How to Update the Flash on Your Eggtimer

Occasionally, we publish updates to the Eggtimer flight computer software. Typically, this is to fix (hopefully) minor bugs, or to add new features that have been suggested to us. The Eggtimer's software can be updated using the same serial cable that you use for downloading and programming. Updates are easy, and it takes about 1-2 minutes.

Caveat: Currently, we only support updates from Microsoft Windows PCs. Sorry Apple/Linux fans…

1) Download and install Win-AVR.

You will need a current version of the Win-AVR program for your Windows PC. You can get it by clicking on the link on the Eggtimer support page under Knowledge Base. This only needs to be installed once.

2) Plug the USB-Serial cable into your PC.

3) Note that COM port that you use; it will be the same one that you use when you program/download your Eggtimer. You can find it in Device Manager under Ports, the USB-Serial cable will show up as "USB Serial Port" or something like that.

4) Download the update package, then unzip it to a scratch folder (i.e. C:\Temp)

5) If your COM port was COM2, you can skip this step. Otherwise, open the Eggupdate.bat file with Notepad, look at the line that starts with "avrdude ". If the COM port number does not match your, change it. For example, if the COM port that you got in Device Manager was COM3, change COM2 to COM3. Be careful not to change anything else on the line, or the update script won't work. Close Notepad, saving the file when prompted.

6) Connect your Serial Cable to your Eggtimer and power it on. Let it run for a minute so that you get the "Ready for Flight" chirp. This will initialize the serial port.

7) Reset the Eggtimer, and hold it in reset mode.

8) Double-click on the Eggupdate.bat file. You will see some heading stuff, then it will display a line starting with "avrdude: Send: 0…" repeatedly at about two second intervals.

9) After the FIRST "avrdude: Send: 0…" line, release the reset switch on the Eggtimer. If it "takes", you will start to see a lot of stuff scroll rapidly across your screen. This means that it's uploading, this is good. After about a minute or so it will stop and the window will close, your Eggtimer will reset, and it will go into the normal programming mode (you'll hear the beep-beep). Connect your terminal program at 19,200 baud, reset the Eggtimer, and confirm that the version in the upper left hand corner matches the uploaded software version. If it does, your're done!

Sometimes the update won't "take" on the first try. If that happens, wait for the Eggupdate.bat window to close, then repeat steps 7 and 8.