

send more than 8 bits with parallel port

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We're using a parallel port for motion control. We're building the hardware logic for the device we're going to control, and want to be able to send a packet containing 2 bytes of information, and let the circuit we build translate it and drive our device.

I know that parallel port was designed with a standard for printers, using a 1 byte data register. What I want to know is how to hack it so that I can use more than pins 2-9 to output data from our computer. The control register has pins 1, 14, 16, 17. I take it that i can set whatever I want to these (TTL), and on the device end, translate it however I choose. So i need 4 more pins from something.

I know that pins 18-25 are ground. I think that makes them out of the question, though if anyone knows how I could use some of them to transmit data I'd be interested.

The info i have on status register says its read only, and that data written there is ignored. What ignores it, the computer or the printer? Is there a way to get around it?

thanks
James

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