

# Re: Printer port confusion

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  - *Date:* Thu, 04 Jan 2007 02:51:22 +0100
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Randy Day wrote:

Is there a reason why different websites list different signal states on some parallel port pins? Are some just wrong, or were there two types of parallel ports for PC's at one time?

For example:

<http://et.nmsu.edu/~etti/fall96/computer/printer/printer.html> indicates that pins 10 and 15 are inverted inputs, while

[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Bill\\_Bowden/page6.htm#p\\_input](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Bill_Bowden/page6.htm#p_input) has 10 and 15 as `_normal_` inputs while `*11*` is inverted!

I just found out my PC has the latter pinout, while I had wired a circuit assuming that the first website (and another that agreed with it) were correct.

<grumble>

I just want to know if I'm going to have problems with pinouts if I want to hook a microcontroller to different PC's and their parallel ports.

well... i think the info below would be of use....  
PC Parallel Port Mini-FAQ

By Kris Heidenstrom (kheidens@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx), revision 4, 950403

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## 1. INTRO

This is a five printed page mini-FAQ with the information essential for programming the PC parallel port. Many subjects are not covered in detail. View on an 80-column monospaced screen with 8-column tab stops. Comments and suggestions to kheidens@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Re: Printer port confusion

A parallel port links software to the real world. To software, the parallel port is three 8-bit registers occupying three consecutive addresses in the I/O space. To hardware, the port is a female 25-pin D-sub connector, carrying twelve latched outputs from the computer, accepting five inputs into the computer, with eight ground lines.

The normal function of the port is to transfer data to a parallel printer through the eight data pins, using the remaining signals as flow control and miscellaneous controls and indications.

The original port was implemented with TTL/LS logic. Modern ports are implemented in an ASIC or a combined serial/parallel port chip, but are backward compatible. Some modern ports are bidirectional.

### 2. BIOS LPT PORT TABLE

A parallel port is identified by its I/O base address, and also by its LPT port number. The BIOS power-on self-test check