



User Guide for the KAPtery SkyPod Kit

This kit can be assembled into a data logger which will save GPS coordinates (lat, lon, altitude), barometric pressure, and temperature data to a microSD card. It comes complete with everything needed to start logging data (except four AAA batteries). See color photos at <http://kaptery.com/guides/>.

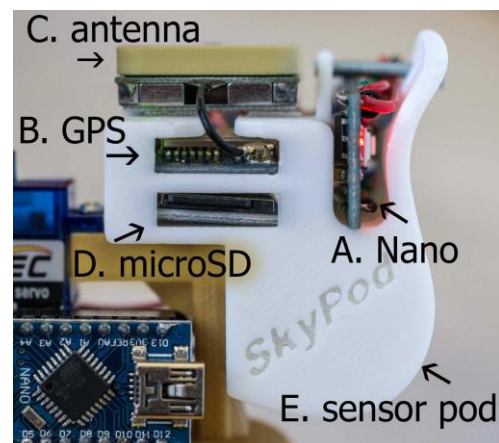
Parts List:

- u-blox NEO 7M GPS breakout board and antenna
- Arduino Nano
- microSD breakout board
- BMP280 barometric pressure and temperature sensor
- 4GB microSD card with adapter
- switched case for four AAA batteries
- 3D printed SkyPod housing
- lots of 24 awg stranded wire (various colors)
- Velcro for securing the GPS antenna to the SkyPod housing
- machine screw for securing the Nano in its slot
- 2 screws for attaching the housing to a camera rig
- cotter pin to secure the GPS and SD boards to the housing
- cotton ball for closing the sensor pod

Assembly:

Follow the wiring diagram to connect the PCBs with the included wires. To start, place the PCBs into the SkyPod housing to determine how long each wire should be.

- A. The Arduino Nano has the USB port toward the back (not shown), but it will work either way.
- B. The GPS board must have the wire connection holes toward the back.
- C. The GPS antenna is attached to the top of the housing with adhesive-backed Velcro.
- D. The microSD board has a connection header at the back and the SD card can be accessed from the front of the housing (press to release).
- E. Sensors are inserted from the open back of the sensor pod.



Soldering tips:

Place the four PCBs in their proper slots to determine how long each wire should be. Extra wire can loop around behind the SkyPod housing, so the lengths do not have to be exact, but make sure they are long enough to allow each PCB to be inserted properly.

There are no header pins on the Nano or GPS board and wires should be soldered directly to the holes in the PCBs. Insert and solder all wires on the top side of the Nano and trim the wire ends if needed after soldering to improve the fit in the housing. Header pins are present on the microSD board and wires can be soldered to the pins. Use the included heat shrink tubing on each pin to cover the exposed metal.

Two or three of the pin holes on the Nano (5V, GND, and/or the other GND) will have more than one wire soldered to them. Heat shrink tubing is included to use if you make a Y splitter or two.

Wires connected to the Nano must be bent close to the PCB so it will fit into the housing.

Assembly tips:

The SkyPod housing can be attached to the corner of a camera rig with two small screws. Use a small Phillips head screwdriver with a long, thin shaft. This must be done before the printed circuit boards (PCBs) are mounted in the housing, so you can wait until the PCBs are soldered together to make it easier to refer to the housing while soldering. With the wired PCBs removed, screw the housing to the rig.

Cover the bottom of the GPS antenna with adhesive backed Velcro. Adhere strips of mating Velcro on either side of the slot on top of the housing for attaching the antenna. The antenna must be plugged in to the GPS PCB before the PCB is carefully slid into the housing.

When the GPS and microSD PCBs are in place, a cotter pin (included) can be inserted into a hole in the top of the housing down through holes in the front corner of both PCBs. This will lock the PCBs in place.

To hold the Nano in place, insert the flathead machine screw so it passes over the Nano and threads into the hole in the plastic tab at the top of the housing. Take care not to strip the threads.

A cotton ball is included for plugging the opening to the sensor pod. This can prevent wind from introducing noise to the pressure and temperature data.

Power:

The Arduino Nano can be powered with 6 to 12 volts. Four AAA batteries supply ample power for several hours of logging data.

Testing:

A sketch has been loaded onto the Nano. When the SkyPod components are connected properly, they will start logging data as soon as the power is turned on. It will take a couple of minutes for the GPS to find satellites and start providing real location data. A clear view of the sky is required to get signals from the satellites.

Data from the GPS and from the pressure/temperature sensor will be saved to the microSD card about every four seconds. To check operation, turn off the power, remove the microSD card, and use a computer to examine the contents of the file named "gpsbmp.txt." An adapter is included to allow use of a standard SD card slot.

Modifying the sketch:

To edit the sketch, a copy can be downloaded here: <http://kaptery.com/guides/>. You will need the Arduino IDE or web based editor, both available free here: <https://www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software>. To load your new sketch onto the Arduino Nano, a cable to connect the mini-USB port on the Nano to your computer is required.