

# X-BLQ-EC Series User's Manual

Motorized linear stages with built-in controllers, motor encoders, and covers



## Disclaimer

Zaber's products 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 warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. The user of this product agrees to [Zaber's general terms and conditions of sale](#).

## 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.

## Lubrication of Linear Guide

The X-BLQ-EC carriage is supported by an integrated recirculating ball bearing linear guide which requires lubrication in order to achieve the longest possible lifetime. At the rated load of the device, it is recommended to re-lubricate at a 500 km service interval. For applications in dirty environments or applications with extremely high duty cycles, more frequent inspection and lubrication is recommended. We recommend using 0.1 cm<sup>3</sup> (0.1 mL) of a NLGI Grade 2, lithium soap based grease in each grease port. The grease ports are located on both ends of the carriage (see pictures below) and both sides of the belt. Simply inject about 0.1 cm<sup>3</sup> of grease into each port. Cycle the stage through its travel several times and wipe off any excess grease from the rails. All guides come pre-lubricated and are ready to go out of the box. This grease is only intended for lubricating ball bearing guide, and is not suitable for use on any other locations on the stage.



SG133 relubrication kit



X-BLQ linear guide relubricating ports. Located on both ends of the carriage



Re-lubricating X-BLQ linear guide

## Noise Emissions

The A-weighted emission sound pressure level (SPL) of this device does not exceed 70 dB(A) during intended use.

## 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 Launcher](#) 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



- Daisy chain all integrated devices and controllers 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 green power indicator on each should light up.
- Turn the knob to move a positioner. Most positioners 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.
- Download and install [Zaber Launcher](#). Start Zaber Launcher.
- Create a New Connection 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](#).
- If multiple devices are detected and there are conflicting device numbers, Zaber Launcher will renumber them or you can [renumber \(T:2\)](#) them as desired. 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, you should return the positioner to the home position. This is achieved by sending the [home \(T:1\)](#) command to the individual device or all devices. Until this is done, most positioners will only allow motion in one direction, towards the sensor.

If it is not possible in your application to home the positioner 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 <a href="#">pos</a> ( <a href="#">T:60</a> )	Query the current position of Device #1 Axis #1.
/1 1 <a href="#">move abs</a> 10000 ( <a href="#">T:20:10000</a> )	Move Device #1, Axis #1 to position 10000 microsteps.
/2 1 <a href="#">move rel</a> -12800 ( <a href="#">T:21:-12800</a> )	Move Device #2, Axis #1 in the negative direction by 12800 microsteps.
/1 <a href="#">stop</a> ( <a href="#">T:23</a> )	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>	<p>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.</p>
---	--

### Modifying Device Settings

Here are some examples if you would like to customize particular device or axis 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 maximum speed of all axes on the device.
<pre>/1 system restore (T:36)</pre>	Restore all the settings of Device 1 to the default.

### Firmware Upgrades

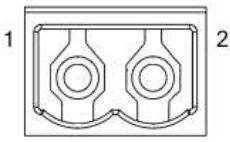
To allow access to new features and bug fixes, this Zaber device can be upgraded remotely through the Firmware Upgrade app in Zaber Launcher. In the "My Connections" window, click on the "..." menu to the right of the device and select "Firmware Upgrade".

### Device Overview

#### Connectors

All images are shown looking into the device.

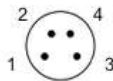
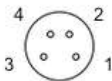
#### Power

	Pin	Description
	1	24 - 48 V
	2	Device GND

**Note:** This product requires a CE/UL approved AC/DC power converter such as Zaber's PS13S, PS14S or PS15S with a DC cord of at most 3 m.

**Note:** As of February 2022, the power supplies Zaber provides are isolated and thus the device is not connected to Earth ground. Prior to 2022, most power supplies were non-isolated. Isolated units can be distinguished by the "S" suffix in their Zaber part number (eg. PS14S), which is marked on the label on the bottom of the power supply.

#### RS-232 Communications

		Pin	Previous	Next
		1	Power (max 4 A)	Power (max 4 A)
		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 baud rates: 9600, 19200, 38400, 57600, 115200
- Bits: 8
- Parity: None
- Stop Bits: 1
- Flow Control: None

## Other Connectors

For any connections not described in this document, cables should be limited to a length of 3 m.

## Indicators

### Green (Device) - Power

- On: Controller is operational.
- Blinking twice per second: The power supply voltage or controller temperature is out of range.

### Red (Device) - System Error

- On/blinking: An error has occurred. Please contact [Zaber Technical Support](#).

### Yellow (Device) - Communication

- On: Data is being transferred.
- Blinking twice per second: Packet corruption has occurred for ASCII commands sent with a checksum.

### Yellow (Axis) - Axis Status

- On: Axis is moving.
- Blinking: Axis is under manual control via the knob (in Velocity mode). The blinking rate is proportional to movement speed.

### Blue (Axis) - Warning/Error

- Blinking twice per second: Driver is disabled due to over-temperature, out-of-range voltage or other driver fault; or due to user request. See [Fx Warning Flags](#). *Note: This may occur for a few seconds on power-up as device initializes.*
- On briefly, during a move: The axis is slipping.
- Blinking once every 2 seconds: The axis has stalled and stopped.
- Flashes: The stationary axis has been forced out of position (2 short flashes every 1 second), or the encoder has encountered a read error and raised the [FQ warning flag](#) (5 short flashes every 2 seconds).
- Fading in and out slowly: The axis is parked. See the [tools parking \(T:65\)](#) command.

## Installation

The X-BLQ-EC can be connected to a computer as follows:

- Plug the M8 to USB adaptor ([X-USBDC](#)) into one of your computer's USB ports, then attach the device to the adaptor. You may need to use a cable extension to reach your computer. There is no need to power down or reboot the computer.
- Connect the power plug of your power supply to the power connector of the device. The green LED should light up indicating the device has power.
- Additional devices can simply be daisy-chained to the first. See [Daisy-Chaining Devices](#) below.
- Install software from the [Software](#) page. For the initial setup, using [Zaber Launcher](#) 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 positioner and how it translates to displacement, first go to the [product overview](#) page, find your product, click through to the product'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. If there are device address conflicts, Zaber Launcher will renumber automatically the next time you use it to connect to the chain.

**Note:** Daisy-chaining devices with cable lengths exceeding 8 m (25 ft) is not recommended.



## Manual Control

Most X-Series motion control products have an integrated, depressible knob with 20 detents per revolution, allowing axes 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, many axes will only travel towards the motor from their start-up positions until the home position is reached. Once the axis has been homed, the full range of travel becomes available.

### Velocity Mode

Turn the knob clockwise to move the axis 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 axis stops and resets the knob upon arriving at the end of travel.

### Displacement Mode

Turn the knob clockwise to move the axis in the positive direction (extend), counter-clockwise for negative direction (retract). Each detent of the knob moves the axis 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 axis 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 axis 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 axis will move to the end of travel and then stop.

## Summary of knob functionality

- Turning the knob:
  - Moves the axis in the direction of knob turn.
- Pressing the knob:
  - Decelerates and stops the axis (identical to a [stop \(T:23\)](#) command).
  - Instantly stops the axis, if the axis is already decelerating.

**Warning:** Stopping instantly may result in damage to the product and reduced lifespan. Use sparingly if the axis is under heavy load.

- Pressing and holding the knob for 1 second:

Toggles between Velocity Mode and Displacement Mode.

## Trajectory Control and Behaviour

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

### Software Position Limits

The travel range of the axis is limited by the Minimum Position and Maximum Position settings. The factory settings for the axis 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. For the Current Position, query [pos \(T:60\)](#).

#### Minimum Position

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

#### Maximum Position

When the Current Position is greater than the Maximum Position value, the axis cannot move in the positive direction (away from the motor).

### Movement Speed

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

Movement speed of the axis is specified below:

#### [move vel \(T:22\)](#)

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

#### Knob movement in Velocity Mode

The axis 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 axis has not been homed

The axis will move at the slower of the [maxspeed \(T:42\)](#) and [limit.approach.maxspeed \(T:41\)](#) settings.

#### Other movement commands - when the axis has been homed

The axis will move at the speed specified by the [maxspeed \(T:42\)](#) setting.

## Current Controller Tuning

In firmware versions 7.27 and up, this product's current controller can be tuned to modify the performance of the stepper motor. The current controllers on Zaber products are already tuned to perform well in the vast majority of situations. You should only need to tune the current controller if the default tuning is not providing sufficient performance.

Use the Current Tuner application in [Zaber Launcher](#) to tune the performance of the motor.

## 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 on most devices using the following steps. Note that this will reset most settings.

- Power Off the device
- Push and hold the knob for the first Axis (if applicable)
- Power On the device
- Continue to hold the knob in (for ~5 seconds) until one or more LEDs are fading or the blue LED is lit, 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 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 or the controller temperature has exceeded the set limit. 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.

#### **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.

#### **Blue (or Green for Firmware versions <7.15) LED Fades In and Out.**

The axis is parked.

Issue a [tools.parking.unpark\(T:65:0\)](#) command, or [home \(T:1\)](#) the axis.

#### **Blue LED flashing during a move or blinking every two seconds.**

The axis has slipped or stalled.

Please see the [Slipping and Stalling](#) section below.

#### **Blue LED showing a burst of 2 flashes every 1 second.**

A stationary axis has been forced out of position.

#### **Blue LED showing a burst of 5 flashes every 2 seconds.**

The encoder has encountered a read error.

Please contact [Zaber Technical Support](#).

#### **Blue LED blinking twice per second. Axis does not move.**

Driver may be disabled due to over-temperature, out-of-range voltage or other driver fault; or due to user request.

See [Fx Warning Flags](#).

Once the issue has been resolved, send [driver enable](#).

## **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 axis won't cover the full range of travel.**

The axis hasn't been homed.

Turn the knob anti-clockwise until the axis reaches the fully retracted position. The axis will home and the full range of travel available.

## **Unexpected Behaviour**

#### **The axis doesn't respond to a move command.**

The axis may need to be homed before use.

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

#### **The axis 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 axis 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 axis 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 axis.

Check the following:

- The force on the axis 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 positioner'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 axis 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 axis doesn't cover the full range of travel, or runs into the end.**

A setting might have been inadvertently changed.

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

### **The positioner's motor unexpectedly shuts off. An [Fx warning flag](#) is present.**

The motor over-temperature protection switch has been tripped. This sensor will trip if the positioner'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 axis 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 [Zaber Launcher](#) 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 to the devices with Zaber Launcher, it will automatically renumber them if needed. If you aren't able to install and open Zaber Launcher, 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 axis 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 [Zaber Launcher](#) to verify that the hardware works.

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

If your computer's language and region settings are other than US English, your software may be sending non-ASCII characters or using commas instead of periods as decimal points. Try setting your computer's language to English and region to United States to see if it fixes the problem.

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 Zaber Console 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 axis moves smoothly, but only moves for a short time then stops. The Blue LED is flashing but the axis is not actually slipping or stalling.**

The internal encoder counter needs to be re-initialized. Reset the device by power cycling it or sending [system reset \(T:0\)](#) command, then re-initialize it with the [home \(T:1\)](#) command.

Ground the device and avoid operating it under statically noisy environment.

**The axis makes noise but does not move. The Blue LED is flashing.**

The axis is stalling.

Try removing all external loads. If the axis 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 axis using the [maxspeed \(T:42\)](#) setting.

If an axis 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.

## Contact Information

Contact Zaber Technologies Inc by any of the following methods:

<b>Phone</b>	1-604-569-3780 (direct) 1-888-276-8033 (toll free in North America)
<b>Fax</b>	1-604-648-8033
<b>Mail</b>	#2 - 605 West Kent Ave. N., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V6P 6T7
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.zaber.com">www.zaber.com</a>
<b>Email</b>	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-BLQ-EC>.

## Appendix A - Available Communications Ports

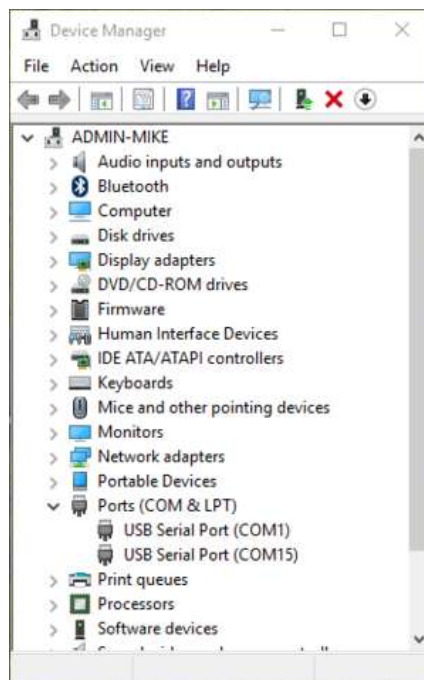
The following instructions outline how to find installed serial ports on your computer.

### Windows

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



- Expand the Ports (COM & LPT) category.



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

## Linux

- Finding devices

- Open a terminal and execute the following command:

```
dmesg | grep -E ttyU[0-9]*
```

- 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)

- 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
```

- 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

- 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.

## Appendix B - Tensioning The Timing Belt

Although BLQ stages ship with the timing belt properly tensioned, it may at some point become necessary to re-tension it, although this is a rare occurrence. Maintaining the belt at its proper tension will ensure you are getting the best performance out of the stage. A [clip-on instrument tuner](#) that, when used as described below, is very effective at setting the belt to a precise tension. Please contact [Zaber Technical Support](#).

### To tension the timing belt:

1. Plug stage into PC and move to absolute position of **68960 microsteps**. If the stage is shorter than 295 mm travel, move the carriage to a position of 34270 microsteps and tune to B (123.5 Hz) instead of C (65.4 Hz) (as described below). For a BLQ0070, move the carriage into contact with the home position bumpers and tune the other side of the belt to G# (207 Hz). The tuning procedure works better if the stage is not bolted down to anything.
2. Attach instrument tuner to motor pulley housing as shown below. Tuner must not be touching the belt.



Position stage to absolute position of 68960 and attach tuner as shown.

3. Make sure the tuner is set to vibration ("VIB") mode. Turn on by pressing the large grey button on the front.



Make sure tuner is set to vibration mode.

4. Pluck the belt in between the motor pulley housing and the carriage. The tuner should register a note. When the belt is properly tensioned, this note should be C2 (65.4 Hz).

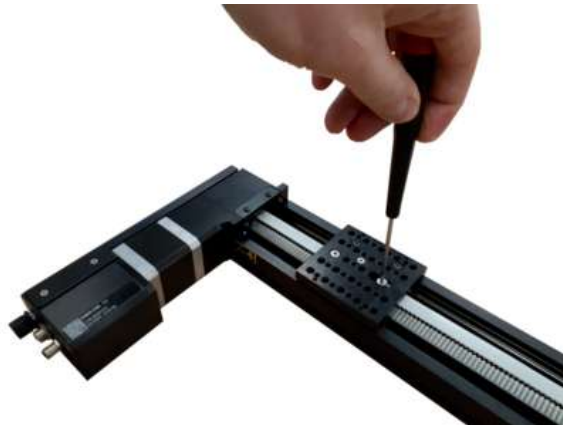


Pluck belt to measure tension.

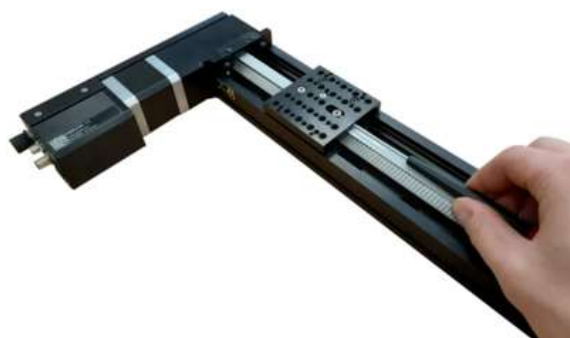


Read the note picked up by the tuner.

5. To make adjustments to the belt tension, loosen the M4 screw with a 2.5mm hex key about 1/4 turn from tight. The screw and the belt clamp under the stage top need to be able to slide along the slot. To increase the belt tension, use a 1.5mm hex key and turn the set screw clockwise- pushing the belt clamp towards the middle of the stage top. To decrease belt tension, turn the set screw counter-clockwise.



Loosen M4 screw then adjust setscrew to tighten or loosen belt.



6. Try to set the belt tension to about a B2 note. The tension will increase by about a semitone (e.g. B to C or C to C#) when the M4 screw is tightened. The final tension should be within 25 cents of C2 (1 semitone = 100 cents).



The final tension should be close to C2

7. The tuner may not initially register a note if the belt is too loose. As a rough guideline, you can hear what a C2 sounds like at [www.tunemybass.com](http://www.tunemybass.com) (select 4 string base with drop C tuning, then mouse over the lowest string to hear tone). It is a good idea to get a rough idea of what the tensioned belt will sound like so that you don't try to tune it to a C3 note - an octave higher than C2. This will be much too tight and could damage the belt or tensioning mechanism.

8. If the belt is close to the right tension, but the tuner still does not register a note, try attaching a metal plate or bracket to the stage top and clamp the tuner to that. This mounting should pick up the belt vibrations more easily.

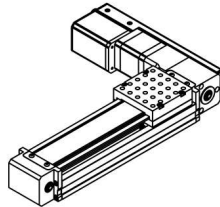


If the tuner is having difficulty picking up the belt vibration, try indirectly attaching it to the stage top as shown.

## Product Drawing

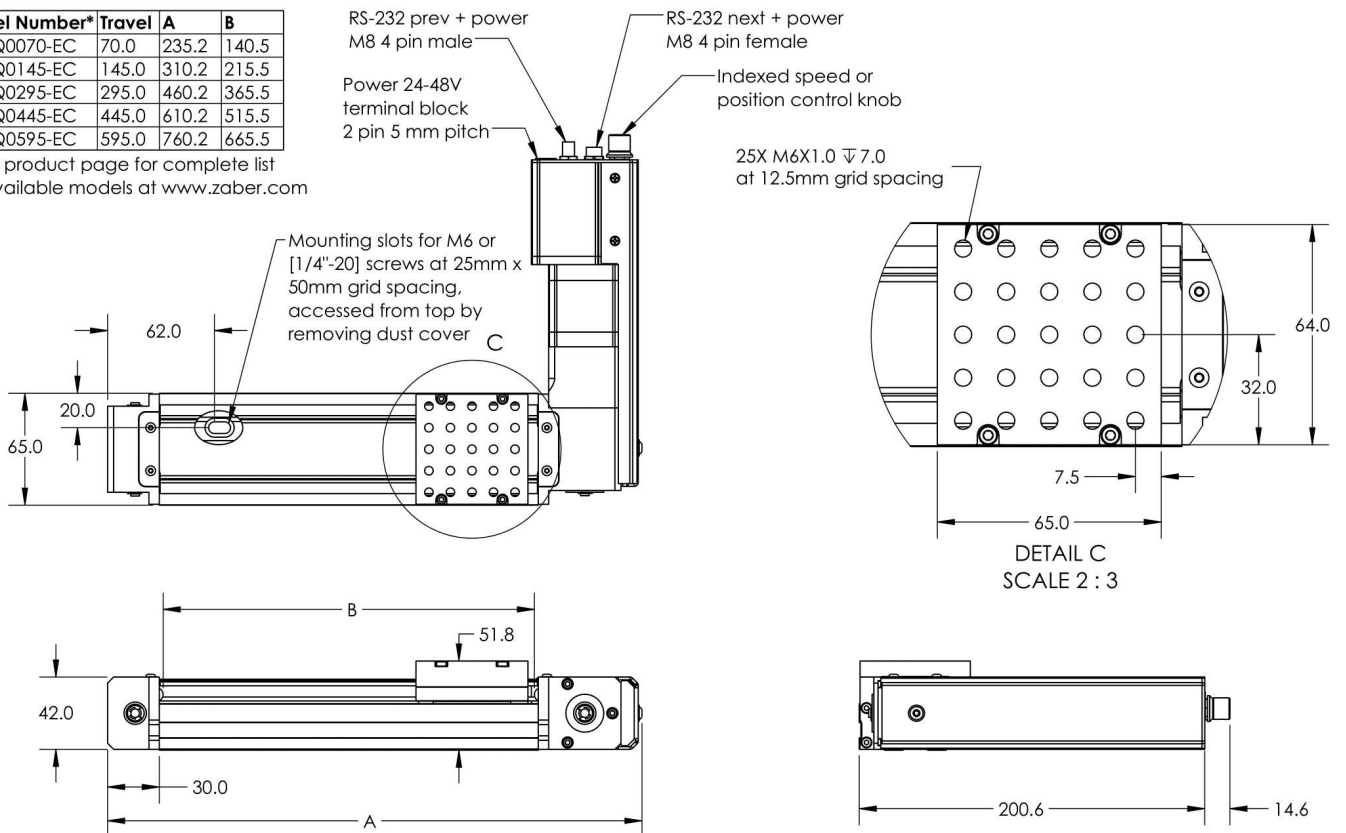
# ZABER

**X-BLQ-EC Motorized Linear Stage**  
dimensions in mm



Model Number*	Travel	A	B
X-BLQ0070-EC	70.0	235.2	140.5
X-BLQ0145-EC	145.0	310.2	215.5
X-BLQ0295-EC	295.0	460.2	365.5
X-BLQ0445-EC	445.0	610.2	515.5
X-BLQ0595-EC	595.0	760.2	665.5

\*See product page for complete list of available models at [www.zaber.com](http://www.zaber.com)



DIWG 3478 R01

## Specifications

Specification	Value	Alternate Unit
Microstep Size (Default Resolution)	4.21875 $\mu$ m	
Built-in Controller	Yes	
Repeatability	< 20 $\mu$ m	< 0.000787"

Specification	Value	Alternate Unit
Backlash	< 75 $\mu\text{m}$	< 0.002953"
Minimum Speed	0.002576 mm/s	0.000101"/s
Speed Resolution	0.002576 mm/s	0.000101"/s
Encoder Resolution	500 CPR	2000 states/rev
Encoder Type	Rotary quadrature encoder	
Peak Thrust	55 N	12.3 lb
Maximum Continuous Thrust	20 N	4.5 lb
Communication Interface	RS-232	
Communication Protocol	Zaber ASCII (Default), Zaber Binary	
Data Cable Connection	Locking 4-pin M8	
Maximum Centered Load	200 N	44.9 lb
Maximum Moment (Pitch)	5 N·m	3.7 ft·lb
Maximum Moment (Roll)	15 N·m	11.1 ft·lb
Maximum Moment (Yaw)	5 N·m	3.7 ft·lb
Vertical Runout	< 30 $\mu\text{m}$	< 0.001181"
Pitch	0.06°	1.047 mrad
Roll	0.03°	0.523 mrad
Yaw	0.03°	0.523 mrad
Stiffness in Pitch	115 N·m/°	152 $\mu\text{rad/N}\cdot\text{m}$
Stiffness in Roll	145 N·m/°	120 $\mu\text{rad/N}\cdot\text{m}$
Stiffness in Yaw	110 N·m/°	159 $\mu\text{rad/N}\cdot\text{m}$
Power Supply	24-48 VDC	
Maximum Current Draw	1800 mA	
Linear Motion Per Motor Rev	54 mm	2.126"
Motor Steps Per Rev	200	
Motor Type	Stepper (2 phase)	
Motor Rated Current	2300 mA/phase	
Inductance	2.2 mH/phase	
Default Resolution	1/64 of a step	
Guide Type	Recirculating Ball Linear Guide	
Mechanical Drive System	Synchronous belt	
Limit or Home Sensing	Magnetic home sensor	
Manual Control	Indexed knob with push switch	
Axes of Motion	1	
Mounting Interface	M6 threaded holes	
Stage Parallelism	< 100 $\mu\text{m}$	< 0.003937"
Operating Temperature Range	0 to 50 °C	
CE Compliant	Yes	
Vacuum Compatible	No	

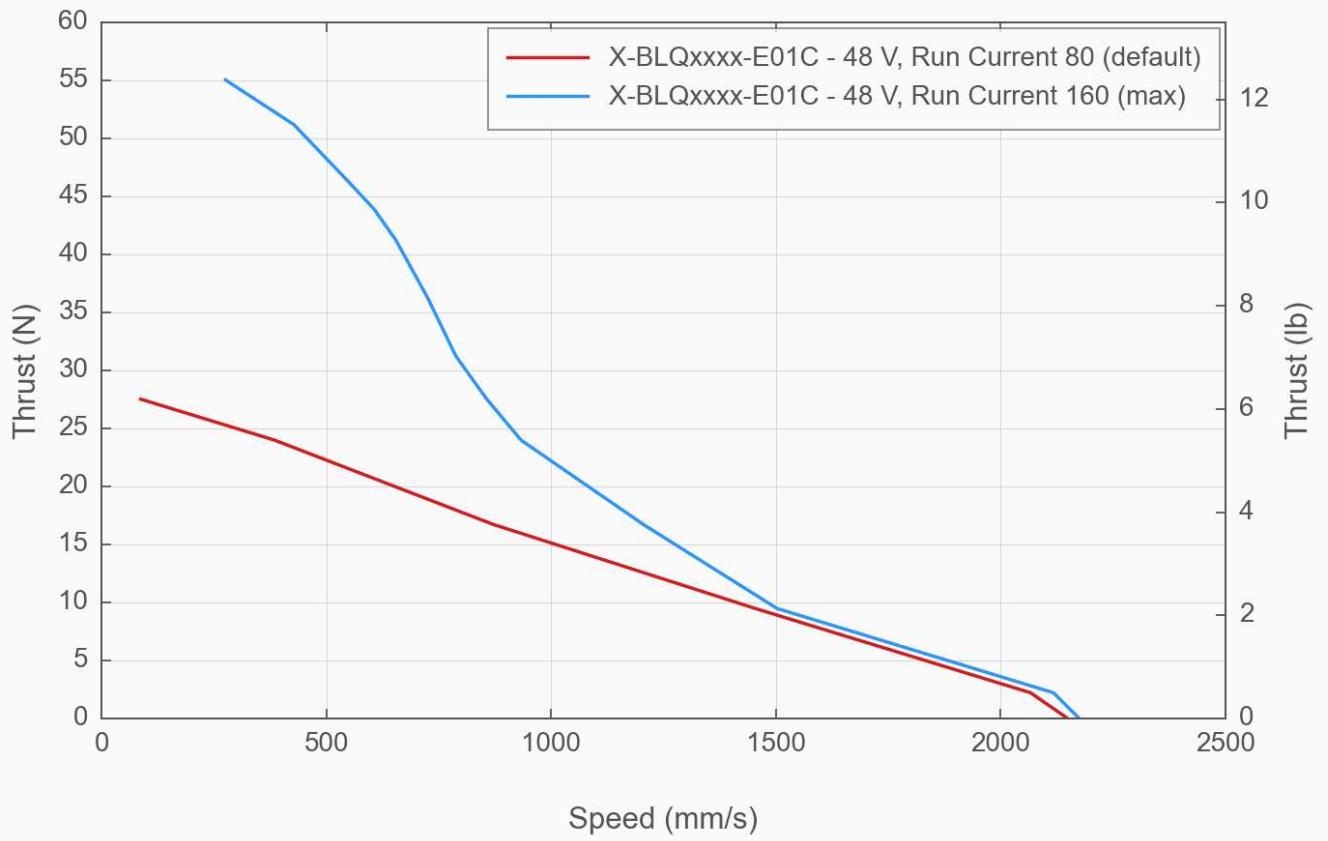
## Comparison

Part Number	Travel Range	Accuracy (unidirectional)	Maximum Speed	Horizontal Runout
X-BLQ0070-E01C	70 mm (2.756")	200 $\mu\text{m}$ (0.007874")	1100 mm/s (43.307"/s)	< 20 $\mu\text{m}$ (< 0.000787")

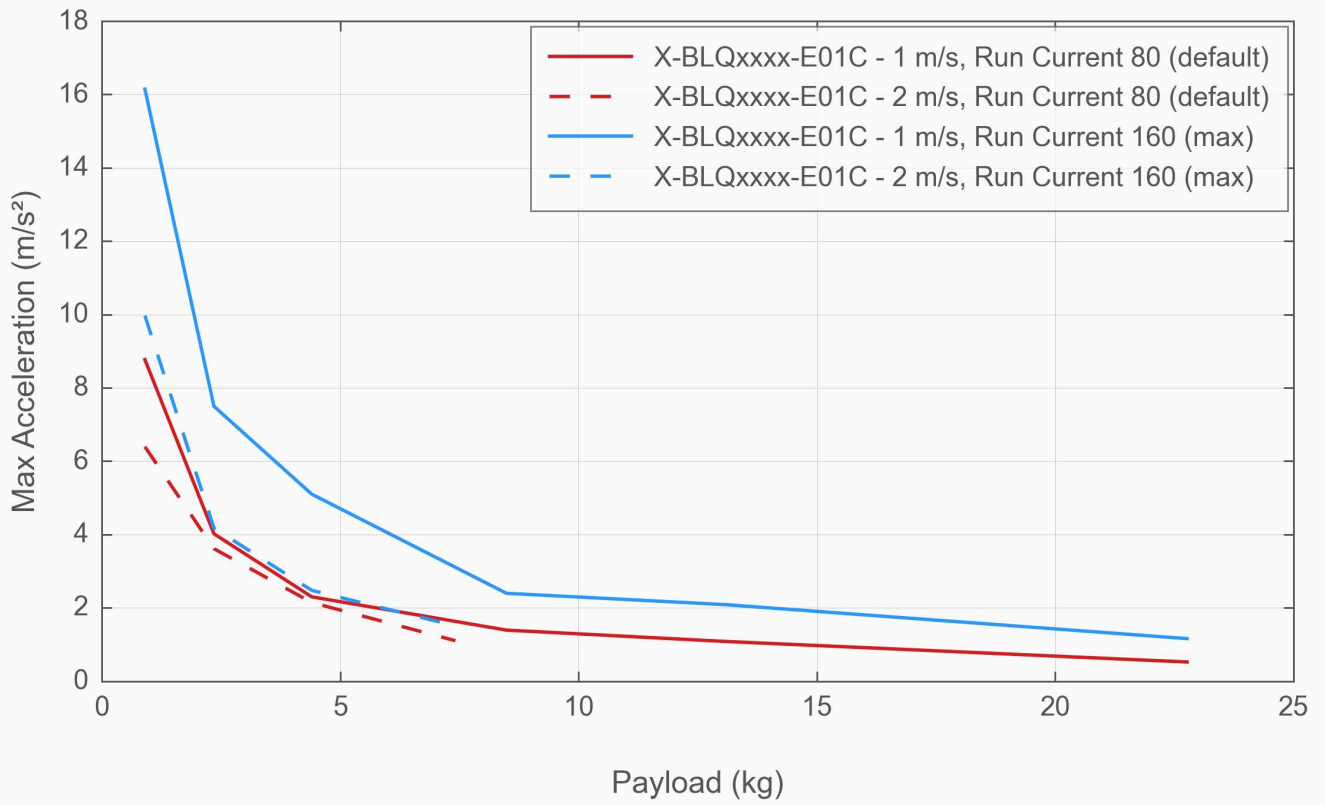
Part Number	Travel Range	Accuracy (unidirectional)	Maximum Speed	Horizontal Runout
X-BLQ0145-E01C	145 mm (5.709")	200 µm (0.007874")	1600 mm/s (62.992"/s)	< 30 µm (< 0.001181")
X-BLQ0295-E01C	295 mm (11.614")	300 µm (0.011811")	2000 mm/s (78.740"/s)	< 35 µm (< 0.001378")
X-BLQ0445-E01C	445 mm (17.520")	400 µm (0.015748")	2000 mm/s (78.740"/s)	< 40 µm (< 0.001575")
X-BLQ0595-E01C	595 mm (23.425")	500 µm (0.019685")	2000 mm/s (78.740"/s)	< 60 µm (< 0.002362")

Part Number	Weight
X-BLQ0070-E01C	1.86 kg (4.101 lb)
X-BLQ0145-E01C	2.05 kg (4.519 lb)
X-BLQ0295-E01C	2.4 kg (5.291 lb)
X-BLQ0445-E01C	2.8 kg (6.173 lb)
X-BLQ0595-E01C	3.12 kg (6.878 lb)

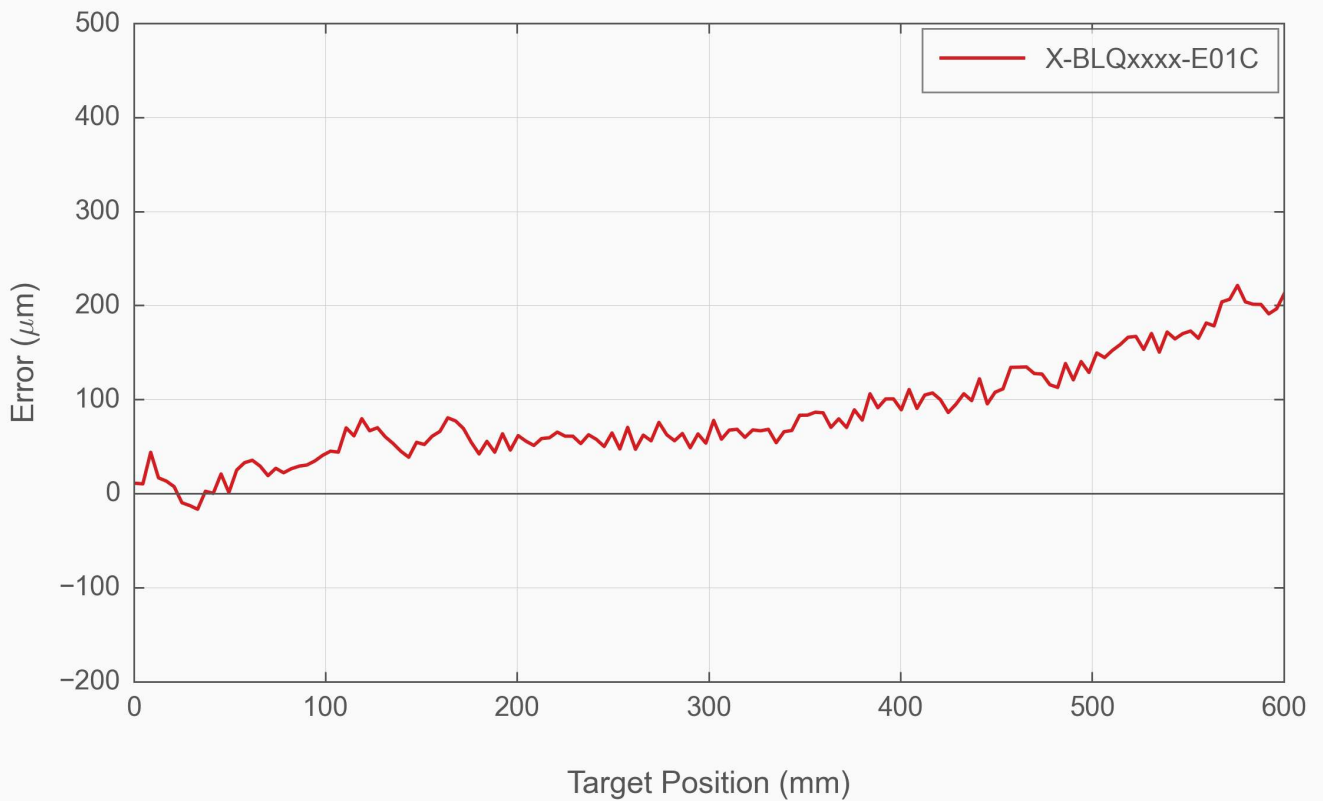
### Thrust Speed Performance



## Horizontal Acceleration



## Typical Accuracy



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