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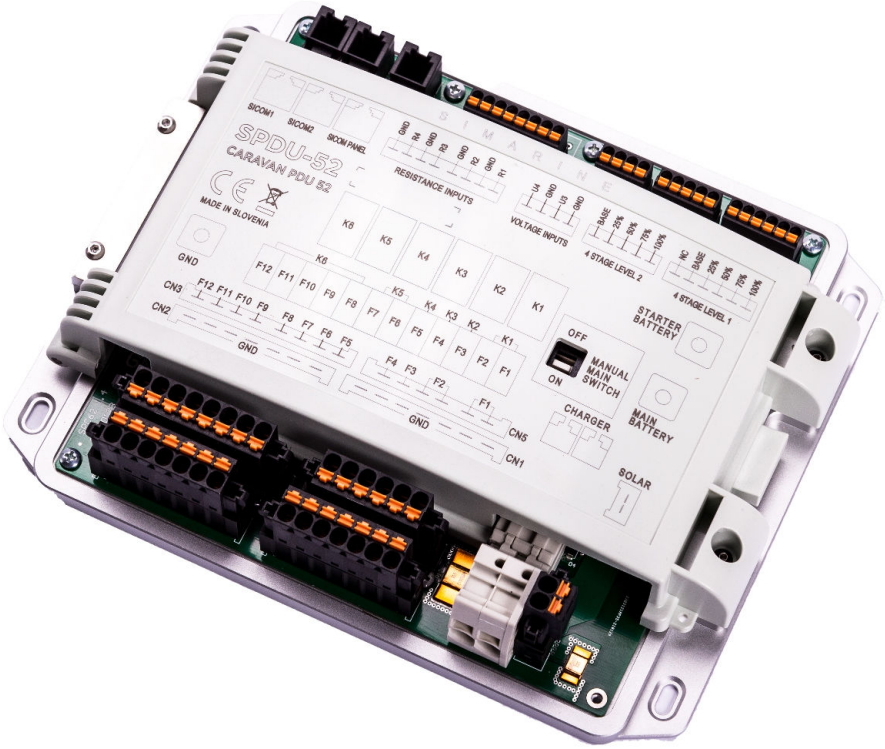

CARAVAN SPDU-52

USERS MANUAL

V1.5

USER MANUAL - V 1.5

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1. Introduction

Simarine SPDU-52 power distribution unit is a very versatile module. It's purpose is to power other modules and shunts, which are used by the Caravan Panel.

The SPDU-52 has 3 SICOM ports, two for additional power outputs input/outputs (SICOM 1, SICOM 2) and one for the Caravan Panel (SiCOM PANEL).

The SPDU-52 has two batteries (main and starter Battery), the voltage output is 8–22 VDC, and the temperature range is from –10 to +70°C (from +10 to +160°F).

SPDU-52 also has 4 channels (Solar, Charger, Main battery, Starter battery) that measure current. The accuracy is ± 2%.

The voltage measuring on any of these channels is 0–35 VDC with an accuracy of ±0,5%.

The resistance measuring on any of these channels is 0–65kohm with an accuracy of ±3%.

The SPDU-52 with additional modules can connect up to 6 batteries, 24 shunts, 10 temperature sensors, 14 tank level sensors, 2 inclinometer sensors.

2. Safety

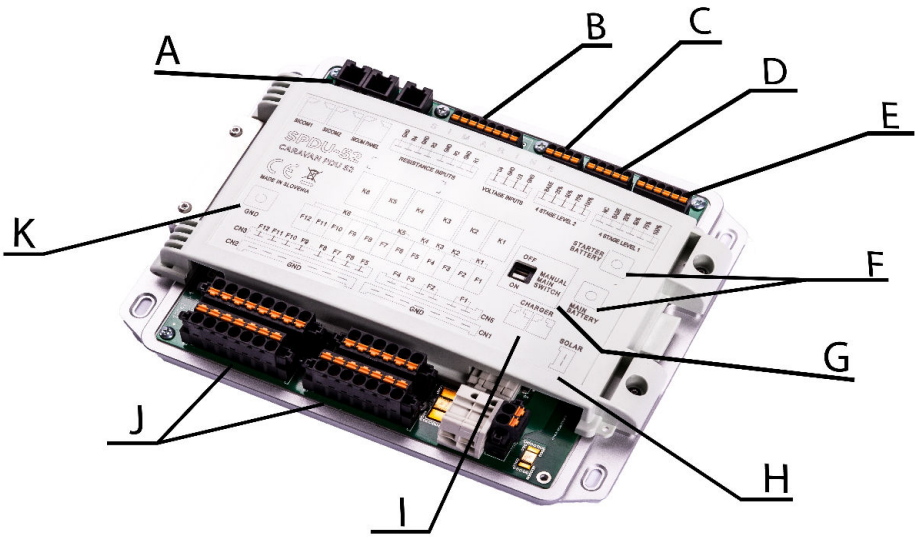
Only qualified electricians with proper safety equipment should make installation of Simarine electronics. When working with batteries, you should wear protective clothing and eye protection.

CAUTION: Batteries contain acid, a corrosive, colorless liquid that can burn your eyes, skin, and clothing. Should the acid come in contact with eyes, skin, or clothing, wash it immediately under fresh water for at least 15 minutes and seek medical support immediately.

CAUTION: Do NOT connect anything to a damaged battery. It could heat up, catch fire, or explode.
CAUTION: Lead-acid batteries can generate explosive gases during operation. Never smoke, allow flames, or sparks near the battery. Make sure to keep sufficient ventilation around the battery.

CAUTION: When working with a battery, remove all personal metal items like watches, rings, necklaces, and bracelets. Metal items in contact with the battery terminals might cause a short circuit with a very high electric current, which may heat up and melt nearby objects and cause severe burns.

3. Overview



A - 2 SiCom, 1 SiCOM Panel

B - resistance inputs

C - voltage inputs

D - 4 stage level 2

E - 4 stage level 1

F - main and starter battery

G - manual main switch

H - solar charger

I - charger

J - inputs and outputs

K - common ground

4. Installation

4.1 Mounting

CAUTION: Install the power unit in a clean and dry place protected from accidental spilling of liquids.
Remove the shunt cover by unscrewing two screws on top of the power unit cover.

To install the power unit using supplied voltage cables find a place no further than 3 m away from the battery/battery bank.
You can fix the power unit with the supplied screws using four holes (two on each side) on bottom of the casing.

4.2 Cables

CAUTION: Failure to observe the required cable cross-sections can damage the shunt, wiring, or cause a fire.

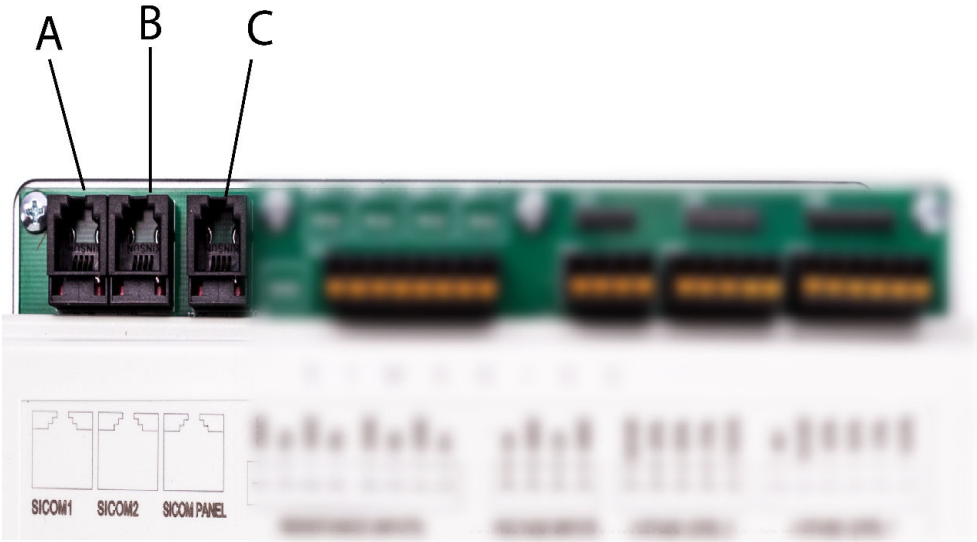
SiCOM data cable:

- For the SiCOM connection use the supplied cable.

Cable length C

Cable length	Cable type
< 5m	No limitations
>= 5m	2x2x0.25 mm2 twisted pair (recommended)

4.3 SICOM Panels

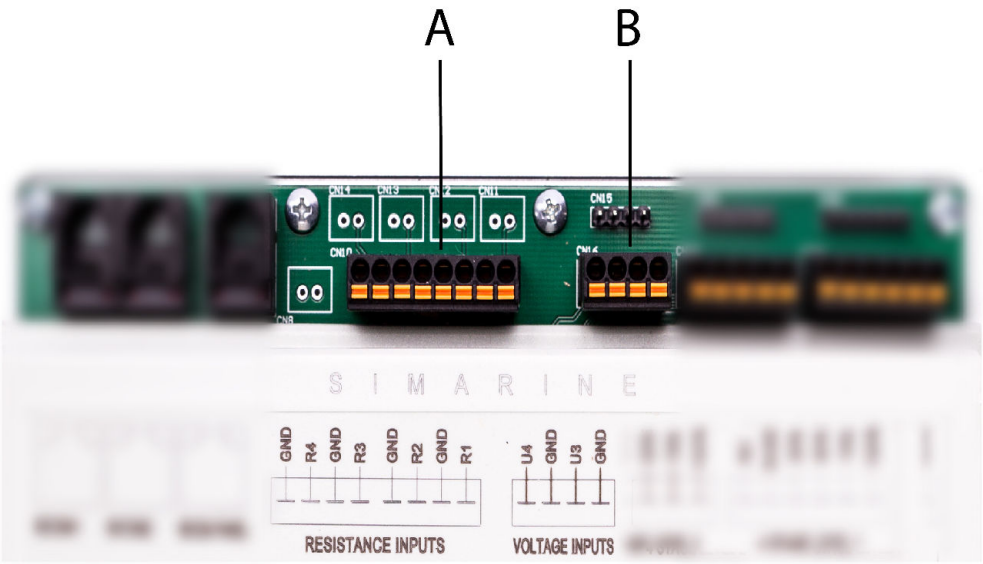


A - SiCOM1 port, used for an optional power input (e.g. extra port to connect a SIMARINE module).

B - SiCOM2 port, used for an optional power input.

C - SiCOM PANEL port, used to **connect the Caravan Panel**.

4.4 Resistance & Voltage Inputs

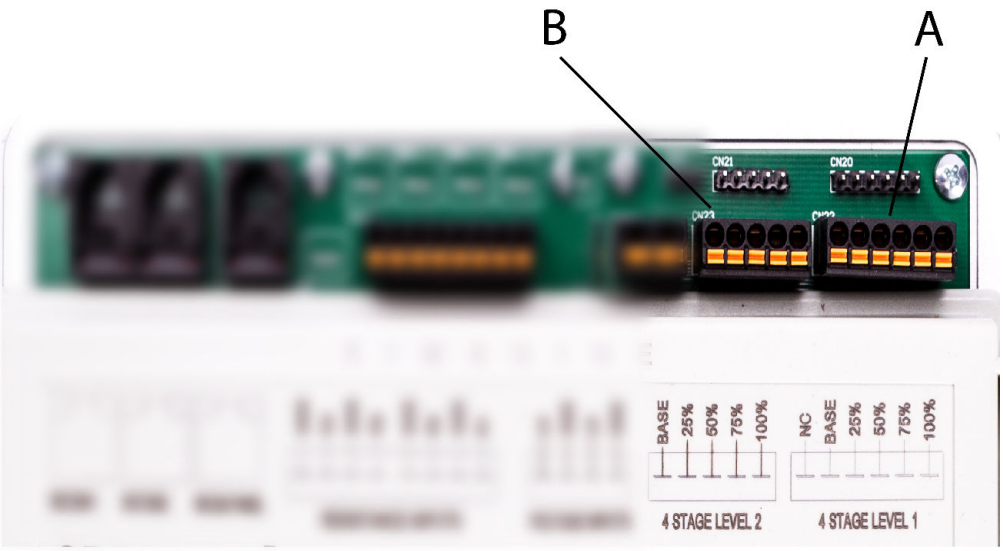


A - Resistance inputs, the cable arrangement doesn't matter, because the cable used here is black (the black cable goes to R and GND).

The resistance inputs are for potential connections that are resistance based (e.g. tanks, freezer, etc.).

B - Voltage inputs, used for user sensors. Voltage range is from 0 to 75V (the red cable goes to U4 and U3, the black cable goes to GND).

4.5 4 Stage Level 1 & 2



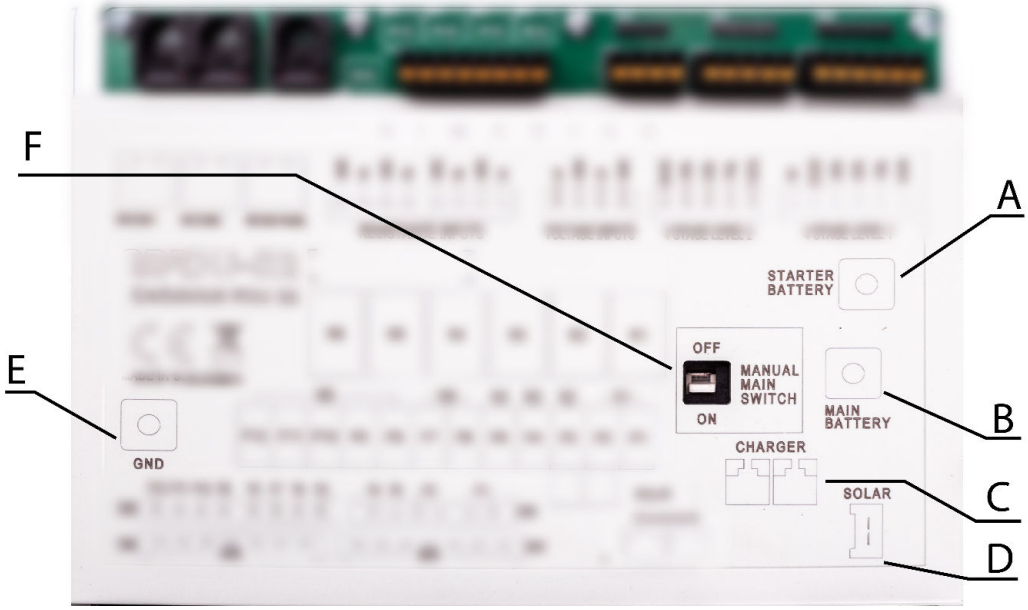
A – 4 stage level 1, all sensors are connected to base and individual sensors to the

25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% input. The NC stands for "not connected", meaning it doesn't require an input.

B – 4 stage level 2, the same as the 4 stage level 1 sensor, sensors connected to base and individual sensors to the 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% input.

Cables: **Red** goes to the base input, **black** goes to the rest of the inputs (25%, 50%, 75%, 100%).

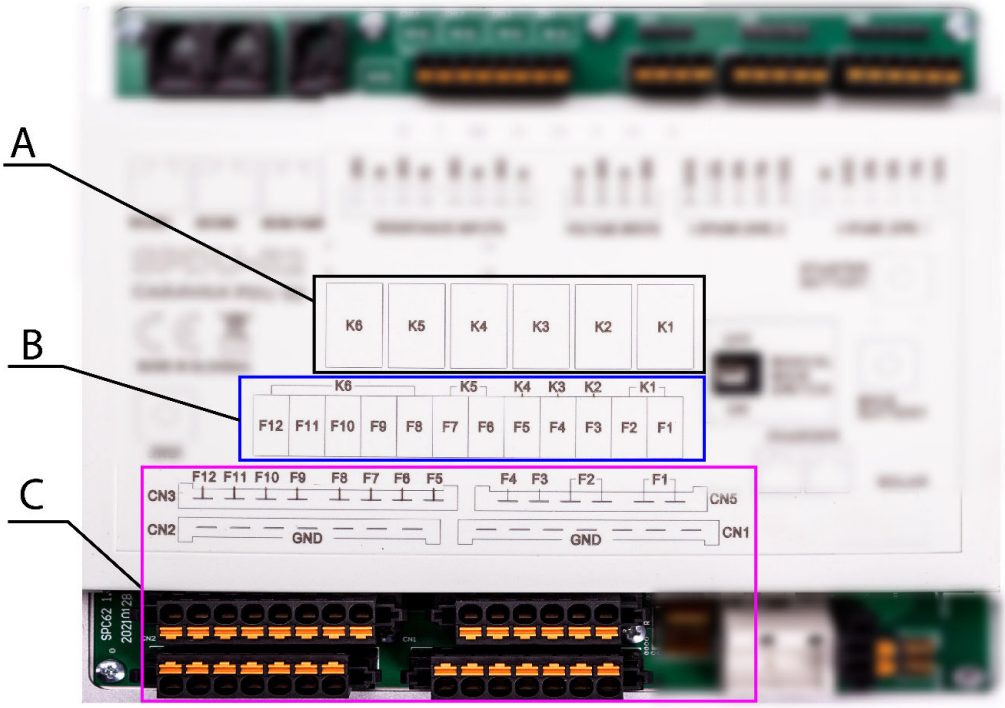
4.6 Batteries, Chargers, Ground, Main Switch



A - starter battery, (current: **50A).**
B – main battery, (current: **50 A**) – has the same current as the **solar panel, charger**.
C – charger, (current: **40 A)** – connect to the main battery and main ground (GND). The charger has the same current as the **solar panel** and **the main battery**.
D – solar charger, (current: **16A).**
E – ground – connect each module that requires to be grounded to the GND.
F - Manual main switch, turn the power of the SPDU-52 ON or OFF.

Note: **Charger, solar panel** and **main battery** all have the same current.

4.7 Relays, Inputs



A - Relays K1-K6
The configuration for the functionality of the K1–K6 buttons can be changed in the program. The default settings however, are the following:

- K1 - Fridge
- K2 - Heating
- K3 - AC
- K4 - Aux
- K5 - Water pump
- K6 - Lighting

B - Connections

C - Connection inputs and outputs

5. Connecting

The **Caravan Panel** must be connected to the third port on the SPDU-52 (**SICOM PANEL**) or it will not work.

If you have an **Inclinometer** module you can connect it directly to the second port of the **Caravan Panel** or you can connect the module to SiCOM port 1 or SiCOM port 2.

Resistance inputs can be used to connect the **temperature sensor**, **resistance tank sensor, the 4 stage level tank, any resistance based sensor,** etc.

Auxiliary voltage input, can be used to connect any sensor that outputs voltage.

4 stage level 1 & 2, each pin is connected to a percentage mark (25%, 50%, 75%) and one is connected to base input for power. The NC in the 4 stage level 1 stands for "not connected" and does not require an input.

Starter & main battery must be connected to the ground on the SPDU-52 (black cable connected to GND).

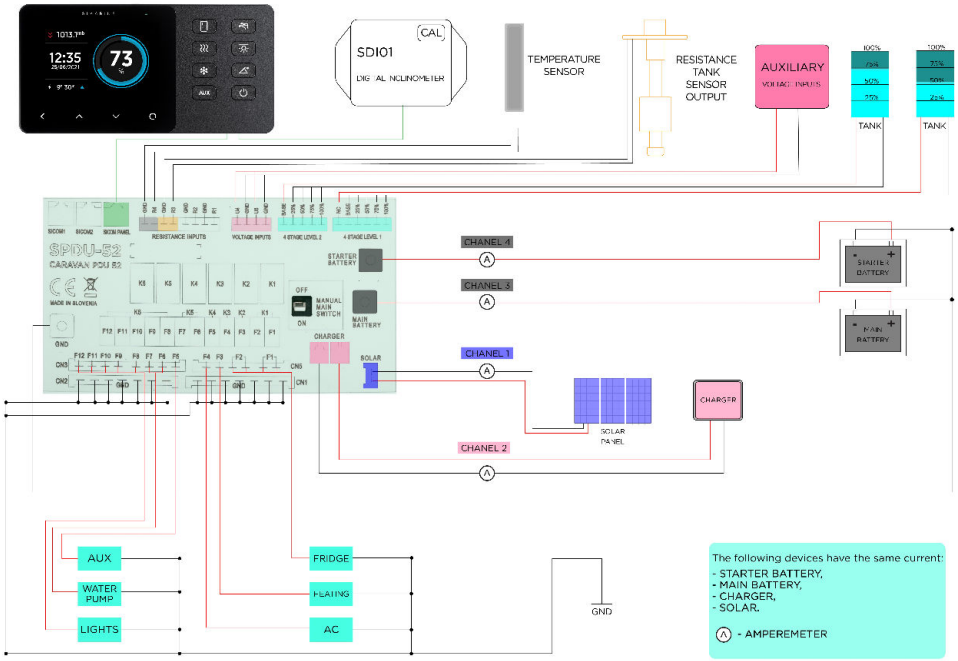
Charger and solar charger both have to be connected to the main battery and common ground (GND on SPDU-52).

F1–F12 are connected to any external devices.

- For example, **F1 and F2** ports are connected to the main **battery**. **F3** connects to the **heating** and so on.

(You can find the information of all relay connections on the physical cover of the SPDU-52 or under the **Diagram** section)

5.1 Diagram



6. Technical specifications

SPDU-52	
Operating	
Voltage range	
Main battery	8–22VDC
Starter battery	8–22VDC

Temperature range	From −10 to +70°C (from +10 to +160° F)
Power consumption at 12V	
Operating	15mA
Power off	0,25mA
Current measuring	
Channel 1 (solar)	0–16A
Channel 2 (charger)	0–40A
Channel 3 (main battery)	0–50A
Channel 4 (starter battery)	0–50A
Accuracy	±2%
Resolution	±0.1 A
Sample rate	100ms
Voltage measuring on any channel	
Range	0–35VDC
Accuracy	±0,5%
Resolution	10mV
Resistance measuring on any channel	
Range	0–65kohm
Accuracy	±3%
Resolution	1ohm
Temperature measuring (on resistance inputs)	
Temperature sensor	NTC 5K
Range	From -15 to +80 °C (from +10 to +160° F)
Resolution	3%
Maximum continuous current for output channels	
K1	20A
K2	20A
K3	15A
K4	15A
K5	10A
K6	10A
All channels simultaneously	50A
Contact continuous current rating	
Outputs F1–F12	20A
Charger	40A
Solar	20A
Dimensions (without connector)	
SPDU-52	200 x 160 x 42 mm 7,87 x 6,3 x 1,65in
Caravan Panel	157 x 82 x 25 mm 6.18 x 3.23 x 0.22in
System capabilities (with additional modules)	Up to
Batteries	6
Shunts	24
Temperature sensors	10
Tank level sensors	14
Inclinometer sensors	2
Smartphone application	1
Logger capacity	up to 3 years

7. Troubleshooting

If the Caravan Panel is showing wrong sign for current value. Check if the shunts are correctly installed. This means the consumers/generators minus (optionally plus) terminal is connected to the IN terminals on the shunts. If this is not the case, you can reinstall the shunts or simply switch the IN and OUT terminal via the shunt configuration on the Caravan Panel.

7.1 Shunt Sensors not visible

If the shunt sensor is not visible in the Caravan Panel menu, check the following:

- Is the Caravan Panel properly connected to the **SiCOM PANEL** port (Third port on SPDU-52)?

If you are using your own SiCOM cable, make sure it has the right square and is twisted.

- Is the Inclinometer module connected properly to SiCOM port 1 or 2 on the SPDU-52 or directly to the Caravan Panel?