



Mark Roberts Motion Control

Connecting Dragonframe to Flair

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Connecting Dragonframe to Flair

Introduction

This document details the procedure for connecting Dragonframe to Flair to enable inter-working between the two sets of software to control the motion control hardware involved in the capture of images for stop frame animation.

Flair is the motion control software for driving Mark Robert motion control hardware

<http://www.mrmoco.com>

Dragonframe is the creative suite for stop frame animation.

<http://www.dragonframe.com/>

Hardware required

PC running Flair 5.4 (30th May 2014) or newer

PC or Mac running Dragonframe. 3.5.9 or newer.

USB to USB Null Modem cable – <http://www.ftdichip.com>

Procedure

This procedure assumes that you have some experience of working with Flair and are happy with editing the flair.ini file.

Flair

Install the driver for the null modem cable on the PC. Use the installer package from the FTDI web site **BEFORE** plugging in the cable. This will ensure that the correct driver is used.

<http://www.ftdichip.com/Drivers/CDM/CDM%20v2.10.00%20WHQL%20Certified.exe>

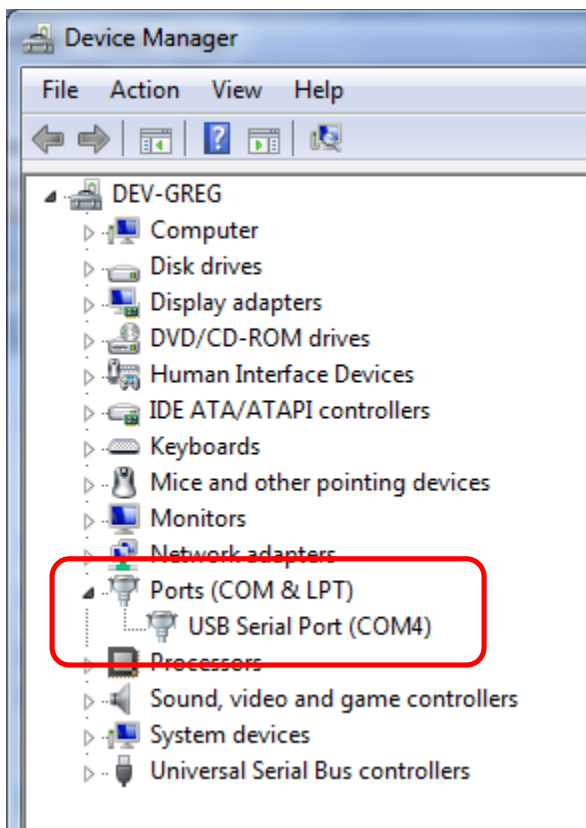
Plug the Null modem cable in to the PC and let the driver install, skip the search on the windows update so that the installed driver is used.

Open up the windows device manager and note which comport is used.

Start> Control Panel> Device Manager

Note always use the same USB port to connect the cable so that the same com port is assigned by Windows.

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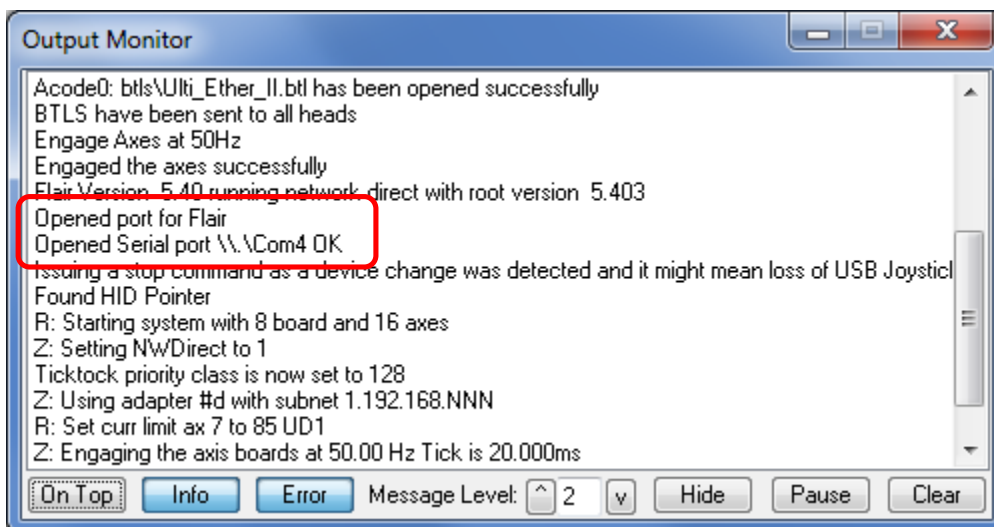
Shown above the com port used on this systems is COM4

Add the following Lines to the Flair.ini configuration file.

```
*Dragon: True
*DragonSerialPort: COM4
```

Replace COM4 with the com port used by your system.

Start up Flair, the com port setting can be checked in the Output Monitor (Help>Output Monitor).



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Check that the serial port has opened successfully.

Add some waypoints to your job

Then Select Run Job > Run From Dragon.

Flair will then wait to be commanded by Dragonframe

Dragonframe

If using a Mac, install the FTDI driver. (<http://www.ftdichip.com/Drivers/D2XX.htm>)

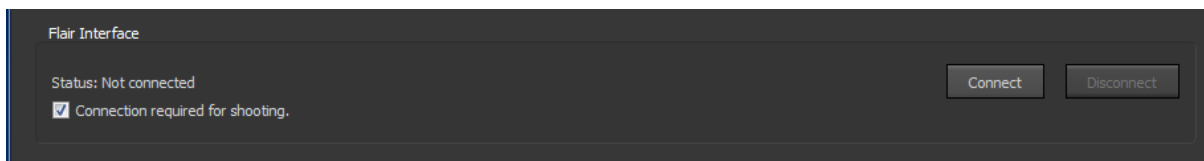
<http://www.ftdichip.com/Drivers/D2XX/MacOSX/D2XX1.2.2.dmg>

Plug in the null modem cable.

Start up Dragonframe and create/open a scene.

Open the scene connections window. Scene > Connections, and select the connections view.

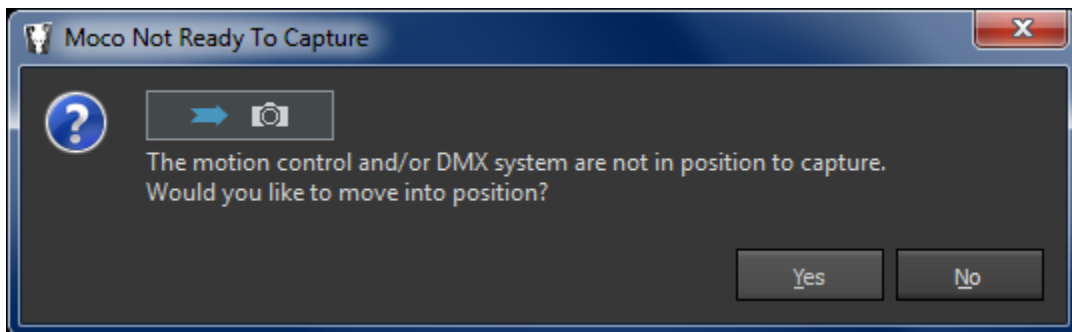
Scroll down to the Flair setting and tick the selection for "Connection required for shooting"



Click on the connect button and choose the appropriate comport and press OK.

Press OK to close the Scene selection settings windows.

Shoot a single frame, capture>Shoot Single Frame and the following message will appear, click Yes.



Flair is now controlled from Dragonframe. You should be able to see commands being issued by Dragonframe on the Flair status bar (and in the output monitor).