

# Re: Interfacing to parallel port dongle via USB adapter

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2008-04/msg00516.html>

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- *From:* Joerg <[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 03 Apr 2008 11:07:21 -0700
- 

Jim Thompson wrote:

On Thu, 03 Apr 2008 09:36:02 -0700, Joerg  
<[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Jim Thompson wrote:

On Thu, 03 Apr 2008 09:16:18 -0700, Joerg  
<[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Jim Thompson wrote:

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

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

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

I  
have  
software  
(PADS

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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,

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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)

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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  
para