

# Re: Interfacing to parallel port dongle via USB adapter

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- *From:* Joerg <[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 03 Apr 2008 09:16:18 -0700
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Jim Thompson wrote:

On Thu, 03 Apr 2008 16:01:45 GMT, Joerg  
<[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

mrdarrett@xxxxxxxx wrote:

On Apr 2, 2:36 pm, "Paul E. Schoen" <[pst...@xxxxxxxx](mailto:pst...@xxxxxxxx)>  
wrote:

I have software (PADS Layout) that requires a parallel port dongle, and it works fine on my present (fairly old) computer, which has a native parallel port. But newer computers, particularly laptops, do not have these legacy ports and instead use USB to Parallel (or USB to Serial) converters. They generally work well for printers, but I have heard that they do not work for dongles. The usual solution is to obtain a USB dongle from the software vendor ([www.mentor.com](http://www.mentor.com)), but they require the user to be on "maintenance" in order to get a USB dongle, and they impose outrageous penalties and payment of back (unused) support in order to be reinstated.

Newer DESKTOP computers, to my amazement, often still have parallel ports.

My department is upgrading computers this month – the lease is up for our current computers – and the newer, 2GB HP machines

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have... a  
parallel port! I expressed my amazement to the IT staff, and  
they  
looked at me like I was on drugs...

True, to save space, newer laptops likely won't have them.

Any particular reason you can't maintain an older machine to  
run  
"legacy" applications? Sounds cheaper.

The bridge chips on main boards almost all support LPT. Sometimes there is  
a pin header or at least the empty position for one. On my latest Dell there  
ain't. The bridge chip supports LPT and all other legacy stuff but they took  
LPT out of the layout. They even removed the 2nd floppy support from the  
BIOS :-(

Harumph. Grumble.

So why did you buy Dell?

Because they have been good to me and most of the other name brands didn't have legacy ports either. Before  
the purchase I found out that they use a particular Foxconn MoBo in there and that had all the header  
positions. Turns out Foxconn made a slightly modified one for them, taking all those out :-(

Another reason was because the Dell business section offered XP. Vista is not acceptable to me. Anyhow, you  
can order this particular PC with LPT if you wanted to. I guess then they stick a PCI card in there, which I can  
always do later.

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Regards, Joerg

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