

Re: Anotehr Basic Q. re: a circuit

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.basics/2008-08/msg00114.html>

- *From:* Kris Krieger <me@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 05 Aug 2008 16:15:01 -0500
-

Tim Wescott <tim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
news:p6ydnRjHRZG1OgXVnZ2dnUVZ_sednZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:

Kris Krieger wrote:

"Phil Allison" <philallison@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
news:6fnev2Fcg4atU1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:

"Kris Krieger"

"Phil Allison"

Sorry for
another
stupid
question,
but, I'm
looking at
this
http://www.maxim-ic.com/appnotes.cfm/an_pk/1750
and can't
figure out
whether I
can ignore,
or whether I
need to
add in some
modification
of
something
like this
<http://www.instructables.com/id/S8Q5N9QFHTAIQK7/>
where the
first
diagram
says
" PWM

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Dimming 0
to 3.3HZ
 $f > 15\text{KHz}$
0% = shdn
100% = 20mA
"

A clue
would be
appreciated
– especially
since I don't
know
whetehr
they mean
dimming as
in a
Dimmer
Switch on a
lamp, or
whether
they mean
something
entirely
different...

** The CTRL input operates
to dim the LEDs with a 0 to
3.3 volts
variable DC input, which
can be created by filtering a
PWM signal
as shown or any other way
you like – eg with a 3.3 volt
supply
and a pot.

In the Datasheet for the IC, in the chart
describing the Pins, for
CTRL, it
says:
"Brightness/Shutdown dualmode control
input. LED brightness and IC
shutdown are controlled by the voltage on
CTRL. VOLTage between
250mV and 5.5V or $(V+ + 2V)$, whichever is
less, adjust the
brightness from dim to bright, respectively.
To put the IC into

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shutdown, drive below 100mV or connect to GRND."

So, for a low-voltage light (2 or three 1.2V NiMH batteries, 1500mA to 2500mA), that means it's jsut personal choice rather than mandatory to add in the dimmer?, IOW, I can either add in a dimmer, or just connect the pin to the ground/out terminal?

** Why are YOU crapping on about adding a " dimmer " all the time ??

That IC has a built in dimming function which operates as stated.

Because I'm teaching myself, and I didn't understand that – the diagram showed it connecting to something, and I didn't understand what that "something" is. To me, it looked like some separate IC or circuit becasue, if it was suposed to just be connected to teh ground, I assume it would have shown the symbol for that, rather than a circle. Now, if sci.electronics.basics is not the place to ask basic questions, please let me know what would be a more appropriate venue for people who are trying to learn on their own and have similarly–basic questions, and I'll be glad go to that NG (or forum) instead.

Yes this is the right group.

One of the basics of learning from newsgroups is that you'll get some very negative emotions in your responses, sometimes.

If you get on to google groups and read a sampling of Phil's posts you'll realize that this one is really quite positive.

I almost never Google past posts – I spend way too much time at the computer as it is <LOL!> No, seriously, though, thanks for your note – and yup, usenet is definitely a grab–bag, although I *have* gotten some really good answers over the past several weeks from several people, which *has* helped me understand a lot more than I had, and also has given me much better search terms to use :) – OTOH I was honestly serious as to asking whether this is the right group for the question I was asking. I've tried to be up–front re: the depth and extent of my

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lack of knowledge, and the fact that I'm trying to teach myself, but maybe that didn't come through – if there is a better venue, I'd appreciate knowing that.

I've seent hat "circle" a fe wtimes on circuit drawings, tho', and I havent' seen it explained in the resurces I have currently, so it always confuses me, since it looks to me like it means "add more stuff here".

Well, my books should get here is a few days (delivery was probably set back a bit by Eduardo, alhtough he seems to have shed his wolf–skin, at least in my area, mainly delivering a steady, soaking rain with only brief torrents). Hopefully, the new texts will give me a good dose of enlightenment ;)

– Kris