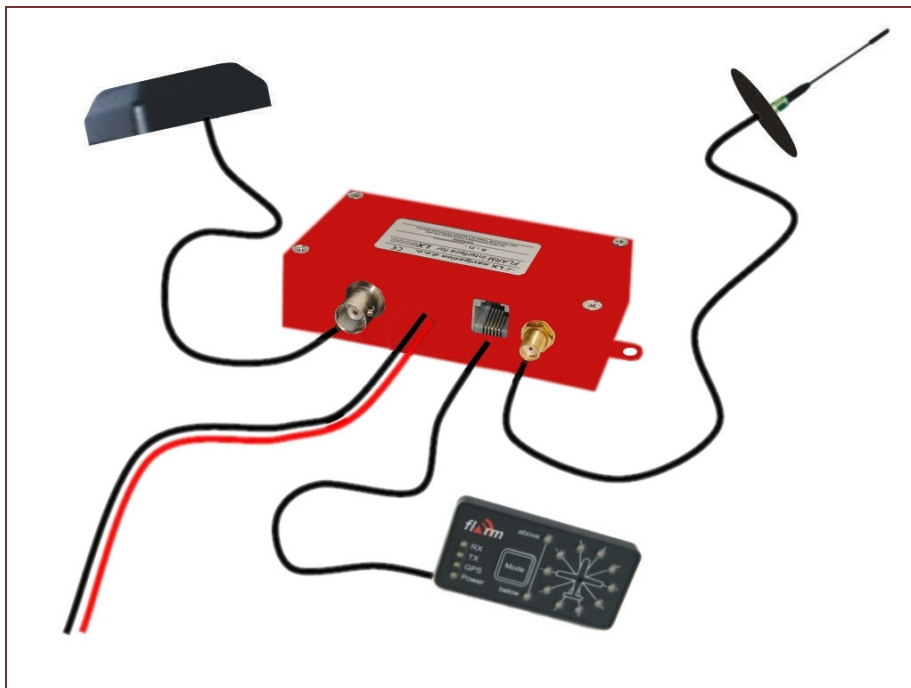


LX *flarm* Red Box

and Flarm interface for LX 5000

User manual
Draft



1 Introduction

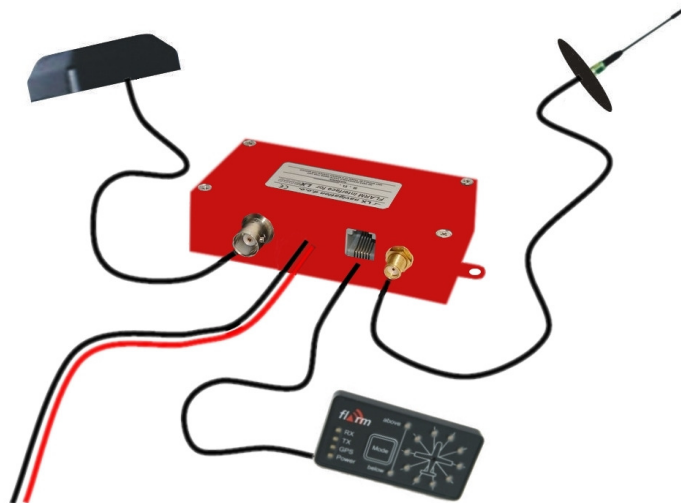
Flarm is a collision avoidance system developed by Flarm Technologies from Switzerland. LX Navigation and Flarm Technologies signed a contract under which LX Navigation got rights to integrate Flarm technology into LX Navigation products.

A Flarm module consists of following main parts.

- GPS receiver
- Microcontroller unit
- Radio Transceiver
- Pressure altimeter
- Flarm external indicator

The GPS receiver defines position of the glider, the microcontroller is responsible for collision prediction calculations and the transceiver is sending and receiving data.

Both units use the same electronic and are mechanically nearly identical. The only difference is power and GPS antenna connection. Red Box is a completely stand alone solution and LX 5000 interface uses LX 5000 485 bus for power. Already installed LX 5000 GPS antenna will serve both units.



2 Technical data

- Dimensions: 50x27x97 mm aluminum housing
- Weight: approximately 150 gr.
- GPS connector: BNC female
- RF connector: SMA female
- RF range: max. 5 km, depends on antenna installation
- Data interface 6P telephone type
- Power : 8-16 V DC ,consumption ca. 60 mA by 12V DC
- Pin 6 power input (8-16V), 4 and 1 GND (near to RF connector), 2 data in, 3 data out, 5 power for external display

2.1 Part list

2.1.1 Flarm Red Box

- Flarm red Box unit
- RF antenna
- GPS antenna
- Flarm External display with cable (1x 60cm and 1x 150cm)

2.1.2 Flarm interface for LX 5000

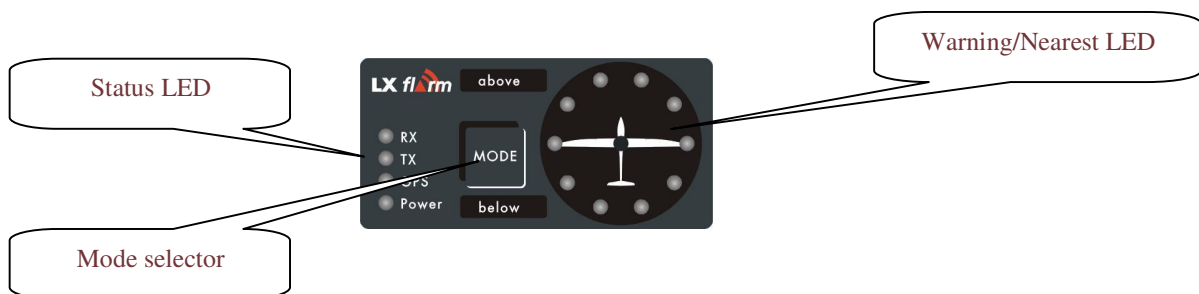
- Flarm Interface for LX 5000 unit
- RF antenna
- Flarm External display with cable (1x 60cm and 1x 150cm)

3 Operation

The unit will run immediately after power will be applied. With GPS antenna connected and visible satellites about three minutes will take to be operable. There are no commands or status indicators on the unit. All important statuses are be readable on External display, also all inputs will be done this way.

3.1 Flarm external display

The unit consists of a 50x20 mm flat housing which has one push button and 16 LED's. A 6P telephone type connector connects External display with Flarm unit.



- 10 radial positioned red LED's, defines **direction** to the near glider (top LED active means frontal collision risk)
- 2 additionally red light emitting diodes marked like **above** and **below** informs about vertical position of the glider, which is close.
- **Mode** button is used to control the unit, see table below
- 5 green status LED's. **Power** indicates presence of power and data (blinking, if no data received from Flarm unit), **GPS** status (bad blinking), **Tx** transmit detection, **Rx** receive detection.

The external display has two modes of operation:

- **WARNING Mode** will activate a red blinking diode, if another glider equipped with Flarm will be close and a prediction for a **collision** risk will exist. An audio warning will be also executed. Higher collision risk will increase blinking frequency and the same is with audio. The warnings are classified into three levels (See Flarm manual for details)
 - First level approximately **18 seconds** before predicted collision
 - Second level approximately **13 seconds** before predicted collision
 - Third level approximately **8 seconds** before predicted collision
- **NEAREST Mode** will show the direction to the nearest glider which position is inside of radio range. **One** red LED will light **permanently** and there will be **no audio**. The unit will change over to Warning Mode **automatically, if warning** criteria will be fulfilled and will continue in NEAREST after collision risk will disappear.

Note!

The external displays produced by LX Navigation will change over to **Demo mode** after MODE button will be pressed 10 times. Nearest mode and all possible warnings will be displayed. To change over back to normal operation switch the unit **off**.

- Pressing of MODE selector continuously for approximately **4 seconds will deactivate** Flarm external display for 5 minutes, no **warnings** and no **near** information will be displayed during this period. A very typical situation only Power LED on, will characterize this status.

Note!

To change mode of operation press **MODE** button for approximately 2 seconds. If the radial LED's will run from top toward bottom means change over to NEAREST and vice versa. After new power on, the mode active before switching off will remain.

- **Obstacles.** Flarm electronic is capable to store **coordinates of obstacles**, which could cause a collision during flight. This data is available on www.flarm.com, use Flarm tools to update. The unit is factory loaded with actual obstacle database. An obstacle warning will be activated, if an obstacle is to be found in the front of the glider and a collision risk is predicted. After a low level warning has been activated two upper LEDs will be active (such a situation will Newer appears by glider collision risk). Medium and high risk will be indicated with more LED's Active and more frequent audio signal.
 - To change **audio warning volume** press short mode selector, each press will increase audio volume (three levels and mute available).

3.1.1 Settings

Using of mode selector button is possible to adjust some parameters of the external display. Disconnect the unit, press mode selector and hold, power on, hold mode selector for about 4 seconds.

The display parameters can be defined pressing mode selector for approximately **2 seconds** and observing green LED's. To move in-between parameter press mode short and observe **red LED's**.

Parameter	LED	Red LED 018°	Red LED 054°	Red LED 090°	Red LED126°	Red LED162°	Red LED 198°
Twin config.	Tx	PIC	PAX				
Baudrate	Tx+Rx	4800 bps	9600 bps	19200 bps	-----	38400 bps	57600 bps

If two units will work in parallel (double seater), one unit must be PIC and another PAX.

Note!

LX Flarm Red Box and also Interface for LX 5000 baud rate is **19200**. There isn't any possibility to change this parameter. All external displays delivered through LX Navigation are factory set to 19200.

If another navigation device for instance PDA is intended to be used, a splitter should be inserted. LX Navigation offers a wide range of splitters.

3.1.2 Installation

Find a convenient place in the cockpit, which offers a good viewing angle to the LED's. LX Navigation offers a small housing which will make installation on the top of the instrument panel professional.



Two connection cables having different lengths are offered to ensure all possible installation solutions.

4 Firmware update

Flarm software expires and therefore periodically firmware upgrades are necessary. Flarm original tools should be used, available on www.flarm.com. A cable set isn't a part of delivery. Use IGC compatible cables, for instance Colibri/LX20 power and data adapter.

The procedure:

- Power on Flarm red box/Interface LX 5000
- Disconnect External display and plug an IGC compatible cable into Flarm 6P connector
- Run actual Flarm tool on PC, which offers update Flarm
- Follow wizard
- Disconnect power
- Press button and hold, power on and update bar will start automatically
- Wait until finish
- Switch Flarm unit off

5 Installation

The unit may be installed wherever in the cockpit, take in calculation that periodically firmware update will be necessary and that the antenna and external display cables are approximately 60 cm long.

5.1 Power

5.1.1 Flarm Red Box

Two wires coming out of the unit (red + and blue -) are used for power supply.

Note!

There is no internal fuse built in the unit. Use External fuse 1A. The unit is prevented against wrong polarity of input voltage.

5.1.2 Flarm interface for LX 5000

Connect 9P SUB D to LX 5000 485system bus. Usually a free plug will be found on LCD Vario. In case of no free connector a 485 splitter should be used (available by LX Navigation).



Note!

To make the system more effective only one GPS antenna, already built in the glider will be used. Connect GPS antenna to BNC female connector on Flarm unit and cable with BNC male connector coming out of Flarm to LX 5000 antenna input.

5.2 RF antenna installation

The RF antenna installation should be taken serious; a bad positioned antenna may reduce system parameters dramatically.

The antenna consists of three parts:

- Radiator apr. 10 cm rubber coated
- Back plane an aluminum plate having diameter 12 cm
- Cable (60 cm) with SMA connector

The radiator should be vertical and the back plane horizontal. Use top positions on the instrument panel. Having no space to install the antenna, use a dipole variant, available by LX Navigation or Flarm dealers.



$\lambda/4$ antenna



Dipole antenna

5.3 GPS antenna installation

The GPS antenna which is a part of delivery (Red Box only) should be installed somewhere in the cockpit where a good satellite contact can be established. Never install the antenna close to another GPS antenna. Minimum 15 cm of space diversity is required.

Note!

Flarm unit will not work until having GPS 3D, means antenna installation is an important fact.

5.4 Final check

After LX Flarm unit will receive power, the External display will pass initial routine which will take several seconds.

1. **Power** LED indicates presence of power, blinking means no data received from Flarm unit
2. **GPS** LED informs about GPS status, blinking GPS bad, light GPS OK
3. **Tx** indicates transmission, only active by GPS OK (blinking)
4. **Rx** indicates presence of another Flarm
5. Check functionality of mode key, each short press will activate audio for a short time

Note!

After installation obligatory check functionality from 1 to 3 and 5.

6 Limitations

Note!

Using of Flarm will **not reduce responsibility** of the pilot to monitor the airspace and to react in case of a collision risk.

See Flarm manual for details.

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