

DATE: **March 4, 2003**
SUBJECT: **USB to Serial Adapters**

The computer industry is now switching from the venerable RS-232 serial port standard to the newer Universal Serial Bus (USB) standard. Most new laptops and many desktop computers being shipped today are equipped with only USB ports.

If your computer has only USB ports, you will need to purchase a USB to RS-232 serial port adapter because MicroDataLogger™ (MDL) units and MDL-DataManager® (DataManager) require an RS-232 port. There are many USB to RS-232 adapter manufacturers to choose from and prices may range greatly. In selecting and using your adapter, you need to note some requirements to ensure proper operation.

1. Verify that the USB to serial adapter is compatible with your computer's version of the Windows® operating system before making a purchase. Check the adapter's packaging for a list of supported operating systems. When installing drivers, **follow all manufacturer instructions**.

If the adapter did not come packaged with the driver for your particular operating system, visit the manufacturer's web site for a possible updated driver. Without a proper driver or "plug and play" compatibility, your computer will not be able to use the adapter and you will not be able to communicate with your MDL unit(s).

2. After connecting the adapter to the USB port and installing the appropriate driver, connect the MicroDataLogger's serial cable to the DB-9 serial connector on the adapter. You should now be able to connect to your MDL equipment as seamlessly as with your old system.

Note that DataManager software only supports COMM 1 through COMM 4.

The Comm port assignment for the adapter must be one of these. With Windows® XP, a problem may occur depending on which USB port the adapter is plugged into and if there are other USB devices connected to the system. The adapter may be assigned to a port address outside the COMM 1 through COMM 4 range. (XP is capable of assigning COMM numbers higher than 200.) If you are experiencing problems communicating with the logger, try selecting another COMM port in the DataManager software under Preferences. Also, try disconnecting other USB devices and/or connecting the adapter to a different USB port.

USB to Serial adapters can be found at stores such as Best Buy, Circuit City, CompUSA, computer supply stores, and also on the Internet.

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