

May 2026

Dear uTracer Friends,

uTracerJS GUI for uTracerNXT!

To my delight, Ihor Smal has adapted his popular uTracerJS GUI so that it now also can be used for the uTracerNXT!

As you know, the uTracerJS GUI runs from your internet browser so that you can use it on any platform (Windows/Linux/Macintosh/Raspberry Pi etc). It has many nice features and interfaces with all three uTracers in a single environment. Even if you are using the “standard” uTracer GUI, I encourage you to explore the uTracerJS GUI. You can download it from [Ihor's website](#) and install it with minimal effort and use it in parallel to the standard uTracerNXT GUI. You can even directly copy the calibration values from the standard GUI into the uTracerJS environment.

uTracerNXT waiting list

My wife, who is taking care of administration and shipment has dispatched the first batch of 50 uTracerNXT kits, and we are now starting with the second batch of 50 kits. To serve everybody as quickly as possible we would like to ask everybody on the waiting list to respond promptly to my wife's emails. If you've had second thoughts and decided not to purchase the kit, please let us know by mail: [\[email protected\]](#)

Weblog update

On the uTracerNXT weblog you will find two new sections discussing the [communication protocol](#) with the uTracerNXT and [automatic ranging](#) issues.

Best regards,

Ronald & Marie-José

March 2026

Dear uTracer friends,

First uTracer kits!

We have started rolling out the first series of uTracerNXT kits!

As you know my wife and I are making these kits as a service from one tube enthusiast to another. As such we have no capacity (or wish) for high volume “production.” We therefore make these kits in series of 25 at a time. Since we have now more than 125 people on the uTracerNXT waiting list, it can be some time before we can serve everybody.

As usual, my wife is taking care of administration, finances and shipment. Starting from the top of the waiting list she is contacting people using her Dos4ever email address . To make things run as smoothly as possible we would like to ask everybody on the waiting list:

- If you've had second thoughts and decided not to purchase the kit, please let us know!
- Please check your spam folder regularly for mail from her.
- Please respond to my wife's emails promptly to avoid that other people must wait.

The feedback from "early adopters" of the uTracerNXT has been very helpful in further improving the kit and the manual. We are also interested to hear about your experiences! As always, a picture and a few lines of text for our testimonial page are highly appreciated.

My-uTracerNXT

One of the new features of the uTracerNXT is that it is relatively simple to personalize voltage and current ranges to your specific needs: "My-uTracerNXT." A step-by-step cookbook how to do this is now available on the uTracerNXT weblog.

uTracerNXT Downloads

As always, the uTracerNXT kits is accompanied by a printed and bound construction manual. Additionally you can now pre-view the current version of the uTracerNXT construction manual and download the GUI under the tab "Downloads" on the uTracer home page.

Best regards,

Ronald & Marie-José

January 2026

Dear uTracer friends,

We are happy to report good progress in the development of the uTracerNXT!

The circuit has now been finalized, and several PCB versions have been assembled and tested. A detailed account of the latest developments of the circuit and the PCB can be found on the uTracerNXT weblog.

Of course, the uTracerNXT kit will come, as usually, with a detailed step-by-step construction manual. The manual describes the basic uTracerNXT configuration i.e.:

- Anode/screen voltages up to 500 V
- Anode screen current up to 380 mA
- Control grid bias 0 to -120 V

A preliminary version of the construction manual is already available on the weblog page for those of you who want to have a peek at it ([click here](#)). Of course, the manual will also be supplied with the kit printed and bound as you are used from us.

Next to this, I am currently working on the “My-uTracerNXT Cookbook,” which describes in detail how the uTracerNXT can be personalized to your specific needs, e.g. higher currents, smaller voltage ranges etc. hope to post the “My-uTracerNXT Cookbook” the coming weeks.

So far, the enthusiasm for the project has been overwhelming and we have a growing number of people on the uTracerNXT waiting list! Since this is a new project, we plan to start producing the kits in batches of 25.

When all checks and tests have been completed successfully, we hope to be able to start selling the first batch mid-February.

Best regards,

Ronald & Marie-José

December 2025

Dear uTracer friends,

To start with, Rogelio Baucells prepared us a very nice Christmas present in the form of a new web-based SPICE parameter repository/extraction tool: “TubeModels.” The program, which does not require any software installation on your computer, can fit several tube models to tube data contained in a uTracer .utd file, and directly generate an LTspice tube model. Although Tube-Models is quite intuitive, Rogelio wrote a short manual for it and made a video showing its main features. I am sure many of you will enjoy playing with the program over the Christmas holidays! For a link to Tube-Models and Rogelio’s description [click here](#).

Secondly, I am happy to report that the work on the uTracerNXT is progressing very nicely! A first prototype has been put together and is working as expected ([read more here](#)). Obviously, there is still a lot more work to be done: a PCB has to be designed, the GUI needs updating, a manual must be written, and everything needs to be thoroughly tested. So far, the response to the announcement of the uTracerNXT has been overwhelming, and we are compiling a rapidly growing list of people who have reserved one!

For those of you who are lucky to be able to enjoy a few days holiday the coming weeks, I hope you will find some moments to enjoy your (tube) hobby. For all of you who celebrate Christmas my wife and I wish you joyful and happy days, and in any case a peaceful and healthy 2026!

Warm regards,

Ronald & Marie-José

November 2025

Dear uTracer friends,

To start with, we would like to thank you for all the enthusiastic and encouraging reactions we received on the announcement of the “uTracerNXT” (pronounce Micro-Tracer Next) as a follow-up of the uTracer3+!

Obviously, there were also a lot of special requests for new features like: a better (DC) heater supply with current readout, noise and microphony measurements, an additional grid bias for heptodes, USB interface etc. However, I think that one of the factors that contributed to the overwhelming success of the uTracer concept is that they are a careful compromise between performance and complexity, a design goal I clearly want to stay with for the uTracerNXT.

For now, the idea is that the uTracerNXT will come in a basic/standard version with approximately the following specifications: anode/screen max. 500V @ 350 mA, grid 0 to -120V. Additionally it will be relatively simple to tailor the circuit to your specific needs e.g. for higher currents or improved accuracy at lower voltages, a concept I fashionably coined “My-uTracerNXT”

With cold, wet and gloomy days ahead I hope to make good progress the coming months. As always, I will document the technical progress in my weblogs. In the first place for my own documentation, but also because I know that there are many people who appreciate my technical digressions. This time you will find an [update on the anode and grid driver circuits](#).

For those of you in Holland (and a bit of Belgium and Germany) that celebrate “[Sinterklaas](#),” I wish you a great “pakjesavond,” and I hope to present you a first uTracerNXT prototype around Christmas.

Very best regards,

Ronald and Marie-José

October 2025

Dear uTracer friends,

The uTracer project started in 2011 just to explore if the concept of a “pulsed” tube tested could work. Originally, it was never intended to become a commercial product, however, people continued to ask me for it. So finally, with the help of my wife I gave in. Now, with more than 2300 uTracer3 tracers in service in 63 countries, it is difficult to believe what this project has grown into!

However, the moment has come to revise the original uTracer3+. Being faced with the fact that certain components are gradually being taken out of production, we were faced with a dilemma; just adapt the circuit for more modern components or take a more drastic approach and have a critical look at the present design and give it a complete overhaul.

My wife and I decided for the latter option. This means that we have stopped selling the uTracer3+ and that I am now working on a redesign of the uTracer3+. My wife insisted on a bit more creative name than the uTracer3.2, so in the end we came up with the name NXTracer, to be pronounced “Next-Tracer.”

As usual you can follow the progress on the [NXTracer weblog](#), and I will “ping you” when a new update is posted. The fact that I am now retired gives me more time to work on it, and our planning is to have it available for sale early 2026.

In the meantime, the uTracer6 of course remains for sale, and service and support for the uTracer3+ continues as usual.

Very best regards,

Ronald and Marie-José

September 2025

Dear uTracer friends,

It has been a very long time since our last newsletter.

Both my wife, as well as myself have been struggling with illness, my wife more seriously than myself. Fortunately, we are now both doing well. Needless to say, that these events have had their effect on our daily routines.

For a number of reasons, the work on the 5000 V / 1 A uTracer7 has stalled for the moment. The principle of the uTracer7 has clearly been demonstrated, but for now I do not see how such a relatively complex project can be turned into a reliable kit. To get an idea of the complexity, have a look at the latest weblog update on the project:

<https://www.dos4ever.com/uTracerlog7/tubetester7.html#Rig1>

Unfortunately, lately several copies of the uTracer have appeared. The development of the uTracer kits cost us a lot of effort and time, and it is a pity to see how people shamelessly copy the concept, schematics and sometimes even the complete PCB layout and even don't have enough fantasy to come up with an original name.

Despite all this, there are some exciting new developments brewing, and we hope to update you on that the coming months!

As you may have noticed, we have been struggling to find a good and affordable bulk email provider and, as you can see, now ended up with “Sender.” If you want to respond to this mail, or want to be removed from the uTracer mailing list, please mail me on my regular email address ([\[email protected\]](#)), or use the unsubscribe button below.

Finally, if you are pleased with your uTracer, do not hesitate to send us a few pictures of your creation and a few lines of text with your experiences for our testimonial page.

best regards,

Ronald & Marie-José