

sci.electronics.misc: Re: Any recommendations for a good overview of pic and basic stamps

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From: Jan-Erik Söderholm (aaa_at_aaa.com)

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Hi !

www.microchip.com, details and data sheets for the PIC processors.
www.piclist.com, info about a PIC mailing-list.

<http://www.voti.nl/swp/index.html>, a nice intro to PIC.

<http://www.st-anna-data.se/picdoc.zip>, a PDF version of the same.

<http://www.voti.nl/wisp628/index.html>, one of the more popular hobbyist/amateurs PIC programmers.

<http://www.voti.nl/dwarf/index.html>, a nice series of PIC based building blocks. Flexible and reasonable cost.

Before anyone asks, no, the "voti" site is *not* mine :-)

But I do use his stuff...

Regards,
Jan-Erik.

Bill Velek wrote:

>

> *While in the process of trying to find a solution to a problem, I*
> *received several suggestions that PIC or Basic-Stamps might be a*
> *solution. In order to fairly evaluate those suggestions, and decide*
> *whether or not I'm capable enough to use that approach, I'd like to get*
> *a good overview of what I'll be facing. I've joined another e-list for*
> *basic-micros -- Parallax's forum -- but so far I haven't received an*
> *adequate answer to the questions that I'll pose here. I think this*
> *would be on-topic here, and I hope no one minds.*

>

> *What I'm looking for is links to sites that will give a broad general*
> *explanation to a complete novice of the nature and potential of PIC and*
> *Basic-Stamps; I've done a some googling without coming up with anything*
> *that is very helpful, so I might be way off base right now.*

>

Re: Any recommendations for a good overview of pic and basic stamps

- > *My impression is that these are simply chips that can be programmed*
- > *(perhaps something like an EPROM?), but it is done with very simple*
- > *basic-language programs that are fairly short with relatively few*
- > *instructions, and that the programming is done on a computer and then*
- > *loaded onto the chip via a cable linking the chip and a PC. Then the*
- > *chip can be installed on a small circuit board of some sort (e.g., a*
- > *thermostat), after which it is then able to run the basic-program*
- > *completely independent of the PC. Besides my thermostat needs, I can*
- > *see possible future applications in my beer brewing hobby, so I am*
- > *definitely interested at this point; for example, if I'd eventually like*
- > *to build either a RIMS or HERMS (for non-brewers, that would be a*
- > *"Recirculating Infusion Mash System" using a magnetic pump to circulate*
- > *the liquid in the mash to help keep it uniform in pH and temp, and a*
- > *"Heat Exchange Recirculating Mash System" which also actually controls*
- > *the temp through various stages). Both of those systems can be designed*
- > *to be fully computerized with temp sensors, PID controllers, solenoid*
- > *valves, and magnetic pumps.*
- >
- > *At this point I'm not seeking technical help to solve a specific*
- > *problem. Rather, I'd just appreciate some insight into what I'd likely*
- > *be facing in this area, and also the sort of other 'fringe' benefits*
- > *(like a cool hobby) that I might derive from this in order to become*
- > *involved; for instance, if I purchase a bit of equipment, take my time*
- > *learning all of this stuff, and then build my project, what other sorts*
- > *of things can typically be done with this technology? What sort of*
- > *costs am I facing -- at a minimum -- especially if I have only a*
- > *soldering iron and a simple multimeter? What kind of learning curve*
- > *will I be facing? ... and will I need to learn the equivalent of what it*
- > *takes to earn an associate's degree, or perhaps just a single college*
- > *course? Is there a website or FAQ page that will start me out with a*
- > *good overview of this area of technology, explaining how the entire*
- > *process works?*
- >
- > *Thank you for any help.*
- >
- > *Bill Velek*