

# **MultiTAG RFID Reader**

## **HiTAG**



**Protocol documentation**

**Firmware LFX V1.0**

Version 2.0 - Juli 2006

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- Repairs may be executed by the manufacturer only.
- Only qualified personnel should carry out installation, operation, and maintenance procedures.
- Use of the device and its installation must be in accordance with national legal requirements and local electrical codes.
- When working on devices the valid safety regulations must be observed.

## Preface - Read This First

### About this documentation

This documentation describes the noax MultiTAG RFID Reader "HiTAG".  
Its goal is to describe the reader, how it works, how to integrate it and how to use it.

### Compatibility to RFID reader with Firmware "MultiTAG 0.12b"

If you actually use RFID reader with Firmware "MultiTAG 0.12b" (delivered till April 2006) and you would like the actual reader (with Firmware "LFX 1.0") to be compatible to the old RFID reader then please see chapter 4.3.3.7.1 "Compatibility Mode".

To get your firmware version please see appendix A

### Configuration tool for RFID reader

You will find the configuration tool "noax Reader Utility V3-1-0" at the following URL:

[www.noax.com/en/service/download-technik/software](http://www.noax.com/en/service/download-technik/software)

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## Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Scope .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Definitions and abbreviations.....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1	Definitions .....	10
2.1.1	Hex notation .....	10
2.1.2	ASCII notation .....	10
2.2	Abbreviations.....	10
<b>3</b>	<b>Tag organization .....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1	Overview of supported labels.....	11
3.2	EM4x02 .....	11
3.3	EM4x50 .....	12
3.3.1	Memory organization.....	12
3.3.1.1	Password .....	12
3.3.1.2	Protection word .....	12
3.3.1.3	Control word.....	13
3.3.1.4	User memory.....	13
3.3.1.5	Device serial number, device identification .....	13
3.4	Hitag 1 .....	14
3.4.1	Memory organization.....	14
3.4.1.1	Serial number.....	14
3.4.1.2	Configuration word .....	14
3.4.1.3	User data.....	14
3.5	Hitag S .....	15
3.5.1	Memory organization.....	15
3.5.1.1	Configuration Word .....	15
3.5.1.1.1	CON0 .....	15
3.5.1.1.2	Memory Type .....	15
3.5.1.1.3	CON1 .....	16
3.5.1.1.4	LCON .....	16
3.5.1.1.5	LKP .....	16
3.5.1.1.6	CON2 .....	16
3.5.1.1.7	CON3 .....	16

<b>3.6</b>	<b>Hitag 2 .....</b>	<b>17</b>
3.6.1	Memory organization .....	17
3.6.1.1	Serial number .....	17
3.6.1.2	Password RWD .....	17
3.6.1.3	Configuration .....	17
3.6.1.4	User data .....	17
<b>3.7</b>	<b>EM4x05 (ISO FDXB) .....</b>	<b>18</b>
3.7.1	Decoding EM4x05 (ISO FDXB) .....	18
3.7.1.1	Preparing data .....	18
3.7.1.2	Application ID .....	18
3.7.1.3	Country code .....	18
3.7.1.4	National ID .....	19
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Q5 .....</b>	<b>20</b>
3.8.1	Serial Number .....	20
3.8.2	Memory organization .....	20
3.8.3	Configuration data .....	20
3.8.3.1	Max Block .....	20
3.8.3.2	PWD .....	20
3.8.3.3	AOR .....	21
3.8.4	User Data, Password .....	21
3.8.5	Locking .....	21
3.8.6	Q5 and EM4002 .....	21
3.8.7	Old version of Q5 .....	21
<b>3.9</b>	<b>TI-RFID SYSTEMS .....</b>	<b>22</b>
3.9.1	TI-RFID SYSTEMS Read/Only .....	22
3.9.2	Memory organization of TI-RFID SYSTEMS 64 Bit Read/Write .....	22
3.9.3	Memory organization of TI-RFID SYSTEMS 1088 Bit Multipage .....	22
3.9.3.1	Locking blocks .....	22

<b>4</b>	<b>Software.....</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1	ASCII Protocol .....	23
4.2	Binary Protocol.....	23
4.2.1	STX .....	24
4.2.2	Station ID.....	24
4.2.3	Length .....	24
4.2.4	Flags .....	24
4.2.4.1	Error State.....	24
4.2.4.2	Leading Character Info.....	24
4.2.5	Data.....	25
4.2.6	Block Check Character (BCC).....	25
4.2.7	ETX .....	25
4.2.8	Remarks .....	25
4.2.9	Examples.....	25
4.3	Instruction Set .....	26
4.3.1	Overview .....	26
4.3.2	Error Codes .....	27
4.3.3	EEPROM memory organization .....	28
4.3.3.1	Unique device ID (00h-04h) .....	29
4.3.3.2	Station ID (0Ah).....	29
4.3.3.3	Protocol configuration (0Bh).....	29
4.3.3.3.1	Auto start ( <i>default 1</i> ).....	29
4.3.3.3.2	Protocol ( <i>default 0</i> ).....	29
4.3.3.3.3	Lock mode ( <i>default 0</i> ) .....	29
4.3.3.3.4	LED ( <i>default 0</i> ) .....	30
4.3.3.3.5	Single shot ( <i>default 0</i> ) .....	30
4.3.3.3.6	Page read ( <i>default 0</i> ) .....	30
4.3.3.4	Baud rate (0Ch).....	30
4.3.3.5	Operation mode (0Eh).....	31
4.3.3.6	Single Shot Timeout value (0Fh).....	32
4.3.3.7	Protocol configuration 2 (10h) .....	32
4.3.3.7.1	Compatibility Mode ( <i>default 0</i> ) .....	32
4.3.3.7.2	Reset Command .....	32
4.3.3.7.3	Antenna power off.....	32
4.3.3.7.4	Error Codes.....	33
4.3.3.7.5	Automatic Select .....	33
4.3.3.7.6	Special Differences for EM4050.....	33
4.3.3.7.7	Special Differences for Q5 .....	33

4.3.3.7.8	Range checking .....	33
4.3.3.7.9	Differences for reading with the 'r' command .....	33
4.3.3.7.10	Differences for writing with the 'w' command .....	33
4.3.3.7.11	TI-RFID SYSTEMS .....	34
4.3.3.7.12	Disable startup message ( <i>default 0</i> ) .....	34
4.3.3.7.13	Enable binary frame v2 ( <i>default 0</i> ) .....	34
4.3.3.7.14	Noisy Environment ( <i>default 0</i> ) .....	34
4.3.3.8	Start page (11h) .....	34
4.3.3.9	Number of pages (12h) .....	34
4.3.3.10	Reset Off Time (14h) .....	35
4.3.3.11	Reset Recovery Time (15h) .....	35
4.3.3.12	Tag Settings (16h – 1Ah) .....	35
4.3.3.13	User data (20h-EFh) .....	36
4.3.4	Test Continuous Read .....	36
4.3.5	Continuous Read .....	37
4.3.5.1	Leading character .....	38
4.3.5.2	Binary Mode .....	38
4.3.5.3	Lock mode ( <i>default disabled</i> ) .....	38
4.3.5.4	SingleShot function ( <i>default disabled</i> ) .....	38
4.3.5.5	PageRead function ( <i>default disabled</i> ) .....	39
4.3.5.6	LED function ( <i>default disabled</i> ) .....	39
4.3.5.7	Simple access control applications .....	39
4.3.5.8	Special Note about HITAG S .....	39
4.3.6	Set LED .....	40
4.3.6.1	LED string .....	40
4.3.7	Set TAG settings .....	41
4.3.8	Get ID .....	42
4.3.8.1	ASCII mode .....	42
4.3.8.2	Binary Mode .....	42
4.3.8.3	Time slotted answer .....	43
4.3.9	Lock page .....	44
4.3.10	Login .....	45



4.3.11	Set tag type .....	46
4.3.11.1	Tag type character .....	46
4.3.12	Include tag type .....	47
4.3.12.1	Tag type character .....	47
4.3.13	Exclude tag type .....	48
4.3.13.1	Tag type character .....	48
4.3.14	Antenna power on/off .....	49
4.3.14.1	Power off .....	49
4.3.14.2	Power on .....	49
4.3.15	Read block .....	50
4.3.15.1	Block data .....	51
4.3.15.2	No tag in field 'N' .....	51
4.3.15.3	Read failure 'F' .....	51
4.3.15.3.1	Out of range failure 'R' .....	51
4.3.16	Read EEPROM .....	52
4.3.17	Select .....	53
4.3.17.1	Select a single tag .....	53
4.3.18	Get Version .....	54
4.3.19	Write block.....	55
4.3.19.1	Compatibility Mode.....	56
4.3.19.2	No tag error 'N' .....	56
4.3.19.3	Write failure 'F' .....	56
4.3.19.3.1	Out of range failure 'R' .....	56
4.3.20	Write EEPROM .....	57
4.3.21	Reset.....	58
4.3.21.1	Reset Timing .....	58
4.3.22	Field Reset .....	59
<b>5</b>	<b>Appendix A: Getting started .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Appendix B: References .....</b>	<b>61</b>

## 1 Scope

The noax MultiTAG RFID Reader "HiTAG" is a Read/Write device that supports a wide range of 125 kHz and 134.2 kHz tags.

It supports the following types of transponder:

- Hitag 1, S and 2
- EM 4x02
- EM 4x05 (ISO FDXB)
- EM4x50
- Q5
- TI-RFID SYSTEMS

The first part of the manual describes general functions and memory management of several supported tags. A listing of the memory map is given if necessary.

The second part lists the reader command set. Each command is explained in detail and an example illustrates the usage.

## 2 Definitions and abbreviations

### 2.1 Definitions

#### 2.1.1 Hex notation

A hexadecimal value is noted with a following h, i.e. A1h has the value A1 hexadecimal.

#### 2.1.2 ASCII notation

ASCII characters are listed within apostrophes, i.e. 'x' means a decimal based value x.

### 2.2 Abbreviations

LSB	Least significant bit
MSB	Most significant bit
RFU	Reserved for future use
OTP	One time programmable
<CR>	Carriage return
<LF>	Line Feed

Figure 2-1: Abbreviations

## 3 Tag organization

### 3.1 Overview of supported labels

Tag	Serial Number	Read block	Write block	Properties
EM4x02	√	-	-	5 bytes R/O
EM4x50	√	√	√	32 x 4 bytes R/W, password
HITAG1	√	√	√	64 x 4 bytes R/W
HITAG S	√	√	√	1, 8 or 64 x 4 bytes R/W
HITAG2	√	√	√	7 x 4 bytes R/W, password
EM4x05 (ISO – FDXB)	√	-	-	8 bytes R/O
Q5	√	√	√	8 x 4 R/W, Password
TI-RFID SYSTEMS 64 Bit Read/Only	√			8 bytes R/O
TI-RFID SYSTEMS 64 Bit R/W	√	√	√	8 bytes R/W
TI-RFID SYSTEMS 1088 Bit Multipage	√	√	√	17x8bytes R/W

Figure 3-1: Supported labels

### 3.2 EM4x02

The EM4x02 label only provides a 5 bytes serial number. The label starts to send its response immediately after entering an energizing field. Each transponder has its own unique serial number, which cannot be changed. For more information refer to [1]

### 3.3 EM4x50

The EM4x50 has 1 kBit of EEPROM memory, which is organized in 32 blocks of each 4 bytes. The tag supports a password to protect its configuration settings. The UID and the Identification number are laser programmed at the manufacturing process and are Read/Only. All other data is set to 0 as default.

For further information refer to [2]

#### 3.3.1 Memory organization

Block	Function	Access
00h	Password	write access
01h	Protection word	Password protected
02h	Control word	Password protected
03h – 1Fh	User memory	R/W
20h	Device serial number	R/O
21h	Device identification	R/O

Figure 3-2: Memory organization of EM4x50

##### 3.3.1.1 Password

The password is read protected. A user has to log in before he can change block 00h – 02h.

The password is set to 00000000h as default.

##### 3.3.1.2 Protection word

Protection word (01h)			
Bit 31 - 24	Bit 23 - 16	Bit 15 – 8	Bit 7 - 0
End WI	Start WI	End RP	Start RP

Figure 3-3: Protection word

The protection word is divided into two parts. First part (bit 0, bit 15) specifies the read protection (RP) area.

Bit 16 to bit 31 defines the area of the write inhibited (WI) blocks.

Write access to the protection word needs a previous log in.

### 3.3.1.3 Control word

Control word (02h)		
Bit 31 – 17	Bit 16	Bit 15 - 0
RFU	PWC on/off	RFU

Figure 3-4: Control word

The password check (PWC) at bit 16 defines the write access to the user area (03h – 1Fh). If it is set a successful log in prior to any write process is mandatory. It does not affect write access to the control word and protection word.

### 3.3.1.4 User memory

The user memory is free to use. Write access depends on password check bit (control word) and write inhibited area of the protection word.

If the PWC is set a log in previous to any write command is mandatory.

### 3.3.1.5 Device serial number, device identification

These two blocks are Read/Only and defined at the manufacturing process. They are stored in a specific area of the tag. Block 20h (device serial number) is returned if a tag is selected.

## 3.4 Hitag 1

Hitag 1 has 2 kbit EEPROM memory. The memory is organized in 48 blocks. Each block consists of 4 bytes. For further information refer to [3].

### 3.4.1 Memory organization

Block	Function	Access
00h	Serial number	R/O
01h	Configuration word	R/W
02h – 0F	RFU	Not accessible
10h – 3Fh	User data	Read/Write

Figure 3-5: Hitag 1 memory organization

#### 3.4.1.1 Serial number

The serial number is factory programmed and cannot be changed anymore. It is used to distinguish Hitag 1 tags from each other.

#### 3.4.1.2 Configuration word

The configuration word holds information about the tag formatting. Do not alter the contents. Invalid data might inhibit a tag for further operation.

#### 3.4.1.3 User data

User data is free for use.

### 3.5 Hitag S

Hitag S has 32, 256 or 2048 bit EEPROM memory. The memory is organized in blocks of 4 bytes.

#### 3.5.1 Memory organization

Block	Function	Access
00h	Serial number	R/O
01h	Configuration word	Read/Write
02h – 3Fh	User data	R/W

Figure 3-6: Hitag S memory organization

##### 3.5.1.1 Configuration Word

The configuration word consists of 4 Configuration Bytes

Configuration word (01h)			
CON3 (Byte 3)	CON2(Byte 2)	CON1 (Byte 1)	CON 0(Byte 0)

Figure 3-7: Configuration Word

##### 3.5.1.1.1 CON0

The CON 0 byte describe the memory capacity.

CON 0							
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
RFU						MEMT 1	MEMT 0

Figure 3-8: Configuration Byte 0

##### 3.5.1.1.2 Memory Type

MEMT 0	MEMT 1	Memory Type
0	0	32 Bit
0	1	256 Bit
1	0	2048 Bit
1	1	RFU

Figure 3-9: Memory Type



## 3.5.1.1.3 CON1

The CON1 byte specifies the access conditions of the CON1 and CON2 bytes. CON1 is implemented as OTP.

CON 1							
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
RFU						LCON	LKP

Figure 3-10: Configuration Byte 1

## 3.5.1.1.4 LCON

LCON	Access right CON1 and CON2
0	R/W
1	CON1: R/O CON2: OTP

Figure 3-11: LCON register

## 3.5.1.1.5 LKP

LKP	Access Right Block 2 and 3
0	R/W
1	R/O

Figure 3-12: LKP register

## 3.5.1.1.6 CON2

CON2 specifies the access condition of the blocks. If the bit is set all according blocks are Read/Only. This byte is implemented as OTP.

CON 2							
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Block 4 – 5	Block 6 – 7	Block 8 – 11	Block 12 – 15	Block 16 – 23	Block 24 – 31	Block 32 – 47	Block 48 – 63

Figure 3-13: Configuration Byte 2

## 3.5.1.1.7 CON3

The CON3 byte is RFU and should not be changed.

CON 3
RFU

Figure 3-14: Configuration Byte 3

## 3.6 Hitag 2

Hitag 2 tags have 256 bits EEPROM which is divided into 8 blocks. Each block consists of 4 bytes. The tag is only supported in password mode [4].

### 3.6.1 Memory organization

Block	Function	Access
00h	Serial number	R/O
01h	Password RWD	R/W
02h	RFU	R/O
03h	Configuration block	R/W
04h – 07h	User data	R/W

Figure 3-15: Hitag 2 memory organization

#### 3.6.1.1 Serial number

The serial number is factory programmed and cannot be changed anymore. It is used to distinguish Hitag 2 tags from each other.

#### 3.6.1.2 Password RWD

The password RWD and the Password TAG (see Configuration block 03h) is used during the mutual authentication process. Changing the password needs a new authentication.

Default value is 4D494B52h.

#### 3.6.1.3 Configuration

The Configuration block sets up a tag. The reader only supports password mode. All other modes will not be detected from the reader.

Configuration block (03h)			
Byte 3	Byte 2	Byte 1	Byte 0
RFU	Password TAG		

Figure 3-16: Configuration block

The password TAG is used during the authentication. See above Password RWD.

#### 3.6.1.4 User data

User data is free for use.

## 3.7 EM4x05 (ISO FDXB)

The ISO FDXB tag only provides a 8 byte serial number. The tag starts automatically sending its ID number after entering an energizing field. The data is stored LSB first.

### 3.7.1 Decoding EM4x05 (ISO FDXB)

The data format of the EM4x05 (ISO FDXB) tag is coded as described below. The serial number is divided into three parts: application ID, country code, national ID.

EM4x05 (ISO FDXB)							
Byte 7	Byte 6	Byte 5	Byte 4	Byte 3	Byte 2	Byte 1	Byte 0
National ID				Country code		Application ID	

Figure 3-17: EM4x05 (ISO FDXB)

#### 3.7.1.1 Preparing data

Following steps must be done prior to any interpretation of the serial number.

- Cut off the first character to get the 8 byte serial number
- First the data stream has to be reversed. LSB takes place in the end and MSB is first.
- Reverse each nibble.
- 

#### 3.7.1.2 Application ID

The Application ID specifies the application of the transponder.

#### 3.7.1.3 Country code

The country code only consists of 12 bits (byte 2 and low nibble of byte 3). Decoding of the country code is done as follows:

- Shift right two times.
- Convert the hexadecimal number to decimal based number

## 3.7.1.4 National ID

The national ID is unique for each country. The national ID consists of 36 bits (byte 7, byte 6, byte 5, byte 4, high nibble of byte 3)

Converting the number from hexadecimal system to decimal based numbers simply decodes the National ID.

### Example

The example shows the correct decoding of an EM4x05 (ISO FDXB) transponder.

Data	Comments
70 91 53 12 EA 6F 00 01h	Number received from the reader
10 00 F6 AE 21 35 19 07h	Reversed number
80 00 F6 57 48 CA 89 0Eh	Reverse each nibble
8000h	Application Identifier
F65h	Country code
3D9h	2 times right shift
'985'	Convert to decimal based number
748CA890Eh	National ID
'31286003982'	Convert to decimal based number

Figure 3-18: EM4x05 (ISO FDXB) decoding example

### 3.8 Q5

Q5 tags have a 330 bit EEPROM which is divided into 10 blocks of 33 bit each, 1 bit per block is not directly useable because it is used for locking. So there are 32 bit per block user useable. Also there is a trace ability Data Structure, the contents of this structure are used as serial. Q5 TAGs without trace ability Structure are not supported.

#### 3.8.1 Serial Number

The serial number is factory programmed and cannot be changed.

#### 3.8.2 Memory organization

Block	Function	Access
0	Configuration data	R/W
1-6	User data	R/W
7	User data or password	R/W

#### 3.8.3 Configuration data

Configuration Data																															
RFU																AOR	PWD	RFU				Max Block	RFU								
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

##### 3.8.3.1 Max Block

Max Block sets the number of blocks to read out automatically (This setting has no affect for this reader)

##### 3.8.3.2 PWD

If PWD set, the password mode is enabled. Attention: It is safe to set this bit, but once it is set you should not clear it because this may cause unexpected behavior of the TAG (including unreadability of the TAG).

### 3.8.3.3 AOR

If AOR is set, the TAG only answers on request in password mode. If cleared the TAG sends continuously blocks after power on. This can cause problems with password mode, because the reader may read one of this sent out blocks instead of the requested block when you use a wrong password.

ATTENTION: All RFU bit MUST be set to the values specified above. Other values may render the TAG unreadable.

### 3.8.4 User Data, Password

In password mode block 7 is used to store the password. The password consists of 32 bit. For logging in you must use the same password.

In normal mode blocks 1-7 are user data.

### 3.8.5 Locking

Every block of the Q5 can be locked. For locking the lock command must be issued.

### 3.8.6 Q5 and EM4002

It is possible to simulate a EM4002 TAG with a Q5 TAG if the first two blocks are properly configured and the TAG is set up to send this two blocks continuous out automatically (This is also the default configuration). We recommend that you never use EM4002 and Q5 (see Operation Mode register) together or take special care that you not accidentally have the above-mentioned configuration, or the Q5 TAG will be recognized as EM4002.

### 3.8.7 Old version of Q5

There exists an old version of Q5 that doesn't have a serial number (trace ability data block). These TAGs are not supported, but they will work as long as page1 and page2 contain data in the exactly same format as the trace ability data block and the TAG is configured that it automatically transmits page 1 & 2 (max block set to 2). But as soon as you alter a single bit in page 1 or 2 and it doesn't match the format of the trace ability data block you will not be able to select this TAG again.

### 3.9 TI-RFID SYSTEMS

There are 3 types of TI-RFID SYSTEMS TAGs: 64 Bit Read/Only, 64 Bit Read/Write and 1088Bit Multipage.

The 64 Bit Read/Only TAG has only a 64 bit serial number, the Read/Write version has one 64 bit R/W block which is the serial number too. The Multipage Read/Write has 17 blocks with 64bit R/W per block, where block one is there serial number too.

#### 3.9.1 TI-RFID SYSTEMS Read/Only

Serial number of TI-RFID SYSTEMS 64 Bit Read/Only	
Bit 64 – Bit 79	Bit 0 – Bit 63
CRC Code	Identification Data

#### 3.9.2 Memory organization of TI-RFID SYSTEMS 64 Bit Read/Write

Block	Function	Access
00h	Serial Number	R/W

#### 3.9.3 Memory organization of TI-RFID SYSTEMS 1088 Bit Multipage

Block	Function	Access
00h	Serial Number	R/W
01h-11h	User Data	R/W

##### 3.9.3.1 Locking blocks

Each block can be locked with the lock command.

## 4 Software

As a default data is transmitted at 9600, 8, n, 1. Two protocol modes are supported. The protocol mode is configured in the reader EEPROM. As factory default, the ASCII protocol is used.

### 4.1 ASCII Protocol

This protocol was designed for easy handling. The commands can be issued using a terminal program. Data is transmitted as ASCII hexadecimal that can be displayed on any terminal program (e.g. HyperTerminal).

Command	Data
Various length	Various length

Figure 4-1: ASCII protocol frame

### 4.2 Binary Protocol

This protocol was designed for industrial applications with synchronization and frame checking. Also an addressing byte for party lines (master slave, multi drop) is included.

The protocol usually requires a device driver. Data is transmitted binary.

STX	Station ID	Length	Data	BCC	ETX
1 byte	1 byte	1 byte	Various length	1 byte	1 byte

Figure 4-2: Binary protocol frame

The binary frame version 2 is only sent to the host. It is implemented to give extended information to the host.

STX	Station ID	Length	Flags	Data	BCC	ETX
1 byte	1 byte	1 byte	1 byte	Various length	1 byte	1 byte

Figure 4-3: Binary protocol frame 2



## 4.2.1 STX

Start of transmission (02h)

## 4.2.2 Station ID

Unique ID of the station

00h: reserved for the bus master. Readers send response to this device ID

FFh: Broadcast message. All devices will execute the command.

## 4.2.3 Length

Length of the data block

## 4.2.4 Flags

The flag byte gives additional information to the host.

Bit 3 – Bit 7	Bit 1 – Bit 2	Bit 0
RFU	Leading Character Info	Error State

### 4.2.4.1 Error State

If Bit 0 is cleared the command was processed successfully.

If the bit is set an error occurred.

### 4.2.4.2 Leading Character Info

Bit 1 & 2 defines how to interpret the data in the binary frame.

Bit 2	Bit 1	Description
0	0	No leading character available, all values are hexadecimal.
0	1	The data contains one leading character.
1	0	All data bytes are characters.
1	1	RFU

## 4.2.5 Data

This part contains the command and data. The command values are the same as in ASCII protocol mode ('x', 's', ...). Data is transmitted binary.

The length of the command block depends on the instruction.

## 4.2.6 Block Check Character (BCC)

The BCC is used to detect transmission errors. The BCC is calculated XORing each byte of the transmission frame excluding the STX/BCC and ETX character.

$$BCC = (StatID) \text{ xor } (Length) \text{ xor } (Command / Data_0) \text{ xor } \dots \text{ xor } (Command / Data_N)$$

## 4.2.7 ETX

End of transmission. (03h)

## 4.2.8 Remarks

If the reader device receives an invalid instruction frame (i.e. BCC wrong) or the requested station ID does not match the internal ID of the reader, the command is not executed. The reader waits for the next valid frame.

Use the binary timeout (see protocol configuration register) to detect incomplete binary frames.

## 4.2.9 Examples

02h	64h	01h	78h	1Dh	03h
STX	Station ID	Length	'x'	BCC	ETX

Figure 4-4: Example

This instruction frame will reset the reader module with the station ID 64h.

## 4.3 Instruction Set

Following table describes all commands of the reader device. Each command returns an answer to the host. Exceptions are mentioned explicitly. The green LED is acknowledging a successfully executed command. The red LED indicates an error.

### 4.3.1 Overview

Command	Description
'!	Test continuous read
'c'	Continuous read
'dr' / 'dg' / 'dn'	Set LED
'dX'	Set TAG settings
'g'	Get ID
'k'	Lock block
'l'	Login
'oX'	Set tag type
'o+X'	Include tag type
'o-X'	Exclude tag type
'poff' / 'pon'	Antenna power off/on
'pr' / 'pw'	R/W user port
'r' / 'rb'	Read block
'rp'	Read EEPROM register
's'	Select
'v'	Get version
'w' / 'wb'	Write block
'wp'	Write EEPROM register
'x'	Reset
'y'	Field reset

Figure 4-5: Command overview

## 4.3.2 Error Codes

Following figure shows an overview of all error messages of the reader device.

Error Code	Description
'?'	Unknown command
'C'	CRC error
'F'	General failure
'N'	No tag in the field
'O'	Operation mode failure
'R'	Out of range
'X'	Permission denied

Figure 4-6: Error codes

## 4.3.3 EEPROM memory organization

Following figure lists the EEPROM register of the reader device.

Address	Description
00h...04h	Unique device ID; R/O
05h...09h	Administrative data, RFU
0Ah	Station ID
0Bh	Protocol configuration
0Ch	Baud rate
0Dh	RFU
0Eh	Operation mode
0Fh	Single shot timeout value
10h	Protocol configuration 2
11h	Start block
12h	Number of blocks
13h	RFU
14h	Reset off time
15h	Reset recovery time
16h	EM4x02 Settings
17h	EM4x05 (ISO FXDB) Settings
18h	EM4x50 Settings
19h	HITAG1/HITAGS Settings
1Ah	HITAG2 Settings
1Bh	Q5 Settings
1Ch...1Fh	RFU
20h...EFh	User data

Figure 4-7: EEPROM memory

## 4.3.3.1 Unique device ID (00h-04h)

The unique device ID identifies a reader module. It is factory programmed and cannot be changed.

## 4.3.3.2 Station ID (0Ah)

The station ID is used in binary mode to address a device in party line set up. The station ID has the range of 01h to FEh and can be freely set. The value 00h is reserved for the bus master. All readers send a response to this device.

The broadcast message (FFh) forces all readers to response to the command.

**Default value is 01h.**

## 4.3.3.3 Protocol configuration (0Bh)

The PCON register specifies general behavior of the reader device.

**Default value is 01h.**

Protocol configuration register							
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
RFU	Page read	Single shot	LED	Lock mode	RFU	Protocol	Auto start

Figure 4-8: Protocol configuration register

### 4.3.3.3.1 Auto start (default 1)

If set the reader device will start up in continuous read mode automatically. Auto start has only effect in ASCII protocol mode.

### 4.3.3.3.2 Protocol (default 0)

If the protocol flag is set, the reader uses binary protocol mode. As default ASCII protocol is used. See section binary protocol for further information on the binary protocol format.

### 4.3.3.3.3 Lock mode (default 0)

If set the reader locks itself to the first recognized tag type automatically. Other tag types are not recognized. Only a reset or a change operation mode command cancels the lock state.

#### 4.3.3.3.4 LED (default 0)

If set the reader suppresses any LED activity. The user manages the state of the LEDs.

#### 4.3.3.3.5 Single shot (default 0)

If the Single Shot flag is set, then the reader displays the serial number of a tag only once within a specified timeout. The time out is defined at EEPROM register 0Fh. 00h indicated no delay. The delay time can be adjusted stepwise in 100 ms steps.

#### 4.3.3.3.6 Page read (default 0)

If set the reader sends the content of a block specified at EEPROM register 11h instead of the serial number. Additionally the reader device reads following blocks defined at EEPROM register 12h. In any case of an error the reader does not return an error code.

#### 4.3.3.4 Baud rate (0Ch)

The baud rate register defines the communication speed of the reader device.

**Default value is 00h.**

Baud rate register							
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
RFU	RFU	RFU	RFU	RFU	BS2	BS1	BS0

Figure 4-4: Baud rate register

This register defines the baud rate of the device.

BS2	BS1	BS0	Baud rate
0	0	0	9600 baud (default)
0	0	1	19200 baud
0	1	0	38400 baud
0	1	1	57600 baud
1	0	0	115200 baud

Figure 4-5: Baud rate settings

**ATTENTION:** When activating 115200 baud on the first time you should enable Safe Mode because this baud rate may not work reliable with some serial interfaces.

The following figure describes the exact used baud rates of the reader.

Baud rate	Exact baud rate	Error
9600 baud	9615 baud	0.16 %
19200 baud	19231 baud	0.16 %
38400 baud	38462 baud	0.16 %
57600 baud	58824 baud	2.13 %
115200 baud	111111 baud	-3.55 %

Figure 4-6: Exact baud rates

Following figure describes the communication settings

Description
8 data bits
No parity bit
1 stop bit
No flow control

Figure 4-7: Communication settings

#### 4.3.3.5 Operation mode (0Eh)

The operation mode register defines which tag types the reader supports. This register enables fast tag recognition because only defined tag types are requested.

Operation mode register							
Bit 7 (MSB)	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0 (LSB)
RFU	TI-RFID SYSTEMS	Q5	HITAG2	HITAG1 HITAG S	EM4x50	EM4x05 (ISO FXDB)	EM4x02

Figure 4-8: Operation mode register



#### 4.3.3.6 Single Shot Timeout value (0Fh)

The timeout value defines the delay time between two responses of the reader. It has only effect in continuous read mode. To enable the timeout the single shot flag has to be set. See above protocol configuration register. One timeout slice is around 100msec. The exact timing depends on the used protocol.

Value 00h indicates no delay time.

Value FFh indicates infinite delay.

**Default value is 0Ah (1 sec).**

#### 4.3.3.7 Protocol configuration 2 (10h)

The PCON2 register specifies additional general behavior of the reader device.

**Default value is 00h.**

Protocol configuration 2 register							
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
RFU	RFU	RFU	Safe Mode	Noisy Environment	Enable binary frame v2	Disable startup message	Compatibility Mode

Figure 4-9: Protocol configuration register

##### 4.3.3.7.1 Compatibility Mode (default 0)

If set the reader works in a mode, which emulates the behavior of the "Multitag 0.12b" version. New commands will work unchanged, but a few new commands are disabled in compatibility mode.

##### 4.3.3.7.2 Reset Command

In compatibility mode there is an additional reset command, the 'z' command. The 'z' command works exactly like the 'x' command but is provided for compatibility to the older version.

##### 4.3.3.7.3 Antenna power off

For 'Antenna power off' you have to use the 'p' command in compatibility mode, power on is only achievable through reset ('x' or 'z' command in compatibility mode).

**The commands 'poff', 'pon', 'pr' and 'pw' are not available in compatibility mode.**

#### 4.3.3.7.4 Error Codes

In the new version every error code is terminated by <CR> + <LF>, for compatibility to the old version in compatibility mode the '?' error code is not terminated by <CR> + <LF>.

For erroneous operations, in compatibility mode the reader only the 'N' error code beside '?' ('?' is unknown command)

#### 4.3.3.7.5 Automatic Select

In compatibility mode the reader executes a select command before read, write or login.

For HITAG2 TAG the factory default password '4D494B52h' is used if you do not execute a login before. If you log in one time it uses the password you logged in before for HITAG2 as long as you do not execute an other login command.

#### 4.3.3.7.6 Special Differences for EM4050

In compatibility mode you can read the serial of EM4050 if you read block 0 and write the password if you write block 0. While in normal mode the block 0 is write only and sets the password.

#### 4.3.3.7.7 Special Differences for Q5

In compatibility mode Q5 TAGs will only work correctly in non password read/write mode. Login and password depended operations will lead to unexpected behavior.

#### 4.3.3.7.8 Range checking

In compatibility mode the reader does no range checking for read or write. If you specify an illegal memory location the behavior is unknown (This is how the old reader works).

#### 4.3.3.7.9 Differences for reading with the 'r' command

Every successful read operation in compatibility mode is prefixed with the leading character of the TAG. If you read a Read/Only TAG with any block address it returns it's serial number (In normal mode reading a Read/Only TAG with a block address causes an operation mode failure). Reading a block above 40h will return 'N'

#### 4.3.3.7.10 Differences for writing with the 'w' command

Every successful write operation in compatibility mode is prefixed with a 'W' as leading character. If you try to write a Read/Only TAG it always answers with 'N'. Writing to a block above 40h will return 'N'

## 4.3.3.7.11 TI-RFID SYSTEMS

TI-RFID SYSTEMS TAGs are NOT supported in compatibility mode.

### 4.3.3.7.12 Disable startup message (*default 0*)

If the disable startup message flag is set, the reader suppresses the startup message in ASCII mode. This flag is ignored in binary protocol mode.

### 4.3.3.7.13 Enable binary frame v2 (*default 0*)

If the enable binary frame flag is set, the reader send binary frames version 2.

The get station ID command always send binary frames version 1!

### 4.3.3.7.14 Noisy Environment (*default 0*)

If the noisy environment flag is set, the continuous read mode can only be aborted with the '.' character. All other characters are not interpreted.

## 4.3.3.8 Start page (11h)

The EEPROM register defines the start block address in page read mode. To enable this function the page read flag has to be set. See above protocol configuration register.

The reader will send the content of this block instead of the serial number. The reader does not check the integrity of the block address. If an error occurs or a not valid block is read nothing is returned.

***Default value is 00h.***

## 4.3.3.9 Number of pages (12h)

The number of blocks describes how many following blocks are read. The start address is specified at EEPROM register 10h. The reader returns all blocks and sends in the end a <CR> + <LF>.

Value 00h is reserved and should not be used.

***Default value is 01h (one block is read).***

#### 4.3.3.10 Reset Off Time (14h)

The Reset Off Time register represents the field off time in ms.

This register is used for the select, continuous read and multi tag commands.

**Default value is 0Ah.**

#### 4.3.3.11 Reset Recovery Time (15h)

The Reset Recovery Time register represents the recovery time in ms after the field is turned on.

This register is used for the select, continuous read and multi tag commands.

**Default value 0Ah.**

#### 4.3.3.12 Tag Settings (16h – 1Ah)

Each tag has its own Gain and Sampling Time set up. It can be adjusted to gain better reading results for each tag type. As default the values are set to operate best with the Plug and Play board. Wrong settings might cause unexpected behavior of the reader module

Following Figure defines the structure of the tag setting bytes.

Tag Settings							
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Gain		Sampling Time					

Figure 4-14: Tag settings

#### Default Values

TAG	Address	default Value
EM4x02	16h	0xCF
EM4x05 (ISO FXDB)	17h	0x84
EM4x50	18h	0x4F
HITAG1 HITAG S	19h	0x84
HITAG2	1Ah	0x84
Q5	1Bh	0x84

#### 4.3.3.13 User data (20h-EFh)

User data is free for use.

#### 4.3.4 Test Continuous Read

This command tests the state of the continuous read command. This command does not stop the continuous read mode.

##### Command

Command	Data
'!'	None

##### Answer

Answer	Description
'F'	Continuous read mode is not active.
'!'	Continuous read mode is active.

## 4.3.5 Continuous Read

The reader device reads and displays the serial number of a tag continuously until the tag leaves the antenna field. This command stops if any character is sent to the reader module. The reader module returns the character 'S' (53h).

If the noisy environment flag is set the reader cancels the continuous read mode only with the character '.' (2Eh).

The reader supports different tag types. Though a single continuous read instruction needs a specific time. To increase the reading performance switch to a single tag mode. Results depend on the startup conditions. See chapter read EEPROM register for more details of startup configurations.

The amount if returned data depends on the tag type.

Continuous Read is not fully supported in binary mode.

### Command

Command	Data
'c'	None

### Answer

Answer	Description
data	Leading character (1 byte) Serial number (n bytes)

## 4.3.5.1 Leading character

The leading character specifies a single tag type. It can be used to determine the present tag type and control tag specific commands. Card types have different UID length, e.g. EM4x02 cards use a 5 byte UID whereas HITAG S cards have a 4 byte UID.

Following table describes all leading characters of supported tag types.

The Hitag prefixes are case sensitive.

Tag type	UID length	Description
'U'	5 bytes	EM4x02
'Z'	8 bytes	EM4x05 (ISO FXDB)
'T'	4 bytes	EM4x50
'h'	4 bytes	HITAG1 / HITAG S
'H'	4 bytes	HITAG2
'Q'	4 bytes	Q5
'R'	10 bytes	TI-RFID Systems

Figure 4-10: Leading character of continuous read mode

## 4.3.5.2 Binary Mode

This command is not fully supported in binary protocol mode.

Continuous Read in binary mode does not startup automatically at boot time, even if the EEPROM flag is set.

Within the single shot timeout only one response is sent.

### Continuous read mode at start up (*default enabled*)

Continuous read mode at startup could be activated using the utility program.

## 4.3.5.3 Lock mode (*default disabled*)

If set, the reader locks to the first recognized tag type. This speeds up the communication to a tag in continuous read mode. The reader only uses this tag type anymore.

## 4.3.5.4 SingleShot function (*default disabled*)

If enabled, the reader replies the serial number only once. Then the reader waits until a timeout is reached. One time slice is around 100 ms. The timeout value has the range of one byte and is stored in EEPROM register 0Fh.

#### **4.3.5.5 PageRead function (*default disabled*)**

If enabled, the reader sends a block content instead of the serial number back to the host. The reader starts at the block specified in the EEPROM register 11h and reads as many as following blocks defined at EEPROM register 12h. A single command is terminated with an <CR> + <LF>.

#### **4.3.5.6 LED function (*default disabled*)**

Using the LED active flag the reader suppresses an activity of the LED. The user can set the LED state using the commands of switching on/off LED.

#### **4.3.5.7 Simple access control applications**

Serial numbers are not encrypted and always sent plain to the reader. This results in a low-level security application.

#### **4.3.5.8 Special Note about HITAG S**

The HITAG S serial number and data is normalized internally and is displayed in correct order.



## 4.3.6 Set LED

This command controls the LED. If the LED flag is set the automatic LED is deactivated. The user can set the state of the LED manually.

### Command

Command	Data
'd'	LED state (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
LED string	String of LED state

### Examples

Command	Description
dg	Answer: DG Switch on LED green

#### 4.3.6.1 LED string

Command	Answer	Description
'dg'	DG	Switch on LED green, LED red off
'dn'	DN	Switch off both LEDs

Figure 4-11: LED response

## 4.3.7 Set TAG settings

This command sets the TAG setting (Gain and Sampling Time) temporary. If you want to set it permanent you must write into the specific EEPROM register. This command primary purpose is to try for the optimal settings.

Each tag has its own Gain and Sampling Time set up. It can be adjusted to gain better reading results for each tag type. As default the values are set to operate best with the Plug and Play board. Wrong settings might cause unexpected behavior of the reader module

### Command

Command	Data
'd'	TAG Type (1 Byte) TAG settings value (1 Byte)

For the TAG Type see in chapter 'Set tag type' the table 'Tag type character'.

The TAG settings value has this format

Tag Settings							
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Gain		Sampling Time					

### Answer

Answer	Description
'D'X	X is the TAG Type character, eg.: DU for EM4002

### Example

Command	Description
dH80	Answer: "DH" Sets the TAG values for HITAG2 to 0x80 This is 2 Gain and 0 Sampling Time

## 4.3.8 Get ID

This command returns the station ID of the reader device. The answer is time slotted to be able to detect all devices in party line mode.

### Command

Command	Data
'g'	None

### Answer

Answer	Description
data	Station ID of the reader device (1 byte)

#### 4.3.8.1 ASCII mode

The station ID has only effect in binary mode.

#### 4.3.8.2 Binary Mode

This command sends only Binary Frame Version 1.

#### 4.3.8.3 Time slotted answer

In party line mode more than one reader can be used simultaneously. The time slotted answer allows a separation of all connected devices. The station ID is used to determine the correct time slot.

The reader supports up to 254 unique time slots. Following formula allows calculating the needed time of one time slot. Only one Baudrate on the same party line is supported.

$$T_0[s] = \frac{10}{\text{Baudrate}} * 6$$

Figure 4-12: Time slot formula

Following figure shows a timing diagram of time slotted answers.

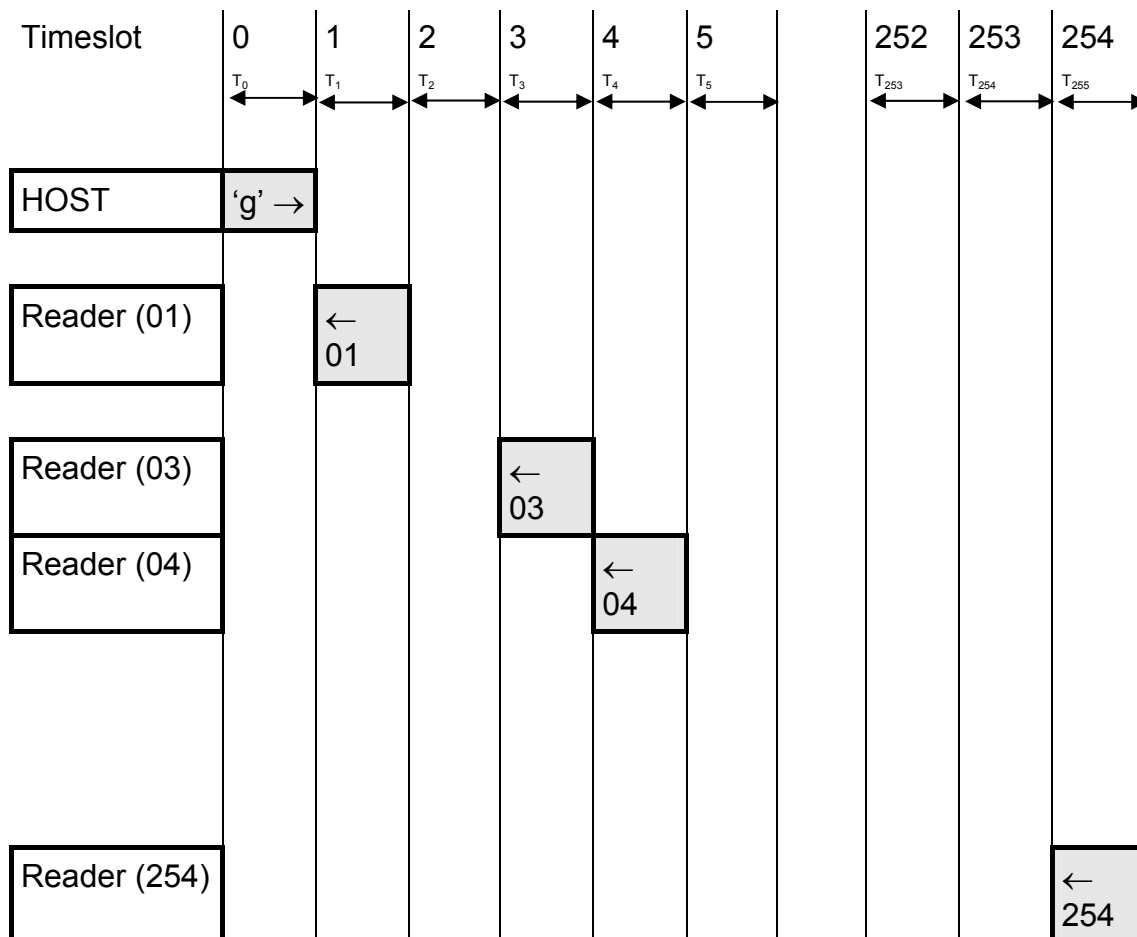


Figure 4-13: Timing diagram of time slotted answers

## 4.3.9 Lock page

This command locks a page permanently. It only supports Q5 and TI-RFID SYSTEMS tags. See tag organization for more details.

### Command

Command	Data
'k'	Page address (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
data	'k' + page address
'C'	Error: CRC error
'F'	Error: Lock failure
'N'	Error: No tag in field
'O'	Error: Operation mode failure (only Q5 and TI-RFID SYSTEMS tags supported)
'R'	Error: Page out of range

### Example

Command	Description
k05	Answer: K05 Lock page 05.

## 4.3.10 Login

The login is needed to authenticate to EM4x50 and Hitag 2 tags.

### Command

Command	Data
'I'	Password (4 bytes)

### Answer

Answer	Description
'L'	Login succeeded
'X'	Error: Login failed (Key is wrong)
'N'	Error: No TAG in field or TAG removed

### Example

Command	Description
I01234567	Answer: L Login has succeeded.

## 4.3.11 Set tag type

This command switches the reader to a specific tag type. The continuous read function will speed up because only this tag type is recognized. These changes are not stored into the EEPROM. After a reset the reader starts as defined in the startup configuration.

### Command

Command	Data
'o'	Tag type (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
'o' + tag type (1 byte)	Command code + String of tag type

### Example

Command	Description
ou	Answer: EM4x02 Set the reader device to EM4x02 tags

#### 4.3.11.1 Tag type character

Hitag prefix is case sensitive!

Tag type	Description
'A'	All TAG types
'U'	EM4x02
'Z'	EM4x05 (ISO FXDB)
'T'	EM4x50
'h'	HITAG1 / HITAG S
'H'	HITAG2
'R'	TI-RFID SYSTEMS

Figure 4-14: List of leading characters

## 4.3.12 Include tag type

This command includes a specific tag type to the reader device.

### Command

Command	Data
'o+'	Tag type (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
'o+' + tag type (1 byte)	Command code + String of tag type

### Example

Command	Description
o+h	Include HITGA1 / HITAG S protocol to the reader device

#### 4.3.12.1 Tag type character

See chapter 'Set tag type'.



## 4.3.13 Exclude tag type

This command excludes a specific tag type from the reader device.

### Command

Command	Data
'o-'	Tag type (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
'o-' + tag type (1 byte)	Command code + String of tag type

### Example

Command	Description
o-H	Exclude HITAG2 protocol from the reader device

#### 4.3.13.1 Tag type character

See 'Set tag type'.

## 4.3.14 Antenna power on/off

This command controls the antenna power.

**Attention:** This command is not available in compatibility mode

### Command

Command	Data
'pon'	Switch on reader
'poff'	Reader enters the stand by mode

### Answer

Answer	Description
'P'	Positive acknowledge

### Example

Command	Description
poff	Answer: P Reader enters stand by mode

#### 4.3.14.1 Power off

The reader enters the stand by mode. Power consumption is decreases. All tags in the antenna field are powered off and reset. The stand by mode is only entered manually.

To switch off the whole unit pin 16 (Enable) has to set to logic low.

#### 4.3.14.2 Power on

The reader leaves the stand by mode and is ready for the next command. Sending a tag command (i.e. select, continuous read) the reader is powered up.

## 4.3.15 Read block

This command reads a data block on a card. Size of returned data depends on the used tag. A valid block address depends on the present tag. E.g. an HITAG1 TAG supports only 64 blocks, an HITAG2 TAG 7 blocks.

Attention this command can only be used to read a block equal or below 40h. Using addresses higher than 40h can lead to unexpected behavior. For higher block numbers use the 'rb' command.

### Command

Command	Data
'r'	Block address (1 byte), valid range 00h – 040h
'rb'	Block address (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
Data	Block data (depends on tag type)
'C'	Error: CRC error
'F'	Error: Read failure
'N'	Error: No tag in field
'R'	Error: Block out of Range
'X'	Error: Permission denied

### Examples

rb05	Answer: 00112233 reads block 05, block data is 00112233
------	--

## 4.3.15.1 Block data

Block data depends on the used tag. Following table describes the default block sizes. Internally the reader handles the correct data frame size.

Tag type	Block size
EM4x50	4
HITAG1 HITAG S	4
HITAG2	4
Q5	4

Figure 4-15: block data

## 4.3.15.2 No tag in field 'N'

The tag does not respond. There is either no tag present or not addressed.

## 4.3.15.3 Read failure 'F'

This error is displayed if the reader receives bad data. Additionally this error is generated if a block is read which is not physically located on the card.

### 4.3.15.3.1 Out of range failure 'R'

The block address of the 'r' command is higher than 40h.

The block address of the 'r' command conflicts with other commands, therefore the block address has to be limited to 40h.

Use the 'rb' command instead.

## 4.3.16 Read EEPROM

Reads the internal reader EEPROM. It contains all startup parameters and the device ID. Changes of the startup settings will only be taken into effect after a reset of the device.

### Command

Command	Data
'rp'	EEPROM address (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
data	EEPROM data (1 bytes)
'R'	Error: EEPROM address out of range

### Example

Command	Description
rp0B	Answer: 01 Reads protocol configuration register.

## 4.3.17 Select

This command selects a single card in the antenna field. It can only be used in single tag mode. In case of success the command returns the UID of the selected card.

### Command

Command	Data
's'	None

### Answer

Answer	Description
Data	Leading character (1 byte) + serial number
'N'	Error: No Tag in the field

### Example

s	Answer: Z16000000039F0001 Select the card of type EM4x05 (ISO FXDB) with the UID Z16000000039F0001
---	--

#### 4.3.17.1 Select a single tag

No previous continuous read is required.

## 4.3.18 Get Version

This command returns the current version of the reader module.

### Command

Command	Data
'v'	None

### Answer

Answer	Description
"LFX 1.0" + <CR> + <LF> 4C 46 58 20 31 2E 30 20 50 52 38	ASCII Mode Binary Mode

### Example

Command	Description
v	Answer: LFX 1.0 Version of the reader module

## 4.3.19 Write block

This command writes data to a block. A read after write is done automatically to ensure correct writing. Data size depends on TAG to write.

Attention this command can only be used to write a block equal or below 40h. Using addresses higher than 40h can lead to unexpected behavior. For higher block numbers use the 'wb' command.

### Command

Command	Data
'w'	Block address (1 byte), valid range 00h – 40h data (n bytes)
'wb'	Block address (1 byte) data (n bytes)

### Answer

Answer	Description
data	Block data (depends on tag type)
'C'	Error: CRC error
'F'	Error: Write failure
'N'	Error: No tag in field
'R'	Error: Block out of range
'X'	Error: Permission denied

### Example

Command	Description
wb0511223344	Answer: 11223344 writes data 11223344 on block 05



## 4.3.19.1 Compatibility Mode

In compatibility mode the answer has an additional 'W' prefix. Block data

Block data depends on the used tag. Following table describes the default block sizes. Internally the reader handles the correct data frame size.

Tag type	Block size
EM4x50	4
HITAG1 HITAG S	4
HITAG2	4
Q5	4

Figure 4-17: block data

## 4.3.19.2 No tag error 'N'

This error is returned if no tag is present.

## 4.3.19.3 Write failure 'F'

This error is displayed if bad transmission conditions are given. If the block address exceeds the physical number of blocks of a tag this error is thrown too.

### 4.3.19.3.1 Out of range failure 'R'

The block address of the 'w' command is higher than 40h.

The block address of the 'w' command conflicts with other commands, therefore the block address has to be limited to 40h.

Use the 'wb' command instead.

## 4.3.20 Write EEPROM

Writes to the internal reader EEPROM. It contains all startup parameters and the device ID. Changes of the startup settings will only be taken into effect after a reset of the device.

### Command

Command	Data
'wp'	Block address (1 byte) data (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
Data	EEPROM data (1 bytes)
'F'	Error: Write failure
'R'	Error: EEPROM address out of range

### Example

Command	Description
wp0A01	Answer: 01 Set EEPROM address 0A (Station ID) to 01h

## 4.3.21 Reset

This command executes a power on (software) reset. New configuration settings will be loaded. This command will reset the reader module as well as all tags in the antenna field. The reader starts according the startup settings.

The start up message is only displayed in ASCII protocol mode if the according flag is not set.

### Command

Command	Data
'x'	None

### Answer

Answer	Description
"LFX 1.0" + <CR> + <LF> none	ASCII Mode Binary Mode

#### 4.3.21.1 Reset Timing

The power up timing depends on environmental conditions such as voltage ramp up. For handheld devices the timing may depend on the charging state of the battery.

## 4.3.22 Field Reset

The field reset switches off the antenna field for the specified duration. All tags need a specific time to initialize before a command can be processed. The second byte specifies the field recovery time.

### Command

Command	Data
'y'	Off time in milliseconds (1 byte) Field recovery time in milliseconds (1 byte)

### Answer

Answer	Description
'Y'	After the field reset the reader sends back a 'Y' to acknowledge the command.

## 5 Appendix A: Getting started

All you need to test the noax MultiTAG RFID Reader "HiTAG" is a terminal program.

If you are using Microsoft Windows (98/NT/2000/XP,...), take following steps:

- Make sure, your reader is connected to RS232 interface or to USB interface of the IPC or standard PC.
- If you are using the USB interface be shure to have installed the USB driver. You can get it at following URL:  
[www.noax.com/en/service/download-technik/software](http://www.noax.com/en/service/download-technik/software)
- Start HyperTerminal
- Create a new connection (FILE/NEW CONNECTION)
- Enter a name of connection
- Choose used COM interface with direct connection
- Communication settings: 9600, 8, n, 1, no handshake
- Press key "Enter" two times. The reader should sends a string to the PC (i.e. "LFX1.0"). This string identifies the firmware of the reader module.
- Press key "c". After this put a tag to your reader. Serial numbers should be displayed properly.
- Enter commands via the keyboard. They are transmitted to the reader and the reader replies with its response.

If using an operating system different from Microsoft Windows you may use any other terminal program which is capable of receiving/transmitting via the serial port of your PC. (For Linux i.e. miniterm)

## 6 Appendix B: References

- [1] EM4102 transponder product description, Rev. B/273, EM Microelectronic-Marin SA, 1999
- [2] EM4150 transponder product description, 6/99 Rev/626, EM Microelectronis-Marin SA, 1999
- [3] Hitag 1 Transponder family documentation, Product Specification Revision 2.2, Philips, January 1999
- [4] Hitag 2 Transponder family documentation, Product Specification Revision 2.1, Philips, October 1997
- [5] Texas Instruments RFID Systems, Reference Guides for Low Frequency Transponders, May 2000