

### nature**bytes** Wildife Cam Kit guide Version 4

For kits and cases bought from Spring 2020

(for older versions go to naturebytes.org)

Suitable for Ages 8 +





# About this guide and your kit

#### The guide

This guide will take you through the assembly process and give you all the information you need to know to get started with your naturebytes wildlife cam Kit.

Use the images and read the description carefully to help you through each step.

### What is the naturebytes wildlife cam kit?

The wildlife cam kit is a wildlife camera that anyone can build to take stealthy high definition images of wildlife. Beginner, expert, enthusiast or hacker, the Raspberry Pi powered kit is a fun way to develop your digital skills and gain a new insight into the natural world around you



Attention! This symbol is used to show you important information throughout the guide.

Appearance of parts, such as the insert may vary. During assembly you will be given the following options:A. 'Standard' when using a powerbank, simpler optionB. 'maker' option when using alternative power sources, slightly more complicated

This kit contains small parts. DO NOT allow children under 5 years near this product.





- 1. Check List
- 2. The PIR Sensor
- 3. Controlling the power
- 4. The Camera
- 5. The Raspberry Pi and Real Time Clock
- 6. The Power supply
- 7. The Case
- 8. Attaching insert and powerbank
- 9. SD card and flashdrive
- 10. Power-up and test
- **11**. Tips for great wildlife images
- 12. Additional Features







Open your kit and check you have the required components:

#### Cam Case Parts

Case Main Insert - May vary Strap Battery holder 6 x Stubby Screws 6 mm 5 x Screws 25mm 2 x Screws 18mm 9 x Brass nuts 5 x Spacer 18 mm (black) 2 x Spacer 8mm (white)

#### Electronics and additonal parts

Camera module Raspberry Pi - A+/B/B+/Zero Rechargeable Battery/powerbank USB Wire 3 x Wires - Black, Yellow, Red RTC (Real time clock) - optional Lipo rider - optional Velcro dots - optional Velcro dots - optional SD Card USB PIR Sensor



### The PIR Sensor What is a PIR sensor ?

The PIR (Passive InfraRed) sensor is a clever part of your kit. The sensor can detect invisible radiation from warm blooded animals (birds, foxes, dogs and even you). When a warm blooded animal walks past the kit, the PIR sensor will detect it and trigger the camera to take a photo!



#### Task 1 - Connect the PIR wires

Attach the three coloured wires to the sensor pins.

The three PINs are labelled (from left-right) VCC, OUT and GND.

Make sure the correct colour cable is connected to the correct pin as follows:

Red Wire - VCC (left) Yellow Wire - OUT (middle) Black Wire - GND (right)

Note: your PIR sensors may vary from that in the image.

#### What you will need :

PIR (front)



Wires

Red Yellow Black



**PIR** (back) Pins at the bottom





Task 2 - Feed the PIR wires through the insert

Identify the front of insert (see diagram)

Feed the wires through the insert **from front to back** through the lower-middle hole as highlighted (see diagram)

Make sure that the wires are fed through the correct side of the insert.

What you will need :

Main Insert (may vary)

**PIR Assembly** 







Back view of insert notch on top right wires from front to back



#### Task 3 - Secure the PIR sensor

Screw the PIR onto the insert making sure the spacers go between the two. See the diagram for how the setup works.

What you will need :







Use the correct size spacers and screws Use a ruler to double check



8 mm Spacer 18 mm Screw







#### Task 4 - Feed the wires back through the insert

Feed the wires through the insert from the back to the front, as shown in the diagram





Choose one of the two options below:

A: Direct connection to powerbank 'standard' option - go to page 12 'The Camera'd

or

B: Using a Lipo Rider (available separately) 'maker option go to page 11 'The LiPo Rider'

#### **Option A: Direct connection to a powerbank**

A powerbank such as Anker power 10,000 can be used to power your wildlife cam kit by directly connecting to the Raspberry Pi by a micro USB cable.

Skip to page 12 'The Camera' if using this option

#### Option B: Using a Lipo Rider (got to next page)

The LiPo Rider board allows you to connect power to your wildlife cam kit. It boosts and regulates the power from the rechargeable battery with a RJT connection to the Raspberry Pi. It allows the battery to be charged using a micro USB charger and use solar power.

Continue to the **next page** if using this option









#### Task 5 - Secure the LiPo Rider

Attach the LiPo Rider to the insert using the LiPo holder. Place spacers between the insert and the LiPo holder. See the diagram for how the setup works.

What you will need: (Parts available separately) 2 x 12 mm Screws 2 x 3 mm Spacers 2 x Brass nuts

LiPo Rider



LiPo holder







i)

3 mm Spacer

12 mm Screw

Use the correct size spacers and screws. Use a ruler to double check 3 mm Spacer 12 mm Screw







#### About the Camera

The camera module can be used to take high-de video and stills photographs.

ed focus camera that connects to the Raspberry pi through the ribbon. If you are using a Pi Zero your camera ribbon might look a erent

Product Description: Size: 25 mm x 23 mm x 9 mm Resolution: 5 or 8-megapixels Static images: up to 3280 x 2464 pixels Video Mode: up to 1080p















# Task 6 - Feed the camera ribbon through the insert

Next feed the ribbon through the insert from the front (same side as the PIR), to the rear side with the LiPo rider.

#### What you will need :







Task 7 - Secure the Camera

Now attach the camera to the insert assembly using the screws, spacers and brass nuts.





Use the correct size spacers and screws Use a ruler to double check

18 mm Spacer 25 mm Screw





Your assembly should look like this (LiPo rider optional)









### The Raspberry Pi

The Raspberry Pi inside your cam kit is a small yet powerful computer. It is the brains of the kit, connecting and controlling all the other electronic parts. We prefer the model A+ but you can use any Raspberry Pi model with the wildlife cam kit.

If you have purchased the **case only** you can download the cam kit image file (operating system) from: *http://naturebytes.org/wildlife-cam-kit-resources/* 







Raspberry Pi Model A+

or

Raspberry Pi Model 3B+

Raspberry Pi Zero W

### Choose one of the two options below:

A: Attach Pi with no RTC

'standard' option, go to page 18

B: Attach a Real Time Clock (RTC) (available separately)

'maker option' go to next page

#### The Real Time Clock

The Real Time Clock (RTC) is the time-keeperof your kit. It records the time each photo or video is taken. You can even code your kit to timestamp each image.







Task 8 - Attach the RTC Attach the RTC to the Raspberry Pi, positioning it on the pins shown to the

What you will need :

Real Time Clock

right.



Raspberry Pi A +





Make sure the real time clock is positioned the right way round. Compare your Raspberry Pi with the images on the bright to check its correct



Whatever model of Raspberry Pi you have the pins the RTC attaches to are 1,3,5 & 7.









# Task 9 - Connect the Camera to the Raspberry Pi

The camera ribbon locates into the port highlighted in the image (right).

Use this explainer video to help: https://youtu.be/VzYGDq0D1mw

or, follow the steps below with the help of the images on the following page;

 Gently lift the clasp on the camera port, highlighted in image i) on the following page.

II) Insert the camera ribbon into the port ensuring the blue tab on the ribbon is facing away from the HDMI port (labelled on the Pi) as seen in image on the following page.

III) Secure the ribbon by holding it in the port and gently pushing down on the clasp. Make sure the ribbon is pushed down evenlyand not at an angle.

#### What you will need :

**Raspberry Pi** 

















brass contact points on the ribbon face down to the back of the board **Finished Assembly** example with additional LiPo rider



i)



#### Task 10 - Connect the Raspberry Pi to the insert assembly

Attach the Raspberry Pi to the **back of the insert** using the **three screws and spacers**. Use the nuts to secure the screw from the front (see ii) See next page for attachment points for different Pi models

What you will need :

3 x 25 mm Screws

3 x 18 mm Spacers

3 x Brass nuts

Insert Assembly







Insert (back) & Pi Zero



For the **Pi Zero** use these holes for securing to the insert

Insert (back) & Pi A+ or B+



For the **Raspberry Pi A+ & B+** models use the same holes as demonstrated on the previous page





# Task 11 - Connect the PIR wires to the Raspberry Pi

Attach the three wires from the PIR to the correct pins on the Raspberry Pi as shown in the diagram. Ensure the wires go around the camera or PIR and onto the correct pins.

#### What you will need :

#### Insert Assembly only



Pins used are the same for all Pi models



#### i) Connect wires to pins:

Red:Pin 2Black:Pin 14Yellow:Pin 13

#### ii) Diagram of Pin Numbers:

Labelled 1 - 25 as on the Pi Required pins highlighted

iii) Image of wires connected







Secure the wires onto the insert

Feed the 3 black cable-ties or wire through the holes and twist them to secure the wires to the insert.

#### What you will need:

3 x Black cable ties (or wire)



Insert Assembly





use wire or cable ties to attach wires





## Insert Assembly - showing the LiPo Rider power option









#### About the Wildlife Cam Case

It looks snappy but the best thing about the case is that it's weather-proof, protecting all the parts inside from the elements.

The weatherproof case has passed ingress testing to gain a certified IP rating of 55.

The case has been designed so that it is hackable, it can fit all Raspberry Pi models, additional add-on modules and power options.







# Controlling the power

Option A - Using a powerbank (standard option) go to page 29 'Attach insert assembly and powerbank"

Option B - Using a lipo rider (maker option) go to next page



#### Task 12 - Assemble the Case

I) Place the **insert assembly** into the **front of the case** with camera facing down

II) Secure with large screws at the four corners

III) Connect the LiPo Rider to the Raspberry Pi using the USB cable

What you will need :

**Insert Assembly** 



USB cable







4x Large Screws 6mm

тттт

#### Secure with 6mm screws

![](_page_26_Picture_15.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_16.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_0.jpeg)

Task 13 - Attach and connect the battery pack The battery pack sits in the back of the case and is connected to the LiPo Rider. Use the screws to secure the battery holder. Now plug the battery into the LiPo Rider socket labelled "BAT".

**Caution** - ensure the LiPo Rider is switched to o before connecting.

#### **Insert Assembly**

![](_page_27_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_7.jpeg)

**Battery Holder** 

#### Place the battery into the bottom of the back of the case and connect to the LiPo Rider

![](_page_27_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_0.jpeg)

Task 12 - Attach and connect the powerbank

I) Place the **insert assembly** into the **front of the case** with camera facing down

II) Secure with large screws at the four corners

III) The powerbank sits in the back of the case. Use the screws to secure the battery holder.

#### What you will need:

#### Insert Assembly

#### Powerbank

![](_page_28_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_10.jpeg)

**Battery Holder** 

6 x Large Screws 6mm

![](_page_28_Picture_13.jpeg)

Place the insert assembly into the front of the case

#### Place the powerbank into the back of the case

![](_page_28_Picture_16.jpeg)

Secure with 6mm Screws

![](_page_28_Picture_18.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Task 15 - Insert the SD and USB Flashdrive

Insert the USB Flashdrive into the lower USB slot on the Raspberry PI and t insert the SD card into the top slot.

#### What you will need:

USB

![](_page_29_Picture_5.jpeg)

SD Card

![](_page_29_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_0.jpeg)

Congratulations! Your kit is fully assembled, move on to testing.....

### Testing, the next Steps...

Power-up and test your kit

Viewing your images

Tips for great images

![](_page_30_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Power-up and test your kit (option A)

You should fully charge your powerbank before using it. This will ensure you get the best performance out of your kit and the most out of your battery life.

If you are not using a power bank and are using a LiPo rider (option B) go to page 41

![](_page_31_Picture_4.jpeg)

i) **Power on your Raspberry Pi** - connect the powerbank to the Pi using the correct USB cable (micro-USB fits the Pi power socket)

ii) Leave the camera face down as the Raspberry Pi boots so it can calibrate.You will see the LEDs flashing indicating it is loading.This should take approximately 1 minute.

iii) **Selfie test** - close the case and turn the camera to face you. This will trigger the camera.

iv) Grab your images after a few selfies and giving enough time for the images to save (approx. 1 min)

# Go to the next page to learn how to view your test images

![](_page_31_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### To view your test images:

i) Remove the USB flashdrive from the camera and plug it into a laptop or computer.

#### ii) Open and view your images

If you can view them your camera is working correctly.

Your Cam Kit is ready to go out into the wild!

#### Troubleshooting

If you do not see any images check back through the guidesteps paying special attention to the **PIR wire arrangement** and **Camera ribbon connection**, then repeat the test.

To troubleshoot the PIR and Camera with a computer screen you can see this video guide:

#### http://naturebytes.org/faq/

To see how to connect the kit with a screen see the page 39

![](_page_32_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_15.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

Where, when and how you place your kit will determine which animals you are likely to photograph. Make sure you get off to a good start following these tips:

**1) Choose target animals -** think about which animals are regular visitors that you can photograph and thinkk about their behaviour.

2) Look for wildlife corridors and signs of activity such as paths, fences and where you've seen animals before.

**3) Choose the height and direction -** would you prefer a view of a bird table or are you focusing on ground mammals close up?

![](_page_34_Picture_0.jpeg)

**4) Avoid direct sunlight** - make sure the camera is protected from sunlight shining onto the face of hte kit.

Place you camera where it is protected from direct sunlight. Changes in heat will trigger your camera, so avoid false triggers by placing the kit away from the glare of morning and afternoon sun.

**5) Adjust your PIR sensitivty** - if you find that the camera is taking too few or too many photos, regardless of placement, you can adjust the sensitivity of your PIR sensor, see the link below:

www.naturebytes.org/faq

6) Distance and background - for good focus, place your camera at least 300 mm away from the point where you expect to see your subject.

Having a simple background, not too busy, will help improve the picture too.

![](_page_34_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Picture_0.jpeg)

7) Accessibility - position the kit in a convenient and accessible location to recover the kit . You can just remove the USB drive to view pictures from the kit to check images and leave hte cmaera where it is.

8) Dawn till dusk - set up in the morning and retrieve in the evening. This will allow you to review the images you've captured and charge your cam kit overnight to redeploy the next day

Enjoy your Wildlife Cam Kit!y.

300 mm

![](_page_36_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Additional Features**

![](_page_37_Picture_0.jpeg)

To benefit from additional features, you can use the kit as a desktop computer and access the code that runsyour kit. You can plug your kit into a screen with a HDMI cable. You can use any TV for this as long as it has a HDMI input.

You will then need a mouse in order to navigate the interface and a keyboard totype. We suggest using a wireless keyboard and mouse for this as the dongle will plug straight into the single USB socket on the Raspberry Pi A+.

If you don't have a wireless keyboard you can use a USB splitter to connect multiple devices.

The image (right) illustrates howto set up the kit. Instead of using a battery, you can power your kit with a 2A mains supply and a micro-USB, similar to charging a mobile phone.

You read more about setting up your Raspberry Pi here:

https://projects.raspberrypi.org/en/projects/raspberry-pi-setting-up/3

![](_page_37_Figure_7.jpeg)

#### **Keyboard and Mouse**

#### What you will need:

HDMI Wire 3 Port USB Hub Mouse & Keyboard Wireless WIFI dongle Micro USB charger USB Hub to connect Mouse Keyboard Adapter USB

![](_page_38_Picture_0.jpeg)

your cam kit it wont know what time it is so it will stamp the images with the wrong time and date. You may want to change this so follow these steps to change it.

Connect the cam kit to a screen , keyboard and mouse and turn on your kit and let the Naturebytes screen load up. Once loaded click on the Terminal x function and type the following code >

sudo date -s "04 MAR 2015 13:24:00"

PRESS ENTER

sudo hwclock -w

PRESS ENTER

sudo hwclock –r

PRESS ENTER

This will then change the time for you and stamp your images with the correct time and date.

![](_page_38_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Powering up with the LiPo rider** (Option B only)

![](_page_40_Picture_0.jpeg)

You must charge your kit before putting it outside. This will ensure y out of your kit and the most out of your battery life. To charge the battery:

![](_page_40_Picture_2.jpeg)

i) Turn the power on, flip the switch on the LiPo Rider highlighted in the image

ii) Leave the camera face down as the Raspberry Pi boots - you will ting itis loading. This should take apprximately 1 minute.

iii) Now tak camera to face you. You should trigger the camera.

iv) Grab your images, after a few enough time for the images to save (approx. 1 min),

Go to the next steps to see how to view your test images.

![](_page_40_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_0.jpeg)

You must charge your kit before putting it outside. This will ensure you get the best performance out of your kit and the most out of your battery life. To charge the battery:

![](_page_41_Picture_2.jpeg)

i) You must first disconnect the micro usb wire connecting the Lipo Rider to the Rasberry Pi.

![](_page_41_Picture_4.jpeg)

- ii) Plug a micro USB cable into the LiPo rider as illustrated in the image below
- iii) Connect the micro USB charging device. A plug adapter or computer will do.
- iv) When charging, the Orange LED will light up
- v) When fully charged, the Green LED will light up. The initial full charge will take approximately 8 hours.
- vi) When fully charged disconnect the LiPo Rider from the charging device and reconnect the LiPo Rider and Raspberry Pi.

![](_page_41_Picture_10.jpeg)

Charging - orange light

Charged - green light

![](_page_41_Picture_13.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_14.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_15.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### This kit contains small parts. DO NOT allow children under 5 years old to play with or near this product.

Li-ion battery packs may leak, overheat or explode if abused or incorrectly used. Ensure you read and adhere to the following safety warnings. Lithium Ion batteries are a great power source for naturebytes kits but they require care during use and charging. The batteries as part of your kit have passed testing and certification but you must be careful and follow the warnings and cautions listed below: WARNING!

Do not short-circuit the battery by directly connecting the positive (+) and negative (-) terminal with metal objects such as wire. Do not reverse the position (+) and negative (-) terminals.

Do not expose the battery in water, seawater or allow the battery to get wet. Keep the battery in a cool dry environment during stand-by period. Do not carry or store the battery together with necklaces, hairpins or other metal objects.

Do not pierce the battery with nails, strike the battery with a hammer or other object, step on the battery or otherwise subject it to strong impacts or shocks. If you are unable or unwilling to follow these instructions, please do not use the battery and return it immediately to naturebytes. Email info@naturebytes.org The battery is not for use by small children. Please ensure proper supervision of children by an adult at all times.

Switch of the cam kit and battery when not in use.

Do not use or leave the battery in a high temperature location or near a heat source such as fire or heater.

Do not use or leave the battery in direct sunlight, or in a vehicle in hot weather. Doing so may cause the battery to overheat, ignite or explode. Treating the battery in this manner may also result in a loss of performance and shortened life expectancy.

Do not disassemble or modify the battery or plastic casing. The battery contains safety and protection devices, which, if damaged, may cause the battery to overheat, explode or ignite.

When recharging, use a specified battery charger. Do not connect the battery to an electrical outlet.

Do not charge unattended.

#### CAUTIONS

In the event the battery leaks and fluid get into one's eye, do not rub the eyes! Rinse the eyes with clean running water, and seek medical attention immediately. If left untreated, the battery fluid could cause damage to the eye.

Do not use it in a location with high static electricity or magnetic fields as the safety devices may be damaged, without the damage being visible. If the battery gives off an odor, generates heat, becomes discolored or deformed, or in any way appear abnormal during use, recharging or storage, immediately discontinue use of the battery, remove it from the device or battery charger and place it in a sealed container or box. Contact Naturebytes if this occurs. If the battery terminals are contaminated, clean the terminals with a dry cloth before use. Poor connection between the battery and the electronic circuitry of the battery terminals are contaminated or an electronic circuitry of

the instrument may cause power failure or charge failure.

Be aware discarded batteries may cause fire, tape the battery terminals to insulate them before disposal. Do not dispose the battery in fire or heat.

**Disposal of batteries and Electronic Equipment** 

If you live in the UK, you can find your local recycling facility at www.recyclenow.co.uk.

Most supermarkets and shops that sell batteries will have collection bins for used batteries, and some town halls, libraries or schools may also set up collection points. Customers may find stores in their local area more accessible.

**Electronic Equipment Disposal Information** 

In common with all Electrical and Electronics Equipment (WEEE) regulations, The Naturebytes Wildlife Cam Kit should be disposed of separately from household waste and recycled where possible.

Many electrical items can be repaired or recycled, saving natural resources and the environment. If you do not recycle electrical equipment will end up in landfill where hazardous substances will leak out and cause soil and water contamination – harming wildlife and also human health.

![](_page_42_Picture_23.jpeg)