

# Re: Interfacing to parallel port dongle via USB adapter

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- *From:* Jim Thompson <~~To-Email-Use-The-Envelope-Icon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~>
  - *Date:* Thu, 03 Apr 2008 09:25:05 -0700
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On Thu, 03 Apr 2008 09:16:18 -0700, Joerg  
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jim Thompson wrote:

On Thu, 03 Apr 2008 16:01:45 GMT, Joerg  
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

mrdarrett@xxxxxxxx wrote:

On Apr 2, 2:36 pm, "Paul E. Schoen"  
<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), but they require the user to be on "maintenance" in order to get a USB dongle, and they impose

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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 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

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LPT if you wanted to. I guess then they stick a PCI card in there, which I can always do later.

I don't buy "name brand" PC's. My local PC Club churns out anything I want... cheaply. I also don't buy Intel, I buy AMD. AMD processors run circles around Intel chips when it comes to simulators. I also bought a bunch of batch of XP for future use... just in case I can't get it, though it looks like demand will keep XP there, at least for awhile.

...Jim Thompson

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James E.Thompson, P.E.	mens
Analog Innovations, Inc.	et
Analog/Mixed-Signal ASIC's and Discrete Systems	manus
Phoenix, Arizona Voice:(480)460-2350	
E-mail Address at Website Fax:(480)460-2142	Brass Rat
<http://www.analog-innovations.com>	1962

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