Re: need L290 substitute

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- *From*: Joerg <notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date*: Wed, 16 Apr 2008 13:48:13 −0700

Dave Platt wrote:

> > How fast do the bits change? Can you do it in software
> > with a PIC/AVR/8051? ...
>
> Way to go.

> Seems likely! At a trade show yesterday I picked up a sample of a
> Silicon Labs 336D development "stick". The daughter board's micro is a
> QFN20 device with an 8051−compatible core, 16 kB of flash code space,
> 768 bytes of RAM, a ten−bit 200 ksps 16−channel AC, and a single
> 10−bit current−output DAC, runs at up to 25 MIPS using its onboard
> oscillator or at lower speeds (onboard or RC or crystal).
>
> Writing a lookup−table−based quadrature−to−value loop with a DAC
> output would be easy and fast. Cost for the bare chips from Mouser is
> $4.31 in onesies, under $3 in hundreds.

That's one of the issues, the 8051 species are usually not exaclty a bargain. There is a price to be paid for reducing the effects of obsolenscence.

> I'm sure that similar capabilities are available in other micro
> families (e.g. PIC, TI MSP340, etc.). If you can accept a coarser DAC
> output (e.g. a low−pass−filtered PWM or PDM output) then even a pretty
> tiny jellybean PIC or AVR could do the job.

The MSP430F2002 can be had for close to a buck in quantities. If only TI wouldn't have dropped the ball on support. How is SiLabs' support?

−−
Regards, Joerg

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