communication-speed: 4800 -9600 Baud
- save and load of all calibration- and configuration-data

Service-Tool and Rotor-Control G

- Supported operating systems
 - o Windows 2000 and XP
 - o Windows Vista, 7, 8, 10 (32 bit and 64 bit)

Appendix 2: Schematics ERC-Mini


Appendix 3: Assembly-plan ERC-Mini



Appendix 4: Rotor-protocol command-set

Remarks for the annotation in this document:

<cr> = carriage return and represent the decimal-value 13 = Hex-value 0Dh

<lf> = line feed and represents the decimal-value 10 = Hex-value 0Ah

aaa = a 3-digit azimuth-position with leading 0

eee = a 3-digit elevation-position with leading 0

<s> = space and represents the decimal-value 32 = Hex-value 20h

Whenever this document refers to elevation, setting a position will be ignored and if a position is requested for elevation it always returns 000.

Hygain DCU-1 with extensions for position-request

Some commands are redundant with slight differences to keep compatibility to the different implementations of the DCU-1-protocol in different programs

Command to ERC-Mini	Description	Returned from ERC-Mini
AS1;	Stop rotation	
AI1;<cr>	Request position azimuth	;aaa
AI1;	Request position azimuth	;aaa
AM1;<cr>	Execute rotation	
AM1;	Execute rotation	
AP1aaa;<cr>	Set azimuth-position to aaa	
AP1aaa;	Set azimuth-position to aaa	
D	Rotate CCW	
MGaaa	Rotate azimuth to aaa	
U	Rotate CW	
;	Stop rotation	

Yaesu GS232 A and B

The only difference in A and B is the format how a position is returned from the ERC

Command to ERC	Description	Returned from ERC
A<cr>	Stop rotation azimuth	<cr>
C<cr> (in GS232A-mode)	Request position azimuth	+0aaa<cr><lf>
C<cr> (in GS232B-mode)	Request position azimuth	AZ=aaa<cr><lf>
C2<cr> (in GS232A-mode)	Request position azimuth + elevation	+0aaa+0eee<cr><lf>
C2<cr> (in GS232B-mode)	Request position azimuth + elevation	AZ=aaa<s><s>EL=eee<cr><lf>
L<cr>	Rotate CCW 1 st axis	<cr>
Maaa<cr>	Rotate azimuth to aaa	<cr>
R<cr>	Rotate CW 1 st axis	<cr>
S<cr>	Stops rotation	<cr>
Waaa<s>eee<cr>	Rotate azimuth to aaa and Rotate elevation to eee	<cr>



Appendix 5: API (application programming interface)

If another OS than Windows is used (e.g. MacOS or Linux), the Service-Tool that came with your ERC-Mini is of no use.

In order to perform configuration- and calibration-tasks, ERC-Mini provides a programming-interface, which can be easily used with a terminal-program.

Remarks for the annotation in this document:

<cr> = carriage return and represent the Ascii-code 13 = Hex-code 0D

Start the terminal-program, set the right COM-port and the communication-speed (default speed is 9600 Baud)

These are the commands provided by the API:

Commands to read the settings of the ERC-Mini:

API ERC-Mini V12	to ERC-Mini	from ERC-Mini			Example	Range	Explanation
Command	ASCII	ASCII					
Read Firmware-version	r F M W (cr)	a F M W 0 1 0 0 (cr)			V1.00	1.00...9.99	
Read Baudrate	r B A U (cr)	a B A U 9 6 0 0 (cr)			9600	4800/9600	
Read Protocol	r P R O (cr)	a P R O 0 0 0 1 (cr)			1=GS232B	0/1/2	0=GS232A, 1=GS232B, 3=DCU1
Read Angle Right	r A N R (cr)	a A N R 0 3 6 0 (cr)			360°	0...360	
Read Angle Left	r A N L (cr)	a A N L 0 0 0 0 (cr)			0°	0...360	
Read Calibration Right	r C A R (cr)	a C A R 1 0 1 0 (cr)			ADC=1010	0...1023	
Read Calibration Left	r C A L (cr)	a C A L 0 0 0 5 (cr)			ADC=5	0...1023	
Read Delay before Move	r D B M (cr)	a D B M 1 0 0 0 (cr)			1000	0...5000	
Read Programmable Stop Right	r P S R (cr)	a P S R 0 0 0 5 (cr)			5	0...179	
Read Programmable Stop Left	r P S L (cr)	a P S L 0 0 1 0 (cr)			10	0...179	
Read Tolerance	r T O L (cr)	a T O L 0 0 0 2 (cr)			2	0...10	
Read Antenna-Offset	r A O F (cr)	a A O F - 0 9 0 (cr)			-90°	-180...+180	
Read Speedfunction	r S P F (cr)	a S P F 0 0 0 1 (cr)			1	0/1/2	0=no speed function, 1=Yaesu/Kenpro, 2=Create
Read Speed angle	r S P A (cr)	a S P A 0 0 0 3 (cr)			3	0/1/2/3	0=0°, 1=10°, 2=20°, 3=30°
Read Speed at Low-speed	r S P L (cr)	a S P L 0 0 0 1 (cr)			1	0/1	0=speed1, 1=speed2, 2=speed3, 3=speed4
Read Speed at High-speed	r S P H (cr)	a S P H 0 0 0 0 (cr)			0	0/1	0=speed1, 1=speed2, 2=speed3, 3=speed4

Commands to configure and calibrate the ERC-Mini:

API ERC-Mini V12	to ERC-Mini				
Command	ASCII				
Set Baudrate	s B A U 9 6 0 0 (cr)				
Set Protocol	s P R O 0 0 0 1 (cr)				
Set Delay before Move	s D B M 1 0 0 0 (cr)				
Set Programmable Stop Right	s P S R 0 0 0 0 (cr)				
Set Programmable Stop Left	s P S L 0 0 0 0 (cr)				
Set Tolerance	s T O L 0 0 0 2 (cr)				
Set Antenna-Offset	s A O F 0 0 0 0 (cr)				
Set Speedfunction	s S P F 0 0 0 1 (cr)				
Set Speed angle	s S P A 0 0 0 3 (cr)				
Set Speed at Low-speed	s S P L 0 0 0 1 (cr)				
Set Speed at High-speed	s S P H 0 0 0 0 (cr)				
Set Calibration Left	s C A L 0 0 0 0 (cr)				
Set Calibration Right	s C A R 0 3 6 0 (cr)				
Set Factory Default Values	s F D V 0 0 0 0 (cr)				



Programming examples

(Keep in mind, that every command must be terminated with a carriage-return which is hex 0Dh or decimal 13)

- Example for calibration:
 - o Situation: your rotator has an overlap of 90° and is moving clockwise
180° – 270° – 360° – 90° – 180° - 270°
 - o Move your rotator manually to the most counter-clockwise position at 180°
 - Send to ERC-Mini: sCAL0180
 - o Move your rotator manually to the most clockwise position at 270°
 - Send to ERC-Mini: sCAR0270
 - o The result of calibration can be read back from the ERC-Mini like this:
 - Send to ERC-Mini: rANR
 - ERC-Mini answers: aANR0270
 - Send to ERC-Mini: rANL
 - ERC-Mini answers: aANL0180
 - Send to ERC-Mini: rCAR
 - ERC-Mini answers: aCAR0711 (0711 is the ADC-value at 270° CW)
 - Send to ERC-Mini: rCAL
 - ERC-Mini answers: aCAR0004 (0004 is the ADC-value at 180° CCW)
- Example for setting the delay before move to 2000 milliseconds = 2 seconds:
 - Send to ERC-Mini: sDBM2000
 - o The result of setting can be read back from the ERC-Mini like this:
 - Send to ERC-Mini: rDBM
 - ERC-Mini answers: aDBM2000

If a command to ERC-Mini is wrong or a value is out of range an error is reported from ERC-Mini

- If an incorrect read-command was received, ERC-Mini sends: r-ERROR
- If an incorrect set-command was received, ERC-Mini sends: s-ERROR

**Appendix 6: Rotor-connections**

ERC-Mini	Function	Yaesu/Kenpro SDX 8-pole pinheader	Yaesu/Kenpro DXA/DXC 6-pole Mini-DIN	Create RC5x-3-P 6-pole DIN	Emotator 5-pole DIN
1	CW	1	1	2	2
2	CCW	2	2	5	5
3	Speed	3	3	6	-
4	Position	4	4	1	1
5	GND	5	5	Shield	Shield
6	-	-	-	-	-