

# Homerace set-up and use

## Purpose of this document

This document provides a step-by-step plan to connect the erg, a device with internet, and the Time-Team software. After going through these steps, you will be able to connect your Concept2 erg to your laptop or PC and race virtually against your competitors.

## Homerace

Homerace is a development by Time-Team and allows athletes to compete in real-time from home. It is designed to be used with Concept2 ergs and makes e-racing possible, with live tracking, visualisation, and real-time data.

Note: This is a beta version of the service, bugs and errors might occur.

## Manuals in other languages

*Note: these translations are not maintained by Time-Team so might lack behind the English manual.*

French: [Manuel Homerace](#)

German: [Homerace handbuch](#)

Italian: [Manuale di Homerace](#)

Spanish: [Manual de Homerace](#)

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## Requirements

To be able to connect your erg to our system, you'll need the following hardware and software.

### Hardware

- Concept2 ergometer with PM3, PM4 or PM5 monitor
  - [Updated Concept2 Performance Monitor firmware](#)
- Laptop, PC, or Mac
- USB A-B cable a.k.a Printer Cable (see appendix)
- Internet connection wired (preferable) or WiFi

### Operating System (any of the following)

- Mac OS X
- Windows **8.1 or higher**
- Chrome OS

### Software (any of the following)

- Google Chrome version 78 or higher
- Microsoft Edge version 79 or higher

## Preparation

To be sure that your computer is ready for a race you need to check several features. First, you'll need to check your energy settings. Secondly, our software makes use of the latest features of Google Chrome, so it needs to be up to date. Follow these instructions to set-up your computer. If you have already raced with the system, skip to step 7.

### Laptop preparation

1. Make sure that your laptop or computer does **not go into sleep/standby mode** during racing.

For Windows: go to the Settings > Power & Sleep

For MacOS: go to System preferences > Energy Saver

For Chromebook OS: go to Settings > Device > Power

2. Installing Chrome (skip to step 3 if you already have Chrome installed on your computer)

After opening your account on your computer, open the browser software you currently use. This can be any web browser (Microsoft Edge, Safari, Firefox, Internet Explorer, etc) and go to the following webpage: <https://www.google.com/chrome/>. Download and install the Google Chrome web browser.

3. If you have Chrome installed on your computer, make sure you are running the latest version of chrome.

To update Google Chrome:

- I. On your computer, open Chrome.
- II. At the top right, click More .
- III. Click Update Google Chrome.
  - i. **Important:** If you can't find this button, you're on the latest version.
- IV. Click Relaunch.

*Continued on the next page...*

## Connecting your erg

4. Disconnect and/or remove any USB dongle, LogCard or Bluetooth connected app like ErgData or any Concept2 Software
5. Connect the erg with the USB cable to your laptop



**PM3 & PM4**



**PM5**

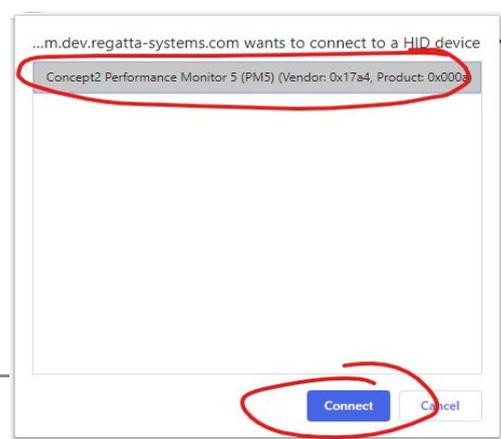
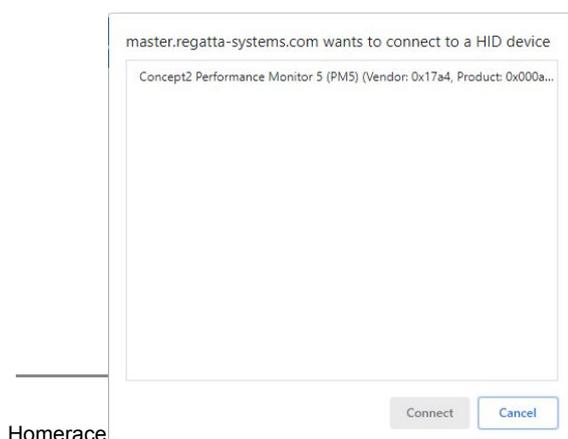
6. You must close any other application which connects to your erg, like the Concept2 Utility
7. Go to <https://homerace.nl> and click the blue button "Connect to ergometer"



8. In the newly opened popover, click on the line showing the "Concept2 Performance Monitor" to select and highlight the monitor that is connected to your computer. After selecting the correct erg, the grey "Connect" button becomes blue at the right bottom of the popover. Click the "Connect" button now that it is available

*Below screen without an erg selected*

*After selecting an erg the "connect" becomes blue.*



9. Do a connection test, this will check if you will be able to join a race. However, this is not a guarantee that race participation will always work.

Connectivity test

×

Your connection is good to go!

Packet loss	Average	Median	Min	Max
No	27 ms	26 ms	25 ms	34 ms

## Enter virtual race lobby

Once you have received your personal Secret from your regatta organizer, you can continue with the following steps. This code is usually provided a few days in advance of the event. These following will take you through the process of entering the race lobby and join your race(s) during the event.

10. Enter your private participant secret and click "Login"



**Time-Team Homerace Connector**

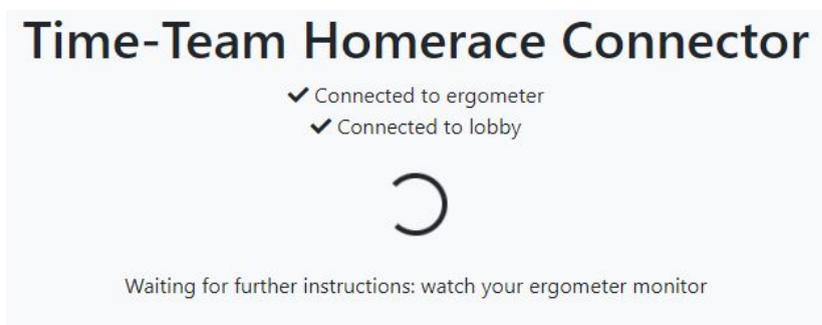
✓ Connected to ergometer

Please enter your participant secret

ABC-123-ABC

Login

11. Connection of the erg to the online lobby is successful when the message on the web page reads "Connected to ergometer" and "Connected to lobby".



**Time-Team Homerace Connector**

✓ Connected to ergometer

✓ Connected to lobby

Waiting for further instructions: watch your ergometer monitor

12. Wait for every rower to be ready for the race
13. Keep your lobby page **active and visible** on the screen, **all the time** till the end of the race

## Changing lobbies between races

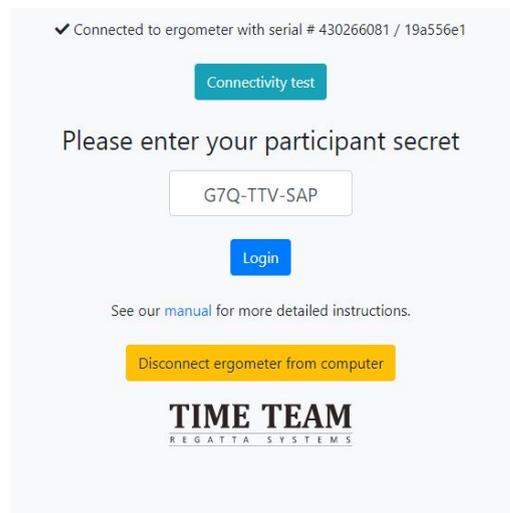
It might be the case that the ergometer will be used in multiple races during the day. Follow the following steps to connect for the next race. It will disconnect you from the lobby without disconnecting your ergometer from your computer thereby eliminating a few steps.

1. You must wait for your monitor to return to the normal mode Main Menu screen. Otherwise the race's results may not be counted.
2. Click the yellow button at the bottom of the lobby



Disconnect ergometer from race server

3. Your monitor has been disconnected from the race server and the page has returned to the login page (picture right)
4. Use the code from the next race to connect the same erg to the new race lobby



✓ Connected to ergometer with serial # 430266081 / 19a556e1

Connectivity test

Please enter your participant secret

G7Q-TTV-SAP

Login

See our [manual](#) for more detailed instructions.

Disconnect ergometer from computer

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REGATTA SYSTEMS

**#NOTE:** Check your email from your regatta organizer to find your code. If it contains a link only you can copy paste the last 12 symbols of the link. See bold letters in example below

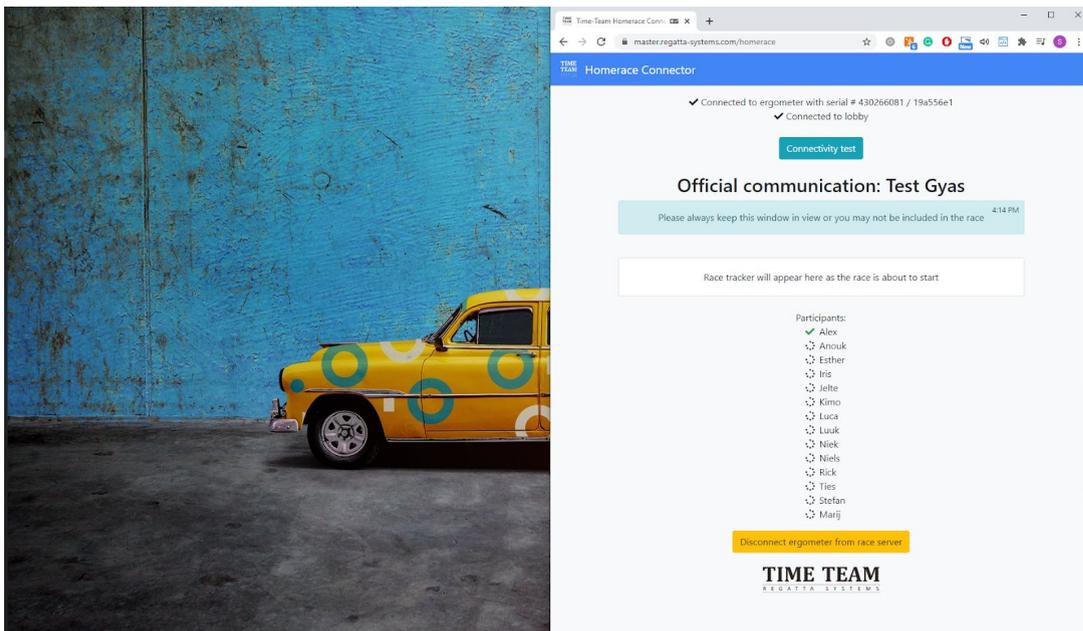
Example link with code *AAA-BBB-CCC*: <https://homerace.nl/s/AAA-BBB-CCC>

## Multi-erg set-up

It is possible to connect multiple ergs to the same computer if connected to a stable WIFI or Cabled internet connection. Important to understand is that each monitor has to be connected via an USB AB cable and each connector page must stay visible. The steps for connecting each erg is discussed in the previous section “Connecting your erg”. This part will focus on the extra steps needed to connect multiple ergs before a race.

**#NOTE: We recommend that you connect no more than 4 ergs per computer.**

1. Connect the first erg according to the manual.
2. When connected successfully, drag the chrome window to the right or left edge of the screen.
3. On Windows, a translucent outline of where it will snap to will appear. If you're happy with it, let go and your window will be snapped into place. Alternatively, press the Windows key and the left or right arrow key to snap the last selected window to one side of the screen.



4. Start a new Chrome application window
5. Drag this page to the other side of the screen.
6. Connect the second erg according to the manual

**#NOTE: By dragging the screen to a corner you are able to have 4 screens visible at all times.**

For Apple: go to <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204948>

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Do I need an account on Time-Team to participate in my event?

There is no need to create an account on the Time-Team platform before an event. Your regatta organizer will provide you with a Participant Secret. This code gives you access to your race during the regatta.

### Do I need to download an App to be able to race?

No, there is no need to download an App. All you need is a Chrome-based web browser as explained in the manual. See page 3 of this manual for the usable web-browsers.

### Why can't I continue after connecting an erg?

It is most likely that your Concept2 Utility program is still running. Make sure to close it before connecting to the lobby.

### How do I know what the latest firmware of Performance Monitor is?

Check out the official website of Concept2 for the latest version of firmware and instructions for updating your monitor using the Concept2 Utility:

<https://www.concept2.com/service/monitors>.

Make sure **to close** the Concept2 Utility program after the update.

### How do I improve my internet connection?

There are several methods to improve your internet connection. Try the list below to improve it and test your connection after each adjustment.

1. Hook your computer up with a wired internet connection
2. Secure your Wi-Fi: Make sure others do not use the same WiFi during the race and test
3. Move your router: When it is closer to your computer the signal will be stronger
4. Switch from your home internet to mobile broadband: Your mobile network might be better than your normal landbased internet connection

**#Note: We recommend no more that 2 ergs per mobile hotspot to keep the connection stable**

### How does the start of a race work with Homerace?

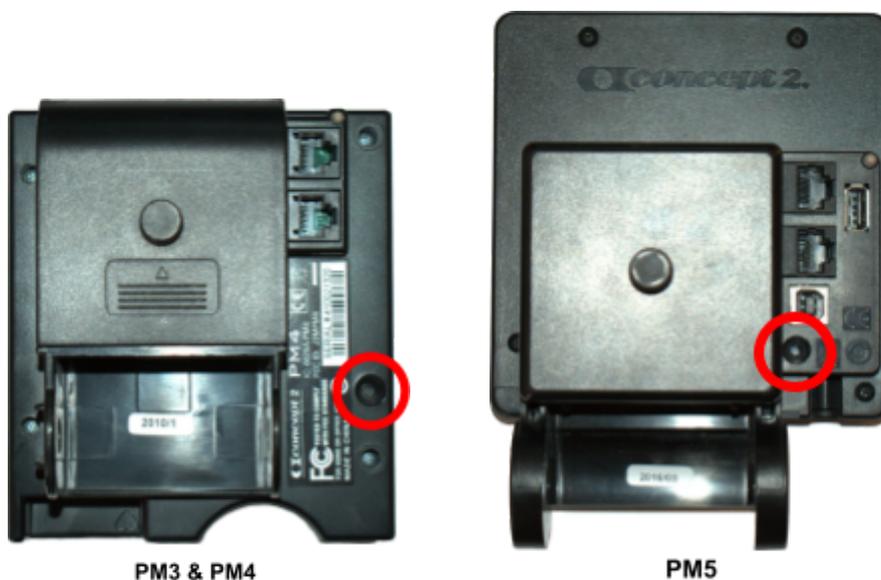
Prior to the start, several messages will be posted in your race lobby. Those will keep you posted on the development of the start. 2 minutes prior to the race your erg monitor will ask you to stop rowing. Stop rowing and wait for the starting procedure on your monitor to begin.

## How do I know what browser version I'm running?

You can go to <https://www.whatsmybrowser.org/> and see what version you are currently running on your computer

## My monitor is not connecting or doesn't return to normal mode

1. Check your USB connection, make sure it is firmly connected on both ends
2. Check for Chrome updates
3. Make sure the Concept2 Utility program is closed
4. Insert a pen/pencil tip into the reset hole on the back and press lightly. This will soft reset your monitor (no data will be lost)
5. Refresh the Chrome webpage and attempt to connect again
6. Reboot your computer/laptop
7. Try another computer/laptop



## How can I solve a #122 error code on my Concept2 Monitor

Go through the following steps:

1. Disconnect USB wire
2. Pull out the batteries of the PM
3. Restart your computer and wait ten minutes.
4. Put the batteries back and reconnect

A Windows 7 operating system is not supported. Connect to a computer with a supported operating system.

## What do I see on my monitor and computer screen during the race?

Prior to and during the race, your PM monitor will be in race mode. On the top of your screen, your regular data will be shown. On the bottom part of your screen, you will see your information on the race itself, the starting procedure, or your competition depending at what stage you are of a race. The order in which you see it is as follows: Warm-up, Start, Race.

<b>2000</b> m	<b>0</b> $\frac{s}{m}$
<b>:00</b> /500m	
<b>:00.0</b> <small>ave /500</small>	
<b>O.K. to warm up</b>	
Next Race: <b>Race 41</b>	Erg#: <b>12</b>
Competitor: <b>BUCHAN, Camer</b>	Drag factor <b>0</b>

- ◀ Set the monitor to the units you want to see during the race. Press "Units" to toggle between the following:
1. Split time for 500m and time elapsed
  2. Split time for 500m and average split time for 500m
  3. Watts and average watts
  4. Calories per hour and expended calories.

- ◀ Before the race check the following:
1. Your race number is displayed beneath "Next Race"
  2. Your assigned erg number is displayed beneath "Erg"
  3. Your name is displayed beneath "Competitor"
  4. Adjust the drag factor to the setting you want to race on.

<b>Stop, prepare for start</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 - Sit ready</b></li> <li><b>2 - Attention</b></li> <li><b>3 - Row</b></li> </ol>

- ◀ Before the start the announcer will ask you to stop rowing and to put the handle in the handle hook. When all the flywheels have spun down the announcer will tell the competitors to pick up their handles.  
WATCH YOUR MONITOR. It will display "Sit ready," "Attention," "GO." Once it displays "GO" start racing.

<b>1 WADDEL, Rob</b>	<b>+23</b> m
<b>4 REDGRAVE, Ste</b>	<b>+ 9</b> m
<b>5 BUCHAN, Camer</b>	
<b>6 DREISSIGACKE</b>	<b>-12</b> m

- During racing the bottom half of the display will show your competition:
- ◀ The top row contains the competitor in first place.
  - ◀ The second row contains the competitor just ahead of you.
  - ◀ The third row will show your name.
  - ◀ The last row contains the competitor just behind you.

Please see [this video](#) of the monitor in action during a race.

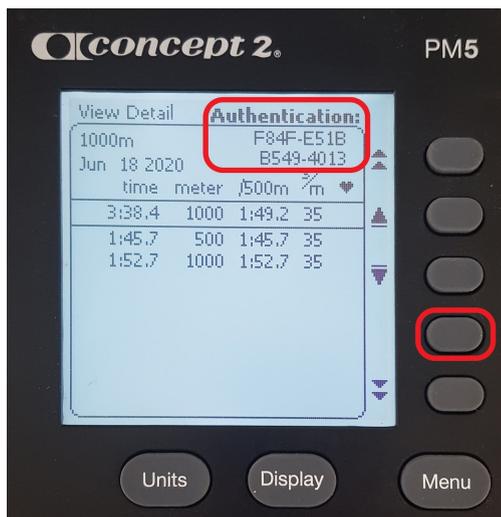
Your computer screen will show your race lobby and all participants. As well as the live tracker for you to see the whole race and all its competitors.

## What happens when I lose my internet connection during the race?

If you have already started your race your monitor will tell you to “Keep Rowing”. Keep rowing while you see this message! Complete your race and the system will send your data as soon as the internet connection is restored. If we are unable to process your results automatically we will ask you to submit your results manually.



Go to Memory, List by Date and select your workout you've just completed. Press the 4th button twice. This will include an Authentication code on the screen so we can verify your result. Send a picture to the requested contact address.



## How can I contact someone at Time-Team for a question?

If you need any more information or would like to know what the possibilities of the system are, contact Niek by phone or send him an email and he'll try to resolve your questions as soon as possible. Include the following if you have any trouble connecting your erg

1. Browser information: Go to <https://www.whatsmybrowser.org/> and include the link in the email



2. Photo of your Concept2 monitor with Product ID and current firmware information. This information is available under Options/Utilities, Product ID
3. Operating System information: brand and version

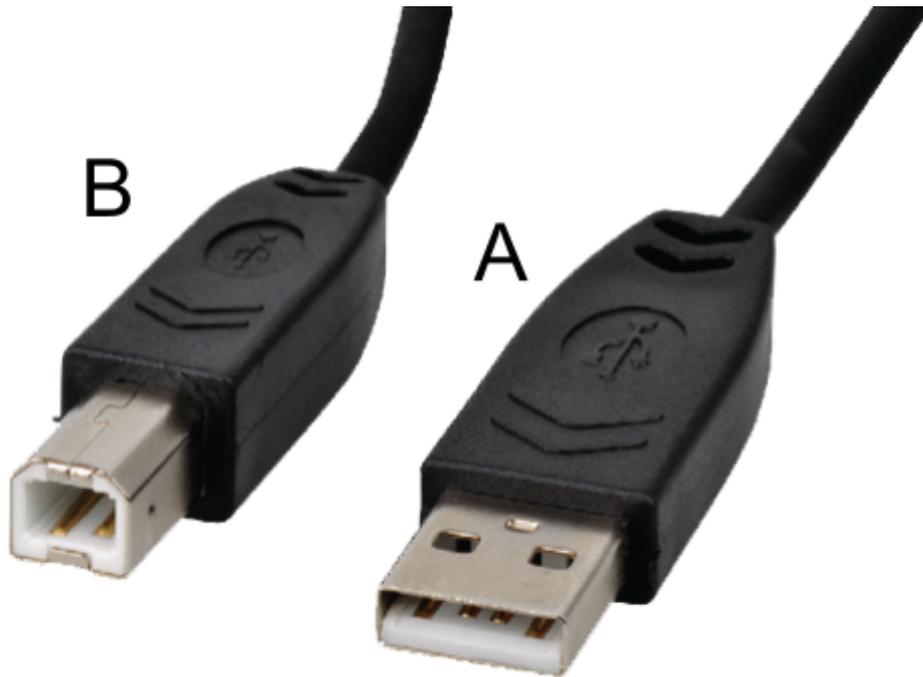
## Contact information

Niek Duintjer  
Time-Team

E-mail: [niek@time-team.nl](mailto:niek@time-team.nl)

## Appendix

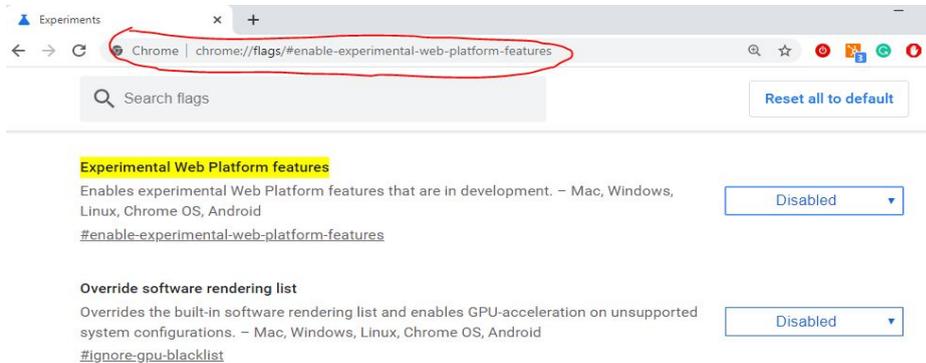
### USB A-B Cable



## Enabling Experimental features

These steps only have to be completed in case specifically requested by a Time-Team race operator

1. Start Chrome and copy and paste the following in the address bar and press enter  
chrome://flags/#enable-experimental-web-platform-features



For Edge: edge://flags/#enable-experimental-web-platform-features

2. Under the tab "Available" locate the "Experimental Web Platform features" section. On the right side, select "Enabled" from the blue dropdown menu for this feature.



3. Relaunch Chrome by clicking the button at the bottom of the page.

