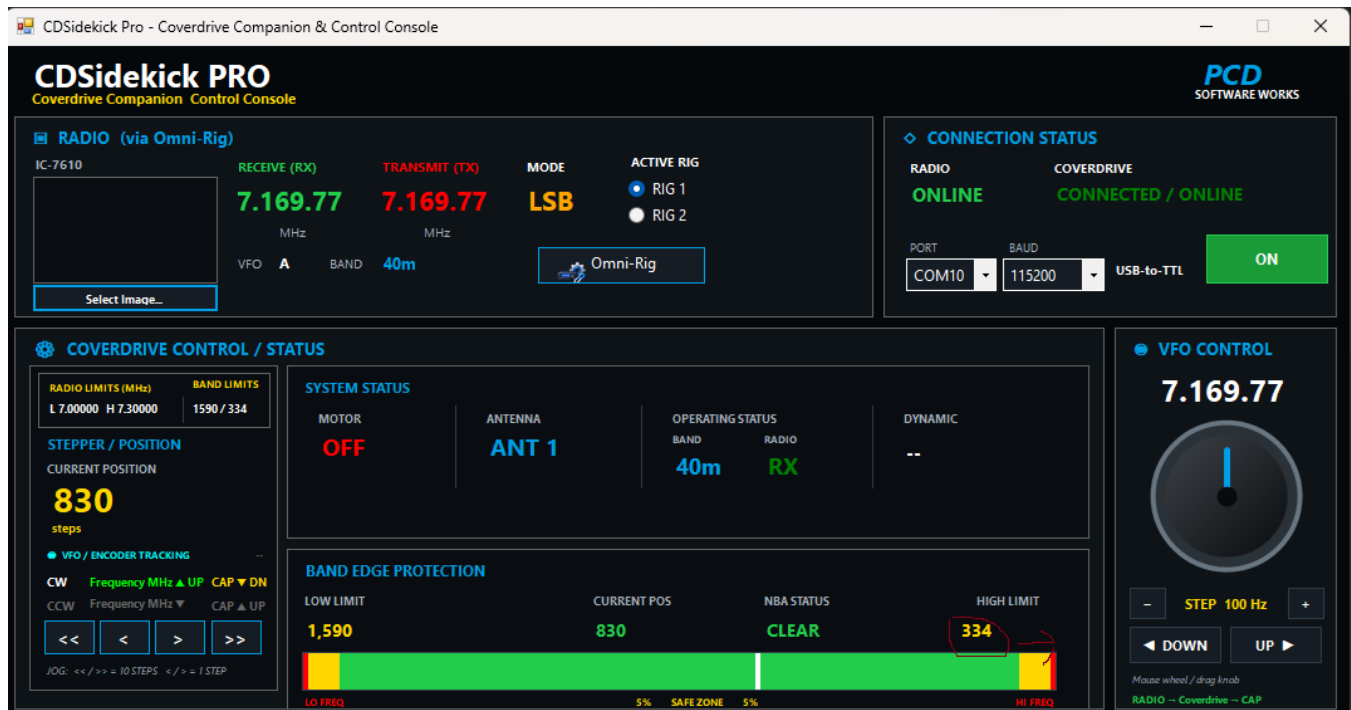


CDSidekick Pro



Coverdrive Companion & Control Console

QUICK USER GUIDE



What it does. CDSidekick Pro is the Windows companion for the standalone Coverdrive magnetic-loop controller. It displays radio and Coverdrive status and provides convenient VFO and Coverdrive controls. Coverdrive remains the controller of the antenna, motor movement, tuning limits and protection logic.

1. Before You Start

- Start Omni-Rig and make sure the radio is configured and responding.
- Connect the Coverdrive controller to the PC using the USB-to-TTL connection.
- Power the Coverdrive controller normally. CDSidekick Pro is a companion; Coverdrive can still operate standalone.

2. Connect the Radio and Coverdrive

RADIO (via Omni-Rig): Select RIG 1 or RIG 2 as required. The panel shows RX frequency, TX frequency, mode, VFO and band. Use the Omni-Rig button when Omni-Rig setup needs to be opened.

CONNECTION STATUS: Select the correct COM port and baud rate for the Coverdrive USB-to-TTL link, then use the ON button. RADIO should show ONLINE and COVERDRIVE should show CONNECTED / ONLINE when both links are working.

3. Coverdrive Control / Status

Display / Control	What it means
RADIO LIMITS / BAND LIMITS	Shows the active frequency limits and the corresponding stepper-position limits.
CURRENT POSITION	Current Coverdrive stepper position.
VFO / ENCODER TRACKING	Indicates that radio/VFO tracking is active.
CW / CCW controls	Manual Coverdrive movement. Follow the on-screen Frequency MHz and CAP direction labels.
SYSTEM STATUS	Shows motor state, antenna, operating band/radio state and dynamic status.
BAND EDGE PROTECTION	Shows LOW LIMIT, CURRENT POS, NBA STATUS and HIGH LIMIT against the safety-zone bar.

4. VFO Control

The VFO CONTROL panel provides a convenient second tuning interface. The large display follows the radio frequency. Use the - / + controls to change the tuning step, and DOWN / UP or the knob/mouse interaction to tune. The selected step is shown beneath the knob.

5. Band Edge Protection / NBA

Watch this panel when moving near either end of the loop range. LOW LIMIT is shown at the left edge and HIGH LIMIT at the right edge. CURRENT POS shows where the stepper is now. NBA STATUS indicates the Near Band-edge Alert state; when NBA becomes active, treat it as a warning that the controller is approaching an end limit.

6. Normal Operating Sequence

1. Open CDSidekick Pro.
2. Confirm the radio is ONLINE through Omni-Rig.
3. Select the Coverdrive COM port and baud rate, then connect it.
4. Confirm COVERDRIVE shows CONNECTED / ONLINE.
5. Tune the radio normally or use the VFO CONTROL panel. Monitor Coverdrive position and band-edge status as required.
6. CDSidekick Pro may be minimized once the links are established; Coverdrive continues to retain its standalone controller responsibilities.

7. Quick Troubleshooting

Symptom	Check
RADIO not ONLINE	Check Omni-Rig, the selected RIG 1/RIG 2, radio power and the radio/PC interface.
COVERDRIVE not connected	Confirm the USB-to-TTL cable, COM port, baud rate and Coverdrive power, then reconnect.
Frequency/mode not changing	Confirm Omni-Rig is actually reading the radio and the correct rig is selected.
Unexpected limit warning	Check CURRENT POS, LOW/HIGH LIMIT and NBA STATUS

	before commanding more movement toward that edge.
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Important

CDSidekick Pro does not replace Coverdrive safety or tuning logic. The ESP32 Coverdrive controller remains the master for motor control, movement/tuning protection, band limits and stored controller data. The Windows application is an optional companion interface.

