

## Re: 555 timer circuit

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.basics/2004-12/1673.html>

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In article <1104319351.333874.44970@z14g2000cwz.googlegroups.com>, <burtonfamily@dodo.com.au> wrote:

>Hello,I made a simple astable 555 timer circuit the same as the one on  
>the 555 web site,but im having trouble working out the values of the  
>two resistors and the capacitor so it will turn on for 3 minuts and off  
>for 5 minuts.Could someone please point me in the right direction as i  
>found the data sheet a bit confusing.thankyou in advance

Frankly a 555 is a bad choice for such long delays. The precise timing depends on the values of the caps and resistors of the circuit and at 200-300 second delays, the tolerances will be off by tens of seconds every cycle.

A better solution is to count smaller more presice cycles. If you have wall power available, an AC wall wart, along with a zener diode and a resistor makes for a nearly dead accurate 60HZ reference that can easily be counted.

My belief is that microcontrollers are the 555 of the 21st century. A single microcontroller like a PIC 12F629 could easily handle your requirements with or without the 60 HZ reference.

BAJ

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