

# Re: Purchase microcontroller dev. kit

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- *From:* "David L. Jones" <[altzone@xxxxxxxx](mailto:altzone@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 25 Sep 2006 14:13:47 -0700
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Nico Coesel wrote:

Donald <[donald@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:donald@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Nico Coesel wrote:

[mrдарrett@xxxxxxxx](mailto:mrдарrett@xxxxxxxx) wrote:

Nico Coesel wrote:

[ydoubleuz@xxxxxxxx](mailto:ydoubleuz@xxxxxxxx)  
wrote:

Hi all,

I am new to  
this and i  
hope to  
purchase a  
development  
kit for dev.  
microcontrollers.

Due to the  
numerous  
varieties  
available in  
the  
market, i  
am lost as  
where i  
should start  
and what

Re: Purchase microcontroller dev. kit

stuffs to  
look out  
for when  
purchasing  
these kits.

Whatever you buy, make  
sure the microcontroller has  
one addressing  
space (no 8051, no AVR, no  
PIC) if you want to keep  
your code  
portable. You wouldn't be  
the first developer who has  
found the  
platform that looked so  
promising in the past turns  
out to be a  
deadlock.

No 8051, no AVR, no PIC? What \*would\*  
you recommend, then? ;-)

Hitachi/Renesas H8 / H8S, Texas Instruments MSP430,  
Analog Devices  
Blackfin DSP.

Oh crap, now you did IT !!!

The religious war about my CPU is better than your CPU is going to start.

No not at all. Look at the big picture here. Its not the CPU that  
matters, its where you want to go in the future that matters!

A choice for a CPU should be driven by the question: "What if I want  
to move to a different platform". With some platforms the answer to  
this question is: "throw away everything you wrote and start over". So  
a choice for a platform should be made with great care.

There is NO best processor, this is too small or too large, but you will  
learn this for yourself.

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That's exactly why I listed a general purpose microcontroller series, a micropower series and a full blown 300+ MHz 32 bit DSP with MMU capable of running a genuine OS like Linux. However, generic C code written for one, can be moved to the other.

Gee that's stange, how on earth have I moved C code almost seamlessly from a PIC to an AVR to a Rabbit then?

You can't be serious suggesting that a beginner think about the "big picture" and choose some oddball processor based on some perceived future requirement, that is crazy.

A beginner needs something that is common beginner platform so that they can get tons of support, sample code, books and other beginner level stuff etc That basically means PIC or AVR these days, that's where the action is.

I'd suggest the OP start on the PICAXE, it is the easiest introduction possible. Work up from there.

Dave :)

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