

AAG CloudWatcher

Read me first



Thank you very much for your purchase!

Lunático Astronomía hopes it will fulfil your expectations and help you enjoy astronomy.

WARNING Please remove the plastic cover over the sensors prior to use.

INDEX

- Package Contents
- Software installation
- Connecting the unit
- Physical CloudWatcher installation
- Technical specifications
- Maintenance
- Limitations
- Support

Package Contents

The AAG CloudWatcher package contains the following:

- Main box with a 10 meter built-in cable
- A couple of Terminal Blocks
- Wall mounting kit
- Read me first



Software installation

Please download the up-to-date software from www.aagware.eu. Antonio Peres (AAG) will continue publishing software updates and revisions from his web site. The program includes a simple installation wizard making the process a very simple one. It also incorporates a comprehensive help file.

Connecting the unit

Regarding connections, there are three plugs at the end of the CloudWatcher, as seen in the image:



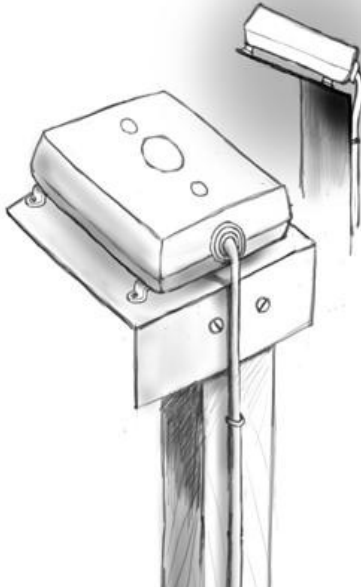
- A DB9 connector, for the PC's serial port (or the [USB/Serial converter](#))
- A jack plug for powering the unit. (12 or 15 V, less than 1A, any polarity)
- Two terminals (terminal blocks also included) for the relay output (this is of optional use to operate the opening/closing mechanism)

... and a special, weather resistant IP68 plug to connect our optional [anemometer](#).



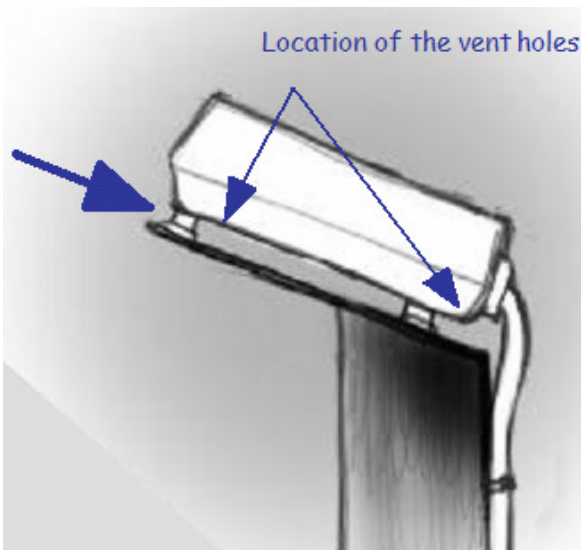
ATTENTION! Do not remove the blue cap unless connecting an anemometer!

Physical CloudWatcher installation



To ease water drainage, the device must be installed slightly tilted (10 to 15° is perfect); it is recommended to make the unit point to the zone from where clouds more usually come, thus allowing for an earlier detection. Allow some space between the CloudWatcher and the supporting surface, so water can flow out and air can freely circulate (use the included wall mounting kit).

A place with a wide sky view and as far as possible from high-radiation areas (such as roofs or concrete flooring) is best to place the unit. If there's no option other than placing the unit over such high-radiation areas, it should be installed high above it to minimize the radiation effects.



When installing your **AAG CloudWatcher**, please follow these **guidelines**:

1.- It is very important to use the "**fixing kit**" included, using the included **washers**, to raise the unit a little bit and allow air flow

2.- The cable must be pointing downwards (the unit must be slightly tilted), as seen in the drawing.

FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE STEPS YOUR UNIT WILL LAST LONGER, PROBLEM FREE, AND THE READINGS WILL BE MORE ACCURATE.

ATTENTION!

Avoid touching the sensors with your bare fingers.

Do not apply pressure over the sensors seeing that they are glued to the cover.

Be careful when touching the rain surface because it may be hot. The rain sensor is an active component that is subject to heating. The maximum temperature is limited by software and it depends on the constants chosen by the user.

The rain sensor should be cleaned to work correctly. The presence of rain is detected by changes of its capacitance property.

Technical specifications

- Power 12 or 15v, current < 1 A
- RS232 Serial port
- Size: 110*85*37 mm.
- 10 m. long weather-proof cable

Maintenance

The AAG CloudWatcher has been designed to achieve very low maintenance needs; nonetheless, with time, dirt (dust or even birds' droppings...) can handicap the quality of the readings from the unit. Cleaning the sensors' surface with a clean cloth and a bit of alcohol will restore the unit to full performance.

Limitations

This device has been carefully manufactured and tested before shipping. Even if its goal is to detect atmospheric conditions, specially the cloudy condition, it must not be the only device to rely upon before exposing valuable equipment to the open. Especially in remote installations, an additional detecting device (such an all-sky camera) is recommended to make 100% sure of the sky conditions.

Never will Lunático Astronomía nor Antonio Peres (AAG) be liable of any damage derived from the use of this device.

The CloudWatcher software has been calibrated to the weather conditions at Lagoa (south Portugal), so it will maybe need some adjustments to work properly at your place. Please read the help file included with the software.

Support

Lunático Astronomía is proud of the quality of the support it offers its customers. You can reach us from our support portal: <http://www.lunatico.es/support>.
