

YDØNXX's Blog

YDØNXX / N5SNN weblog

CAT Cable for uSDX+

My uSDX+ , a Chinese product, arrived last week, and after a quick check that the radio is working as expected, I want to build a CAT cable as I plan to run FT8 on it.



The new uSDX+ that just arrived from China

The CAT interface is in the back and uses a TRRS 3.5mm plug, similar to phone hands free that comes with a new smartphones. As a matter of fact I cut off a phone hands free when scrounging old smartphone cases and found one unused



CAT (also PTT signal out) jack underneath the speaker-mic jack (denoted with KJ)

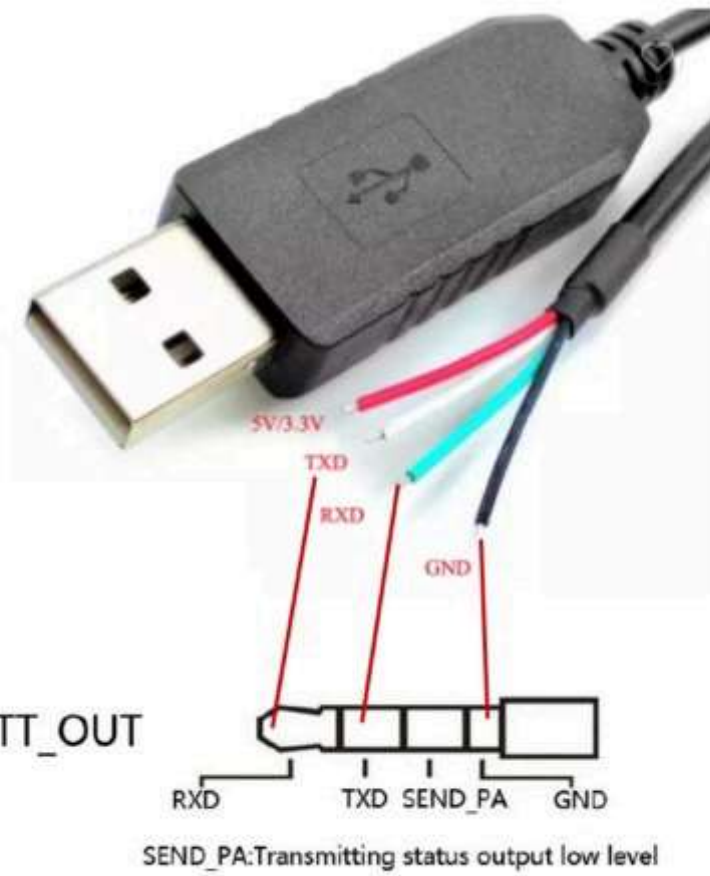


A TRRS (Tip Ring Ring Shield) 3.5mm plug that I cut from a handsfree device of a smartphone.

For the USB-TTL dongle, I use an FTDI based dongle that is molded in the USB connector housing.

Interconnection is basically a serial cross-link, Swap TX to RX, as follows:

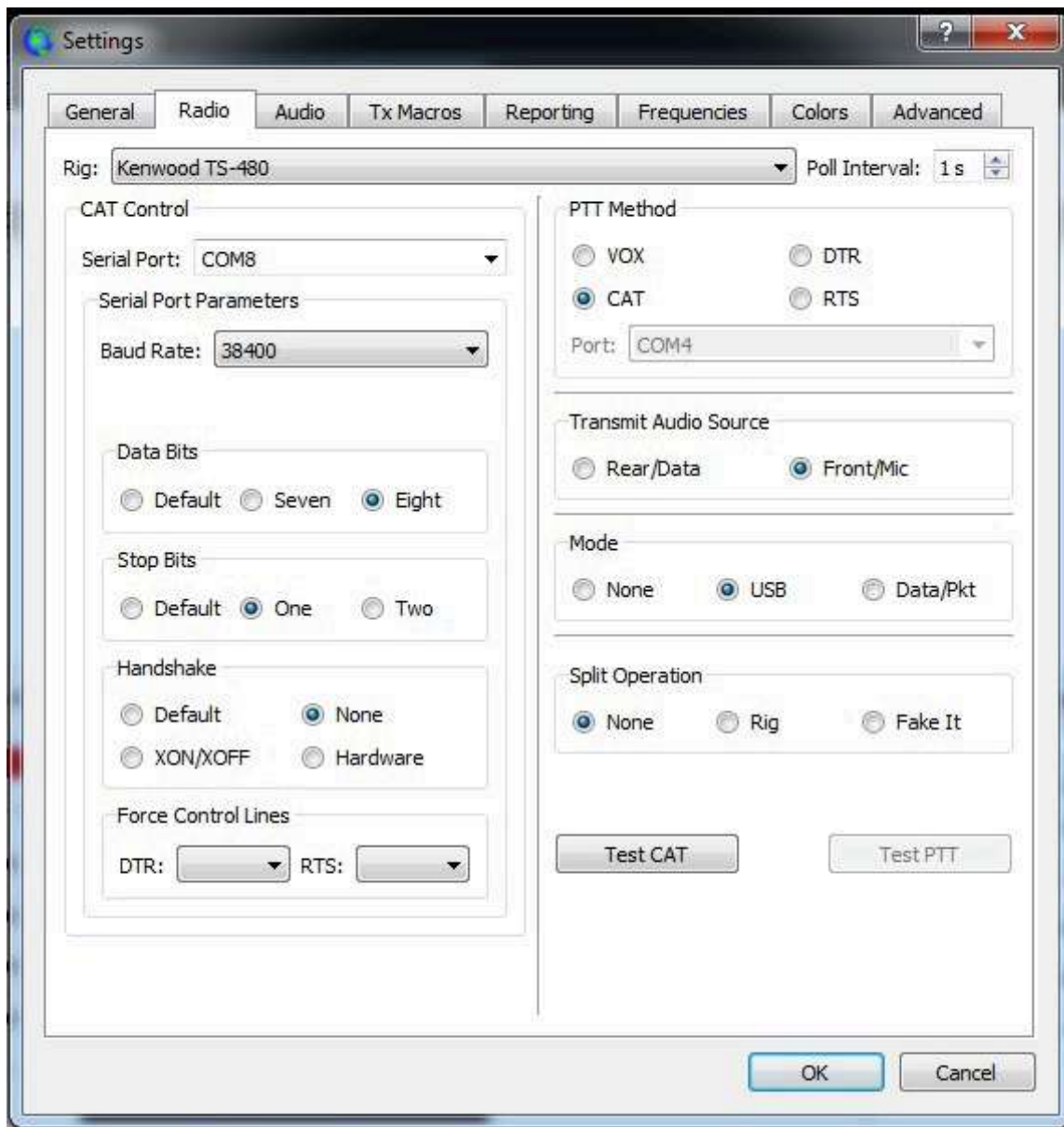
o»



The 3-wire interconnection of the CAT cable

Then configure your wsjtx with the following information:

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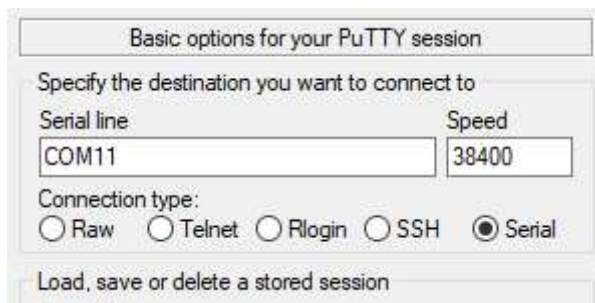


Screen capture of WSJT-X Configuration screen.

End results are:

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If you need to debug the cable, you can use use Putty to open serial session at 38400, and then send "FA;" command, with no "", and you'll get back the current frequency of the radio.



My FTDI is on COM11

(<https://yd0nxx.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/image.png>)



(<https://yd0nxx.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/image-1.png>).

Returned info is frequency in Hz, which is 21.074 MHz

End of posting. Hope this helps you all, and thanks for reading.

This entry was posted on August 16, 2022 at 2:45 am and is filed under [Uncategorized](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

4 Responses to “CAT Cable for uSDX+”

Wayne Says:

[February 12, 2023 at 5:27 am](#) | [Reply](#)

So you wired the TRRS plug directly to a USB cable? Not an FTDI adaptor?

yd0nxx Says:

[April 17, 2023 at 7:00 am](#) | [Reply](#)

The FTDI chip is inside the USB moulding, you can see it is longer than a typical USB plug.

Tony Says:

[April 11, 2023 at 8:01 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

Anyone have any issues with getting the CAT interface to work? I have the exact setup above but I don't get anything from the radio using HRD or other CAT software out there

yd0nxx Says:

[April 17, 2023 at 6:59 am](#) | [Reply](#)

You can check the cable using PuTTY, open a serial session at 38400 bps, then type FA; (FA followed by a semicolon), and you should see a response of the current frequency in Hertz. If nothing comes back then your uSDX+ firmware might not have the CAT feature enabled during compile.

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