

Cartographer installation with Qidi stock firmware

[Cartographer](#) is Eddy current bed probe, which makes bed meshing a lot faster and a lot more precise. There are several such probes out there. Most known is [Beacon](#), which is made by US fellas, Cartographer, which is made by UK fellas and quite some of them in [AliExpress](#)

They are known for their speed and accuracy. If regular probe accuracy is around 0.001mm, then Eddy current probes are 0.0001mm, which is 10x more accurate. Their probing speed is limited by printer head moving speed and printer motherboard CPU. In theory they can do some million measurements per second

Here's a 10 sec 15x15 grid full bed mesh, which takes with regular Probe around 45 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/imeiiPBO91Y>

Installation

This guide works with both V2 and V3 probes

Hardware and mounting

For installation can use [this mount](#) (for X-Max 3), For X-Plus 3, [there's remix](#), original [Beacon mount](#) also works, but it's slightly flimsier. Make sure to print mount out of something that can sit near bed and wouldn't deform. PAHT-CF is good candidate, ABS and ASA work too, their GF and CF parts even better. PLA and PETG won't survive the bed heat from bed when using higher temperatures

Needed hardware:

4x M3x14 bolts original stock probe mount bolts. Stock probe has 2 bolts, there should be 2 extra that came with printer / official upgrade package as spare parts

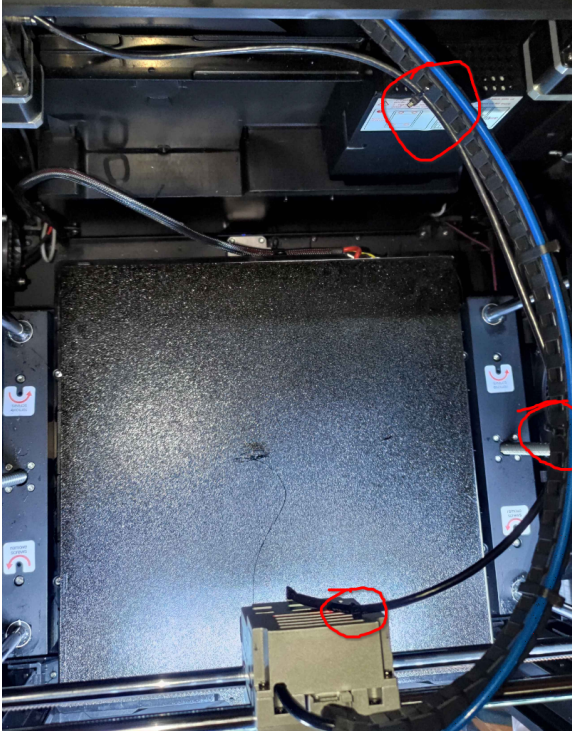
2x M3 nuts to secure probe in place. Those didn't come with printer, had to buy

2x M2.5x16 had those with one of Qidi printers as spare parts too, can't remember if it was iFast or X-Max 3

Optional zipties to secure cable

Do not put cable into cable chain, USB cable is not rated for it, it's good to have it rather loose, so there's no single point that keeps on bending (Some users have reported in Discord, that cable broke after around 1k print hours in cable chain)

Good installation would be like this, just 3 rather loose zip-ties to secure the cable



After mounting it, move toolhand manually thro all 4 corners and check that cable doesn't get stuck behind anything

Software installation

For Cartographer software installation you can [refer to it's own doc](#), but since there are some changes needed, wrote it down in here also. Follow Carto doc when you know what you are doing. Installing on stock Qidi firmware refer to this doc

First of all, need to SSH into printer. You can find printer IP from printer screen under network tab or from router.

SSH user is `mks` to printer with `mks@IP_ADDR` for example `mks@192.168.88.36`

Password is `makerbase`

By default Qidi printers have wrong system time, first need to update that by running `apt install ntp` and `dpkg-reconfigure tzdata`. Qidi Official wiki has good guide on it:

<https://wiki.qidi3d.com/en/Memo/System-Time-Modification>

After updating datetime, going to install Cartographer software. Writing this guide in two parts, **Bed meshing** and **Auto Z offset**, since bed meshing is rather simple, auto z offset requires some

more work with older Qidi firmwares

Bed meshing

Easy way will require minimal changes, but will be limited to having only bed mesh. For auto Z offset need to follow advanced part

1. `cd` -- Make sure you are at home directory
2. `git clone https://github.com/Cartographer3D/cartographer-klipper.git` -- Get Carto software
3. `cd cartographer-klipper` -- Go to Cartographer folder
4. `git checkout v1.0.0` -- This will make you run older version of Carto software, that works with Qidi printers out of box
5. `chmod +x ./install.sh` -- Make Carto installation script executable
6. `./install.sh` -- Execute install script
7. Running installation might give warning about Python version. It's safe to ignore it, since we pinned Cartographer software version to v1.0.0

After cartographer is installed, need to make some modifications to printer config. It's easiest to make it thro printer web UI (Fluidd). It's accessible at printer IP and port 10088, like

<http://192.168.88.36:10088/#/configure> (replace IP with your printer IP).

For more advanced users, I'd recommend to connect VSCode to printer and edit

`~/klipper_config/printer.cfg` directly

Inside `[stepper_z]` need to change `homing_retract_dist`

```
- homing_retract_dist: 8.0
+ homing_retract_dist: 0 # cartographer needs this to be set to 0, was 8.0
```

Inside `[homing_override]` need to get rid of references to `printer.probe`. `printer.probe["x_offset"]` is going to be removed and `printer.probe["y_offset"]` is going to be replaced with `25` (needs to be hardcoded, Qidi older Klipper doesn't work too well with variables, or McSneaky has no idea how to use them)

```
- G1 X{printer.toolhead.axis_maximum.x/2 - printer.probe["x_offset"]} Y{printer.toolhead.axis_maximum.y/2 -
printer.probe["y_offset"]} F7800
+ G1 X{printer.toolhead.axis_maximum.x/2} Y{printer.toolhead.axis_maximum.y/2 - 25} F7800
```

Inside `[bed_mesh]` section need to adjust `mesh_min`. It's also advised to change `probe_count` and `speed`. Those two can be whatever you feel comfortable with. Sweet spot seems to be **speed** somewhere between **150** to **600** and **probe_count** somewhere around **15** (odd numbers in `probe_count` are good, this way bed center point is also probed)

```
[bed_mesh]
-speed:150
```

```

+speed:300          #[] CARTO CHANGED, used to be 150
horizontal_move_z:10 #[]Z[]
-mesh_min:25,10     #[]
+mesh_min:25,20     #[] # CARTO CHANGED, used to be 25,10
mesh_max:315,315    #[]
-probe_count:9,9     #[]
+probe_count:15,15   #[] # CARTO CHANGED, used to be 9,9
algorithm:bicubic
bicubic_tension:0.2
mesh_pps: 4, 4

```

Replace `probe` or `bltouch` section with `cartographer`. Inside `cartographer` default settings need to change `y_offset` to **25** and `serial` to your USB serial

To get USB serial run `ls /dev/serial/by-id/` this will give you toolhead ID (`usb-Klipper-rp2040-something`) and Cartographer ID (`usb-Cartographer-something`). Copy / write down Cartographer ID

```

mks@mkspi:~$ ls /dev/serial/by-id/
usb-Cartographer_614e_1C0028001343565537353020-if00  usb-Klipper_rp2040_65D94D1529C25658-if00
mks@mkspi:~$

```

In the end your `cartographer` config should look something like this:

Be sure to update "**serial**" and "**y_offset**"

```

[cartographer]
# PASTE IN YOUR ID TO HERE!

serial: /dev/serial/by-id/usb-Cartographer_614e_1C0028001343565537353020-if00

# Path to the serial port for the Cartographer device. Typically has the form
#
# If you are using the CAN Bus version, replace serial: with canbus_uuid: and add the UUID.
# Example: canbus_uuid: 1283as878a9sd
#
speed: 40.
# Z probing dive speed.
lift_speed: 5.
# Z probing lift speed.
backlash_comp: 0.5
# Backlash compensation distance for removing Z backlash before measuring
# the sensor response.
x_offset: 0.
# X offset of cartographer from the nozzle.
y_offset: 25 ## BE SURE TO SET TO 25

```

```

# Y offset of cartographer from the nozzle.
trigger_distance: 2.
# cartographer trigger distance for homing.
trigger_dive_threshold: 1.5
# Threshold for range vs dive mode probing. Beyond `trigger_distance +
# trigger_dive_threshold` a dive will be used.
trigger_hysteresis: 0.006
# Hysteresis on trigger threshold for untriggering, as a percentage of the
# trigger threshold.
cal_nozzle_z: 0.1
# Expected nozzle offset after completing manual Z offset calibration.
cal_floor: 0.1
# Minimum z bound on sensor response measurement.
cal_ceil: 5.
# Maximum z bound on sensor response measurement.
cal_speed: 1.0
# Speed while measuring response curve.
cal_move_speed: 10.
# Speed while moving to position for response curve measurement.
default_model_name: default
# Name of default cartographer model to load.
mesh_main_direction: x
# Primary travel direction during mesh measurement.
#mesh_overscan: -1
# Distance to use for direction changes at mesh line ends. Omit this setting
# and a default will be calculated from line spacing and available travel.
mesh_cluster_size: 1
# Radius of mesh grid point clusters.
mesh_runs: 2
# Number of passes to make during mesh scan.

# [safe_z_home]
# home_xy_position: 162.5, 162.5 # CARTO CHANGED
# # Example home_xy_position: 175,175 - This would be for a 350 * 350mm bed.
# z_hop: 3

[gcode_macro PROBE_CALIBRATE]
gcode:
    CARTOGRAPHER_CALIBRATE

```

Notice, that in the end there's also macro for **PROBE_CALIBRATE**, don't forget to paste that in

Finally there's also some references to `printer.probe` in `[gcode_macro M4029]` need to replace them too

```
- G1 X{printer.toolhead.axis_maximum.x/2 - printer.probe["x_offset"]} Y{printer.toolhead.axis_maximum.y/2 - printer.probe["y_offset"]} F7800
+ G1 X{printer.toolhead.axis_maximum.x/2} Y{printer.toolhead.axis_maximum.y/2 - 25} F7800
```

Now Cartographer is installed and configured. Next step is to do initial calibration

Don't forget to hit "**Save and restart**" in web UI!

Initial calibration

There's no Qidi specifics in here. There are just two protips:

- If bed doesn't want to move up anymore and you get error: "out of bounds". Turn off printer and manually turn bed leadscrews to get bed close to nozzle. About ~5-10mm
- Hold your hand on power off switch during calibration and when doing initial test print. In case you did something wrong bed might collide to nozzle. It's good to turn off printer real fast then to not cause damage to PEI sheet

Other than that two, follow Cartographer docs: <https://docs.cartographer3d.com/cartographer-probe/installation-and-setup/cartographer-with-input-shaper-v2-and-v3-hybrid>

Everything below is still WIP

Auto Z offset AKA Carto Survey

Cartographer Survey installation consists of two steps: **Updating Carto Klipper plugin on printer** and **Updating Carto own firmware**

Updating Carto Klipper plugin

First, backup your printer.cfg, then remove all Carto, BLTouch, Scanner and Probe sections in there. Also at the end of printer.cfg remove `[cartographer model default]` section

SSH to printer and go to `~/cartographer-klipper` folder. If you don't have that, follow guide for Carto installation above

To get latest Cartographer code to your printer:

1. `git stash` to save all your changes
2. `git checkout main` to make your code follow main Cartographer codebase
3. `git reset --hard @{u}` to make sure you have exactly the same code locally in printer, as in Cartographer Github

Then run the install script with `./install.sh`. If it gives permission error or says it's not executable, run `chmod +x ./install.sh` to make Carto install script executable

This will most likely result in some warnings like on image below. They are safe to ignore

```
mks@mkspl:~/cartographer-klipper$ chmod +x ./install.sh
mks@mkspl:~/cartographer-klipper$ ./install.sh
Cartographer: installing python requirements to env, this may take 10+ minutes.
DEPRECATION: Python 2.7 reached the end of its life on January 1st, 2020. Please upgrade your Python as Python 2.7 is no longer maintained. pip 21.0 will drop support for Python 2.7 in January 2021. More details about Python 2 support in pip can be found at https://pip.pypa.io/en/latest/development/release-process/#python-2-support pip 21.0 will remove support for this functionality.
Requirement already satisfied: numpy>=1.16.6 in /home/mks/klippy-env/lib/python2.7/site-packages (from -r /home/mks/cartographer-klipper/requirements.txt (line 2)) (1.16.6)
Cartographer: linking klippy to the cartographer.py.
ln: failed to create symbolic link '/home/mks/klipper/klippy/extras/cartographer.py': File exists
Cartographer Probe: Installation successful.
mks@mkspl:~/cartographer-klipper$
```

Next up, we need to

Update Cartographer firmware

QIDI Printers use USB version of Cartographer

Firmware update requires `pyserial` Python package. To get it, we first need to install **PIP** (Package Installer for Python)

1. `sudo apt install python3-pip` to install PIP for Python 3
2. `pip3 install pyserial` to install pyserial package for Python 3

Download latest version of firmware updater script:

<https://firmware.cartographer3d.com/firmware.sh> It can be put to some random place.

Before running it, it requires some modifications. In all the places where there's `~/klippy-env/bin/python` replace it with `python3`

```
- ~/klippy-env/bin/python
+ python3
```

Most likely there's about 10 places where it needs to be replaced

Next up, need to make it executable with `chmod +x ./firmware.sh`

Run the script `./firmware.sh`

You should see something like this. Type in **yes**

```
Cartographer
Firmware Script v1.0.4
Created by KrauTech (https://github.com/krautech)

#####
*****
* Attention *
*****

This script is designed to update your firmware via Katapult/DFU/USB

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK
This script is available for review at:
https://github.com/krautech/scripts/blob/main/cartographer/scripts/release/firmware.sh

Do you wish to run this program? (yes/no) yes
```

Next up, pick **9**

```
Cartographer
Firmware Script v1.0.4
Created by KrauTech (https://github.com/krautech)

#####
USB Katapult Device Found for Flashing

3) Check For Flashable Devices
9) Flash Firmware via Katapult USB

r) Reboot
q) Exit without Rebooting

Choose an option: 9
```

Then pick **1** for Survey Touch

Cartographer

Firmware Script v1.0.4

Created by KrauTech (<https://github.com/krautech>)

#####

Do you want to include Survey Touch functionality, if unsure ask on discord (<https://discord.gg/yzazQMEGS2>)

- 1) with Survey Touch
- 2) without Survey Touch

6) Back

Choose an option: 1

Then pick **2** for USB Cartographer

Cartographer

Firmware Script v1.0.5

Created by KrauTech (<https://github.com/krautech>)

#####

Pick which firmware you want to install, if unsure ask on discord (<https://discord.gg/yzazQMEGS2>)

Flashing via USB - KATAPULT

- 1) Survey_Cartographer_K1_USB_8kib_offset.bin
- 2) Survey_Cartographer_USB_8kib_offset.bin
- 3) Back

Please select a firmware to flash: 2

Give it some seconds. You should see nice loading bar and then "Success"

Cartographer

Firmware Script v1.0.5
Created by KrauTech (<https://github.com/krautech>)

```
#####  
Flashing with Survey_Cartographer_USB_8kib_offset.bin ...  
Flashing USB Device usb-katapult_stm32f042x6_1C0028001343565537353020-if00  
Attempting to connect to bootloader  
CanBoot Connected  
Protocol Version: 1.0.0  
Block Size: 64 bytes  
Application Start: 0x8002000  
MCU type: stm32f042x6  
Flashing '/home/mks/cartographer-klipper/firmware/v2-v3/survey/Survey_Cartographer_USB_8kib_offset.bin' ...  
  
[#####]  
  
Write complete: 20 pages  
Verifying (block count = 317)...  
  
[#####]  
  
Verification Complete: SHA = 258D7B3E36279D07E63BFD860D7E5AD4AF733277  
CAN Flash Success  
Press enter to continue
```

After installing, it will ask for sudo password (makerbase) to restart Klipper

It will take you back to beginning. Now need to hard restart printer. Turn off power from back of the printer. Wait for ~10 sec and then turn it back again. You can confirm everything is OK, if you run `ls /dev/serial/by-id` and see **usb-Cartographer** in there. If you see **usb-STM**, then something is off. Try to restart printer again or re-flash

Now we get back to installing Cartographer Klipper plugin. It's quite a pain tbh..

Install Fortan compiler

First, we need Fortan compiler, coz gotta love Python packages.. `sudo apt-get install gfortran` to install Fortan

Increase swap

Then, since compiling all those packages takes quite some RAM, we need to increase that. Sadly there's no way to increase RAM itself. Falling back to increasing swap

But since swap partition size can't be increased, we'll create new swap file and use that on primary partition

You can check your current swap file with `sudo swapon --show` most likely it is `/dev/zram0`

1. `sudo swapoff /dev/zram0` to turn off current swap file
2. `sudo dd if=/dev/zero of=/swapfile bs=1MB count=8192` to create new 8gb swap file

3. `sudo chmod 600 /swapfile` to add correct permissions to swap file
4. Edit **/etc/fstab** with favourite editor and add `/swapfile swap swap defaults 0 0` to the end of it
5. `sudo mkswap /swapfile` to mark that file as swap file
6. `sudo swapon /swapfile` to turn swap back on
7. `swapon --show` to check, if **/swapfile** is in use and everything is OK

Increase /tmp size

Actually, there's no nice way to increase /tmp size, since it's on standalone partition, like swap. Since huge /tmp size is only needed by **pip** in install script, we can modify **install.sh**

On line about 30, there should be something like this: `"${KENV}/bin/pip" install -r "${BKDIR}/requirements.txt"`

Need to prefix it with `TMPDIR=/home/mks/cartographer-klipper/compiler-temp`

```
- "${KENV}/bin/pip" install -r "${BKDIR}/requirements.txt"
+ TMPDIR=/home/mks/cartographer-klipper/compiler-temp "${KENV}/bin/pip" install -r
"${BKDIR}/requirements.txt"
```

Change requirements :)

In Carto folder there's **requirements.txt** file. By default Cart requires stuff for Python 3, but since we are on Python 2, need to downgrade requirements

Lower **scipy** and **matplotlib** versions

```
- scipy>=1.10.0
- matplotlib>=3.7.0
+ scipy>=1.2.3
+ matplotlib>=2.2.5
```

Actually installing Klipper plugin

Since while Python is compiling things, printer will be totally unresponsive (even to SSH) for several hours. Can expect it to take 1-4h or so

To make sure compile keeps on going, it's good idea to start it in screen session and then detach from it. This way compiling isn't tied to SSH session

1. `screen -RL carto` to start new screen session named **carto** with -L to enable logging to file (in case of crashes)
 1. This will tell smth about: "new screen started" or something. Press "Enter"
2. `./install.sh` inside screen session
3. Detach from screen by pressing **ctr1+a** followed by **d**. Note the lower case

1. If you want to see what's going on, use `htop` or `tail -f ~/screenlog.0`
4. Wait some hours

Replace scanner.py with <https://gist.github.com/McSneaky/0e80e1562aa22e112936aed9db1cc062> and follow Carto guide from Configuration step <https://docs.cartographer3d.com/cartographer-probe/survey-touch#configuration>

Revision #12

Created 27 December 2023 23:37:49 by McSneaky

Updated 2 October 2024 13:22:37 by McSneaky