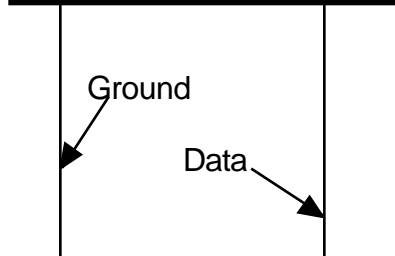


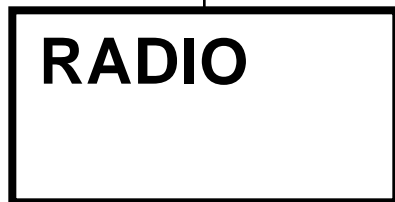
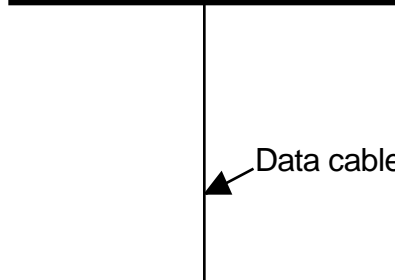
MAKING AN APRS-GPS TRACKER



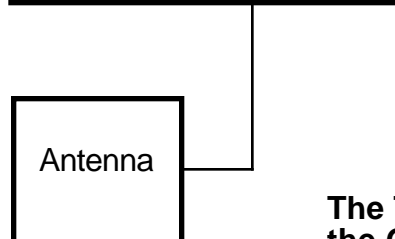
Most of the Garmin GPSs are APRS-compatible. Several models have a screen which provides you data, others are intended for magmount on your roof. In any case, the GPS you select must have NMEA output. The Magellan series, and Delorme TripMate are also good choices. Dave's choice: Garmin GPS III Plus, \$369.



The TNC you select should be a recent model that supports APRS. The best choice is the Kantronics KPC-3 Plus. GPS data output connects to the KPC-3 TNC pin 2, and ground on pin 7 on the DB-25 or you can connect via the DE-9 radio port on pins 3 and 6. The TNC must be configured for 4800 baud operation, which matches the GPS output. Dave's choice: Kantronics KPC-3 Plus, \$150.



You can use any 2m radio that has an external mic or data connector. For a portable or mobile tracker, try the Radio Shack HTX-202 (sale item \$99), or the Kenwood 2M (about \$199). For mobile operations, consider a radio like the Kenwood TM-V7A that offers both voice and data on the same rig. Icom, Yaesu, Alinco, Standard, and others are available and can be configured for packet operation.



The TNC must be configured properly to automatically capture the GPS sentence, store it, and then pass the data to the radio for ultimate transmission over the air. You can view the recommended settings on a web page off of the Northwest APRS home page: www.nwapsr.org