

X-NA-E Series User's Manual

Micro linear actuators with built-in controllers and motor encoders



Disclaimer

Zaber's devices are not intended for use in any critical medical, aviation, or military applications or situations where a product's use or failure could cause personal injury, death, or damage to property. Zaber disclaims any and all liability for injury or other damages resulting from the use of our products.

Precautions

Zaber's motion control devices are precision instruments and must be handled with care. In particular, moving parts must be treated with care. Avoid axial loads in excess of the rated thrust load, axial and radial impact, dust and other contaminants and damage to the drive components. These will reduce the performance of the device below stated specifications.

Conventions used throughout this document

- Fixed width type indicates communication to and from a device. The ↵ symbol indicates a carriage return, which can be achieved by pressing enter when using a terminal program.
- An **ASCII command** followed by (T:xx) indicates a legacy T-Series **Binary Protocol** command that achieves the same result. For example,

`move abs 10000 (T:20:10000)` shows that a move abs ASCII command can also be achieved with Binary command number 20.

Not all ASCII commands have an equivalent Binary counterpart.

Quick Tutorial

We recommend using **Zaber Console** to communicate with the device(s). For other software options, see the **Software** page. Please refer to the **Protocol Manual** for more detailed information on the available commands.

Initial Set-up



ORDER OF CONNECTORS AND KNOB LOCATION
MAY VARY BETWEEN DEVICES

1. Daisy chain all integrated devices together using the RS-232 "Prev" and "Next" connectors (see [Daisy-Chaining Devices](#) for more details). Next, supply power to one or more devices. Many products share power through the daisy-chain cables. The power indicator on each should light up.
2. Turn the knob to move a device. Most devices will only move in one direction until they reach a home sensor at one limit of travel. Then they will move in both directions over full travel.
3. Download and install [Zaber Console](#). Start Zaber Console and select the communications port the first controller is connected to. For instructions on how to find the available communication ports on your system, please refer to: [Appendix A - Available Communications Ports](#).
4. From the Console, issue a [renumber \(T:2\)](#) command to all devices (Zaber Console may prompt you to do this also). The first device in the chain (closest to the computer) will become Device 1, the next will become Device 2, and so on.

Initialization

Every time the device is powered up or reset, the device should be returned to the home position. This is achieved by sending the [home \(T:1\)](#) command to the individual unit or all units. Until this is done, most devices will only allow motion in one direction, towards the sensor.

If it is not possible in your application to home the device after every power-up, see the [tools parking \(T:65\)](#) command. Parking allows the device to be turned off and then used at a later time without first having to home the axes.

Using the Device

Several commonly used ASCII commands and their Binary equivalents, are shown below. For a full list of available commands, please refer to the [Protocol Manual](#).

Command	Description
/1 1 get pos (T:60)	Query the current position of Device #1 Axis #1.

<pre>/1 1 move abs 10000 ↓ (T:20:10000)</pre>	Move Device #1, Axis #1 to position 10000 microsteps.
<pre>/2 1 move rel -12800↓ (T:21:-12800)</pre>	Move Device #2, Axis #1 in the negative direction by 12800 microsteps.
<pre>/1 stop↓ (T:23)</pre>	Decelerate and stop ALL axes on Device 1. An axis number of 0 or no axis number implies all axes on the device, or the device itself.
<pre>/move vel 153600 ↓ (T:22:153600)</pre>	Move ALL devices and ALL axes in the positive direction at the speed 153600. A device address of 0 or no device address implies all devices in the chain.

Modifying Device Settings

Here are some examples if you would like to customize particular device settings. Refer to the [Protocol Manual](#) for detailed descriptions of each setting.

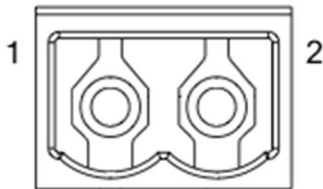
Command	Description
<pre>/1 set maxspeed 100000↓ (T:42:100000)</pre>	Set the speed of all axes on the device.
<pre>/1 get maxspeed↓(T:53:42)</pre>	Query the axes' speed.
<pre>/1 system restore↓ (T:36)</pre>	Restore all the settings of Device 1 to the default.

Device Overview

Connectors

All images are shown looking into the device.

Power

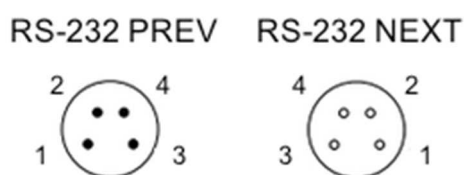


Pin Description

- 1 24 - 48V
- 2 GND (Note: Zaber's power supplies ground this pin to AC Earth)

Note: To prevent damage to the device due to static buildup, the device should be properly grounded. The power supplies Zaber provides for X-Series devices are non-isolated and thus ground the device chassis to Earth via the negative terminal of the power supply. If for any reason you are using an isolated power supply, please ensure your device is grounded by connecting the negative terminal of the power connector to AC Earth.

RS-232 Communications



Pin	Previous	Next
1	Power	Power
2	Ground	Ground
3	Receive	Transmit
4	Transmit	Receive

Default Settings:

- Baud Rate: 115200

- Protocol: Zaber ASCII

Specifications

- Supported Protocols: Zaber ASCII, Zaber Binary
- Supported Baudrates: 9600, 19200, 38400, 57600, 115200
- Bits: 8
- Parity: None
- Stop Bits: 1
- Flow Control: None

Indicators

Green - Power

- On: Controller is operational.
- Blinking at 2Hz: The power supply voltage or device temperature is out of range.
- Fading in and out slowly: The device is parked. See the [tools parking \(T:65\)](#) command.

Red - Error

- On/blinking: Device has lost its settings, or an error has occurred. Please contact [Zaber Technical Support](#).

Yellow - Communication/Busy

- On: Device is moving, or data is being transferred.
- Blinking: Device is under manual control via the knob (in Velocity mode). The blinking rate is proportional to movement speed.
- Blinking at fixed rate: Packet corruption has occurred for ASCII commands sent with a checksum.

Blue - Slip/Stall

- On devices without encoders, the blue LED will turn on briefly at power-up, system reset, and after a manual factory reset.

Installation

The X-NA-E can be connected to a computer as follows:

1. Either plug the M8 to D-SUB serial adaptor ([X-SDC](#)) into the computer's serial port, or the M8 to USB adaptor ([X-USBDC](#)) into one of your computer's USB ports, then attach the device to the adaptor. For the USB adaptor, new computers will often be able to install the necessary drivers automatically when the cable is plugged in for the first time. If the computer reports that the driver installation was unsuccessful, you can download the drivers for Windows, Mac, or Linux [here](#). Installation instructions and troubleshooting information are available for each operating system [here](#). You may need to use a cable extension to reach your computer. There is no need to power-down or reboot the computer.
2. Connect the power plug of your power supply to the power connector of the unit. The green LED should light up indicating the unit has power.

3. Additional devices can simply be daisy-chained to the first. See [Daisy-Chaining Devices](#) below.
4. Install software from the [Software](#) page. For the initial setup, using [Zaber Console](#) is recommended.



As a simple first test, try entering:

```
/renumber ↵ (T:2)  
/1 home ↵ (T:1)  
/1 move rel 10000 ↵ (T:21:10000)
```

The parameter of 10000 in the move command above specifies 10000 microsteps. To see the microstep size (default resolution) for the device and how it translates to displacement, first go to the [product overview](#) page, find your device, click through to the device's webpage, and click on the "Series Specs" tab. The microstep size (default resolution) will be shown in the list of product specs either in the "Group Specifications" section or the "Comparison" section.

Daisy-Chaining Devices

Multiple devices can be connected together in a chain through the Prev and Next connectors. This allows any number of devices to be controlled from a single connection to a computer, reducing cabling demands. In addition, X-Series devices carry power through the daisy chain, so in most cases a power supply only needs to be connected to one device in the chain. Whenever a device is added or removed from a chain, a [renumber \(T:2\)](#) command should be sent to prevent device-address conflicts.



To daisy-chain X-Series devices with T-Series and A-Series devices:

- Ensure all devices are set to the same communication protocol and baud rate before connecting them. If any T-Series devices will be in the chain, then the communication protocol must be Binary at 9600 baud rate.
- Connect any X-Series devices at the start of the chain (closest to the computer). This configuration will reduce the number of adaptor cables required.
- Connect a **T-XDC** (or **S-XDC** for daisy-chaining an A-MCB2) adaptor cable to the Next port of the last X-Series device in the chain, and to the Prev port of the T-Series or A-Series device.
- Power supplied to an X-Series device will not be transmitted to any T-Series or A-Series devices in the chain.
- Contact **Zaber Technical Support** for assistance selecting connecting cables when daisy-chaining multiple series.

Manual Control

Most X-Series motion control products have an integrated, depressible knob with 20 detents per revolution, allowing devices to be controlled without the use of a computer. There are two manual movement modes available: Velocity and Displacement. Switch between these modes by holding down the knob for 1 second or by configuring the **knob.mode** (T:109) setting.

On power-up, the device will only travel towards the motor from its start-up position until the home position is reached. Once the device has been homed, the full range of travel becomes available.

Velocity Mode

Turn the knob clockwise to move the device in the positive direction (extend) or counter-clockwise for negative direction (retract). Each detent of the knob increases the speed of the carriage.

There are 16 speeds in each direction. The velocity profile and maximum speed can be configured via the **knob.speedprofile** (T:112) and **knob.maxspeed** (T:111) settings. The device stops and resets the knob upon arriving at the end of travel.

Displacement Mode

Turn the knob clockwise to move the device in the positive direction (extend), counter-clockwise for negative direction (retract). Each detent of the knob moves the device a fixed number of microsteps, specified by the **knob.distance (T:110)** setting. If **knob.distance (T:110)** is set to 0, each detent of the knob will move to the next index position, similar to **move index (T:78)** movements. The device moves at the speed specified by the **maxspeed (T:42)** setting, or the slower of **maxspeed (T:42)** and **limit.approach.maxspeed (T:41)** if the device has not been homed. If there are fewer than **knob.distance (T:110)** microsteps to the end of travel and another move is requested, the device will move to the end of travel and then stop.

Summary of knob functionality

- Turning the knob:
 - Moves the device in the direction of knob turn.
- Pressing the knob:
 - Decelerates and stops the device (identical to a **stop (T:23)** command).
 - Instantly stops the device, if the device is already decelerating.
- Pressing and holding the knob for 1 sec:

Toggles between Velocity Mode and Displacement Mode.

Trajectory Control and Behaviour

This section describes the behaviour of the device trajectory when a movement command is issued.

Software Position Limits

The travel range of the device is limited by the Minimum Position and Maximum Position settings. The factory settings for the devices are configured to match the physical travel range. If a customized range is desired, it can be changed by configuring the **limit.min (T:106)** and **limit.max (T:44)** settings to appropriate values.

Minimum Position

When the Current Position is less than the Minimum Position value, the device cannot move in the negative direction (towards the motor).

Maximum Position

When the Current Position is greater than the Maximum Position value, the device cannot move in the positive direction (towards the motor).

Movement Speed

The movement speed of the device depends on device status and various speed settings. If the device has not been initialized by the **home (T:1)** command or by moving towards the home end of the device, movement speed will be constrained to fail-safe values. The home status of the device can be determined by reading the **limit.home.triggered(T:53:103)** setting.

Movement speed of the device is specified below:

move vel (T:22)

The device will move at the specified speed regardless of home status.

Knob movement in Velocity Mode

The device will move at the specified speed regardless of home status.

The speed is specified by the `knob.speedprofile` (T:112) and `knob.maxspeed` (T:111) settings.

Other movement commands - when the device has not been homed

The device will move at the slower of the `maxspeed` (T:42) and `limit.approach.maxspeed` (T:41) settings.

Other movement commands - when the device has been homed

The device will move at the speed specified by the `maxspeed` (T:42) setting.

Troubleshooting X-Series Motion Devices

The following sections contain tips for troubleshooting common problems. If the device is unable to communicate, and it is operating erratically, a manual factory reset can be performed through the following steps. Note that this will reset most settings.

1. Power Off the device
2. Push and hold the knob for the first Axis (if applicable)
3. Power On the device
4. Continue to hold the knob in until the blue LED is lit (~5 seconds), then release.

The device has been returned to its factory defaults and can be configured as per the steps in [Initial Setup](#).

Front Panel Indicators

Green LED On

The device is powered on and is operating normally.

Green LED Fades In and Out

The device is parked.

Issue a `tools parking unpark(T:65:0)` command, or `home` (T:1) the device.

Green LED Flashes Slowly

The operating conditions of the device are outside of the recommended range.

This will occur when the supply voltage is either over or under the recommended range, the internal temperature has exceeded the set limit, or the driver has been disabled. Check the following:

- The input voltage is within the operational range of the device. This can be read from the device with the `get system.voltage` command.
- The device temperature is within range. This can be read from the device with the `get system.temperature` command.
- The driver is not disabled. If the driver is disabled the result of the `warnings` command will contain the FD flag.

Green LED Off

The device is not powered.

Check the supply connections and power adaptor for correct operation.

Red LED On or Flashing.

A critical error has occurred.

Please contact [Zaber Technical Support](#).

Yellow LED Always Off or Flashes but No Reply.

There are communication errors.

Please see the [Communication Errors](#) section below.

Manual Control

Turning the knob either way results in no movement

The knob may have been disabled.

Check that the [knob.enable \(T:107\)](#) setting is correct.

Restore the default parameters through the [system restore \(T:36\)](#) command.

The device won't cover the full range of travel.

The device hasn't been homed.

Turn the knob anti-clockwise until the device reaches the fully retracted position (closest to the motor). The device will home and the full range of travel available.

Unexpected Behaviour

The device doesn't respond to a move command.

The device needs to be homed before use.

Send the [home \(T:1\)](#) command.

The device is moving on its own and running against the ends of travel.

The position encoder has de-synchronized.

Reset the device by power cycling it or sending the [system reset \(T:0\)](#) command, then re-initialize it with the [home \(T:1\)](#) command.

The device is moving very slowly. It used to move faster.

The speed settings may have been changed inadvertently.

Send a [system restore \(T:36\)](#) command.

The device makes louder than normal noise during travel and is frequently slipping.

This condition happens if the thrust needed is more than the thrust available from the device.

Check the following:

- The force on the device is less than the maximum thrust.
- The voltage matches the specified voltage. Read the voltage using the [get system.voltage](#) command. Voltage less than the specified voltage for the device will reduce the device's maximum thrust.

Test the following:

- Try a slower target velocity. Stepper motors produce more thrust when moving slowly.
- Try a lower acceleration and deceleration.
- Clean the screw and lightly re-grease it with a grease that does not degrade plastics.

The device has repeatability errors smaller than 4 full steps.

If steps aren't being skipped, friction or loose parts may still cause some variation when returning to a position.

Please contact [Zaber Technical Support](#).

The device doesn't cover the full range of travel, or runs into the end.

A setting might have been inadvertently changed.

- [home \(T:1\)](#) the device to see if this corrects the behaviour.
- Send a [system restore \(T:36\)](#) command.

The device's motor unexpectedly shuts off. An FD flag is present.

The motor over-temperature protection switch has been tripped. This sensor will trip if the device's maximum continuous thrust specification is exceeded for too long. To prevent this condition from occurring again, reduce the average force that the motor outputs by reducing acceleration, reducing the load, or lowering the duty cycle.

Send a **driver enable** command. The device does not require homing.

Communication Errors

There is no communication with the device; the Yellow LED does not come on or flash.

There are several things that should be checked:

- Make sure the correct serial port is selected. Try selecting other serial ports in the software.
- Check the baud rate, hand shaking, parity, stop bit, etc. when configuring the serial communications software. The required settings are listed in the [RS-232 Communications](#) section above.
- Make sure there are no bent pins in the ends of all the data cables
- Make sure the device is powered. The Green LED should be on.
- If the computer is a laptop running on batteries, try plugging in the power. Some laptops disable the serial ports when running on batteries.
- Make sure a null modem adaptor or cable is not being used.
- Make sure the correct adaptors(if any) are being used. Refer to the pinouts in the [RS-232 Communications](#) section above.
- If the problem was encountered when trying to control the device with custom software, try using one of the demo programs from the Zaber website to verify that the hardware is functioning properly.

Two or more devices both respond to commands sent to device 1.

Most devices are shipped with their device number set as 1. If you connect the devices through Zaber Console, you will be prompted to renumber them. If you aren't able to install and open Zaber Console, send the **renumber (T:2)** command in the software you are using to set all of the device numbers to different values.

The Yellow LED comes on briefly when sending a command, but the device does not move and does not reply.

Check baud rate, hand shaking, parity, stop bit, etc. are set as per the [RS-232 Communications](#) defaults.

The device numbers may not be what is expected, issue a **renumber (T:2)** command. Make sure that the computer does not transmit anything else while the devices renumber.

If using the Binary Protocol, check the following:

- 6 bytes are transmitted and that the device number and command are valid.
- The software does not transmit any control characters such as line feed and spaces.
- That the serial port is not configured with a termination character (it often defaults to linefeed).

If problems are encountered when using custom software, try using one of the demo programs from the Zaber website to verify that the hardware works.

The device does not behave as expected when software sends it a series of commands.

The computer might be set to Unicode. This is common for languages that use non-Latin based characters. Go to Control Panel/Regional and Language Options/Advanced. Select a language for non-unicode programs. This should be English or another Latin based character language.

Check what is being sent out of the serial port. stackoverflow.com has a list of some tools to monitor serial ports.

In Binary mode, the device does not send replies but otherwise works.

Auto-reply might have been disabled via [T:101](#).

Send a [system restore \(T:36\)](#) command.

If the problem is encountered when trying to control the device with custom software:

- Use a demo program from the Zaber website to verify that the hardware is functioning properly.
- Make sure that the receiving part of the code or commercial package is correct.
- Check the serial port settings are correct.
- Check connectors for bent or broken pins.

In Binary mode, the device sometimes returns fewer than 6 bytes.

This typically indicates a problem with the serial port settings. Some serial ports are set to automatically recognize and remove specific control characters such as carriage returns when they appear in the RS-232 receive buffer.

Check that the settings are correct and are not removing or replacing characters.

Slipping and Stalling

The device makes noise but does not move.

The device is stalling.

Try removing all external loads. If the device now extends and retracts normally, the problem is excessive load. Try to reduce the load and ensure the load is less than the maximum thrust. A higher thrust or torque can be achieved by lowering the speed of the device using the [maxspeed \(T:42\)](#) setting.

If a device is stalling with no external load at default speed and acceleration settings then it requires servicing.

Warranty and Repair

For Zaber's policies on warranty and repair, please refer to the [Ordering Policies](#).

Standard products

Standard products are any part numbers that do not contain the suffix ENG followed by a 4 digit number. Most, but not all, standard products are listed for sale on our website. All standard Zaber products are backed by a one-month satisfaction guarantee. If you are not satisfied with your purchase, we will refund your payment minus any shipping charges. Goods must be in brand new saleable condition with no marks. Zaber products are guaranteed for one year. During this period Zaber will repair any products with faults due to manufacturing defects, free of charge.

Custom products

Custom products are any part numbers containing the suffix ENG followed by a 4 digit number. Each of these products has been designed for a custom application for a particular customer. Custom products are guaranteed for one year, unless explicitly stated otherwise. During this period Zaber will repair any products with faults due to manufacturing defects, free of charge.

How to return products

Customers with devices in need of return or repair should contact Zaber to obtain an RMA form which must be filled out and sent back to us to receive an RMA number. The RMA form contains instructions for packing and returning the device. The specified RMA number must be included on the shipment to ensure timely processing.

Email Updates

If you would like to receive our periodic email newsletter including product updates and promotions, please sign up online at www.zaber.com ([news section](#)). Newsletters typically include a promotional offer worth at least \$100.

Contact Information

Contact Zaber Technologies Inc by any of the following methods:

Phone	1-604-569-3780 (direct) 1-888-276-8033 (toll free in North America)
Fax	1-604-648-8033
Mail	#2 - 605 West Kent Ave. N., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6P 6T7
Web	www.zaber.com
Email	Please visit our website for up to date email contact information.

The original instructions for this product are available at <https://www.zaber.com/manuals/X-NA-E>.

Appendix A - Available Communications Ports

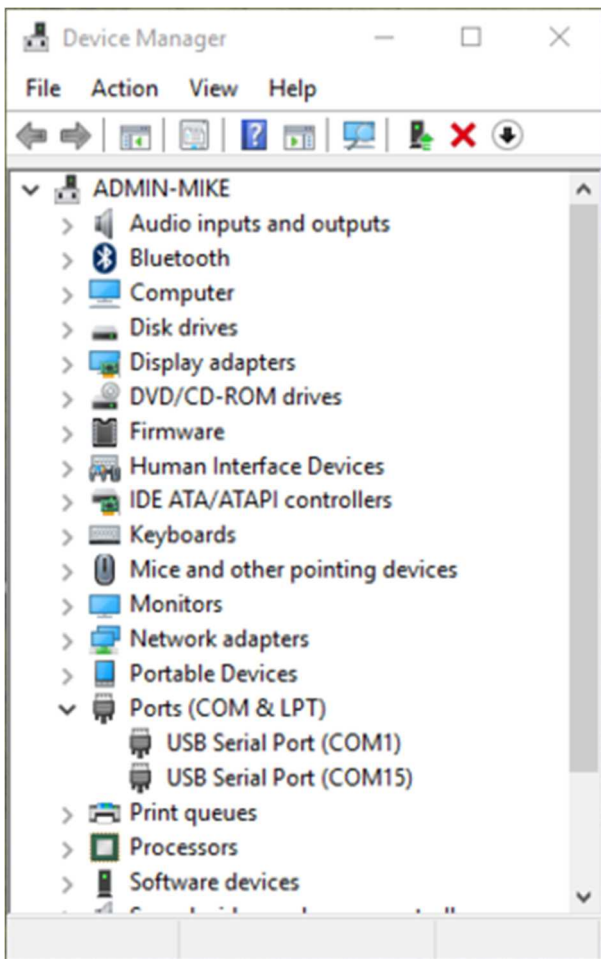
Finding Installed Serial Ports

Windows

1. Open Search or Run from the Start Menu or Taskbar, type "Device Manager" and press enter.



2. Expand the Ports (COM & LPT) category.



- In this example there are two serial ports available (COM1 and COM15), which are both USB adaptors.

Linux

1. Finding devices

- Open a terminal and execute the following command:

```
dmesg | grep -E ttyU\S
```

- The response will be similar to the following:

```
[ 2.029214] serial8250: ttyS0 at I/O 0x3f8 (irq = 4) is a 16550A
```

```
[ 2.432572] 00:07: ttyS0 at I/O 0x3f8 (irq = 4) is a 16550A
```

```
[ 2.468149] 0000:00:03.3: ttyS4 at I/O 0xec98 (irq = 17) is a 16550A
```

```
[ 13.514432] usb 7-2: FTDI USB Serial Device converter now attached to ttyUSB0
```

- This shows that there are 3 serial ports available: ttyS0, ttyS4 and ttyUSB0 (a USB adaptor)

2. Checking port permissions

- Using the ports found above, execute the following command

```
ls -l /dev/tty{S0, S4, USB0}
```

- The permissions, given below, show that a user has to be root or a member of the dialout group to be able to access these devices

```
crw-rw---- 1 root dialout 4, 64 Oct 31 06:44 /dev/ttyS0
```

```
crw-rw---- 1 root dialout 4, 68 Oct 31 06:45 /dev/ttyS4
```

```
crw-rw---- 1 root dialout 188, 0 Oct 31 07:58 /dev/ttyUSB0
```

3. Checking group membership

```
groups↵
```

- The output will be similar to the following:
adm cdrom sudo dip plugdev users lpadmin sambashare
Notice that dialout is not in the list
- A user can be added to the dialout group with the following command

```
sudo adduser $USER dialout↵
```

- Group membership will not take effect until the next logon.

OSX

1. Finding devices

- Open a terminal and execute the following command:

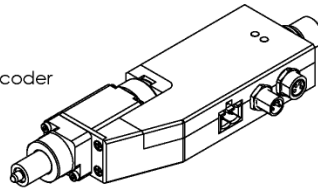
```
ls /dev/cu.*serial*
```

- The response will be similar to the following:
/dev/cu.usbserial-FTB3QAET
/dev/cu.usbserial-FTEJJ1YW
- This shows that there are two serial ports available, both of which happen to be USB adaptors.
- There may be other devices that match this query, such as keyboards or some web cameras. To determine which one corresponds to your USB serial cable, try repeating the command with and without the cable connected to the computer, to see which one appears and disappears.

Product Drawing

ZABER

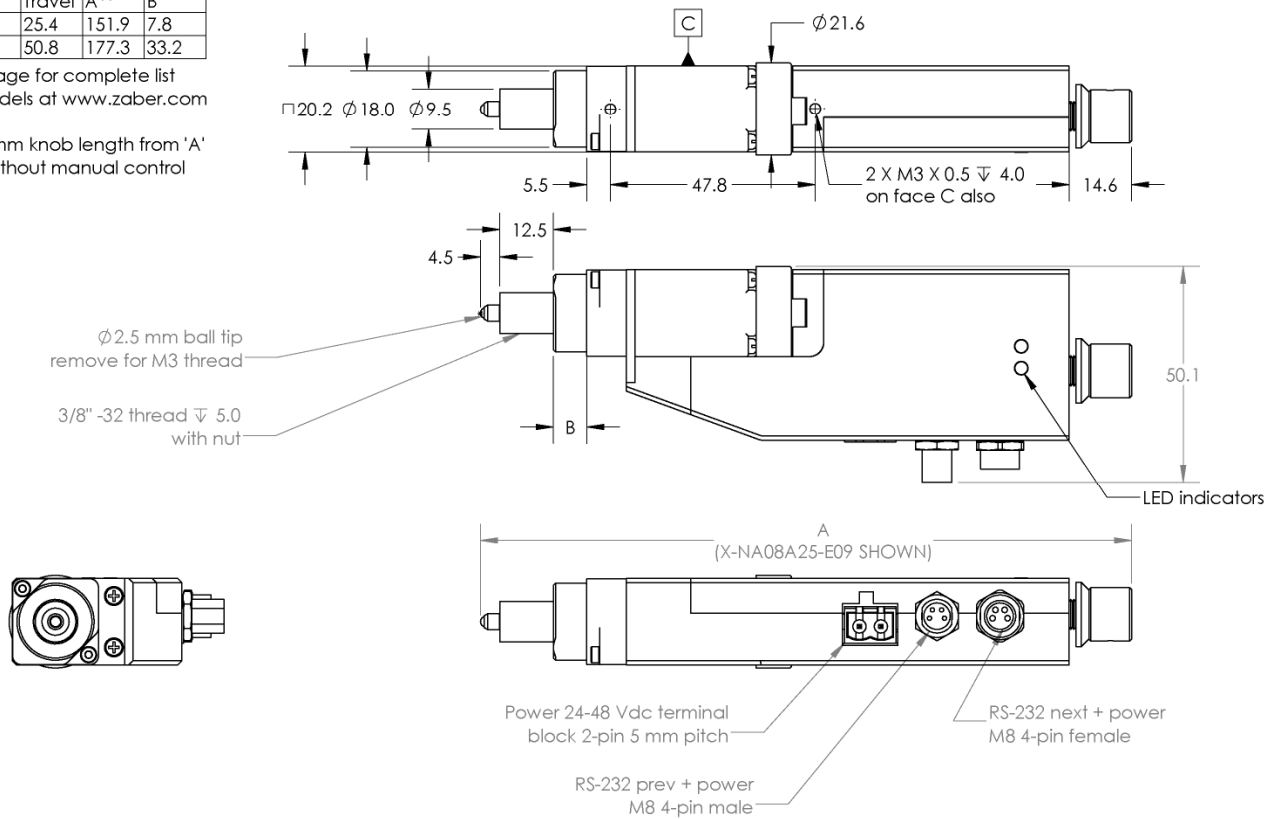
X-NA-E Micro Linear Actuator With Built-In Controller And Encoder
dimensions in mm



Model Number*	Travel	A**	B
X-NA08A25-E09	25.4	151.9	7.8
X-NA08A50-E09	50.8	177.3	33.2

*See product page for complete list of available models at www.zaber.com

**Subtract 13.1mm knob length from 'A' for -S versions without manual control



DWG 1935 R02B

Specifications

Specification	Value	Alternate Unit
Microstep Size (Default Resolution)	0.047625 μ m	
Built-in Controller	Yes	
Repeatability	< 1 μ m	< 0.000039 "
Backlash	< 15 μ m	< 0.000591 "
Maximum Speed	30 mm/s	1.181 "/s
Minimum Speed	0.000029 mm/s	0.000001 "/s
Speed Resolution	0.000029 mm/s	0.000001 "/s
Encoder Resolution	250 CPR	1000 states/rev
Encoder Type	Rotary quadrature encoder	
Peak Thrust	25 N	5.6 lb
Communication Interface	RS-232	
Communication Protocol	Zaber ASCII (Default), Zaber Binary	
Maximum Current Draw	180 mA	
Power Supply	24-48 VDC	
Power Plug	2-pin screw terminal	
Motor Steps Per Rev	200	
Motor Type	Stepper (2 phase)	
Motor Rated Current	240 mA/phase	

Specification	Value	Alternate Unit
Inductance	1.5 mH/phase	
Default Resolution	1/64 of a step	
Data Cable Connection	Locking 4-pin M8	
Mechanical Drive System	Precision lead screw	
Limit or Home Sensing	Magnetic hall sensor	
Axes of Motion	1	
LED Indicators	Yes	
Mounting Interface	3/8-32 nut, 3/8" shank, or M3 screws	
Operating Temperature Range	0 to 50 °C	
Vacuum Compatible	No	
RoHS Compliant	Yes	
CE Compliant	Yes	

Comparison

Part Number	Travel Range	Accuracy (unidirectional)	Manual Control	Weight
X-NA08A25-E09	25.4 mm (1.000 ")	40 µm (0.001575 ")	Yes	0.18 kg (0.397 lb)
X-NA08A25-SE09	25.4 mm (1.000 ")	40 µm (0.001575 ")	No	0.18 kg (0.397 lb)
X-NA08A50-E09	50.8 mm (2.000 ")	55 µm (0.002165 ")	Yes	0.20 kg (0.441 lb)
X-NA08A50-SE09	50.8 mm (2.000 ")	55 µm (0.002165 ")	No	0.20 kg (0.441 lb)

Charts and Notes

Thrust Speed Performance

