

# SITEX<sup>®</sup>



## VECTOR COMPACT GPS COMPASS

NMEA-0183 Version

### **GPS Compass User Guide**

Part No. 875-0346-0 Rev. A1

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and
- (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

**Patents**

SI-TEX GNSS products may be covered by one or more of the following patents:

<u>U.S. Patents</u>					<u>Australia Patents</u>
6111549	6876920	7400956	8000381	8214111	2002244539
6397147	7142956	7429952	8018376	8217833	2002325645
6469663	7162348	7437230	8085196	8265826	2004320401
6501346	7277792	7460942	8102325	8271194	
6539303	7292185	7689354	8138970	8307535	
6549091	7292186	7808428	8140223	8311696	
6711501	7373231	7835832	8174437	8334804	
6744404	7388539	7885745	8184050	RE41358	
6865465	7400294	7948769	8190337		

Other U.S. and foreign patents pending.

**Notice to Customers**

Contact your local dealer for technical assistance. To find the authorized dealer near you:

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## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

Overview Parts

List

## Overview

The Vector Compact™ GPS Compass is based upon SI-TEX GNSS' exclusive Crescent® and Crescent Vector™ II technology.

The Vector Compact is a complete GPS compass and position system in a single enclosure that requires only one power/data cable connection. With its serial support and ease of installation, the Vector Compact is the perfect solution for marine-based applications.

The Vector Compact is an integrated system that houses the following:

- Crescent and Crescent Vector II technology
- Dual integrated GPS antennas
- Power supply
- Single axis gyro
- Tilt sensor on each axis (X and Y axes)

The gyro and tilt sensors are present to improve system performance and to provide backup heading information in the event that a GPS heading is not available due to signal blockage.

Crescent Vector II technology supports multiple RF front ends - enabling tighter coupling of measurements from separate antennas for use in heading-based products. Users will achieve excellent accuracy and stability due to Crescent's more accurate code phase measurements, improved multipath mitigation, and fewer components.

The Vector Compact's GPS antennas are separated by 13.5 cm between their phase centers, resulting in better than 2° rms heading performance. The Vector Compact provides heading and position updates of up to 10 Hz and delivers position accuracy of better than 1.0 m 95% of the time when using differential GPS corrections from Space Based Augmentation Systems (SBAS).

The Vector Compact also features SI-TEX GNSS' exclusive COAST™ technology that enables SI-TEX GNSS receivers to utilize old differential GPS correction data for 40 minutes or more without significantly affecting the position quality. The Vector Compact is less likely to be affected by differential signal outages due to signal blockages, weak signals, or interference when using COAST.



## Parts List

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**Note:** The Vector Compact' parts comply with IEC 60945 Section 4.4: "exposed to the weather."

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The Vector Compact GPS Compass and the power/data cable (accessory item) are the only two required components

**Table 1-1: Parts list for Serial version of the Vector Compact**

Part Name	Qty	Part Number
Vector Compact GPS Compass (Serial)	1	804-0114-0
Screw Housing Caps	2	675-0173-0
Serial Cable, 5m	1	051-0372-0
Mounting Screws	2	675-1199-000#
Mounting Base	1	676-0035-0
Mounting Nut	1	676-1021-000#
Screw Housing Cap O-Rings	2	681-1066-0

This User Guide is available for download from the SI-TEX GNSS website at [www.si-tex.com](http://www.si-tex.com)

## Vector Compact GPS Compass

Chapter 1: Introduction

## **Chapter 2: Vector Compact Installation**

Mounting Location

Mounting Orientation

Mounting Options

Powering the Vector

Compact

Connecting the Vector Compact to External Devices

## **Mounting Location**

This section provides information on determining the best location for the Vector Compact.

### **GPS Reception**

When considering where to mount the Vector Compact, consider the following GPS reception recommendations:

- Ensure there is a clear view of the sky available to the Vector Compact so the GPS and SBAS satellites are not masked by obstructions that may reduce system performance.
- Since the Vector Compact computes a position based on the internal GPS antenna element, mount the Vector Compact where you desire a position with respect to the GPS antenna (located on the side of the recessed arrow on the underside of the enclosure).
- Locate any transmitting antennas away from the Vector Compact by at least several feet to ensure tracking performance is not compromised, giving you the best performance possible.
- Make sure there is enough cable length to route into the vessel to reach a breakout box or terminal strip.
- Do not locate the antenna where environmental conditions exceed those specified in Table B-5 on page 48.

### **Vector Compact Environmental Considerations**

The Vector Compact is designed to withstand harsh environmental conditions; however, adhere to the following limits when storing and using the Vector Compact:

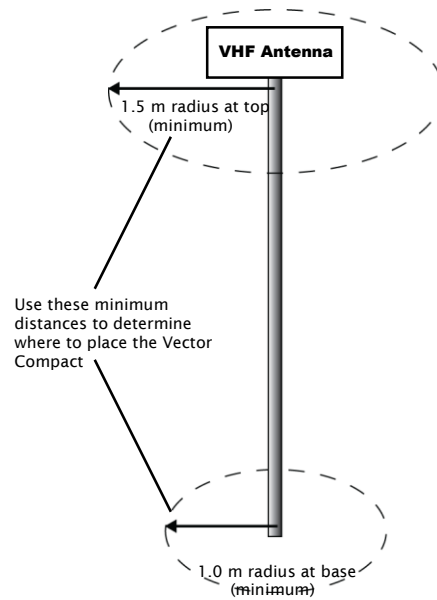
- Operating temperature: -30°C to +70°C (-22°F to +158°F).
- Storage temperature: -40°C to +85°C (-40°F to +185°F).
- Humidity: 100% non-condensing.

### **VHF Interference**

VHF interference from devices such as cellular phones and radio transmitters may interfere with GPS operation. For example, if installing the Vector Compact near marine radios consider the following:

- VHF marine radio working frequencies (Channels 1 to 28 and 84 to 88) range from 156.05 to 157.40 MHz. The L1 GPS working center frequency is 1575.42 MHz. The bandwidth is +/- 2MHz to +/- 10MHz, which is dependent on the GPS antenna and receiver design (see next page).
- VHF marine radios emit strong harmonics. The 10th harmonic of VHF radio, in some channels, falls into the GPS working frequency band, which may cause the SNR of GPS to degrade significantly.
- The radiated harmonic signal strength of different brands/models varies.
- Follow VHF radio manufacturers' recommendations on how to mount their radios and what devices to keep a safe distance away.
- Hand-held 5W VHF radios may not provide suitable filtering and may interfere with the Vector Compact's operation if too close.

Before installing the Vector Compact use the following diagram to ensure there are no nearby devices that may cause VHF interference.



**Figure 2-1: Vector Compact distance from nearby VHF radios**

## Mounting Orientation

The Vector Compact outputs heading, pitch, and roll readings regardless of the orientation of the antennas. However, the relation of the antennas to the boat's axis determines whether you will need to enter a heading, pitch, or roll bias. The primary antenna is used for position. The primary and secondary antennas, working in conjunction, output heading, pitch, and roll values.

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**Note:** Regardless of which mounting orientation you use, the Vector Compact provides the ability to output the heave of the vessel. This output is available via the \$GPHEV message. For more information on this message refer to refer to GPS Technical Reference available from the SI-TEX GNSS website at [www.SI-TEXgnss.com](http://www.SI-TEXgnss.com).

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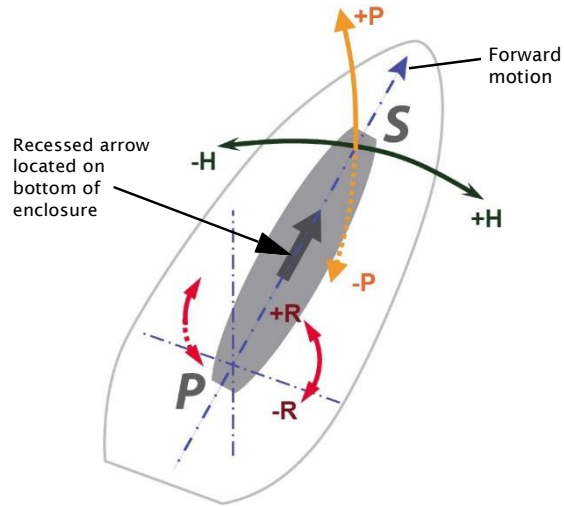
**Parallel Orientation:** The most common installation is to orient the Vector Compact parallel to, and along the centerline of, the axis of the boat. This provides a true heading. In this orientation:

- If you use a gyrocompass, you can enter a heading bias in the Vector Compact to calibrate the physical heading to the true heading of the vessel.
- You may need to adjust the pitch/roll output to calibrate the measurement if the Vector is not installed in a horizontal plane.

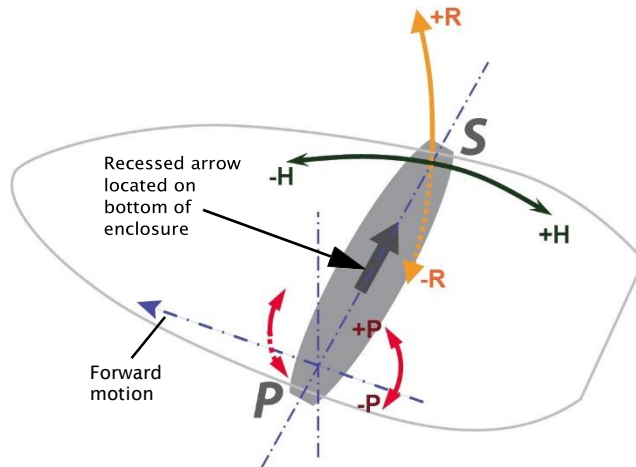
**Perpendicular Orientation:** You can also install the antennas so they are oriented perpendicular to the centerline of the boat's axis. In this orientation:

- You will need to enter a heading bias of +90° if the primary antenna is on the starboard side of the boat and -90° if the primary antenna is on the port side of the boat.
- You will need to configure the receiver to specify the GPS antennas are measuring the roll axis using \$JATT,ROLL,YES.
- You will need to enter a roll bias to properly output the pitch and roll values.
- You may need to adjust the pitch/roll output to calibrate the measurement if the Vector is not installed in a horizontal plane.

Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3 provide mounting orientation examples.



**Figure 2-2: Recommended orientation and resulting signs of HPR values**



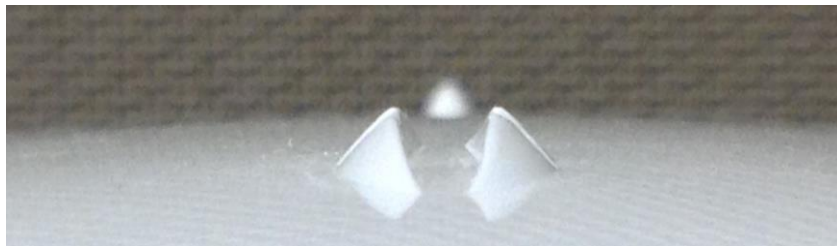
**Figure 2-3: Alternate orientation and resulting signs of HPR values**



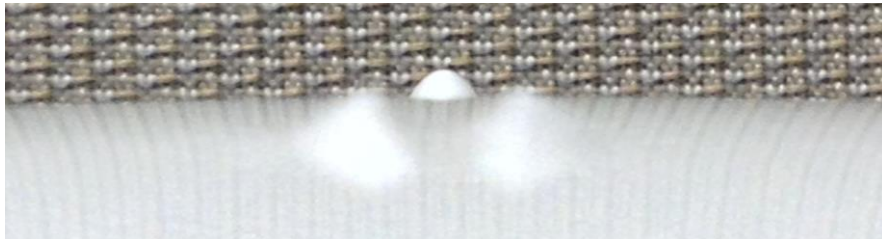
### **Vector Compact Alignment**

The top of the Vector Compact enclosure incorporates sight design features to help you align the enclosure with respect to an important feature on your vessel.

To use the sights, center the small post on the opposite side of the enclosure from you, within the channel made in the medallion located in the center of the enclosure top as shown in Figure 2-4 and Figure 2-5. Alignment accuracy when looking through the site (Figure 2-4) and (Figure 2-5) is approximately  $\pm 1^\circ$ .



**Figure 2-4: Long site alignment channel**



**Figure 2-5: Long sight alignment center post**

If you have another accurate source of heading data on your vessel, such as a gyrocompass, you may use its data to correct for a bias in Vector Compact alignment within the Vector Compact software configuration (PocketMax or VectorPC).

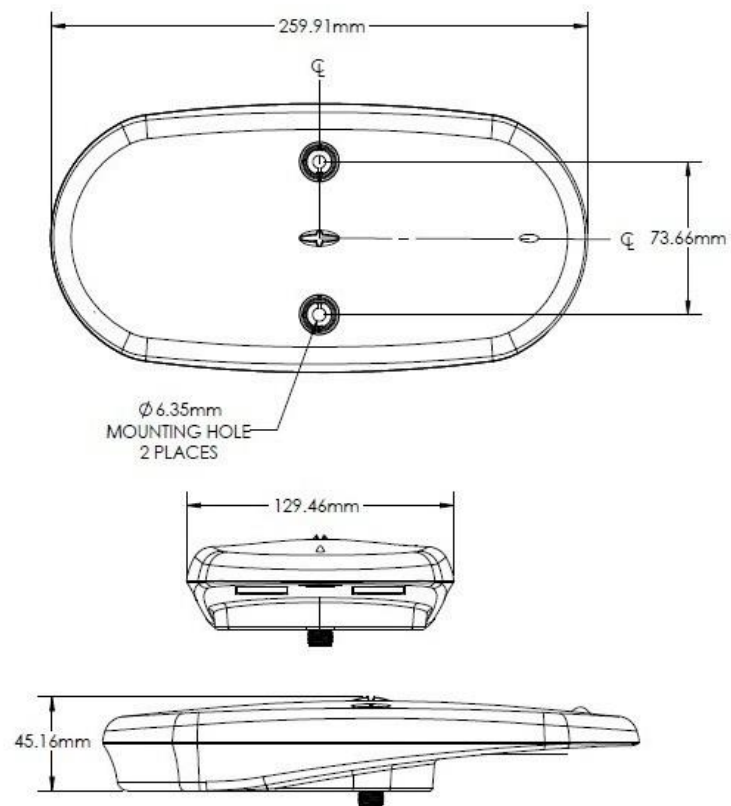
Alternatively, you can physically adjust the heading of the Vector Compact so that it renders the correct heading measurement; however, adding a software offset is an easier process.

## Mounting Options

The Vector Compact allows for both pole or flush mounting. Follow directions below for detailed mounting directions.

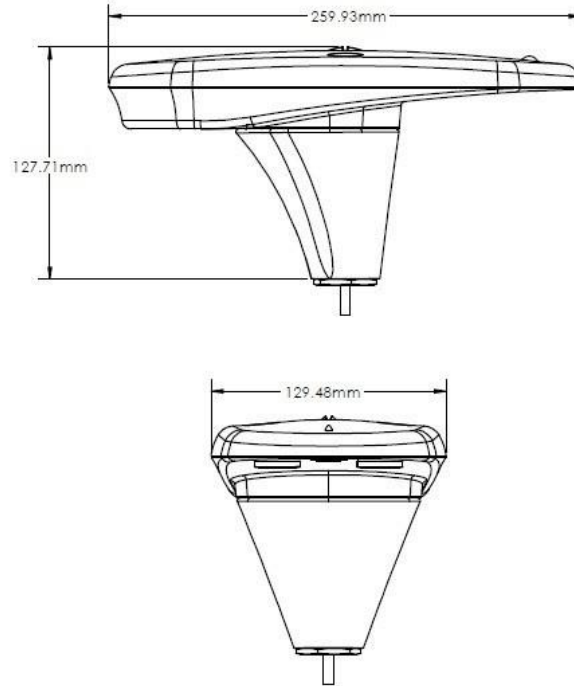
## Vector Compact Dimensions

Figure 2-6 illustrates the physical dimensions of the Vector Compact.



**Figure 2-6: Vector Compact dimensions**

Chapter 2: Installation



**Vector Compact dimensions with adapter**

### **Power/Data Cable Considerations**

Before mounting the Vector Compact consider the following regarding power/data cable routing:

- Cable must reach an appropriate power source
- Cable may connect to a data storage device, computer, or other device that accepts GPS data
- Avoid running the cable in areas of excessive heat
- Keep cable away from corrosive chemicals
- Do not run the cable through door or window jams
- Keep cable away from rotating machinery
- Do not crimp or excessively bend the cable
- Avoid placing tension on the cable
- Remove unwanted slack from the cable at the Vector Compact end
- Secure along the cable route using plastic wraps

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**▲WARNING:** Improperly installed cable near machinery can be dangerous

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### **Flush Mount**

The bottom of the Vector Compact contains two holes for flush mounting the unit to a flat surface (Figure 2-7). The flat surface may be something you fabricate per your installation, an off-the-shelf item (such as a radar mounting plate), or an existing surface on your vessel.

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**Note:** SI-TEX GNSS does not supply the mounting surface hardware. You must supply the appropriate fastening hardware required to complete the installation of the Vector Compact.

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**Figure 2-7: Flush mounting with holes in the Vector Compact**

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**Note:** You do not necessarily need to orient the antenna precisely as you can enter a software offset to accommodate for any bias in heading measurement due to installation.

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**Before flush mounting the Vector Compact**

- Determine your mounting orientation. See “Mounting Orientation” on page 9 for more information.
- Choose a location that meets the mounting location requirements.
- Using the fixed base as a template, mark and drill the mounting holes as necessary for the mounting surface.

**Flush mounting the Vector Compact**

1. Mark the mounting hole centers and connector center on the mounting surface.
2. Place the Vector Compact over the marks to ensure the planned hole centers align with the true hole centers (adjusting as necessary).
3. Use a center punch to mark the hole centers.
4. Drill the mounting holes to a diameter of 6.8mm (0.26 in) appropriate for the surface.
5. Drill the connector hole to a diameter of 28.6mm (1.13 in) appropriate for the surface.
6. Pull the cable through the center connector hole and attach the cable directly to the Vector Compact, ensuring the connector clicks.
7. Place the Vector Compact over the mounting holes and insert the mounting screws through the top of the Vector Compact and through the mounting surface.
8. Use two M6 washers and M6 nuts to secure the Vector Compact to the mounting plate (washers and nuts not included).

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**⚠ WARNING:** When installing the Vector Compact, hand tighten only. Damage resulting from over-tightening is not covered by the warranty.

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**Note:** See “Vector Compact Dimensions” on page 12 for information on routing the power/data cable.

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### **Pole Mount**



#### **Before pole mounting the Vector Compact**

- Vector Compact provides roll measurements when mounted in any preferred orientation. If accurate roll measurements are important to your use case, we recommend mounting the Vector Compact perpendicular to the vessel's axis. If roll measurements are less important, install the Vector Compact parallel with the vessel's axis.
- Choose a location that meets the mounting location requirements.
- Mark and drill the mounting holes as necessary for the threaded pole.

### **Pole mounting instructions for Vector Compact (Inside Pole)**

**Required tools:** 5 mm Allen key for M6 screws and adjustable wrench to tighten jam nut

1. Insert mating cable through both the jam nut and 1" (25.4mm) mounting adapter base
2. Place the jam nut on the pole followed by the 1" (25.4mm) adapter base. Hand tighten the base to the desired orientation.
3. Adjust the jam nut to secure the orientation.
4. Connect the mating end of the cable to the Vector Compact connector located on the bottom of the unit.
5. Insert the base adapter into Vector Compact by placing the tongue of the base into the groove of the Vector Compact unit. When the tongue is properly seated in the groove, the rest of the base can be pressed into place to create a smooth seam between the base and Vector Compact unit.
6. Use 5 mm Allen key to fasten two M6 screws to secure Vector Compact onto adapter. Use 15 in-lb torque
7. Insert each o-ring onto a plastic cap
8. Install plastic cap with o-ring onto Vector Compact unit (rectangular notch faced towards the outside)
9. Align and set the direction of Vector Compact unit, while using the jam nut to secure the unit (hand-tighten).

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**⚠ WARNING:** Over-tightening may damage the system. This is not covered under warranty.

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### **Pole mounting instructions for Vector Compact (Outside Pole)**

**Required tools:** 5 mm Allen key for M6 screws and adjustable wrench to tighten jam nut

1. Place the jam nut on the pole followed by the 1" (25.4mm) adapter base. Hand tighten the base to the desired orientation.
2. Adjust the jam nut to secure the orientation.
3. Run the cable throughout the vessel making sure to leave enough slack to mate the NMEA 2000 cable to both the NMEA 2000 backbone and the Vector Compact unit.
4. Run the NMEA 2000 cable through the opening in the side of the pole mounting adapter. And then connect the mating end of the cable to the V104 connector located on the bottom of the unit.
5. Insert the base adapter into Vector Compact by placing the tongue of the base into the groove of the Vector Compact unit. When the tongue is properly seated in the groove, the rest of the base can be pressed into place to create a smooth seam between the base and Vector Compact unit.
6. Use 5 mm Allen key to fasten two M6 screws to secure Vector Compact onto adapter. Use 15 in-lb torque
7. Insert each o-ring onto a plastic cap
8. Install plastic cap with o-ring onto Vector Compact unit (rectangular notch faced towards the outside)
9. Align and set the direction of Vector Compact unit, while using the jam nut to secure the unit (hand-tighten).

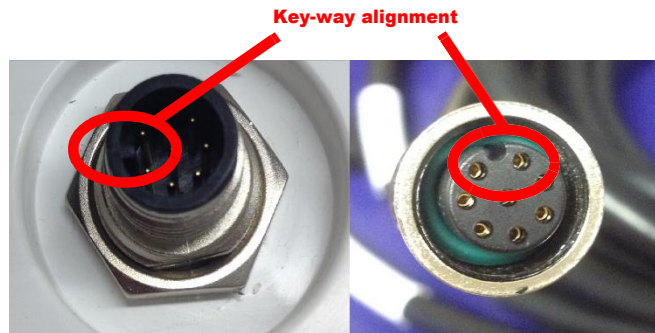
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**⚠ WARNING:** Over-tightening may damage the system. This is not covered under warranty.

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**Connecting the power/data cable**

1. Align the cable connector key-way with the Vector Compact connector key.



2. Rotate the cable ring clockwise until it locks. The locking action is firm, but you will feel a positive “click” when it has locked.

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**Note:** See “Vector Compact Dimensions” on page 12 for information on routing the power/data cable.

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## Powering the Vector Compact

### Power Considerations

For best performance use a clean and continuous power supply. The Vector Compact power supply features reverse polarity protection but will not operate with reverse polarity.

See Table B-3 on page 47 for complete power specifications.

### Connecting to a Power Source

Before you power up the Vector Compact you must terminate the wires of the power cable as required. There are a variety of power connectors and terminals on the market from which to choose, depending on your specific requirements.

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**⚠ WARNING:** Do not apply a voltage higher than 36 VDC. This will damage the receiver and void the warranty.

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To interface the Vector Compact power cable to the power source:

- Connect the red wire of the cable's power input to DC positive (+)
- Connect the black wire of the cable's power input to DC negative (-)

The Vector Compact will start when an acceptable voltage is applied to the power leads of the extension cable.

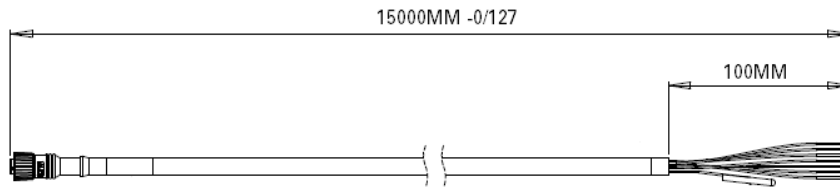
### Electrical Isolation

The Vector Compact's power supply is isolated from the communication lines and the PC-ABS plastic enclosure isolates the electronics mechanically from the vessel (addressing the issue of vessel hull electrolysis).

## Connecting the Vector Compact to External Devices

### Power/Data Cable Considerations

The Vector Compact uses a single 15 m (49 ft) cable for power and data



input/output.

**Figure 2-8: Power/data cable, 15 m**

The receiver end of the cable is terminated with an environmentally sealed 12-pin connection while the opposite end is unterminated and requires field stripping and tinning.

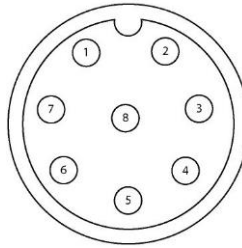
Depending on the application and installation needs, you may need to shorten this cable. However, if you require a longer cable run than 15 m, you can bring the cable into a break-out box that incorporates terminal strips, within the vessel.

When lengthening the cable keep the following in mind:

- To lengthen the serial lines inside the vessel, use 20-gauge twisted pairs and minimize the additional wire length.
- When lengthening the power input leads to the Vector Compact, ensure the additional voltage drop is small enough that your power system can continue to power the system above the minimum voltage of the system. Wire of 18-gauge or larger should also be used.
- Minimize RS-232 cable length to ensure reliable communication

### Power/Data Cable Pin-out Specifications

Figure 2-9 show the power/data cable pin-out, while Table 2-1 shows the cable's pin-out specifications.



**Figure 2-9: Power/data cable pin assignment**

**Table 2-1: Power/data cable pin-out**

Pin	Function	Wire Color
1	CH-GND	Drain
1	DGND	Brown
2	RXB	Blue
3	Power Input	Red
4	Power Ground	Black
5	TXB	Green
6	RXA	Orange
7	TXA	Purple
8	1PPS	Yellow

## Serial Ports

The Vector Compact offers position and heading data via two full-duplex (bi-directional) RS-232 serial ports. In addition to outputting data, these ports are used for firmware upgrades.

### Selecting Baud Rates and Message Types

When selecting your baud rate and message types, use the following calculation to determine your baud rate for your required data throughput.

Messages \* Message output rate \* Message length (bytes) \* bits in byte  
Ex: 5 \* 10Hz \* 40 bytes \* 10 = 20,000 bits/sec

For information on message output rates refer to GPS Technical Reference available from the SI-TEX GNSS website at [www.SI-TEXgnss.com](http://www.SI-TEXgnss.com).

### Configuring the Ports

You may configure Port A or Port B of the GPS receiver to output any combination of data that you want. Port A can have a different configuration from Port B in terms of data message output, data rates, and the baud rate of the port. This allows you to configure the ports independently based upon your needs. For example, if you want one generalized port and one heading-only port, you can configure the ports as follows:

- Port A to have GPGGA, GPVTG, GPGSV, GPZDA, and GPHDT all output at 1 Hz over a 9600 baud rate
- Port B to have GPHDT and GPROT output at their maximum rate of 10Hz over a 19200 baud rate

A personal computer (PC) typically uses a DB9-male connector for RS-232 serial port communications.

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**Note:** For successful communications use the 8-N-1 protocol and set the baud rate of the Vector Compact's serial ports to match that of the devices to which they are connected. Flow control is not supported.

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**Default Parameters**

Table 2-2 and Table 2-3 provide details on the default port settings, available baud rates, differential age, elevation mask, and default differential mode.

**Note:** Use the \$JSAVE command to save changes you make to the Vector Compact's configuration for the changes to be present in subsequent power cycles.

**Table 2-2: Default port settings**

Port	Baud Rate	NMEA Messages	Update Rate
Port A (RS-232)	19200	GPGGA, GPVTG, GPGSV, GPZDA, GPHDT, GPROT	1 Hz
Port B (RS-232)	19200	GPGGA, GPVTG, GPGSV, GPZDA, GPHDT, GPROT	1 Hz
Power RED (+) BLK (-)	6 - 36 VDC		

**Table 2-3: Additional default settings**

Parameter	Specification
Max DGPS age (correction age)	2700 seconds
Elevation mask	5°
Differential mode	SBAS (WAAS/EGNOS)

Vector Compact GPS Compass



Chapter 2: Installation

## **Chapter 3: Operation**

GPS Overview

Vector Compact

Overview

Common Commands and Messages

## GPS Overview

For your convenience, both the GPS and SBAS (WAAS, MSAS, GAGAN and EGNOS) operation of the Vector Compact features automatic operational algorithms. When powered for the first time, the Vector Compact performs a "cold start," which involves acquiring the available GPS satellites in view and the SBAS differential service.

If SBAS is not available in your area, an external source of RTCM SC-104 differential corrections may be used. If you use an external source of correction data, it must support an eight data bit, no parity, one stop bit configuration (8-N-1).

## GPS Operation

The GPS receiver is always operating, regardless of the DGPS mode of operation. The following sections describe the general operation of the Vector Compact's internal GPS receiver.

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**Note:** Differential source and status have no impact on heading, pitch, or roll. They only have an impact on position and heave.

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## Automatic Tracking

The Vector Compact's internal GPS receiver automatically searches for GPS satellites, acquires the signals, and manages the navigation information required for position and tracking.

## Receiver Performance

The Vector Compact works by finding four or more GPS satellites in the visible sky. It uses information from the satellites to compute a position within 3 m. Since there is some error in the GPS data calculations, the Vector Compact also tracks a differential correction. The Vector Compact uses these corrections to improve its position accuracy to better than 1.0 m.

There are two main aspects of GPS receiver performance:

- Satellite acquisition
- Position and heading calculation

When the Vector Compact is properly positioned, the satellites transmit coded information to the antennas on a specific frequency. This allows the receiver to calculate a range to each satellite from both antennas. GPS is essentially a timing system. The ranges are calculated by timing how long it takes for the signal to reach the GPS antenna. The GPS receiver uses a complex algorithm incorporating satellite locations and ranges to each satellite to calculate the geographic location and heading. Reception of any four or more GPS signals allows the receiver to compute three-dimensional coordinates and a valid heading.

#### **Differential Operation**

The purpose of differential GPS (DGPS) is to remove the effects of selective availability (SA), atmospheric errors, timing errors, and satellite orbit errors, while enhancing system integrity. Autonomous position capabilities of the Vector Compact will result in position accuracies of 3 m 95% of the time. In order to improve position quality to better than 1.0 m 95%, the Vector Compact is able to use differential corrections received through the internal SBAS demodulator or externally-supplied RTCM corrections.

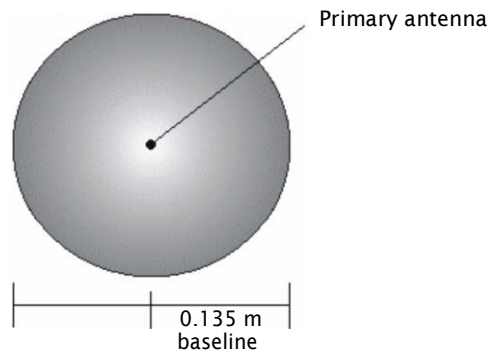
#### **Automatic SBAS Tracking**

The Vector Compact automatically scans and tracks SBAS signals without the need to tune the receiver. The Vector Compact features two-channel tracking that provides an enhanced ability to maintain a lock on an SBAS satellite when more than one satellite is in view. This redundant tracking approach results in more consistent tracking of an SBAS signal in areas where signal blockage of a satellite is possible.

## Vector Compact Overview

The Vector Compact provides accurate and reliable heading and position information at high update rates. To accomplish this task, the Vector Compact uses a high performance GPS receiver and two antennas for GPS signal processing. One antenna is designated as the primary GPS antenna and the other is the secondary GPS antenna. Positions computed by the Vector Compact are referenced to the phase center of the primary GPS antenna. Heading data references the vector formed from the primary GPS antenna phase center to the secondary GPS antenna phase center.

The heading arrow located on the bottom of the Vector Compact enclosure defines system orientation. The arrow points in the direction the heading measurement is computed (when the antenna is installed parallel to the fore-aft line of the vessel). The secondary antenna is directly above the arrow.



**Figure 3-1: Secondary antenna's search volume**

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**Note:** The Vector Compact moving base station algorithm only uses GPS to calculate heading. Differential corrections are not used in this calculation and will not affect heading accuracy.

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### **Supplemental Sensors**

The Vector Compact has an integrated gyro and two tilt sensors. The gyro and tilt sensors are enabled by default. Both supplemental sensors are mounted on the printed circuit board inside the Vector Compact.

The sensors act to reduce the search volume, which improves heading startup and reacquisition times. This improves the reliability and accuracy of selecting the correct heading solution by eliminating other possible, erroneous solutions. Table 3-1 on page 32 provides a sensor operation summary.

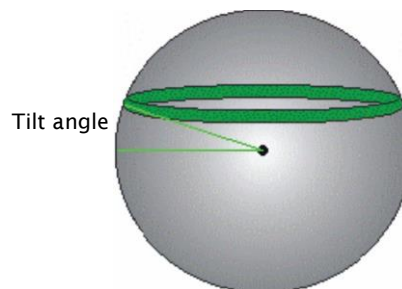
**Table 3-1: Sensor operation summary**

Feature	Normal Operation	Coasting (no GPS)
Heading	GPS	Gyro
Pitch	GPS	Inertial sensor
Roll	Inertial sensor	Inertial sensor

SI-TEX GNSS' GPS Technical Reference describes the commands and methodology required to recalibrate, query, or change the sensors status.

**Tilt Aiding**

The Vector Compact' accelerometers (internal tilt sensors) are factory-calibrated and enabled by default. This improves heading solution beyond the volume associated with just a fixed antenna separation. This is because the Vector Compact knows the approximate inclination of the secondary antenna with respect to the primary antenna. The search space defined by the tilt sensor will be reduced to a horizontal ring on the sphere's surface by reducing the search volume. This considerably decreases startup and reacquisition times (see Figure 3-2).

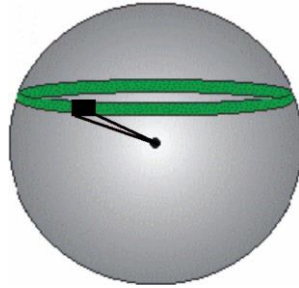


**Figure 3-2: Vector Compact's tilt aiding**

**Gyro Aiding**

The Vector Compact' internal gyro offers several benefits. It reduces the sensor volume to shorten reacquisition times when a GPS heading is lost because the satellite signals were blocked. The gyro provides a relative change in

angle since the last computed heading, and, when used in conjunction with the tilt sensor, defines the search space as a wedge-shaped location (see Figure 3-3).



**Figure 3-3: Vector Compact's gyro aiding**

The gyro aiding accurately smoothes the heading output and the rate of turn. It provides an accurate substitute heading for a short period depending on the roll and pitch of the vessel, ideally seeing the system through to reacquisition. The gyro provides an alternate source of heading, accurate to within 1° per minute for up to three minutes, in times of GPS loss for either antenna. If the outage lasts longer than three minutes, the gyro will have drifted too far and the Vector Compact begins outputting null fields in the heading output messages. There is no user control over the timeout period of the gyro.

Calibration, which is set at the factory, is required for the gyro to remove latency from the heading solution as well as provide backup heading when GPS is blocked. The receiver will calibrate itself after running for a while but it may be important to follow the manual calibration instructions if you want to guarantee performance quickly after powering up the receiver.

With the gyro enabled, the gyro is also used to update the post HTAU smoothed heading output from the GPS heading computation. This means that if the HTAU value is increased while gyro aiding is enabled, there will be no lag in heading output due to vehicle maneuvers. SI-TEX GNSS' GPS Technical Reference includes information on setting an appropriate HTAU value for the application.

### Time Constants

The Vector Compact incorporates user-configurable time constants that can provide a degree of smoothing to the heading, pitch, rate of turn (ROT), course over ground (COG), and speed measurements. You can adjust these parameters depending on the expected dynamics of the vessel. For example, increasing the time is reasonable if the vessel is very large and is not able to turn quickly or would not pitch quickly. The resulting values would have reduced “noise,” resulting in consistent values with time. However, if the vessel is quick and nimble, increasing this value can create a lag in measurements. Formulas for determining the level of smoothing are located in SI-TEX GNSS’ GPS Technical Reference. If you are unsure on how to set this value, it is best to be conservative and leave it at the default setting.

---

**Note:** For heading and rate of turn there is no lag once the gyro is calibrated and enabled.

---

**Heading time constant:** Use the \$JATT,HTAU command to adjust the level of responsiveness of the true heading measurement provided in the \$GPHDT message. The default value of this constant is 20.0 seconds of smoothing when the gyro is enabled. The gyro is enabled by default, but can be turned off. By turning the gyro off, the equivalent default value of the heading time constant would be 0.5 seconds of smoothing. This is not automatically done and therefore you must manually enter it. Increasing the time constant increases the level of heading smoothing and increases lag.

**Pitch time constant:** Use the \$JATT,PTAU command to adjust the level of responsiveness of the pitch measurement provided in the \$PSAT,HPR message. The default value of this constant is 0.5 seconds of smoothing. Increasing the time constant increases the level of pitch smoothing and increases lag.

**Rate of Turn (ROT) time constant:** Use the \$JATT,HRTAU command to adjust the level of responsiveness of the ROT measurement provided in the \$GPROT message. The default value of this constant is 2.0 seconds of smoothing. Increasing the time constant increases the level of ROT smoothing.



**Course Over Ground (COG) time constant:** Use the \$JATT,COGTAU command to adjust the level of responsiveness of the COG measurement provided in the \$GPVTG message. The default value of this constant is 1.1 seconds of smoothing. Increasing the time constant increases the level of COG smoothing. COG is computed using only the primary GPS antenna and its accuracy depends upon the speed of the vessel (noise is proportional to 1/speed). This value is invalid when the vessel is stationary, as tiny movements due to calculation inaccuracies are not representative of a vessel's movement.

**Speed time constant:** Use the \$JATT,SPDTAU command to adjust the level of responsiveness of the speed measurement provided in the \$GPVTG message. The default value of this constant is 0.0 seconds of smoothing. Increasing the time constant increases the level of speed measurement smoothing.

### **Watchdog**

The watchdog is a timer that is controlled by the software that monitors if the heading is lost. The watchdog software is compliant with IEC 60945.

## Common Commands and Messages

**Note:** When selecting your baud rate and message types, use the following calculation to determine your baud rate for your required data throughput.

Messages \* Message output rate \* Message length (bytes) \* bits in byte  
 Ex: 5 \* 10Hz \* 40 bytes \* 10 = 20,000 bits/sec

For information on message output rates refer to GPS Technical Reference available from the SI-TEX GNSS website at [www.SI-TEXgnss.com](http://www.SI-TEXgnss.com).

Table 3-2 below through Table 3-4 provide brief descriptions of common commands and messages for the Vector Compact. Refer to the SI-TEX GNSS' GPS Technical Reference for more detailed information.

**Table 3-2: Commands**

Command	Description
\$JAGE	Specify maximum DGPS (COAST) correction age (6 to 8100 seconds)
\$JAPP	Query or specify receiver application firmware
\$JASC	Specify ASCII messages to output to specific ports (see ASCII messages in Table 3-3)
\$JBAUD	Specify RS-232, RS-422 (output) communication rate
\$JBIN	Specify binary messages to output to specific ports (see Table 3-4)
\$JDIF	Query or specify differential correction mode
\$JGEO	Query or specify SBAS for current location and SBAS satellites
\$JI	Query unit's serial number and firmware versions
\$JOFF	Turn off all data messages
\$JQUERY,GUIDE	Query accuracy suitability for navigation
\$JRESET	Reset unit's configuration to firmware defaults
\$JSAVE	Save session's configuration changes

Chapter 3: Operation

In Table 3-3 the Info Type value is one of the following:

- P = Position
- V = Velocity, Time
- H = Heading, Attitude
- S = Sats, Stats, Quality

**Table 3-3: NMEA 0183 and other messages**

Message	Info Type	Description	IEC Approved Message
\$GPDTM	P	Datum reference	Yes
\$GPGGA	P	GPS position and fix data	Yes
\$GPGLL	P	Geographic position - lat/long	Yes
\$GPGNS	P	GNSS position and fix data	Yes
\$GPGRS	S	GNSS range residual (RAIM)	Yes
\$GPGSA	S	GNSS DOP and active satellites	Yes
\$GPGST	S	GNSS pseudo range error statistics and position accuracy	Yes
\$GPGSV	S	GNSS satellites in view	Yes
*\$GPHDG	H	Provides magnetic deviation and variation for calculating magnetic or true heading *see last bullet in Note at end of this table	Yes
*\$GPHDM	H	Magnetic heading (based on GPS-derived heading and magnetic declination) *see last bullet in Note at end of this table	No
*\$GPHDT	H	GPS-derived true heading *see last bullet in Note at end of this table	Yes
\$GPHEV	H	Heave value (in meters)	Yes
\$GPRMC	P	Recommended minimum specific GNSS data	Yes
*\$GPROT	H	GPS-derived rate of turn (ROT) *see last bullet in Note at end of this table	Yes

**Table 3-3: NMEA 0183 and other messages (continued)**

Message	Info Type	Description	IEC Approved Message
\$GPRRE	S	Range residual and estimated position error	Yes
\$GPVTG	V	COG and ground speed	Yes
\$GPZDA	V	Time and date	Yes
\$PASHR	H	Time, heading, roll, and pitch data in one message	No
\$PSAT,GBS	S	Satellite fault detection (RAIM)	Yes
\$PSAT,HPR	H	Proprietary NMEA message that provides heading, pitch, roll, and time in single message	No
\$PSAT,INTLT	H	Proprietary NMEA message that provides the pitch and roll measurements from the internal inclinometers (in degrees)	Yes
\$RD1	S	SBAS diagnostic information	Yes
\$TSS1	H	Heading, pitch, roll, and heave message in the commonly used TSS1 message format	No
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GP of the message is the talker ID.</li> <li>• You can change the message header for the HDG, HDM, HDT, and ROT messages to either GP or HE using the \$JATT,NMEAHE command. For more information refer to GPS Technical Reference available from the SI-TEX GNSS website at <a href="http://www.SI-TEXgnss.com">www.SI-TEXgnss.com</a>.</li> <li>• GPGRS, GPGSA, GPGST, and GPGSV support external integrity checking. They are to be synchronized with corresponding fix data (GPGGA or GPGNS).</li> <li>• For information on outputting roll, pitch, and heave data in one message refer to GPS Technical Reference available from the SI-TEX GNSS website at <a href="http://www.SI-TEXgnss.com">www.SI-TEXgnss.com</a>.</li> </ul>			

**Table 3-4: Binary messages**

<b>\$JBIN Message</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	GPS position
2	GPS DOPs
80	SBAS
93	SBAS ephemeris data
94	Ionosphere and UTC conversion parameters
95	Satellite ephemeris data
96	Code and carrier phase
97	Processor statistics
98	Satellites and almanac
99	GPS diagnostics

**Table 3-5: Parameters specific to \$JATT command**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Specify</b>
COGTAU	Set/query COG time constant (0.0 to 3600.0 sec)	X	X
CSEP	Query antenna separation	X	
EXACT	Enable/disable internal filter reliance on the entered antenna separation	X	X
FLIPBRD	Turn the flip feature on/off	X	X
GYROAID	Enable/disable gyro	X	X
HBIAS	Set/query heading bias (-180.0° to 180.0°)	X	X
HELP	Show the available commands for GPS heading operation and status	X	
HIGHMP	Set/query the high multipath setting for use in poor GPS environments	X	X
HRTAU	Set/query ROT time constant (0.0 to 3600.0 sec)	X	X

**Table 3-5: Parameters specific to \$JATT command (continued)**

Parameter	Description	Query	Specify
HTAU	Set/query heading time constant (0.0 to 3600.0 sec) <b>Note:</b> Higher HTAU values combined with disabling the gyro will result in significant lag time	X	X
LEVEL	Enable/disable level operation	X	X
MSEP	Manually set or query antenna separation	X	X
NEGTILT	Enable/disable negative tilt	X	X
NMEAHE	Change the HDG, HDM, HDT, and ROT message headers between Talker IDs (GP and HE)	X	X
PBIAS	Set/query pitch/roll bias (-15.0° to 15.0°)	X	X
PTAU	Set/query pitch time constant (0.0 to 3600.0 sec)	X	X
ROLL	Configure for roll or pitch GPS orientation	X	X
SEARCH	Force a new GPS heading search		X
SPDTAU	Set/query speed time constant (0.0 to 3600.0 sec)	X	X
SUMMARY	Display a summary of the current Crescent Vector settings	X	
TILTAID	Enable/disable accelerometer, pre-calibrated	X	X
TILTCAL	Calibrate accelerometers		X

## **Appendix A: Troubleshooting**

Table A-1 provides troubleshooting for common problems.

**Table A-1: Troubleshooting**

Symptom	Possible Solution
Receiver fails to power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Verify polarity of power leads</li> <li>· Check integrity of power cable connectors</li> <li>· Check power input voltage (6 to 36 VDC)</li> <li>· Check current restrictions imposed by power source (minimum available should be &gt; 1.0 A)</li> </ul>
No data from Vector Compact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Check receiver power status to ensure the receiver is powered (an ammeter can be used for this)</li> <li>· Verify desired messages are activated (using PocketMax, Vector PC or \$JSHOW in any terminal program)</li> <li>· Ensure the baud rate of the Vector Compact matches that of the receiving device</li> <li>· Check integrity and connectivity of power and data cable connections</li> </ul>
Random data from Vector Compact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Verify the RTCM or binary messages are not being output accidentally (send a \$JSHOW command)</li> <li>· Ensure the baud rate of the Vector Compact matches that of the remote device</li> <li>· Potentially, the volume of data requested to be output by the Vector Compact could be higher than the current baud rate supports (try using 19200 as the baud rate for all devices or reduce the amount of data being output)</li> </ul>
No GPS lock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Verify the Vector Compact has a clear view of the sky</li> <li>· Verify the lock status of GPS satellites (this can be done with PocketMax or VectorPC)</li> </ul>



**Table A-1: Troubleshooting (continued)**

Symptom	Possible Solution
No SBAS lock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Verify the Vector Compact has a clear view of the sky</li> <li>· Verify the lock status of SBAS satellites (this can be done with PocketMax - monitor BER value)</li> <li>· Set SBAS mode to automatic with the \$JWAASPRN,AUTO command</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> SBAS lock is only possible if you are in an appropriate SBAS region; currently, there is limited SBAS availability in the southern U.S.</p>
No heading or incorrect heading value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Check CSEP value is fairly constant without varying more than 1 cm (0.39 in)—larger variations may indicate a high multipath environment and require moving the receiver location</li> <li>· Recalibrate the tilt sensor with \$JATT,TILTCAL command if heading is calculated then lost at consistent time intervals</li> <li>· Heading is from primary GPS antenna to secondary GPS antenna, so the arrow on the underside of the Vector Compact should be directed to the bow side</li> <li>· \$JATT,SEARCH command forces the Vector Compact to acquire a new heading solution (unless gyro is enabled)</li> <li>· Enable GYROAID to provide heading for up to three minutes during GPS signal loss</li> <li>· Enable TILTAID to reduce heading search times</li> <li>· Monitor the number of satellites and SNR values for both antennas within PocketMax—at least four satellites should have strong SNR values</li> <li>· Potentially, the volume of data requested to be output by the Vector Compact could be higher than the current baud rate supports (try using 19200 as the baud rate for all devices or reduce the amount of data being output)</li> <li>· Intermittent issues potentially caused by an incorrect HBIAS.</li> </ul>

**Table A-1: Troubleshooting (continued)**

Symptom	Possible Solution
No DGPS position in external RTCM mode	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Verify the baud rate of the RTCM input port matches the baud rate of the external source</li> <li>· Verify the pin-out between the RTCM source and the RTCM input port (transmit from the source must go to receive of the RTCM input port and grounds must be connected)</li> <li>· Ensure corrections are being transmitted to the correct port—using the \$JDIF,PORTB command on Port A will cause the receiver to expect the corrections to be input through Port B</li> </ul>

Appendix A: Troubleshooting

## **Appendix B: Specifications**

Table B-1 through Table B-5 provide the Vector Compact’s GPS sensor, communication, power, mechanical, and environmental specifications.

**Table B-1: GPS sensor specifications**

Item	Specification
Receiver type	Vector GPS L1 Compass
Channels	Two 12-channel, parallel tracking (Two 10-channel when tracking SBAS)
SBAS tracking	2-channel, parallel tracking
Update rate	10 Hz standard (position and heading)
Position accuracy	
Single Point <sup>1</sup>	1 m (95%)
SBAS <sup>2</sup>	3 m (95%)
Heading accuracy	2° (RMS)
Heave accuracy	< 30 cm (RMS) <sup>3</sup>
Pitch/Roll accuracy	2° (RMS)
Rate of turn	90°/s maximum
Cold start	< 60 s typical (no almanac or RTC)
Warm start	< 20 s typical (almanac and RTC)
Hot start	< 1 s typical (almanac, RTC, and position)
Heading fix	< 10 s typical (valid position)
Compass safe distance	30 cm (11.8 in) <sup>3</sup>
Maximum speed	1,850 kph (999 kts)
Maximum altitude	18,288 m (60,000 ft)

Appendix B: Specifications

**Table B-2: Communication specifications**

Item	Specification
Serial ports	2 full-duplex RS-232
Baud rates	4800, 9600, 19200, 38400, 57600, 115200
Correction I/O protocol	RTCM SC-104
Data I/O protocol	NMEA 0183, Crescent binary <sup>4</sup>

**Table B-3: Power specifications**

Item	Specification
Input voltage	8 to 36 VDC
Power consumption	~ 2 W nominal
Current consumption	165 mA @ 12 VDC
Power isolation	Isolated to enclosure
Reverse polarity protection	Yes

**Table B-4: Mechanical specifications**

Item	Specification
Enclosure	UV resistant, white plastic, Gelay CR7520 (ASA)
Dimensions (not including mount)	25.9 L x 12.9 W x 4.5 H (cm) 10.2 L x 5.1 W x 1.8 H (in)
Dimensions (including mount)	25.9 L x 12.9 W x 12.8 H (cm) 10.2 L x 5.1 W x 5.0 H (in)
Weight (not including mount)	0.42 kg (0.9 lb)
Weight (including mount)	0.51 kg (1.1 lb)

**Table B-5: Environmental specifications**

Item	Specification
Operating temperature	-30°C to +70°C (-22°F to +158°F)
Storage temperature	-40°C to +85°C (-40°F to +185°F)
Water and Dust	IP69
Humidity	100% non-condensing
Vibration	IEC 60945
EMC	CE (IEC 60945 Emissions and Immunity) FCC Part 15, Subpart B CISPR22F

<sup>1</sup>Depends on multipath environment, number of satellites in view, satellite geometry, no SA, and ionospheric activity.

<sup>2</sup>Depends on multipath environment, number of satellites in view, SBAS coverage and satellite geometry.

<sup>3</sup>Based on a 40-second time constant.

<sup>4</sup>SI-TEX GNSS proprietary

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**Customer Service**

If you encounter problems during the installation or operation of this product, or cannot find the information you need, please contact Sitex Customer Service.

The contact numbers and e-mail address for Sitex Customer Service are:

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Sitex Service E-mail address: [service@si-tex.com](mailto:service@si-tex.com)

Sitex Customer Support E-mail address: [customerservice@si-tex.com](mailto:customerservice@si-tex.com)

**Sitex Main Office Address:**

25 Enterprise Zone Drive, Ste 2

Riverhead, NY 11901

Technical Support is available from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

**HOW TO OBTAIN SERVICE UNDER THIS WARRANTY**

To provide greater flexibility, SI-TEX Marine Electronics gives you the option to obtain service under the warranty by either:

(a) Contacting an authorized SI-TEX Marine Electronics service station

(The closest service station may be found by contacting your dealer of purchase)

OR

(b) Shipping your equipment prepaid via UPS, FED-EX or truck with insurance prepaid to SI-TEX Marine Electronics. at the address provided below. SI-TEX Marine Electronics will whenever possible, make all repairs covered by Limited Warranty within two weeks of receiving the equipment in New York and return the same to you, freight prepaid.

Please do not use the Mail Service due to delays in tracing lost packages.

(c) You must present a copy of your Purchase Sales Slip at the time you request warranty service.

A product repair case can be started from the support section of our website at **[www.si-tex.com](http://www.si-tex.com)**

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