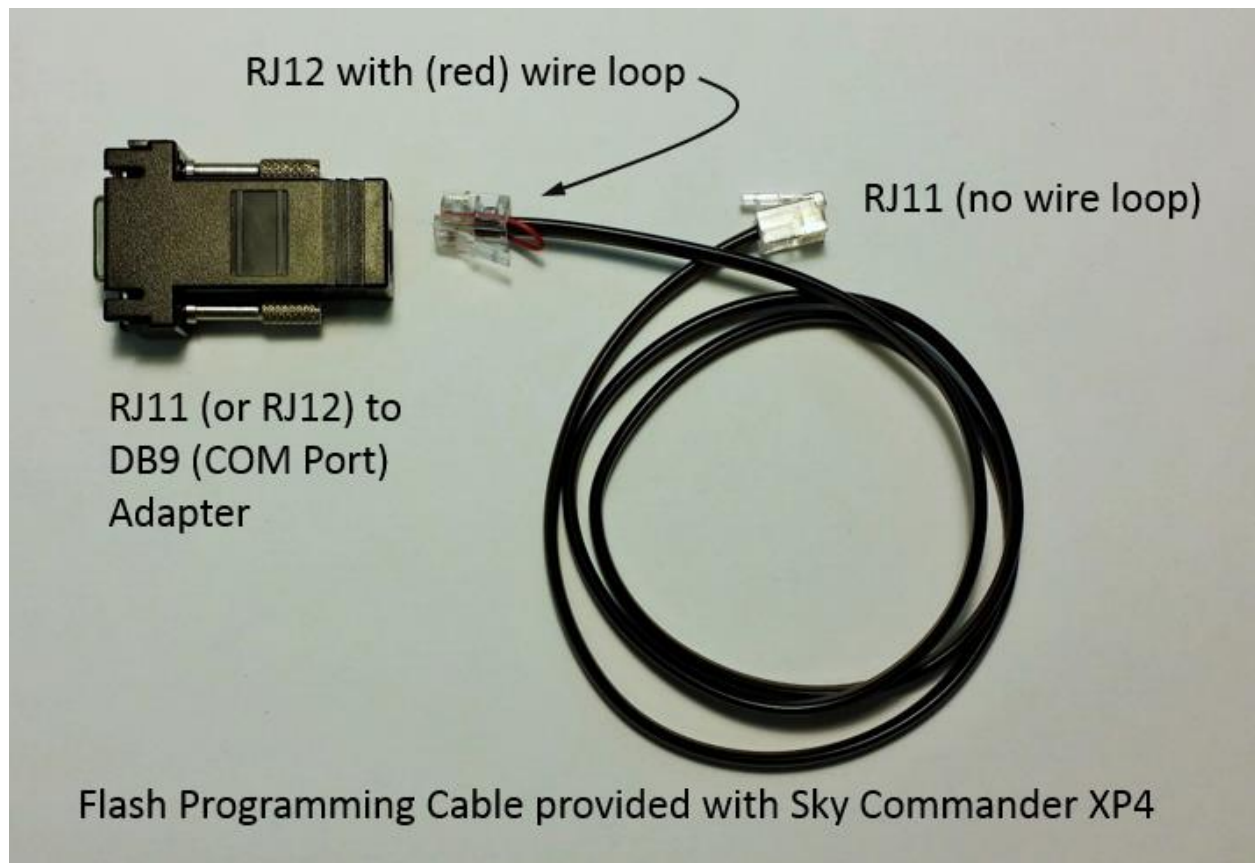


Testing Serial Port Functionality on the Sky Commander DSC

This test applies to both Sky Commander XP4 and original (legacy) Sky Commander with white faceplate.

You will need a serial port cable, i.e. Sky Commander RS232 cable, or you can use the Flash Programming cable that came with your Sky Commander XP4. If using the Flash cable, unplug the RJ11 (4 pin) from the DB9 adapter, and plug in the RJ12 (6 pin) with the wire loop as shown in the picture below. The wire loop on your cable may be a different color. Plug the RJ11 end into the Sky Commander serial port and the DB9 end into your computer's COM port (or USB to COM port adapter - see below concerning USB). **Note:** after performing the test, return the cable to its original configuration, otherwise you will have a problem with flash programming.



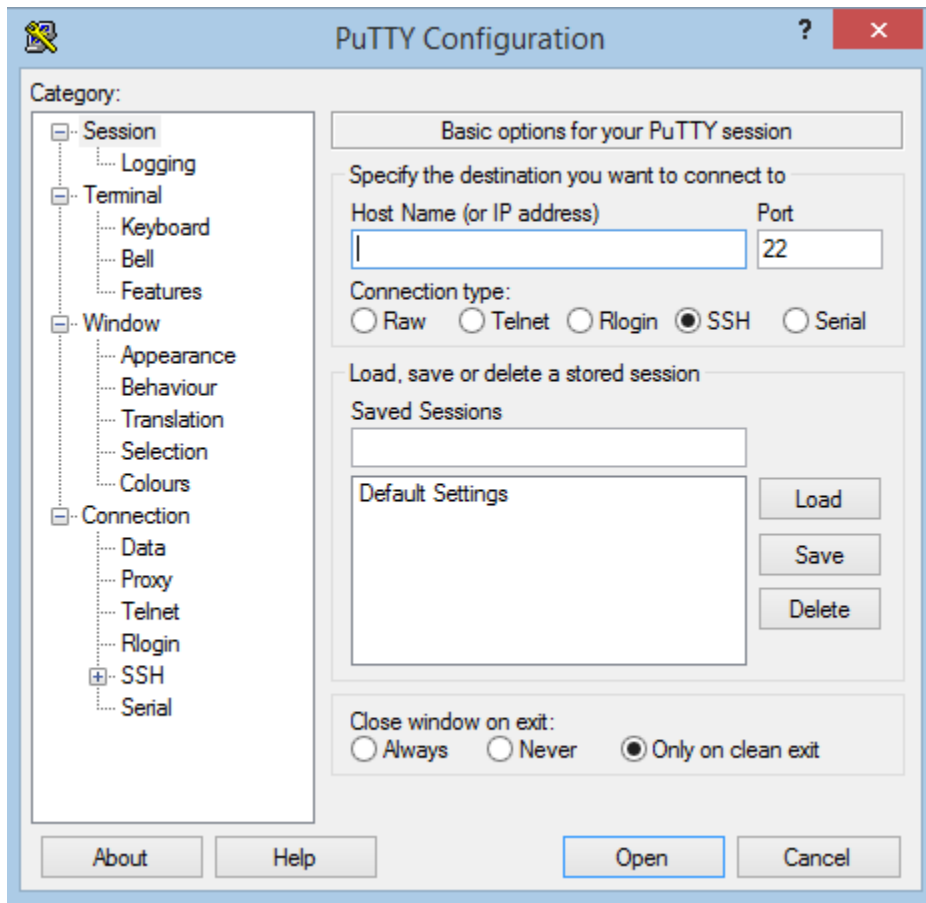
You may also need a USB to serial converter cable if your PC does not have a COM port (most new ones don't). These are readily available and inexpensive – do a web search for "USB to Serial Adapter". Any of them should work fine.

Go to <http://www.putty.org/> to download and install PuTTY on your computer. PuTTY is a serial terminal emulator (and more), but for the purpose of testing you will use the serial terminal function. The file to download and run is [putty-0.65-installer.exe](#) or most recent release version.

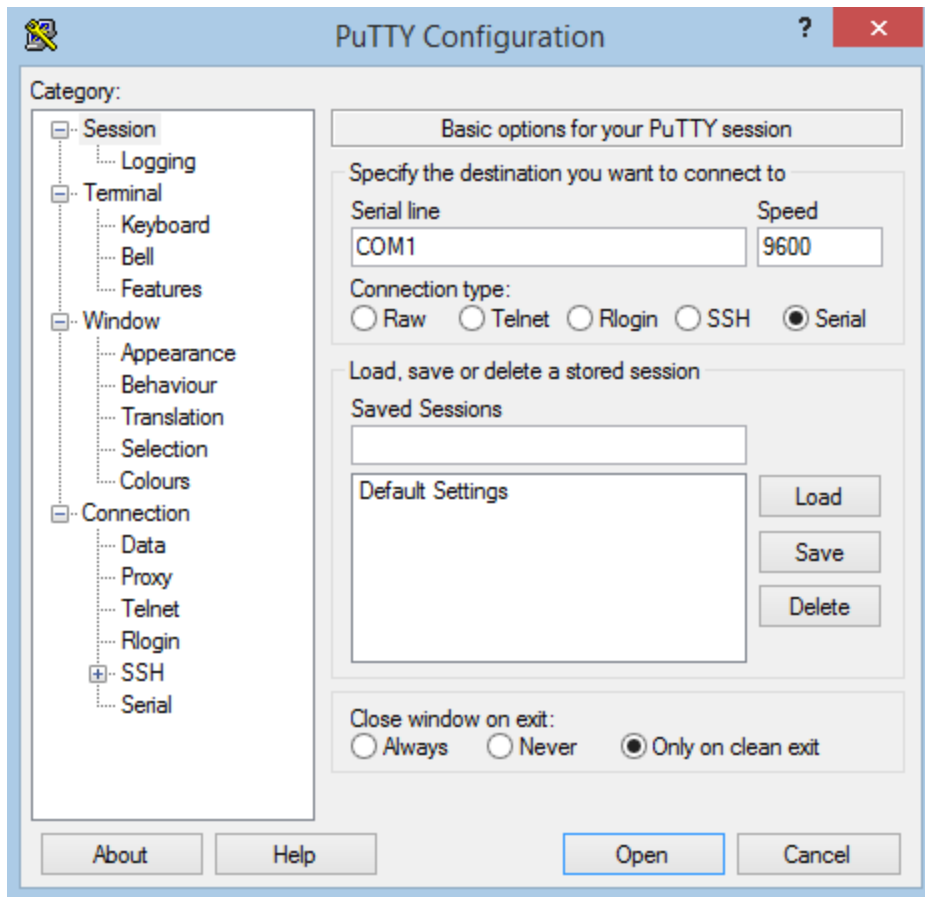


After installing, double click on the icon - to start the program.

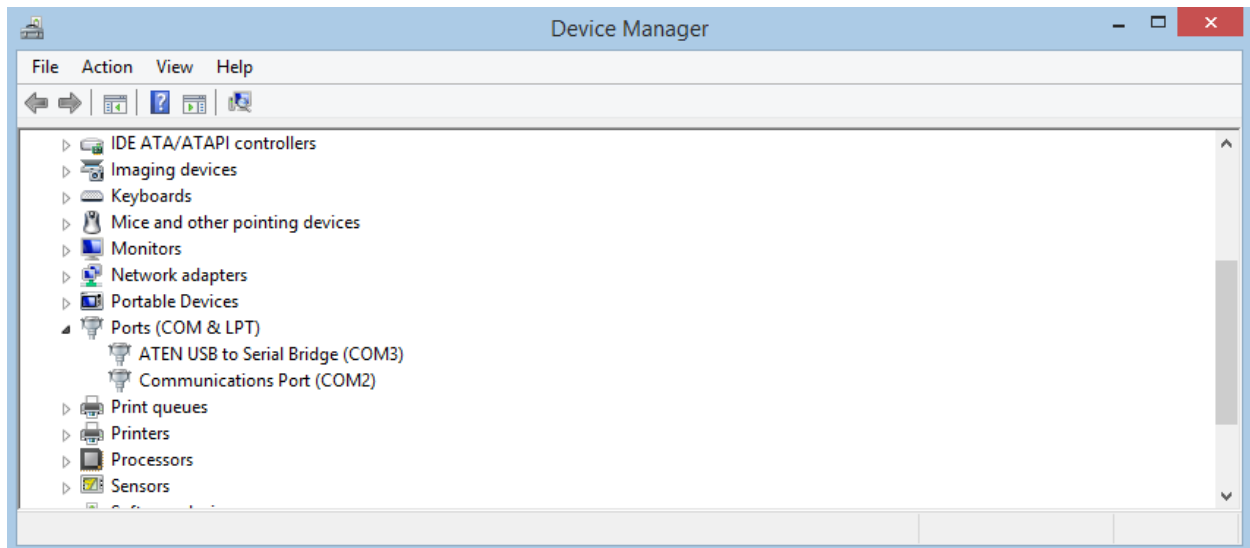
You will first see the following:



Click the "Serial" button to see the following –



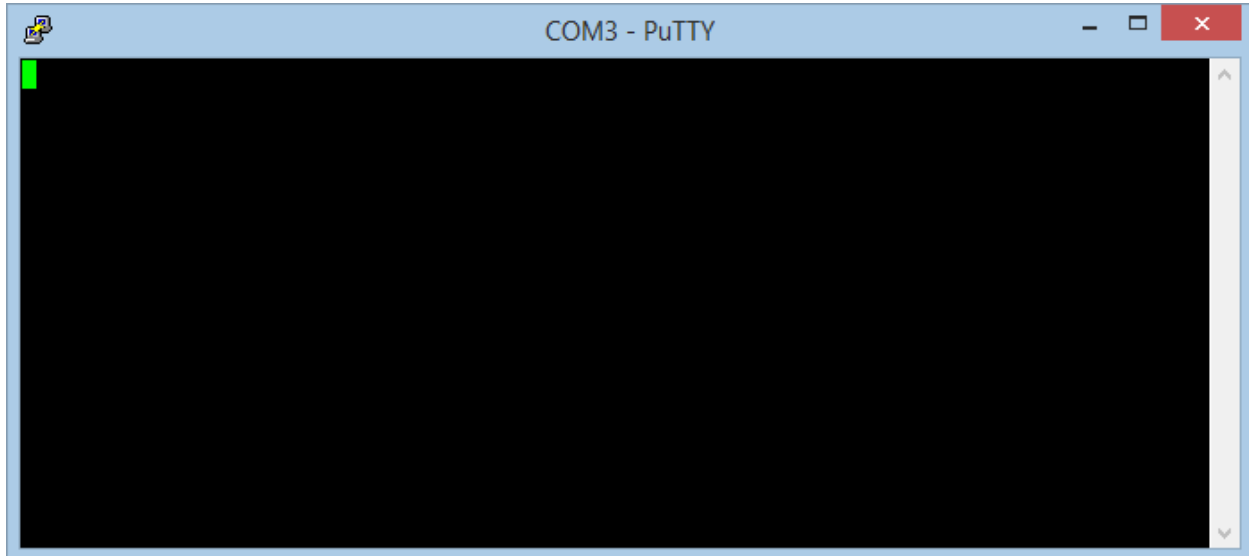
Determine which serial port the Sky Commander is connected to.



Device Manager under the Control Panel in Windows will help you determine this. In the example above, a USB to Serial Port converter cable was plugged into the PC and it appears as COM3.

Change the serial line in the PuTTY Configuration window to the applicable COM port number, e.g. COM3. Keep 9600 as the speed. In the Session section keep “Default Settings”.

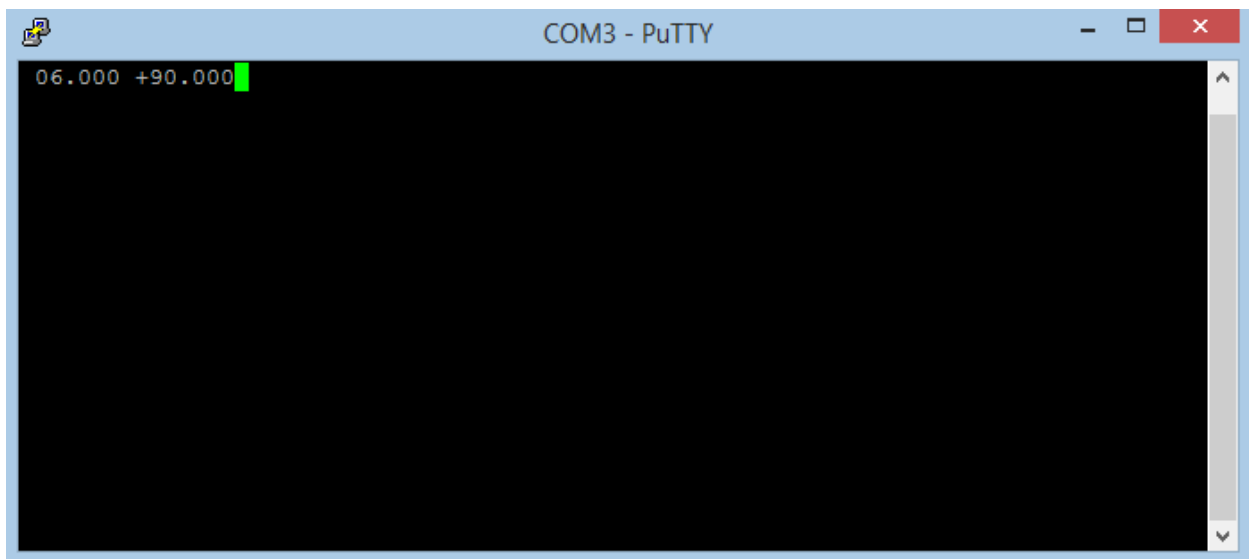
Now click the “Open” button to start the serial communication session. You will see the following window –



Make sure the Sky Commander is set to 9600 bit rate (see manual if necessary).

With the Sky Commander turned on (you don't even need to do a star alignment) and connected to the serial port (COM3), press the ENTER key on the keyboard of your PC.

You should see something like the following –



Each time you hit the ENTER key, new data will be appended to the line. This confirms the functionality of the Sky Commander serial port.