PLC Device User Manual

Powerline Ethernet Bridge + Switch ➢ 200 Mbps

- > World's smallest
- Green product
- > Standby mode
- Best Performance

Powerline Ethernet Bridge

Powerline Ethernet Switch

V. 1.0.4

TABLE OF CONTENT

ORDERING INFORMATION	2
INCLUDED ITEMS	3
IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS	4
FIRST THING TO KNOW BEFORE INSTALLATION	5
AC outlets connection	5
Connection via power strip	7
Electrical interference	7
Electrical wiring	7
PRODUCT OUTLOOK	
PRODUCT OVERVIEW	11
Standby Mode	11
PRODUCT INSTALLATION	12
Setting logical network group	12
Remove a device from a logical network Group	13
Setting different network Group	13
Application 1 – local Powerline network among PCs	14
Application 2 – PC to xDSL router connection	16
Application 3 – Wireless Access Point range extensions	
Special Care for business installation	19
SPECIFICATIONS	20
FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)	
TROUBLE SHOOTING	

ORDERING INFORMATION

This PLC Device user manual describes **Powerline to Ethernet Bridge** and **Powerline to Ethernet Switch** devices. PLC stands for Powerline Communication.

The **Powerline to Ethernet Bridge** device converts the Ethernet packets from its Ethernet port to the Powerline Communication packets (PLC packets), which then run on home electrical power lines, and converts the PLC packets back to Ethernet packets.

The **Powerline Ethernet Switch** device is a four-port Ethernet Switch device bridged together with the Powerline communication interface. It converts the Ethernet packets from any of its Ethernet port to PLC packets, and from PLC packets back to Ethernet packets. Also, Ethernet packets between any two of the four Ethernet ports are communicable, just like a normal Ethernet switch.

See the following table for a summary.

Categories	Description
Powerline Ethernet Bridge	It sends any packets from its Ethernet port to the Ethernet port of the other Powerline Ethernet Bridge . It converts from Ethernet packets to be transmitted via home electric wires to the other PLC device.
Powerline Ethernet Switch	
	The Powerline Ethernet Switch device sends any packet from any of its Ethernet port to the other three Ethernet ports of itself, or to the Ethernet port of a remote Powerline Ethernet Bridge device.

INCLUDED ITEMS

	Powerline Ethernet	Powerline Ethernet	Powerline Ethernet Switch + Powerline
	Bridge	Switch	ETHERNET BRIDGE
	DUAL PACKAGE	SINGLE PACKAGE	
DEVICE	Two devices	One device	Combined devices
ETHERNET			
CABLE	Two	One	Тwo
~			

NOTICE: This product complies with IC: ICES-006; en conformité avec IC: NMB-006

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

This product is intended for connection to the AC power line. For installation instructions, refer to the Installation section. The following precautions should be taken when using this product.

- Please read all instructions before installing and operating this product.
- Please keep all instructions for later reference.
- Please follow all warnings and instructions marked on the product.
- For safety reason, when device is being powered on, this product should NOT be installed in any electric socket which makes the surface with venting holes on the product to face downward (facing the floor).
- Unplug the Powerline device from the wall outlet before cleaning. Use a dry cloth for cleaning. DO NOT use liquid cleaners or aerosol cleaners.
- **DO NOT** operates this product near water.
- This product should **never** be placed near or over a radiator, or heat register.
- This product relies on the building's electrical installation for short-circuit (over current) protection.
- **DO NOT** allow anything to rest on the product interconnect plug. **DO NOT** locates this product where people may walk on the cords.
- Because this product sends data over the power line, it is recommended that you plug directly into a power outlet. Do not plug the device into a UPS or power strip with surge protection. The product has its own power filter for protection against surges.
- Only a qualified technician should service this product. Opening or removing covers may result in exposure to dangerous voltage points or other risks.
- Unplug the product from the wall outlet and refer the product to qualified service personnel for the following conditions:
 - > When the interconnect cords are damaged or frayed.
 - If liquid has been spilled into the product.
 - If the product has been exposed to rain or water.
 - If the product does not operate normally when the operating instructions are followed.
 - > If the product exhibits a distinct change in performance.

FIRST THING TO KNOW BEFORE INSTALLATION

This Powerline device sends data to and from each other over the existing electrical wiring in your home, and may be affected by electrical noises or the length of the wiring at your house. Keep the following in mind when placing this Powerline device at home.

AC outlets connection

Avoid connecting this device to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) or backup power supply device. For best results, we recommend connecting the adaptors directly to a wall outlet. Avoid connecting high power-consumption appliances to the same wall outlet. Plug these power consuming devices onto a noise filtering power strip to prevent these device interfere with this Powerline device. See the following illustration figure:

For better performance, the following connection is recommended, although not isolate with Noise filter power strip will still work OK.

Recomm	nended		
Isolate Powerline Device from AC adapter or charger by Noise filter power strip			
Outlet Powerline Device	AC adapter Charger		

The following connections are **NOT** recommended, although current PLC technology will overcome most noise interference from electronic devices' AC adapters or chargers.



Connection via power strip

If you must connect this device to a power strip, please keep the following recommendation in mind:

- Make sure the power strip does not have a noise filter or a surge protector, as these features may impair communication signaling of the Powerline device sent over the electric wiring, and its throughput or distance will be degraded.
- Use a power strip with an AC cord that is as short as possible.
- Do not connect the adaptor to a power strip that receives power from another power strip.

Electrical interference

Certain electrical devices emit electrical noise. If this noise is spread over to the electrical wiring in your home, it may interfere with the performance, speed, and reliability of this device. For best results, we recommend connecting an electrical noise filter to noise emitting appliances.

The following appliances are more likely to produce noise:

- Battery chargers (including cell phone chargers)
- Hair dryers
- Power drills
- Halogen light
- vacuum cleaner

Additionally, this product may interfere with the following appliance:

• Lights or lamps which have a touch-sensitive on/off feature

Electrical wiring

This device sends data to and from each other over the existing electrical wiring of your house. If two wall outlets are separated by a great distance of electrical wiring, these devices may not communicate well with each other. For more information, refer to the troubleshooting section.

PRODUCT OUTLOOK

A. Top View



B. Side View



C. Button/LED Descriptions

	Item name	Description
A	PLC Link/Activity LED	 <u>ON</u>: Powerline Link detected but no powerline traffic. <u>BLINKING</u>: Fast blinking (0.06 s ON/ 0.06 s OFF): Powerline data rate higher than 60Mbps. Normal blinking (0.2 s ON/ 0.2 s OFF) Powerline data rate between10Mbps to 60Mbps. Slow blinking (1 s ON1/ 1 s OFF): Powerline data rate slower than 10Mbps. <u>OFF</u>: Powerline Link not detected (either other devices in same network is too far to communicate or it is alone in its logical network).
в	Ethernet Link/Activity LED	<u>ON</u> : Ethernet Link Detected. <u>BLINKING</u> : Ethernet traffic detected. <u>OFF</u> : No Ethernet Link detected.
С	POWER LED	 <u>ON</u>: Power on and ready. <u>BLINKING:</u> 1. (blink at slower rate) means Standby mode, or 2. During Group pairing procedure. In this procedure, the device joining or being joined into same logical network will continue 2 minutes' blinking, until the procedure succeeds or is canceled). To enter or cancel Group pairing procedure, just press the GROUP button 2~3 sec. <u>OFF</u>: Power off.
D	HomePlug 1.0 Detected LED	BLINKING: HomePlug 1.0 Traffic detected. OFF: HomePlug 1.0 not detected.
E	GROUP Button	 <u>Press 10 seconds:</u> clear the current and randomly generate a new network group name. <u>Press 2 to 3 seconds:</u> this will enter Group pairing procedure. In this procedure, the device starts joining into a logical network of other device or announcing its network group name for other devices to join. This maximum two-minute procedure automatically ends when it succeeds or is manually stopped. Press this button 2 to 3 seconds will manually stop the procedure.
F	RESET Button	Press the button when the device is powered on (not standby) to recover all Factory default settings (including PLC network group name). Every new PLC devices' factory default PLC network group name is HomePlugAV . During trouble shooting powerline network communication and network group assignment, doing this to every PLC devices will make each device return to default network group, thus ensure their mutual communicability.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

This Powerline device is virtually an Ethernet cable replacement and an Ethernet hub replacement. Two of these Powerline Ethernet Bridge (or one bridge and one switch) devices replace an Ethernet cable, for connecting any PC to another PC, PC to a DSL/cable router, or a wireless AP to a DSL device. Many of this devices can be connected together to form a mesh communication. For example, three computers can connect to a DSL/cable router for accessing internet via four of these Powerline devices, each computer connects to one powerline device and the DSL/cable router to a fourth Powerline device.

Each Powerline device has predefined attributes such as DAK (device password) and Powerline logical network group. Any device node in a logical network group can communicate to any of the other nodes in the same group. Devices in different network groups won't be able to talk to one another. Max number of nodes in a Powerline logical network group is defined in the **SPECIFICATIONS** section in this user's manual. Powerline network group is defined by its **Network Name** stored in the device. Each device is shipped with default Public network name of **HomePlugAV**, and thus belong to the same logical network and be able to communicate with each other. The GROUP button on the device can be used to change a device's **network group** attributes. For using the GROUP button, please see first portion of the **PRODUCT INSTALLATION** chapter.

If user finds two newly purchased devices don't communicate with each other, please press the RESET button while the device is plugged (powered). This will return the device back into factory default Powerline network group, **HomePlugAV**. If these devices are still not working, please read the other sections in this user manual for frequently asked questions and device trouble shooting.

Standby Mode

Standby mode enables the PLC device to save power consumption. The device automatically enters standby if no Ethernet cable is connected, or the PC connecting this device enter standby, hibernation, or powered-off over two minutes. During standby, only POWER LED blinks at slower rate. To exit standby, insert the Ethernet cable to the device or resume PC back to running.

Note:

1. Some computers support Wake up LAN function that it may cause our PLC can't enter the standby mode.

2. Some **Powerline Ethernet Switch** products don't support standby mode.

PRODUCT INSTALLATION

Setting logical network group

Users can set PLC devices into one or many logical network groups. Devices in the same network group will communicate with each other. Devices in different network group won't communicate with each others. PLC devices' network groups are defined by its **Network Name** stored in the device. Each new device is shipped with default Public network name of **HomePlugAV**, and thus belong to the same logical network and be able to communicate with each other. A user can change a number or all of these devices' network name to form a different logical network group for her/his own usage and keep her/his transmitted date private.

By pushing the GROUP button of a PLC device for more than 10 seconds, a random device network name (different from **HomePlugAV**) will generated for this device. This device can then ask other devices to join its network group to form private network group. Any other devices which want to join this device's network group need to follow the following steps.

To make Powerline device B join device A's logical network, do the following three steps: (NOTE: it is more convenient to bring devices, which are to be configured into same logical network group, side by side during this procedure. After network group is set, the devices can be deployed anywhere at home)

Step 1. Firstly clear the logical network group of device B by pressing its GROUP button more than 10 seconds until all LED lights simultaneously turns off and on once. At this moment, its network group name has been changed to a random name and ready to be assigned another network name. At this moment, this device also can be used as a seed device so other PLC devices can join it to form a private network group. Any device, which wants to join this device's network group, needs also go through this step (Step 1).

The following steps join device B to device A 's logical network:

Step 2. Press GROUP Button of device A for 2 to 3 sec (make sure POWER LED starts blinking). This makes device A to enter a maximum two-minute Group pairing procedure, and start broadcasting its network name and wait for another device to join its network group. This procedure can be manually stopped by pressing GROUP button 2 to 3

sec.

Step 3. In less than two minutes after the above step, press GROUP Button of device B for 2 to 3 sec (make sure POWER LED starts blinking) to ender Group pairing procedure. After 8 ~ 10 sec, if device B is successfully joined to Device A's network group, the LED stop blinking and the Group pairing procedure completes. At this moment, device B will connect well to device A and can start to transmit data between the two devices.

This way, Powerline device B joins same logical network as device A. Users can join device C to device A's logical network with same procedure. Thus device C joins well into device A's logical network group, and device B is also in device A's logical network. Thus device A, B, and C are in the same logical network group. Users can assign as many Powerline devices into this logical same network group as possible with the maximum number described in the **SPECIFICATION** section.

Remove a device from a logical network Group

For example, device A and device B are in the same logical network group, if uses want to remove device A from this logical network group, just follow the procedure in **Step 1** by pressing GROUP button of device A for 10 seconds. This makes device A not able to communicate with device B. If users want to remove a device from a logical network group containing 3 or more devices, just operate the GROUP button of this device as in **Step 1**.

Setting different network Group

To remove device B from the logical network of device A, just do Step 1 as above. This way, a random network name is generated and which is different from device A's network name. By adding other devices to device B's network group or to device A's network group using same procedures as **Step 2** and **3**, users can form two groups of logical network.

The following are some application examples and their installations.

Application 1 – local Powerline network among PCs

Using the included Powerline devices for connecting computers in different rooms or floors at home!

Installation procedure:

Connect the included Powerline device to a PC, such as shown in **Room A** of the following two pictures. If users buy the package which includes two Powerline devices (dual or combo package), please connect another included Powerline device with another PC like those shown in **Room B** of the following two pictures. If the user buys a single device package, which includes only one Powerline device, she/he will be able to create Powerline network by using other HomePlug AV bridge device at the other room (like those shown in **Room B** of the following two pictures). The **Room A** of the second picture in the following shows multiple network devices connect to the **Powerline Ethernet Switch** product, then to the Notebook PC in **Room B**.





Application 2 – PC to xDSL router connection

Use the included Powerline devices for connecting multiple PC or Ethernet devices to an xDSL router at any other room!

Installation procedure:

Connect the included Powerline device to a PC like picture shown in **Room A**. If users buy the package which includes two Powerline devices (dual or combo package), please connect another included Powerline device with a broadband xDSL router like the picture shown in **Room B**. The **Room A** of the second picture in the following shows multiple network devices link to the xDSL router in **Room B** via a single **Powerline Ethernet Switch** device.

If the user buy a single device package, which includes only one Powerline device, she/he will be able to make Powerline network by using other HomePlug AV bridge device at the other room (like the picture shown in **Room B** of the following two pictures).



Note: Under good power line signal conditions, Room A and Room B can be many rooms away from each other without communication problem. (See the **FAQ** section)

Application 3 – Wireless Access Point range extensions

Sometimes, a PC using wireless LAN on one floor of a concrete house can not access the wireless AP router installed on different floors. Using the included Powerline Ethernet devices will overcome this problem!

Installation procedure:

Connect the included Powerline device to a wireless Access Point like picture shown in **Room A**. If users buy the package which includes two Powerline devices (dual or combo package), please connect another included Powerline device with a broadband xDSL router like the picture shown in **Room B**. If the user buy a single device package, which includes only one Powerline device, she/he will be able to create Powerline network by using other HomePlug AV bridge device at the other room (like the picture shown in **Room B** of the following picture).



Special Care for business installation

We DO NOT recommend these Powerline devices for business environments due to several uncertainties which degrade Powerline performance or block its operation. This device has NO GUARANTEE to operate in a business environment such as offices or factories. However many businesses will find it an inexpensive solution to implement networking with no costly changes to wiring infrastructure.

The distance between two Powerline devices is limited by the noise in the electrical wiring in that business environment. Interference may be intermittent, for example highest at one time of day, or one day of the week. Normally, a business environment covers a wider area than the recommended home application. Electric wiring in a business environment may be very possible to involve more than one power meter system, which sometimes cause communication difficulties of Powerline devices.

SPECIFICATIONS

Items	Description			
	Powerline Ethernet Bridge device	Powerline Ethernet Switch device		
PHY Rate	200Mbps			
Effect Data Rate	TCP: Up to 91 Mbps TCP: Up to 91 Mbps			
	UDP: Up to 94 Mbps UDP: Up to 93 Mb			
Frequency Band	2~28 MHz	(With Mask)		
Access Methods	CSMA/CA channe	el-access schemes		
Qos	Four-level priority based contention	access, and multi segment bursting		
	8-level VLAN priority field, TOS field			
	QoS Classification by destination M	AC address and IP Port		
Modulation	OFDM (QAM 8/16/64/256/	1024, QPSK, BPSK, ROBO)		
10/100 RJ-45 port	1 port	4 ports		
Distance	AC Wire : up	to 300 meters		
LAN Standards	IEEE 802.3,	IEEE 802.3U,		
PLC Standard	Home	Plug AV		
Operating System	OS independent			
Max. dev in a	Up to 63 slaves with 1 master, 64 total devices			
network Group				
IGMP	Support for IPv4/IGMP v1,v2,v3 snooping			
	Support for IPv6 and MLD v1,v2 snooping			
	Max 16 source addresses and Group Members			
Encryption	128-bit AES Link Encryption with key management			
LEDs	1. Power (green), 2. Powerline	1. Power (blue), 2. Powerline		
	Activity (green), 3. Ethernet	Activity (blue), 3. AV/1.0 DET (blue),		
	Link/Activity (green)			
Temperature	0~40 $^{\circ}$ C (Operating)); -20~60 ℃ (Storage)		
Relative Humidity	10~85% Non-Con	densing (Operating)		
	5~90% Non-Condensing (Storage)			
Power Source	100 ~ 240 VAC 50/60Hz			
Power	Full load: (110 VAC) = 3.3 W; (220	Full load: (110 VAC) = 4.2W; (220 VAC)		
consumption	VAC) = 3.8W; (240 VAC) = 4.2W	= 5.3W; (240 VAC) = 5.8W		
	Standby mode: Erp/Eup version:	Standby mode: for 4 Eth port device		
	(110 VAC) = 0.5W; (220 VAC) = 0.8W;	supporting standby, power consumption		
	(240 VAC) = 0.9W	is (110 VAC) < 1.0W; (220 VAC) < 1.7W;		
	Non-Erp/Eup version: Less than 1.6	(240 VAC) < 1.8W		
	W for Europe/UK/US			
Certification	CE, CE-LVD, FCC Class B, Rohs			

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. What is the distance this device can transmit?

ANS: Powerline technology provides reliable coverage for considerable distances in a home, but noises from your home electrical appliances which is introduced into your home's electrical wires is a limiting factor for the transmission distances. Thus you may get (considerably) less or more coverage depending on how many electrical appliances being used at the time your running these devices. Please check the maximum distance under good AC wire conditions in the **SPECIFICATIONS** section.

2. What is the throughput this device can transmit?

ANS: The device's throughput depends largely on several factors: (1) the distance with another device, (2) interference by other appliances, (3) number of same Powerline devices which share the common electric wiring, and (4) application packet types – TCP or UDP. TCP applications will be slower than UDP applications. Longer distance, larger interference, or more Powerline devices will reduce the data throughput. The maximum throughput between two devices for TCP and UDP are specified in the **SPECIFICATIONS** section.

3. Do I have to rewire my home electric outlets or install special filters for using this device?

ANS: Powerline uses a home's existing electrical wiring to network computers in different rooms so that they can share files, printers, and Internet connections. This Powerline products use existing electrical sockets (outlets). If your wiring is modern, there is no need to rewire outlets or to install special filters.

4. What type of AC outlet can I plug for this device?

ANS: This power line product works with AC 100V to 240V with 2-prong or 3-prong electrical outlets, depending on whether the plug is 2-prong or 3-prong type.

5. Can this power-line device work with circuit breakers?

ANS: In many countries Powerline signals will not communicate between different phases. **Please have installers or expert local to your country to check your home's electric wiring before installation.**

6. Is it secure to send private data over this power line device?

ANS: It is secure enough because the technology supports special data encryption. Please refer to the **Specifications** section for the type encryption algorithm used with this device.

7. How can I connect multiple devices together?

ANS: multiple devices can be connected together if they are in same logical network group. Use the GROUP button to set the group of this device. By default, device in a newly shipped dual or combo package are in same group.

8. How many devices can be assigned into a single group?

ANS: Please see **Specifications** section for maximum number of devices that can be assigned to a single logical network group. There can be multiple groups in same electric wiring environment.

9. Does any device in a group communicate to any other device in a group?

ANS: Yes. For example, four Powerline devices, A, B, C and D form a logical network group, .B, C, and D all can communicate to A. if A links to a PC, then B, C, and D all can share files of the PC. If A links to an xDSL broadband router, then B, C, and D all can surf the internet via the DSL router.

10. Why need password (called DAK, located at the bottom of the device)?

ANS: Since the device can be configured by PLC configuration software running on a PC, password protects the device being configured by unauthorized people. PLC configuration software is available with older version of Homeplug AV PLC devices which don't have hardware group button. Since this device comes with hardware group button, PLC configuration software is not needed for creating a logical private network group. The device password is also called DAK, which is found in the label sticker on the back side of the PLC devices.

11. What standard does this device use?

ANS: Powerline devices from multiple manufacturers using this same PLC standard will be able to communicate with each other. Please see **Specifications** section for the exact PLC standard used in this device.

12. How many of this device can I install in my home?

ANS: Although the multiple devices can be used in a single power-wiring network in a building, the more number of devices being deployed will share the bandwidth, and cause unintended performance degradation.

13. Can I install this device in a business environment?

ANS: Powerline devices are not recommended to be used at business, however it might work in business environment when the placement of two of Powerline

devices is not far away from each other and when there are not too much electrical noise generated by neighboring electrical devices in the office or factories, for example, with most fluorescent lights, the noise is liable to overwhelm Powerline products.

14. Can this PLC device communicate with any other PLC devices purchased in the market?

ANS: PLC devices using different PLC standard (protocol) may have problem to communicate with each others, although they all can co-exist on same electric wires. Check the following table for capability of communication between different PLC standards.

Capability of	HomePI	HomePI	HomePI	UPA	HD-PLC
communication	ug 1.0	ug turbo	ug AV		
between PLC					
standard					
HomePlug 1.0	OK	OK	NO	NO	NO
HomePlug turbo	OK	OK	NO	NO	NO
HomePlug AV	NO	NO	OK	NO	NO
UPA	NO	NO	NO	OK	NO
HD-PLC	NO	NO	NO	NO	OK

To understand what type of PLC standard this device use, please check it in the **SPECIFICATIONS** section.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

New devices are shipped with same logical PLC network group assignment and should be mutually communicable at first deployment. If two PLC devices are not or become not communicating (maybe due to a PLC device's **PLC network group** has been erased during product shipping, handling or users deploying), please follow these steps:

- First, press 1 to 2 sec, with a needle pin, into the RESET **button** of the powered-on (not entering standby) PLC device. For safety reason, do not use metal pin. This will return the PLC device into its factory default network group (**HomePlugAV**). NOTE: After success, all LED will be OFF and ON once.
- Repeat the step above on all PLC devices to ensure they return to same default network group. This ensures devices of same network group don't have communication problem. Congratulation, if these devices are now talking mutually. You can create a private network group on these devices when needed.
- If the devices still not communicate, the electric wiring may be causing the problem. Examples of potential problems are:
- Old fuse boxes.
- Old wiring that does not meet modern wiring building codes.
- Firstly, make sure the devices are functioning well. Plug these units onto nearby electric outlets in the same room or onto one same power strip with noise filtering. If these two devices can communication, go to **long distance debugging steps**; if these two devices still can not communication, continue to check the following.
- Checking Ethernet cables are securely plugged in.
- Checking power supply
- Checking LEDs are properly lit, blinking, or turned off
- Uninstalling and reinstalling the device
- Doing a "ping" test to see whether your device is connected to the network
- Gradually increase the distance between Powerline units. Your testing will determine whether the distances you can achieve.

Long distance debugging steps:

- Gradually increase the distance between the two Powerline devices. Some nearby outlets may be harder for the devices to communicate than the farer outlets. It all depends on electrical wiring topologies. Try with different outlets on different wall or different rooms.
- Swap devices to isolate the problem to a particular Powerline unit.
- If there are problem areas, have a qualified electrician review the building's electrical plans, assessing the noise conditions for each phase of the power.
- Pay special attention to the electrical noise generated by the following devices:
- Air conditioning
- Florescent lights, particularly industrial grade lights
- Refrigerators
- Surge protectors and other line filters and conditioning
- Blowers
- Large electrical motors

Note

- This Powerline device is not designed for business use. Consult a professional electrician to evaluate your electricity's noise in your building and to suggest remedies.
- 2) If you've moved a Powerline device, or disconnected the cables, your PLC devices at other ends of powerline network may need up to 5 minutes to start transmitting due to setting up their connecting information about the other Powerline devices in the same AC wire loop.
- 3) Use all the same Powerline models for best connectivity. Also, software for one model may not work for another model. In particular, remote and advanced features may not work between Powerline device manufacturers.