

AAG CloudWatcher

Read me first



Thank you very much for your purchase!

Lunático Astronomía hopes it will fulfil your expectations and help you enjoy astronomy.

WARNING Please remove the plastic cover over the sensors prior to us.

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Package Contents

The AAG CloudWatcher package contains the following:

- ☛ Main box with a 10 meter built-in cable
- ☛ A couple of Terminal Blocks
- ☛ Wall mounting kit
- ☛ Read me first



Image of our optional anemometer

Software installation

Please download the up-to-date software from www.aagware.eu. Antonio Peres (AAG) will continue publishing software updates and revisions from his web site. The program includes a simple installation wizard making the process a very simple one. It also incorporates a comprehensive help file.

Connecting the unit

Regarding connections, there are three plugs at the end of the CloudWatcher, as seen in the image:



- A DB9 connector, for the PC's serial port (or the [USB/Serial converter](#))
- A jack plug for powering the unit. (12 or 15 V, less than 1A, any polarity)
- Two terminals (terminal blocks also included) for the relay output (this is of optional use to operate the opening/closing mechanism)

... and a special, weather resistant IP68 plug to connect our optional [anemometer](#).

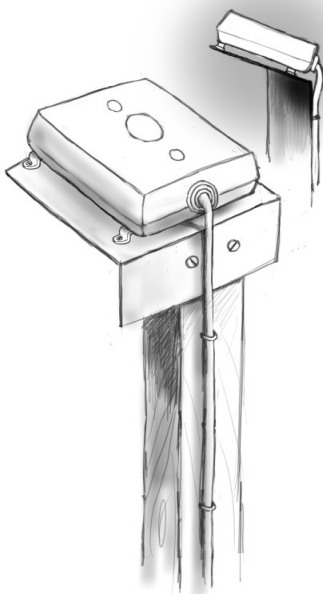


ATTENTION! Do not remove the blue cap unless connecting an anemometer!

Physical CloudWatcher installation

To ease water evacuation, the device must be installed slightly tilted (10 to 15° is perfect); it is recommended to make the unit point to the zone from where clouds more usually come, thus allowing for an earlier detection.

Between the CloudWatcher lower side and its support, there must be *enough space* so both water and air can freely flow; please use the supplied washers as shown in this image:



AAG CW optimal placement

Also please note *the cable should be pointing slightly downwards*, as the drawing shows, to allow the drain of any water entering or condensing inside the unit.

A place with a wide sky view and as far as possible from high-radiation areas (such as roofs or concrete flooring) is best to place the unit. If there's no option other than placing the unit over such high-radiation areas, it should be installed high above it to minimize the radiation effects.

ATTENTION!

Avoid touching the sensors with your bare fingers.

Do not apply pressure over the sensors seeing that they are glued to the cover.

Be careful when touching the rain surface because it may be hot. The rain sensor is an active component that is subject to heating. The maximum temperature is limited by software and it depends on the constants chosen by the user.

The rain sensor should be cleaned to work correctly. The presence of rain is detected by changes of its capacitance property.

Technical specifications

- ☛ Power 12 or 15v, current < 1 A
- ☛ RS232 Serial port
- ☛ Size: 110*85*37 mm.
- ☛ 10 m. long weather-proof cable

Maintenance

The AAG CloudWatcher has been designed to achieve very low maintenance needs; nonetheless, with time, dirt (dust or even birds' droppings...) can handicap the quality of the readings from the unit. Cleaning the sensors' surface with a clean cloth will restore the unit to full performance (**not use alcohol!**).

Limitations

This device has been carefully manufactured and tested before shipping. Even if its goal is to detect atmospheric conditions, specially the cloudy condition, it must not be the only device to rely upon before exposing valuable equipment to the open. Especially in remote installations, an additional detecting device (such an all-sky camera) is recommended to make 100% sure of the sky conditions.

Never will Lunático Astronomía nor Antonio Peres (AAG) be liable of any damage derived from the use of this device.

The CloudWatcher software has been calibrated to the weather conditions at Lagoa (south Portugal), so it will maybe need some adjustments to work properly at your place. Please read the help file included with the software.

Support

Lunático Astronomía is proud of the quality of the support it offers its customers. You can reach us at the newly launched English support site www.lunatico.es/support.