

Re: Thanks to all – well most...

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- *From:* Terry Given <my_name@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 02 Apr 2008 18:40:32 +1300
-

legg wrote:

On Tue, 01 Apr 2008 20:41:19 +1300, Terry Given <my_name@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

[1] surely you're familiar with the term "dim."

Nice!

I have taken measurements that are almost identical. The first LED video screen I worked on had a circuit that measured the LED forward voltage. The way it was configured pumped 1uA into the LEDs, and was (barely) visible. It turned out to be easier for me to measure sub-microamp "leakage" currents with a vacuum cleaner. We had bugger all test gear (almost everything I used I was renting to the company), and the "nook & cranny cleaning" pipe from the end of the vacuum cleaner was thick black plastic that tapered down to a narrow slot; black tape made it narrower still. By placing it over a led with my eye firmly over the other end, I could see well below 1uA.

the problem turned out to be easy to fix, and was inherent on the design of the voltage sensing circuit (not mine), which I duly modified. 3 years later I left, and the guy who designed the original circuit changed it back the next PCB revision (he never did like me). Funnily enough, they had a huge problem with contrast (black isnt very black when all the LEDs are glowing faintly), and had to do another PCB respin. He didnt use my exact fix, rather its dual, which ended up being more expensive. pants-wettingly funny. That firm made all their technical staff redundant this year (including him), and no longer build anything.

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Let me guess – they went onto fabless dsp-intensive AV controllers....
with a new crop of wonder boys, known to the new venture capitalists.

RL

even worse. they re-badge shit chinese product, and rent out advertising.

and (with one notable exception ;) pretty much the entire original design team is now designing a new one, for some other people. entirely new & original, but boy does experience help.

Cheers

Terry

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