

X10 CM19A

X10 R.F. PC Transceiver (CM19A) Instruction Manual

Model: CM19A

1. INTRODUCTION

The X10 R.F. PC Transceiver, Model CM19A, is a USB-connected device designed to enable your personal computer to send X10 Radio Frequency (RF) commands. This allows for the control of various X10-compatible home automation devices such as lights, cameras, and appliances directly from your computer. The CM19A acts as a bridge, translating software commands from your PC into RF signals that can be received by other X10 modules, typically an X10 wireless transceiver module (e.g., TM751) which then converts the RF signals into powerline commands.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The CM19A is a compact USB device that provides the following key functionalities:

- **PC Control:** Enables your computer to send X10 RF commands.
- **Lighting Control:** Dim and control lighting with compatible X10 modules.
- **Appliance Control:** Control various appliances directly from your computer.
- **Camera Control:** Manage X10-compatible cameras.
- **USB Connectivity:** Plugs into any available USB port on your PC.



Image 1: The X10 CM19A USB Firecracker Transceiver. This compact device connects to your computer's USB port to facilitate X10 RF communication.

3. SETUP

1. **Connect the CM19A:** Plug the X10 CM19A USB Firecracker Transceiver into an available USB port on your computer.
2. **Driver Installation:**
 - For Windows operating systems (e.g., Windows 7 and later), allow Windows Update to automatically find and install the necessary drivers. It is generally recommended to avoid using drivers bundled with older X10 software, as they may cause system instability.
 - For Linux systems, the device is often supported by community-developed software like Mochad, which handles communication with the CM19A.
3. **Install X10 Control Software:** Install your preferred X10 control software on your computer. Examples include Firecracker X10 Software for Windows or Mochad for Linux-based systems (such as Raspberry Pi). Follow the software's specific installation and configuration instructions.
4. **X10 Wireless Transceiver Module:** The CM19A sends RF signals. To control X10 devices that operate over your home's electrical wiring (powerline communication), you will need an additional X10 wireless transceiver module (e.g., X10 TM751) plugged into an electrical outlet. This module receives the RF signals from the CM19A and converts them into powerline commands. Ensure this module is placed within effective

RF range of the CM19A.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once the CM19A is set up with the appropriate drivers and control software, you can begin controlling your X10 devices:

- **Launch Control Software:** Open your chosen X10 control application (e.g., Firecracker, Mochad interface).
- **Configure Devices:** Within the software, configure the house codes and unit codes for your X10 modules (lights, appliances, cameras) as per their individual instructions.
- **Send Commands:** Use the software interface to send commands such as ON, OFF, BRIGHTEN, DIM, or specific camera controls to your X10 devices. The CM19A will transmit these as RF signals.
- **Continuous Operation:** For continuous home automation control, the computer connected to the CM19A must remain powered on.
- **Range Considerations:** The effective range of the RF signals from the CM19A to your X10 wireless transceiver module (e.g., TM751) can vary. For optimal performance, ensure the transceiver module is located within a reasonable distance, typically within the same or an adjacent room.

5. MAINTENANCE

The X10 CM19A is a low-maintenance device. Follow these general guidelines to ensure its longevity:

- **Keep Clean:** Periodically wipe the device with a soft, dry cloth to remove dust.
- **Avoid Extreme Conditions:** Do not expose the device to extreme temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight.
- **Secure Connection:** Ensure the USB connection remains secure and free from physical stress.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Device Not Recognized by PC:

Ensure the CM19A is firmly plugged into a working USB port. Check Device Manager (Windows) or `lsusb` (Linux) to see if the device is detected. Verify that the correct drivers have been installed by Windows Update or manually if necessary.

X10 Commands Not Reaching Devices:

- Confirm that an X10 wireless transceiver module (e.g., TM751) is properly installed and powered on within RF range of the CM19A.
- Check the house and unit codes configured in your software match those of your X10 modules.
- Verify that the X10 modules themselves are functioning correctly.
- Consider the RF range; try moving the CM19A or the X10 wireless transceiver module closer to each other.

Software Issues (e.g., Firecracker registration):

Older X10 software may have limitations regarding registration or compatibility with newer operating systems. Consult community forums or the software's documentation for workarounds or alternative software options (e.g., Mochad for Linux).

Loud Click from X10 Appliance Modules (e.g., TM751):

This is normal behavior for some X10 appliance modules, which use a mechanical relay to switch power. This sound indicates the module is receiving and executing a command.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	X10
Model Number	CM19A
Hardware Interface	USB
Data Link Protocol	USB
Compatible Devices	Desktop PCs
Compatible Operating System Family	Windows (Minimum Windows 10 recommended), Linux (via community software)

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For specific warranty information and technical support regarding your X10 CM19A R.F. PC Transceiver, please refer to the documentation provided at the time of purchase or visit the official X10 website. Support resources, including FAQs and contact information, are typically available there. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for any warranty claims.