

Flightcell

Flightcell Iridium Extreme Cradle Installation and Operation Manual



117-00025 Flightcell Iridium Extreme Cradle Installation
and Operation Manual, Document version 2.0
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Section 1: Version history

Release version	Date	Author	Change note number	Description
Issue 1	5 November 2014	J Mace	FCN0646	Document created.
Issue 1.1	14 January 2020	J Glasgow	QS-522	Corrected operating current and speaker output impedance.
Issue 2.0	21 February 2025	JJ Booyse	HWD-364	Updated metal finish to Anodized. Updated documentation to reflect most up to date information.

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Section 2: Introduction

The Flightcell Iridium Extreme MK5 Cradle is used to install an Iridium Extreme satellite phone in an aircraft or vehicle. The phone cradle provides secure mounting for the Iridium handset and interfaces all necessary antenna, power, voice, and data connections.

The cradle also contains noise suppression technology to reduce intrusion of aircraft power supply noise into the audio system.

The cradle has been designed for use with the Flightcell DZMx voice, data and tracking system. The DZMx integrates the Iridium Extreme satellite phone into the aircraft communications system.

The cradle may also be used to connect an Iridium Extreme phone direct to an aircraft audio panel.

This manual is intended for use by engineers installing and maintaining the Flightcell Iridium Extreme MK5 Cradle. It describes the physical, mechanical, and electrical characteristics and installation requirements for the product.

For further information or support, contact your Flightcell reseller or contact Flightcell International Ltd directly.

Contact details are provided at the end of this document.

Section 3: Installing your Flightcell Iridium Extreme Cradle

Mounting the phone cradle in your aircraft or vehicle

Dimensions and mounting points are provided in drawing *115-00020 Flightcell Iridium Extreme MK5 Cradle GA Drawing*, available from the support pages of the Flightcell website. (www.flightcell.com/support.aspx)

Use 4 x M5 bolts at the four mounting points on the back of the cradle. These bolts are fastened into the back of the cradle through a bulkhead or other similar mounting point.

The length of the bolts should be the thickness of the mounting surface plus a maximum of 10mm.

Wiring the cradle

The following guidelines should be followed when constructing wiring looms:

- » Power cables should be 22AWG stranded. For example, M22759/34-22-9
- » Other cables may be 22 or 24AWG stranded, screened where indicated. For example, M27500/-24SB2T14
- » Screened pairs should be used for:
 - » MIC +/-
 - » SPK +/-
 - » RS232 Tx/Rx
- » The other flow control lines RTS, CTS, DTR can utilise either screened or unscreened cables in any groupings. Where a screened cable is used, we recommend that it be grounded at one end only to minimize ground loops.
- » Where the GPO signal is used, we recommend using a single screened cable, with GPO GND connected to the screen and GPO connected to the core.

The main connector

The D25 main connector contains all required I/O connections to charge the satellite phone and access the serial port and audio connection.

Mating connector (D25 female) part number - M24308/2-3F (or equivalent).

Pin	Function	Input to/output from phone cradle	Notes
1	Do not connect		
2	Do not connect		
3	Do not connect		
4	Do not connect		
5	Do not connect		
6	POWER GND	Input	
7	GND		Signal GND
8	Data RX	Input	

9	DTR	Input	Flow control
10	RTS	Input	Flow control
11	GPO GND	Output	
12	MIC +	Input	
13	SPK +	Output	
14	Do not connect		
15	Do not connect		
16	Do not connect		
17	Do not connect		
18	Do not connect		
19	DC IN	Input	12-32 V DC (28V Nominal)
20	Data GND		
21	Data TX	Output	
22	CTS	Output	
23	GPO	Output	Call Annunciator
24	MIC -	Input	
25	SPK -	Output	
Shell	Chassis ground		

Audio connection

Audio is passed between phone cradle and phone using the digital audio connection in the base of the phone. The headset audio jack on the side of the phone is NOT used.

Connection to the audio panel using a Flightcell DZMx

If the cradle is used to connect an Iridium Extreme handset to a Flightcell DZMx, refer to the installation manual and interconnect drawings for the DZMx.

These documents are supplied with the DZMx or can be downloaded from the Flightcell support page at <http://www.flightcell.com/support.aspx>.

Direct connection to the audio panel without using a Flightcell DZMx

The cradle can be interfaced directly to an audio panel, provided that audio levels are compatible. If connected to an audio panel, the cradle provides mic bias and sidetone, therefore a Tactical Audio Adapter is not necessary.

Antenna connection

The Flightcell Iridium Extreme MK5 Cradle has a single TNC antenna connector to connect the phone to an approved Iridium antenna. Please contact Flightcell International or your Flightcell supplier for information on antenna options.

Iridium antenna cables must be selected to keep signal loss within accepted levels. Total signal loss on the Iridium connection between the cradle and the antenna should not exceed 3dB at 1626MHz.

The maximum length recommended for different common antenna cable types is:

Cable Length	Cable Specification	Notes
Up to 4m	RG58C/U	
Up to 6m	LMR200/U-9006 cellfoil	
Up to 8m	RG213	

Up to 15m	LMR400	It is recommended that the antenna cable be reduced to RG58 for the last 300mm next to the cradle to assist with installation.
Up to 23m	LMR600	

Data connection

The main connector on the phone cradle is wired for an RS232 serial data connection. The serial data connection is configured for 9600 baud.

Power supply to the Iridium phone

The Iridium phone cradle contains a power supply that manages the voltage supplied to the phone to levels required to safely charge and operate the phone. Power is supplied via the connector on the base of the Iridium phone.

Section 4: Using the Iridium phone with the Flightcell Iridium Extreme MK5 Cradle

Installing and releasing your Iridium satellite phone

The Iridium Extreme has a hinged rubber bung on its base, covering the data connector. Unplug the bung and swing around so it clips in behind the two retaining lugs on the back of the phone.



Next, to mount the phone in the cradle:

- » Locate the base of the phone on the locating pins on the cradle data connector.
- » Depress the latch on the top of the cradle.
- » While pressing the phone down against the locating pins, rotate it backwards until it is hard against the back of the cradle (note that it is necessary to press the phone downwards against the resistance of the rubber cushioning around the phone)
- » Release the latch.

To release the phone, depress the latch and rotate the phone out of the cradle.



Automated power on and off

The Iridium phone cradle is designed to power the Iridium phone on and off when the aircraft or vehicle is powered up or down. This is done to ensure the phone is always on when the aircraft is operating, and the phone is always off (and batteries are not being run down) when no power is being supplied from the aircraft.

Section 5: Inspections/Continued Airworthiness/Maintenance

Periodic maintenance of the Flightcell Iridium Extreme Cradle is not required and is “on condition” only. Instructions for Continued Airworthiness (ICA) are not required per 14 CFR Part 21 for this product.

Flightcell recommends the Iridium Extreme Cradle be inspected for proper operation, secure attachment, integrity of connectors and wiring, and any evidence of damage including the external antenna (if fitted) as part of the required annual or periodic aircraft inspection.

The Flightcell Iridium Extreme Cradle does not have an internal battery.

Section 6: Warranty and contact details

Limited warranty for your Flightcell Iridium Extreme MK5 Cradle

Flightcell International Ltd.'s quality products are proudly designed and manufactured to the highest standards in New Zealand.

Your Flightcell Iridium Extreme MK5 Cradle is warranted for 1 year from date of sale.

The warranty is void if any labels are removed or if it is determined that your Flightcell Iridium Extreme MK5 Cradle has been:

- » Connected to a power supply delivering more than 32 Volts.
- » Connected with reverse polarity.
- » Installed in direct contravention to the guidelines outlined in the technical installation manual.
- » Physically damaged, or a fault has occurred due to the product being used beyond what is considered normal use, causing unusual deterioration of the product.

If the product is deemed to be faulty or in need of repair, please contact Flightcell International Ltd to obtain a Returned Materials Authorization.

Flightcell International contact details

Flightcell International Ltd

PO Box 1481
98 Vickerman Street
Nelson 7040
New Zealand

Telephone	+64 3 545 8651
Fax	+64 3 548 8091
Email	info@flightcell.com
Website	http://www.flightcell.com



Technical support

<https://www.flightcell.com/support>