

Tech Tip

USB-to-Serial Adapter for PC Power Tool

This Tech Tip documents best practices and recommendations for using USB-to-serial adapters for communication between a computer and an RNET® controller when using PC Power Tool (PCPT).

We have found two USB-to-serial adapters that work reliably and two that are unsupported.

Supported models

Radio Shack USB-to-Serial Port Cable, model 26-183, catalog number 26-183, is available in Radio Shack stores as well as online. This model is the most compliant and installers report that it works with any RS-232-based device for programming. It comes with its own drivers that must be installed before use. Drivers can also be downloaded from <http://support.radioshack.com/soft.htm>.

Port Authority USB Serial DB9 Adapter, model 26886, is available from CablesToGo.com and RadioShack.com. This adapter comes with its own drivers that must be installed before use.

Unsupported models

Any model Belkin or Keyspan USB-to-serial adapter. These are not supported as they have been known to cause various issues with the connection between PCPT and the RNET system.

Connections and settings

1. Connect the adapter to your computer's USB port and install the software following the instructions.
2. After installing the software, look in the Device Manager to identify the COM port the adapter is assigned to. Go to Start > Control Panel > System > Hardware > Device Manager. **Note:** This setting may be different each time the computer is started.
3. Set PC Power Tool to communicate on the adapter's COM port. From the PCPT menu bar, select Tools > Options. From the Options menu, select Connections and select the COM port. Click Apply and then OK.

