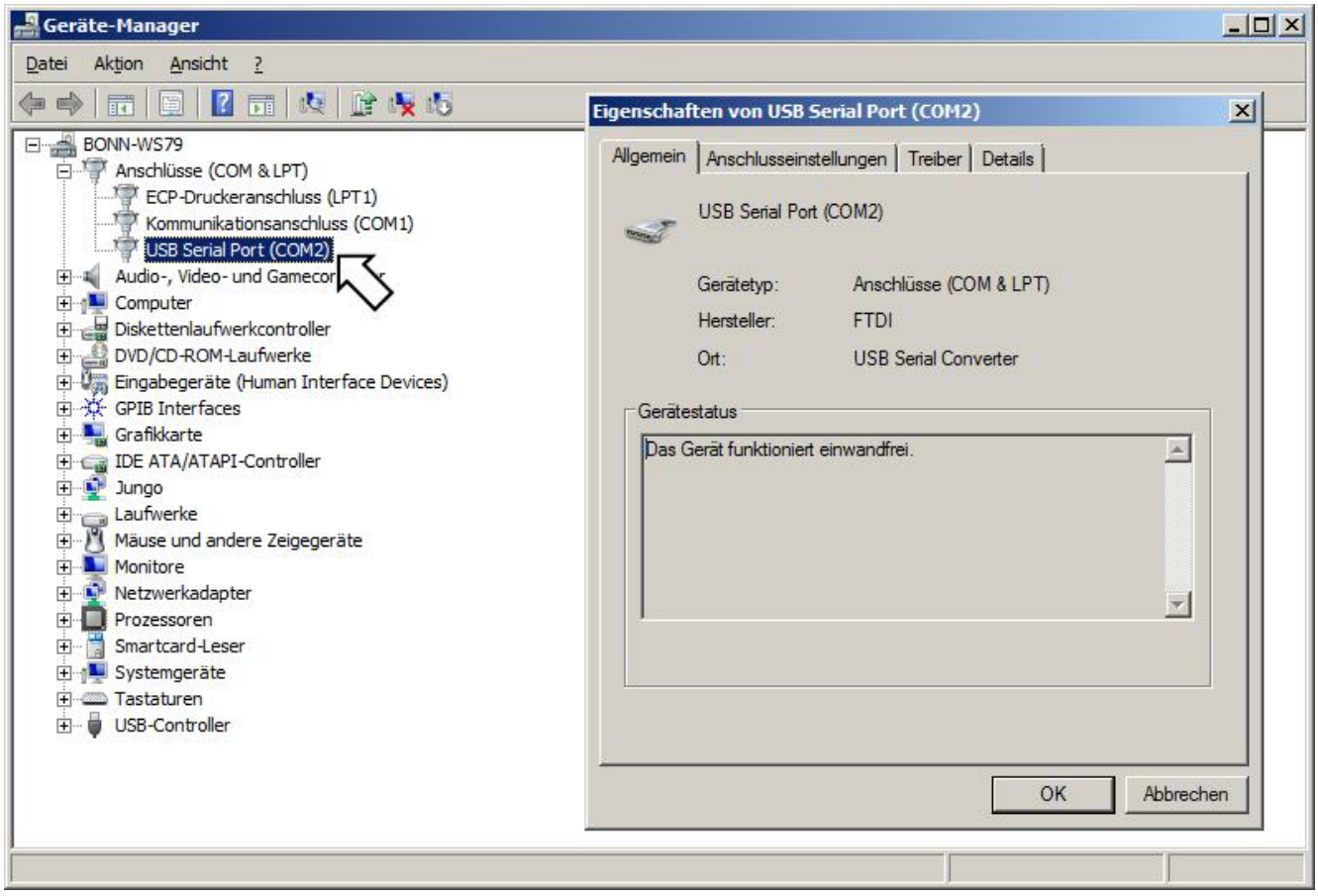
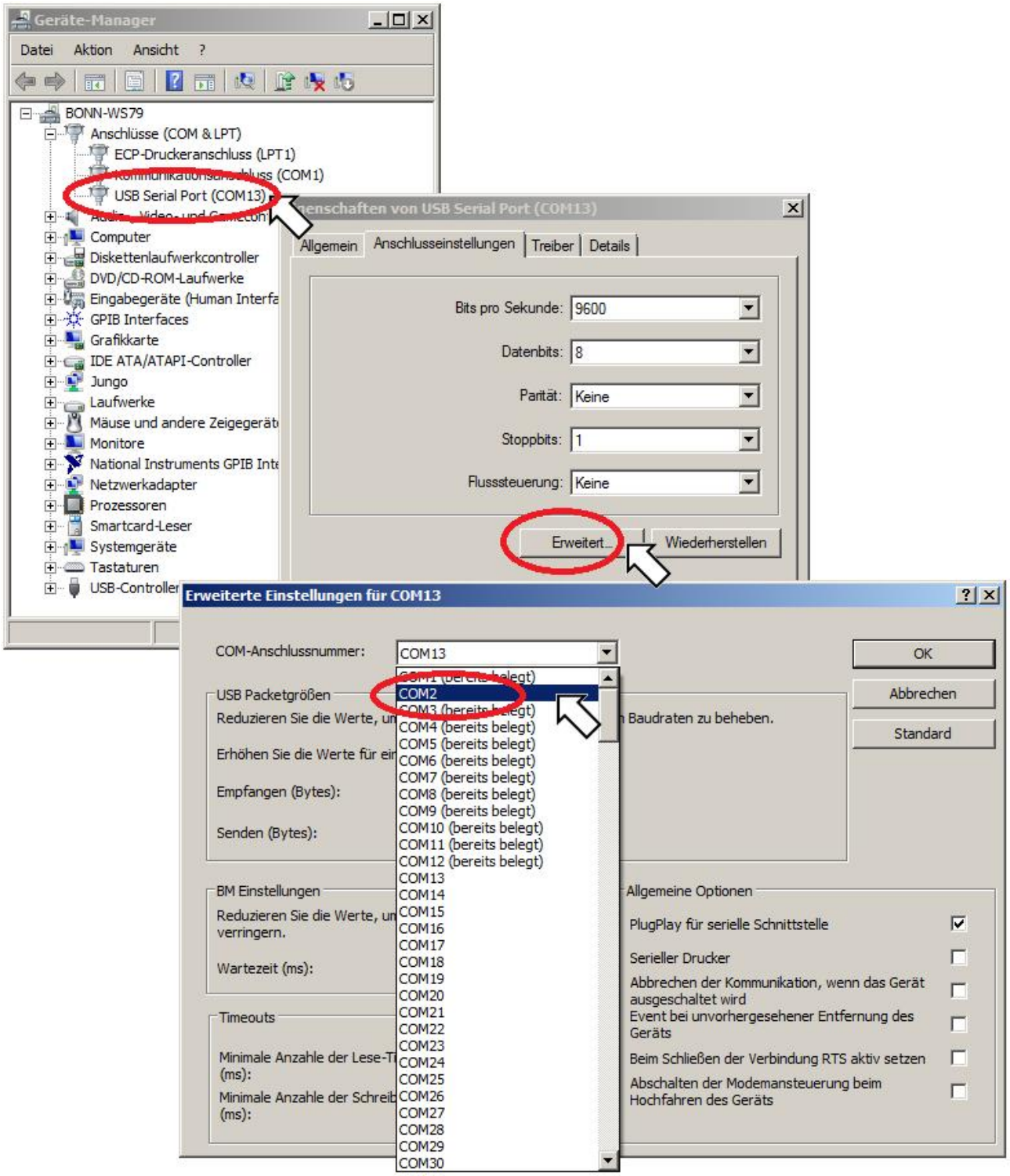
BONN Amplifier Automation Integration via USB (Virtual Serial Port)

Driver Installation

The amplifier's USB interface is a virtual serial port. This means that the automation measurement software will connect to an amplifier's USB port like a regular serial port device. The virtual serial port requires a driver, which usually already is part of your windows 7 operating system. However, if not recognized or when using windows xp, please download, install and follow the instructions of the FTDI VCP driver. When installation successfully completed, a new serial port at windows device manager will be displayed:

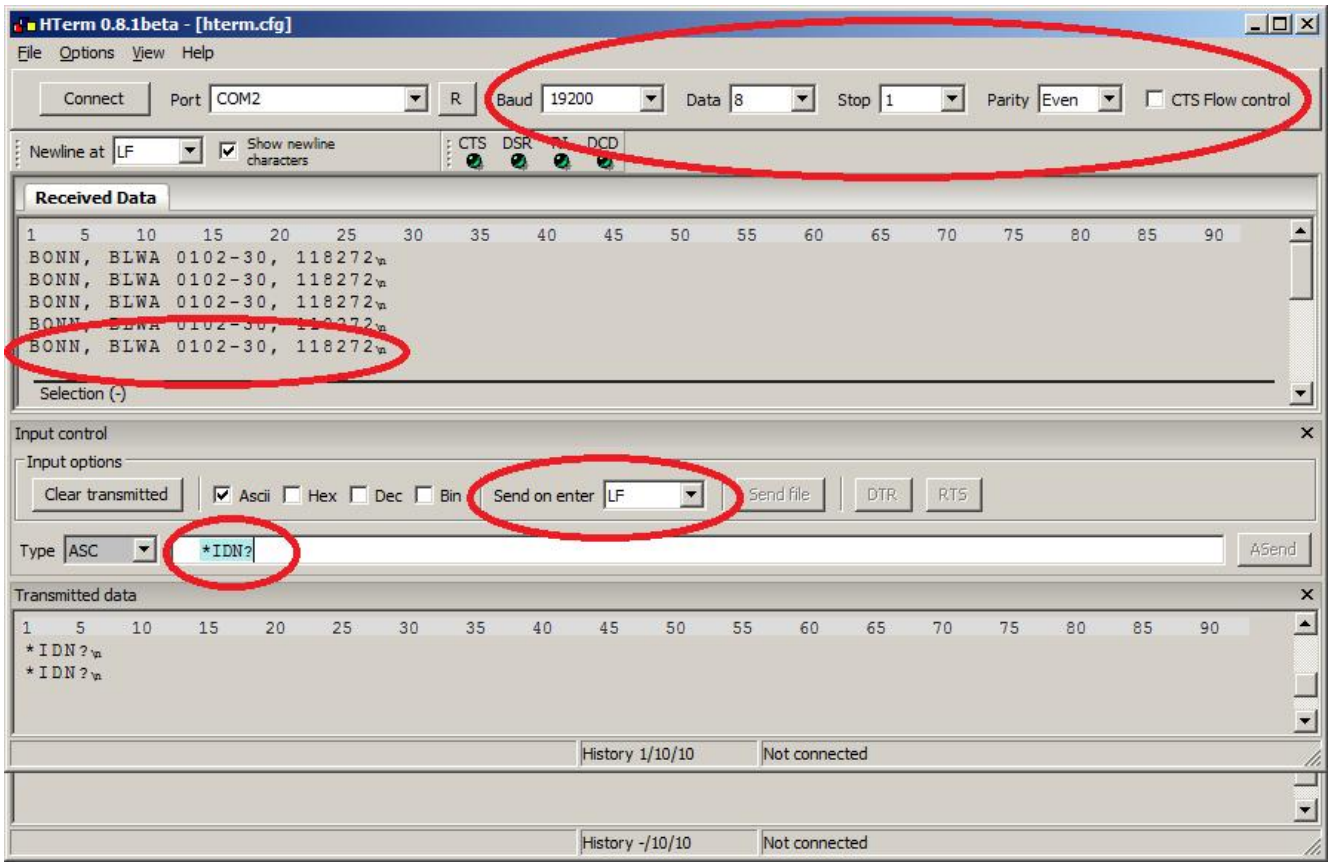


Please note: often a new COM port gets assigned a port number higher than 4. Some (especially older) software may not recognize such high port numbers. Via the property window of the COM device at the device manager, you can assign another lower COM port number:



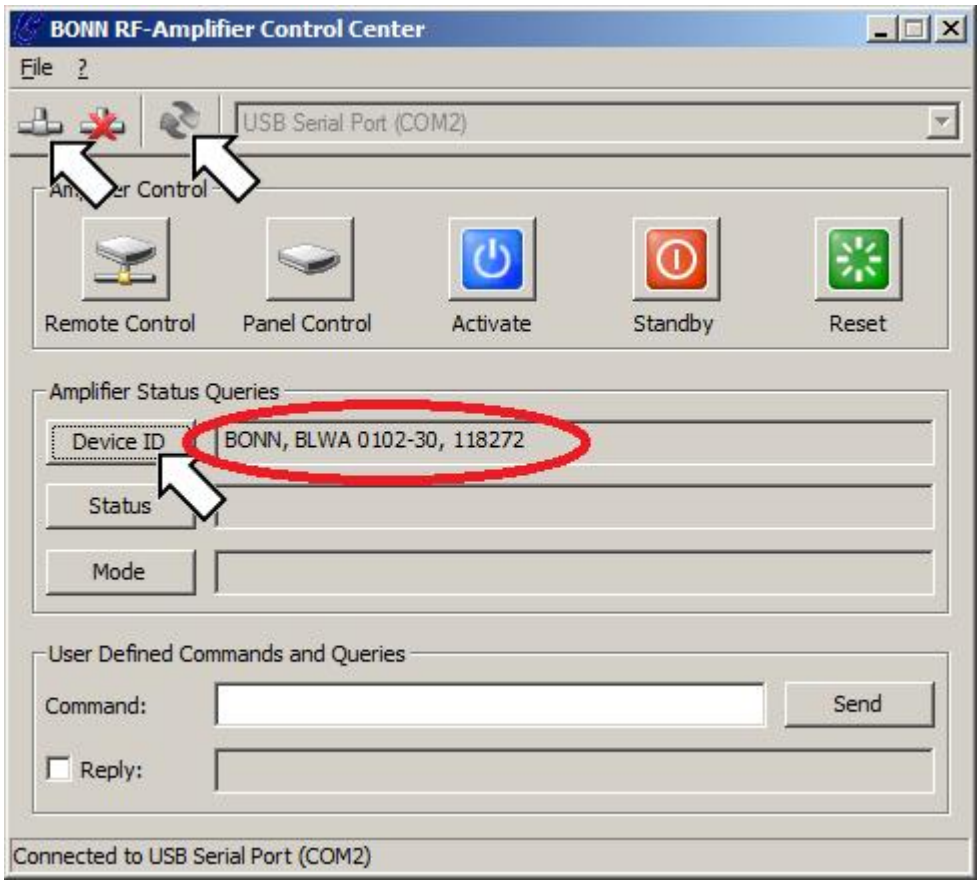
Connection Test

For testing a virtual serial connection to the amplifier any serial terminal program can be used (we were using HTerm):



Please note: serial port parameters are marked by red circles above. Common GPIB commands can be used. Alternatively, the connection may be tested by using our RF Amplifier Control program, which can be downloaded. Extract the Zip file (password usb) into any location and run the exe file.

When connection is successfully established, amplifier control center will display following:



Integration into Automation Software

National Instruments

For a detailed description please refer to National Instrument's Website:
www.ni.com/gettingstarted/setuphardware/instrumentcontrol/serialconnect.htm

Rohde&Schwarz EMC32

At EMC32, you will find a similar screenshot to: