



Testing a new option to convert from USB to Serial

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In November 2012, John Lindberg wrote an article about A USB to Serial Adapter that really works. It was one produced by Quatech, a company that now is part of B&B Electronics.

B&B Electronics now offers a wider selection of USB-to-Serial Converters offering 2, 4 or 8 serial ports and a panel mount in a ruggedized version.

I asked John Lindberg to help me test one of their new converters. So we ran tests using a 2-serial port converter, similar to the one shown in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1. B&B Electronics USB-to- Serial Converter



We actually conducted two tests:

- The first one connecting a GPS and a MRU (the devices that we had available at the time we conducted the test) configured to send data at 20 Hz each.
- For the second test, we just connected the GPS and split its output, one to send the data directly in the HYPACK® computer through a serial port available in the computer and the other through the converter.

Once we collected enough data, we looked at the raw files to see if we could find any delay or problem caused by the converted data and we didn't find anything.

Then, using a utility available in HYPACK® called TimeDiff, we looked for any problem within the data and we didn't find anything apparent.

On the second test, we found no difference between the data collected directly through the serial port on the computer and the data that came through the converter.

So we can say this new converter also works!