



Connecting To Your Electromotive System

Operating System

Electromotive WinTEC software is designed to be used on PCs running Microsoft Windows operating systems. Some early versions (Wintec1, 2 and 3) require Windows XP SP2 or earlier (Windows 95,98,2000,ME or NT) for proper operation. WinTEC4 can be used with any version of windows up to and including Windows 10 providing the PC features a serial port or properly configured and compatible serial adapter. WinTEC will not run on Mac or Linux-based operating systems.

Serial Port Connectivity

Many Electromotive systems including our current TEC3r, TECgt, TECs, TECm and XDI2 feature a 9 pin Serial port connection. These types of connectors are used for their stability and durability, which are necessities in the harsh environment that our systems are often used in. We strongly recommend using a PC equipped with a native serial port when working with these systems. While various adapters are available to convert a USB port to a serial port, we have found these to be very hit-or-miss in their operation. A native serial port is always the preferred connection method for hassle-free operation.

USB Connectivity

Newer Electromotive systems including our 200 series ECUs (TECgt200, TECs200 & XDI200) as well as the TECevo feature native USB connection ports in addition to a serial port. When using the USB port on these units the appropriate drivers need to be installed on your PC. If Windows doesn't automatically install the necessary drivers when you first connect to the unit, you can find them for download on our [software downloads page](#).

Where can I find a Laptop with a serial port?

While it is true that serial ports are no longer used in consumer grade laptop computers, the serial port is still relatively common in commercial/industrial grade PCs. Therefore, you'll need to go somewhere other than the local Best Buy or Walmart to get the proper computer. One line of laptops that usually feature native serial ports are the Panasonic Toughbook line. These ruggedized laptops are commonly used by armed forces, police departments, and commercial/industrial professionals including professional tuners. They are ideally suited for the shop environment as they are ruggedized and sealed to protect against impact and moisture, and feature screens that work great outdoors. While they are very expensive new, many companies specialize in refurbishing off-lease units that can be had for around \$400 with a warranty. These laptops are ideally suited as a dedicated tuning computer.

I already have a PC that doesn't have a serial port

While Electromotive strongly encourages the use of serial equipped PCs for use with our systems, there are some options for customers who have non-serial equipped laptops. If you are fortunate enough to have a laptop equipped with a PCMCIA or Express Card slot, then adapters designed to use these ports are preferred. If not, then a USB to serial adapter is option #2. We have found that USB to serial adapters are

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very hit-or-miss, and often an adapter that works with one computer, won't work with another. Therefore it might be necessary to try multiple adapters before finding one that works. Also, take note that many companies package the same adapter with their own name on the package, so two different adapters might have the same USB to serial adapter inside. Please understand that Electromotive cannot be responsible for the effectiveness of any adapters. Also, if you are experienced with these types of devices, it might be necessary to have someone proficient with PCs assist you with the configuration of the device, including the installation of any necessary drivers and the setting of the com port.