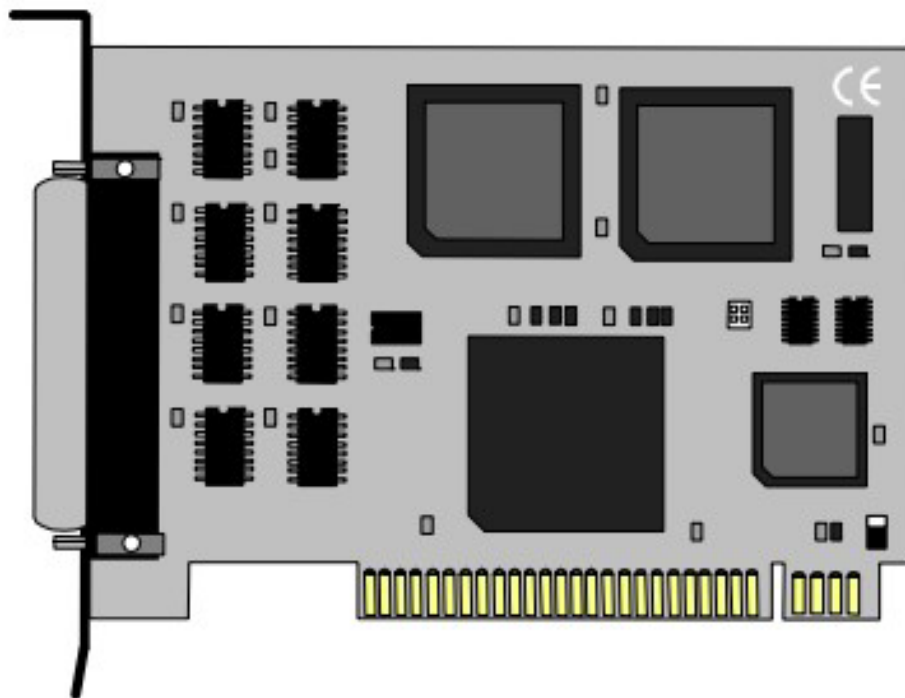


COMM+2

User Manual | 3083



SEALEVEL[®]

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Introduction

Overview

The **COMM+2** provides the PC with two async serial ports, which can interface, to RS-232, RS-422, or RS-485.

Factory Default Settings

The **COMM+2** factory default settings are as follows:

Port #	Base Address	IRQ	Electrical Specification
Port 1	3F8	4	RS-422
Port 2	2F8	3	RS-422

To install the **COMM+2** using factory default settings, refer to Installation on page 6.

For your reference, record installed **COMM+2** settings below:

Port #	Base Address	IRQ	Electrical Specification

Before You Get Started

What's Included

The **COMM+2** is shipped with the following items. If any of these items are missing or damaged, contact the supplier.

- **COMM+2** Serial I/O Adapter

Advisory Conventions



Warning

The highest level of importance used to stress a condition where damage could result to the product, or the user could suffer serious injury.



Important

The middle level of importance used to highlight information that might not seem obvious or a situation that could cause the product to fail.



Note

The lowest level of importance used to provide background information, additional tips, or other non-critical facts that will not affect the use of the product.

Card Setup

The **COMM+2** contains several jumper straps, which must be set for proper operation.

Address Selection

Each port on the **COMM+2** occupies 8 consecutive I/O locations. A DIP-switch is used to set the base address for these locations. Be careful when selecting the base address as some selections conflict with existing ports. The following table shows several examples that typically do not cause a conflict. SW1 sets the I/O address for port 1 of the **COMM+2** and SW2 sets the address for port 2.

Address	Binary		Switch Position Setting						
	Hex	A9 A0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
280-287	1010000XXX		Off	On	Off	On	On	On	On
2A0-2A7	1010100XXX		Off	On	Off	On	Off	On	On
2E8-2EF	1011101XXX		Off	On	Off	Off	Off	On	Off
2F8-2FF	1011111XXX		Off	On	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
3E8-3EF	1111101XXX		Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	On	Off
300-307	1100000XXX		Off	Off	On	On	On	On	On
328-32F	1100101XXX		Off	Off	On	On	Off	On	Off
3F8-3FF	1111111XXX		Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off

Figure 1 - Address Selection Table

The following illustration shows the correlation between the DIP-switch setting and the address bits used to determine the base address. In the example below, address 300 Hex is selected as a base. Address 300 in binary is XX11 0000 0XXX where X = a non-selectable address bit.

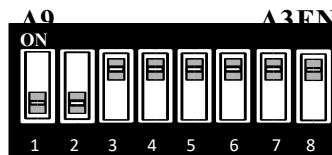


Figure 2 - DIP-Switch Illustration



Setting the switch “On” or “Closed” corresponds to a “0” in the address, while leaving it “Off” or “Open” corresponds to a “1”.

Refer to [Appendix A](#) for common address contentions.

Port Enable / Disable

Each port on the **COMM+2** can be enabled or disabled with switch position 8 on the DIP-switch. The port is enabled with the switch “On” or “Closed” and disabled when “Off” or “Open”. If any port is disabled, be sure to disable the interrupt request for that port by removing the IRQ jumper.

IRQ Selection

Header E6 selects the interrupt request for each serial port. If COM1: is selected, the corresponding jumper must be on the IRQ4 setting. If COM2: is selected, the corresponding jumper must be on IRQ3.



Most communications software applications default COM3: to IRQ4 and COM4: to IRQ3. This requires the sharing of interrupts between COM1: and COM3:, and between COM2: and COM4:. While this is the default, it is not always the preferred setting. Check your software configuration instructions to determine the most appropriate IRQ selection.

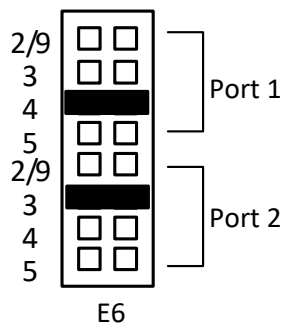


Figure 3 - Header E6, IRQ Selection (Factory Default)



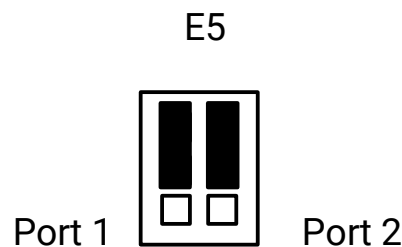
The actual Silk-Screen for the **COMM+2** may have a “2” in place of the IRQ “2/9” selection.

Any two or more ports can share a common IRQ, provided a proper interrupt sharing driver is used, by placing the jumpers on the same IRQ setting at header E6, and setting the appropriate selections at E5. Consult your particular software for IRQ selection. If no interrupt is desired, remove the jumper.

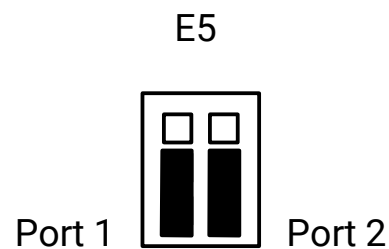
Interrupt Modes

Jumper block E5 allows you to select a single interrupt per port mode or a shared interrupt mode. The single interrupt per port mode is the typical DOS, O/S 2 and Windows 3.X mode of operation.

The shared interrupt mode, which allows more than one port to access a single IRQ, indicates the inclusion of a 1K ohm pull-down resistor required on one port when sharing interrupts. This mode is used by software that requires COM3: and COM4: to share interrupts with COM1: and COM2: (see note on E6) or in an OEM configuration to support a specific software application.



Single Interrupt Mode



Shared Interrupt Mode

Figure 4 - Header E5, IRQ Mode Selection

Headers E2 & E4

These jumper blocks make the connection between the UART pins and the actual driver/receiver pair that are used. If you are using the RS-232 driver/receiver pair, all eight of these jumpers will be in the “A” position. If you are using the RS-422 driver/receiver pair all eight of these jumpers will be in the “B” position.

Headers E1 & E3

These jumper blocks allow you to customize your interface in the following ways:

- Select if Modem control signals are used or tied “True”.
- Select the RS-485 enable option.
- Select whether the Ground connection is a *Direct Ground* or a *High Impedance Ground* through a 100-ohm resistor.

E1 & E3

1	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	"A" Selects RS-232 Receive Data; "B" Selects RS-422 Receive Data
2	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	"A" Enables CTS; Remove to set Active
3	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	"A" Enables DSR; "B" sets DSR Active
4	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	"A" Enables DCD; "B" sets DCD Active
5	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	"A" Enables RI; "B" Sets RI Active
6	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	"A" Also required to Enable CTS; "B" Sets CTS Active
7	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	"B" sets RS-485 Driver Enabled by RTS; "A" RS-485 Driver always Enabled 8 "A" Selects Direct Ground; "B"
A B		Selects 100 ohm High Impedance Ground

Figure 5 - Header E1 and E3, Interface Selection Options

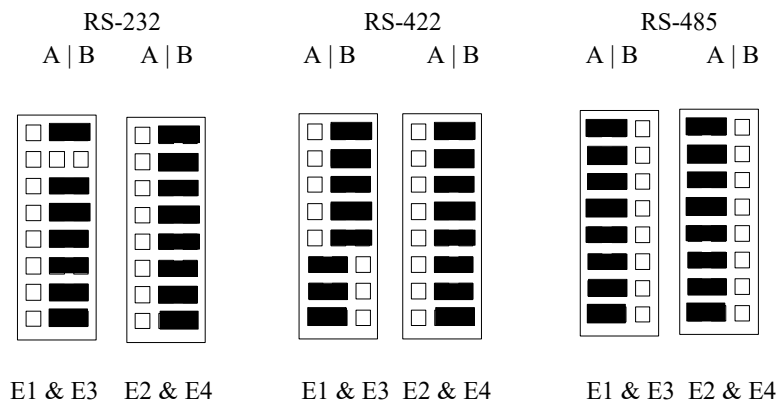


Figure 6 - Interface Option Examples

Installation



Do not install the hardware until the software has been fully installed.

The **COMM+2** can be installed in any ISA PC expansion slot. The **COMM+2** contains several jumper straps for each port, which must be set for proper operation.

1. Turn off PC power. Disconnect the power cord.
2. Remove the PC case cover.
3. Locate an available slot and remove the blank metal slot cover.
4. Gently insert the **COMM+2** into the slot. Make sure that the adapter is seated properly.
5. Replace the screw.
6. Replace the cover.
7. Connect the power cord.

Installation is complete.

Operating System Installation

For Windows Users



Only users running Windows 7 or newer should utilize these instructions for accessing and installing the appropriate driver via Sealevel's website. If you are utilizing an operating system prior to Windows 7, please contact Sealevel by calling 864.843.4343 or emailing support@sealevel.com to receive access to the proper driver download and installation instructions.

1. Begin by locating, selecting, and installing the correct software: [SeaCOM Asynchronous Serial Software](#).
2. Select "Download Now" for SeaCOM for Windows.
3. The setup files will automatically detect the operating environment and install the proper components. Follow the information presented on the screens that follow.
4. A screen may appear with text similar to: "The publisher cannot be determined due to the problems below: Authenticode signature not found." Please click the 'Yes' button and proceed with the installation. This declaration simply means that the operating system is not aware of the driver being loaded. It will not cause any harm to your system.

5. During setup, the user may specify installation directories and other preferred configurations. This program also adds entries to the system registry that are necessary for specifying the operating parameters for each driver. An uninstall option is also included to remove all registry/INI file entries from the system.



To avoid accidental damage, be sure to follow the proper ESD procedures by grounding yourself and the board.

Other Operating Systems

Refer to the appropriate section of the Serial Utilities Software.

Technical Description

The **COMM+2** adapter utilizes the 16550 UART chip. This chip features programmable baud rate, data format, interrupt control and has a 16 byte transmit and receive FIFO.

Features

- Full independent operation of ports allowing two ports RS-232, two ports RS-422/485 or one port of each.
- Addressable as COM1: - COM4: or any other I/O address up to 3FF Hex.
- “Shareable” IRQs allow more than one port to share a single IRQ provided a proper driver is available.
- IRQs 2/9, 3, 4, 5 supported.
- Support for non-standard baud rates available. These baud rates (such as 31.25K or 76.8K baud) are supported by installing a different oscillator. Please consult Sealevel Systems Technical Support for more information.

Modem Control Signal Considerations

Some software packages require the use of the modem handshake signals such as CTS or DCD. Refer to your application software manual to determine the requirements for modem control signals. If no requirements are mentioned, a safe configuration is to tie DTR to DSR and DCD, and tie RTS to CTS. This configuration will typically satisfy the modem control signal requirements for most communications software.

Line Termination

Typically, each end of the RS-422/485 bus must have line-terminating resistors. A 100 ohm resistor is across each RS-422/485 input and a 1K ohm pull-up/pulldown combination bias the receiver inputs. If more than two RS-485 nodes are configured in a multi-drop network, only the nodes at each end of the bus should have the 100-ohm resistors installed.

Connector Pin Assignments

RS-422 (DB9 Male)

Signal	Name	Pin #	Mode
GND	Ground	5	
TX +	Transmit Data Positive	4	Output
TX-	Transmit Data Negative	3	Output
RTS+	Request To Send Positive	6	Output
RTS-	Request To Send Negative	7	Output
RX+	Receive Data Positive	1	Input
RX-	Receive Data Negative	2	Input
CTS+	Clear To Send Positive	9	Input
CTS-	Clear To Send Negative	8	Input

RS-232 (DB9 Male)

Signal	Name	Pin #	Mode
GND	Ground	5	
TD	Transmit Data	3	Output
RTS	Request To Send	7	Output
DTR	Data Terminal Ready	4	Output
RD	Receive Data	2	Input
CTS	Clear To Send	8	Input
DSR	Data Set Ready	6	Input
CD	Carrier Detect	1	Input
RI	Ring Indicator	9	Input



These assignments meet EIA/TIA/ANSI-574 DTE for DB-9 type connectors.



Please terminate any control signals that are not going to be used. The most common way to do this is connect RTS to CTS and RI. Also, connect DCD to DTR and DSR. Terminating these pins, if not used, will help insure you get the best performance from your adapter.

Specifications

Environmental Specifications

Specification	Operating	Storage
Temperature Range	0° to 50° C (32° to 122° F)	-20° to 70° C (-4° to 158° F)
Humidity Range	10 to 90% R.H. Non-Condensing	10 to 90% R.H. Non-Condensing

Manufacturing

All Sealevel Systems Printed Circuit boards are built to UL 94V0 rating and are 100% electrically tested. These printed circuit boards are solder mask over bare copper or solder mask over tin nickel.

Power Consumption

Supply line	+12 VDC	-12 VDC	+5 VDC
Rating	50 mA	50 mA	195 mA

Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF)

Greater than 150,000 hours. (Calculated)

Physical Dimensions

Board length	4.6 inches	(11.684 cm)
Board Height including Goldfingers	4.2 inches	(10.66 cm)
Board Height excluding Goldfingers	3.9 inches	(9.91 cm)

Appendix A – Troubleshooting

The adapter should provide years of trouble-free service. However, in the event that device appears to not be functioning incorrectly, the following tips can eliminate most common problems without the need to call Technical Support.

1. Identify all I/O adapters currently installed in your system. This includes your on-board serial ports, controller cards, sound cards etc. The I/O addresses used by these adapters, as well as the IRQ (if any) should be identified.
2. Configure your Sealevel Systems adapter so that there is no conflict with currently installed adapters. No two adapters can occupy the same I/O address.
3. Make sure the Sealevel Systems adapter is using a unique IRQ. The IRQ is typically selected via an on-board header block. Refer to the section on Card Setup for help in choosing an I/O address and IRQ.
4. Make sure the Sealevel Systems adapter is securely installed in a motherboard slot.
5. If you are utilizing an operating system prior to Windows 7, please contact Sealevel's Technical support as directed below to receive more information regarding the utility software which will determine if your product is functioning properly.
6. Only users running Windows 7 or newer should utilize the diagnostic tool '[WinSSD](#)' installed in the SeaCOM folder on the Start Menu during the setup process. First find the ports using the Device Manager, then use 'WinSSD' to verify that the ports are functional.
7. Always use the Sealevel Systems diagnostic software when troubleshooting a problem. This will help eliminate any software issues and identify any hardware conflicts.
 - The following are known I/O conflicts: The 278 and 378 settings may conflict with your printer I/O adapter.
 - 3B0 cannot be used if a Monochrome adapter is installed.
 - 3F8-3FF is typically reserved for COM1:
 - 2F8-2FF is typically reserved for COM2:
 - 3E8-3EF is typically reserved for COM3:
 - 2E8-2EF is typically reserved for COM4:

If these steps do not solve your problem, please call Sealevel Systems' Technical Support, (864) 843-4343. Our technical support is free and available from 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time Monday through Friday. For email support contact support@sealevel.com.

Appendix B – How To Get Assistance

Please refer to [Appendix F](#) - Troubleshooting prior to calling Technical Support.

1. Read this manual thoroughly before attempting to install the adapter in your system.
2. When calling for technical assistance, please have your user manual and current adapter settings. If possible, please have the adapter installed in a computer ready to run diagnostics.
3. Sealevel Systems maintains a Home page on the Internet. Our home page address is www.sealevel.com. The latest software updates, and newest manuals are available via our FTP site that can be accessed from our home page.
4. Technical support is available Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern time. Technical support can be reached at (864) 843-4343.

RETURN AUTHORIZATION MUST BE OBTAINED FROM SEALEVEL SYSTEMS BEFORE RETURNED MERCHANDISE WILL BE ACCEPTED. AUTHORIZATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING SEALEVEL SYSTEMS AND REQUESTING A RETURN MERCHANDISE AUTHORIZATION (RMA) NUMBER.

Appendix C – Electrical Interface

RS-232

Quite possibly the most widely used communication standard is RS-232. This implementation has been defined and revised several times and is often referred to as RS-232 or EIA/TIA-232. The IBM PC computer defined the RS-232 port on a 9 pin D sub connector and subsequently the EIA/TIA approved this implementation as the EIA/TIA-574 standard. This standard is defined as the *9-Position Non-Synchronous Interface between Data Terminal Equipment and Data Circuit-Terminating Equipment Employing Serial Binary Data*

Interchange. Both implementations are in widespread use and will be referred to as RS-232 in this document. RS-232 is capable of operating at data rates up to 20 Kbps at distances less than 50 ft. The absolute maximum data rate may vary due to line conditions and cable lengths. RS-232 often operates at 38.4 Kbps over very short distances. The voltage levels defined by RS-232 range from -12 to +12 volts. RS-232 is a single ended or unbalanced interface, meaning that a single electrical signal is compared to a common signal (ground) to determine binary logic states. A voltage of +12 volts (usually +3 to +10 volts) represents a binary 0 (space) and a -12 volt (-3 to -10 volts) denotes a binary 1 (mark). The RS-232 and the EIA/TIA-574 specification define two types of interface circuits, Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) and Data Circuit-Terminating Equipment (DCE). The Sealevel Systems adapter is a DTE interface.

RS-422

The RS-422 specification defines the electrical characteristics of balanced voltage digital interface circuits. RS-422 is a differential interface that defines voltage levels and driver/receiver electrical specifications. On a differential interface, logic levels are defined by the difference in voltage between a pair of outputs or inputs. In contrast, a single ended interface, for example RS-232, defines the logic levels as the difference in voltage between a single signal and a common ground connection. Differential interfaces are typically more immune to noise or voltage spikes that may occur on the communication lines. Differential interfaces also have greater drive capabilities that allow for longer cable lengths. RS-422 is rated up to 10 Megabits per second and can have cabling 4000 feet long. RS-422 also defines driver and receiver electrical characteristics that will allow 1 driver and up to 32 receivers on the line at once. RS-422 signal levels range from 0 to +5 volts. RS-422 does not define a physical connector.

RS-485

RS-485 is backwardly compatible with RS-422; however, it is optimized for party line or multi-drop applications. The output of the RS-422/485 driver is capable of being **Active** (enabled) or **Tri-State** (disabled). This capability allows multiple ports to be connected in a multi-drop bus and selectively polled. RS-485 allows cable lengths up to 4000 feet and data rates up to 10 Megabits per second. The signal levels for RS-485 are the same as those defined by RS-422. RS-485 has electrical characteristics that allow for 32 drivers and 32 receivers to be connected to one line. This interface is ideal for multi-drop or network environments. RS-485 tri-state driver (not dual-state) will allow the electrical presence of the driver to be removed from the line. Only one driver may be active at a time and the other driver(s) must be tri-stated. The output modem control signal RTS controls the state of the driver. Some communication software packages refer to RS-485 as RTS enable or RTS block mode transfer. RS-485 can be cabled in two ways, two wire and four wire mode. Two wire mode does not allow for full duplex communication and requires that data be transferred in only one direction at a time. For half-duplex operation, the two transmit pins should be connected to the two receive pins (Tx+ to Rx+ and Tx- to Rx-). Four wire mode allows full duplex data transfers. RS-485 does not define a connector pin-out or a set of modem control signals. RS-485 does not define a physical connector. Now click the "Use specific IP address" radio button and type the IP address of the device in the text box. See below.

Appendix D - Asynchronous Communications

Serial data communications implies that individual bits of a character are transmitted consecutively to a receiver that assembles the bits back into a character. Data rate, error checking, handshaking, and character framing (start/stop bits) are pre-defined and must correspond at both the transmitting and receiving ends.

Asynchronous communications is the standard means of serial data communication for PC compatibles and PS/2 computers. The original PC was equipped with a communication or COM: port that was designed around an 8250 Universal Asynchronous Receiver Transmitter (UART). This device allows asynchronous serial data to be transferred through a simple and straightforward programming interface. Character boundaries for asynchronous communications are defined by a starting bit followed by a pre-defined number of data bits (5, 6, 7, or 8). The end of the character is defined by the transmission of a pre-defined number of stop bits (usually 1, 1.5 or 2). An extra bit used for error detection is often appended before the stop bits.

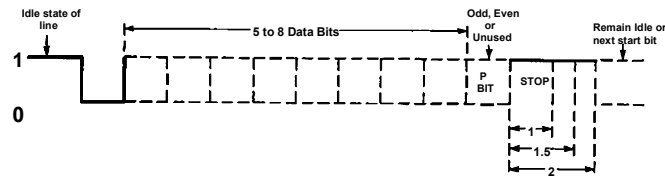
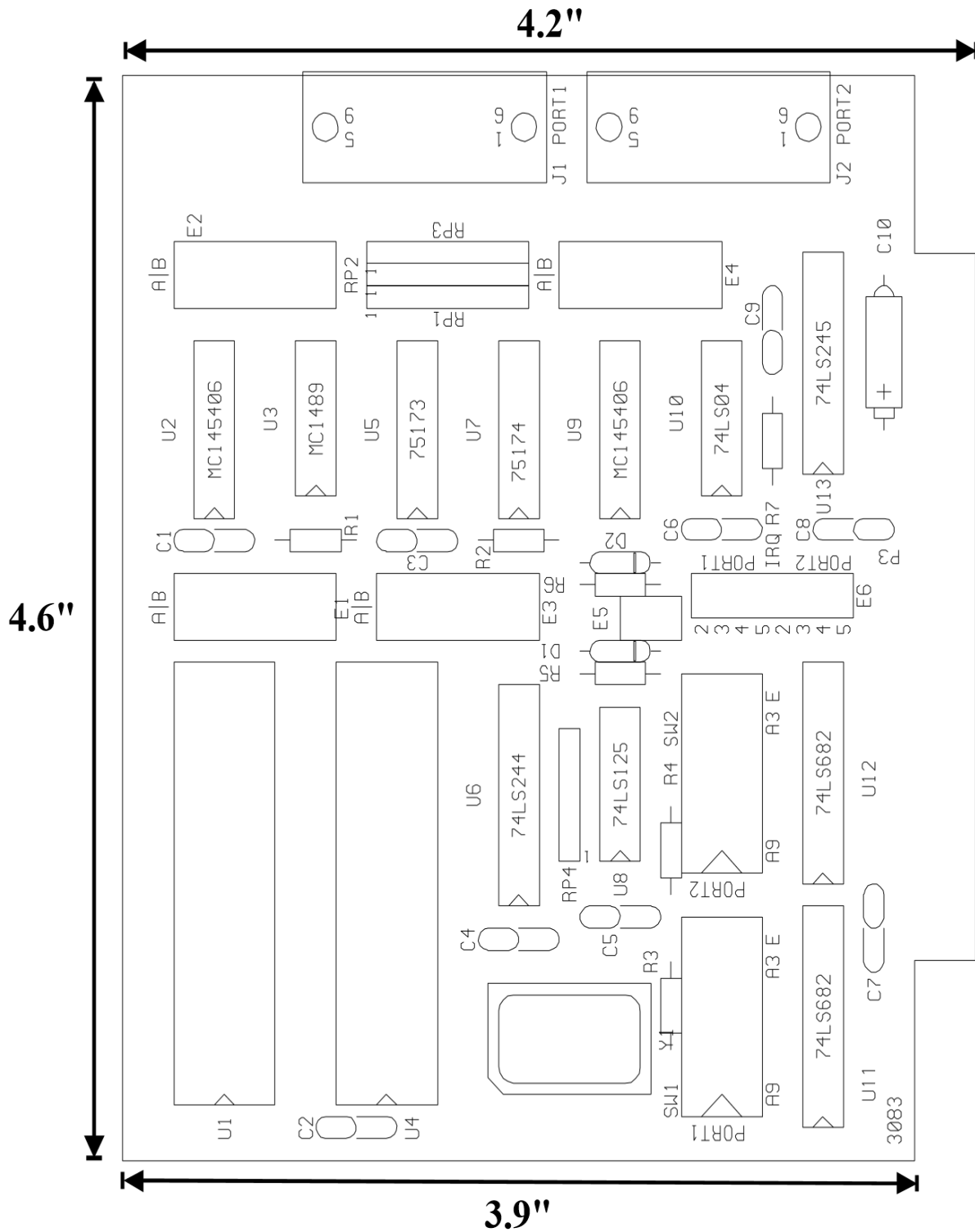


Figure 7 - Asynchronous Communications Bit Diagram

This special bit is called the parity bit. Parity is a simple method of determining if a data bit has been lost or corrupted during transmission. There are several methods for implementing a parity check to guard against data corruption. Common methods are called (E)ven Parity or (O)dd Parity. Sometimes parity is not used to detect errors on the data stream. This is referred to as (N)o parity. Because each bit in asynchronous communications is sent consecutively, it is easy to generalize asynchronous communications by stating that each character is wrapped (framed) by pre-defined bits to mark the beginning and end of the serial transmission of the character. The data rate and communication parameters for asynchronous communications have to be the same at both the transmitting and receiving ends. The communication parameters are baud rate, parity, number of data bits per character, and stop bits (i.e. 9600,N,8,1).

Appendix E – Silk Screen



Appendix F – Schematic

Appendix G – Compliance Notices

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Statement



This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for Class A digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in such case the user will be required to correct the interference at the user's expense.

EMC Directive Statement



Products bearing the CE Label fulfill the requirements of the EMC directive (89/336/EEC) and of the low-voltage directive (73/23/EEC) issued by the European Commission. To obey these directives, the following European standards must be met:

- **EN55022 Class A** - "Limits and methods of measurement of radio interference characteristics of information technology equipment"
- **EN55024** - "Information technology equipment Immunity characteristics Limits and methods of measurement".



This is a Class A Product. In a domestic environment, this product may cause radio interference in which case the user may be required to take adequate measures to prevent or correct the interference.



Always use cabling provided with this product if possible. If no cable is provided or if an alternate cable is required, use high quality shielded cabling to maintain compliance with FCC/EMC directives.

Warranty

Sealevel's commitment to providing the best I/O solutions is reflected in the Lifetime Warranty that is standard on all Sealevel manufactured I/O products. W Relio™ industrial computers are warranted for a period of two years and the Relio™/SeaPAC™ /SBC R9 family is warranted for a five year period from date of purchase. We are able to offer this warranty due to our control of manufacturing quality and the historically high reliability of our products in the field. Sealevel products are designed and manufactured at its Liberty, South Carolina facility, allowing direct control over product development, production, burn-in and testing. Sealevel achieved ISO-9001:2015 certification in 2018.

Warranty Policy

Sealevel Systems, Inc. (hereafter "Sealevel") warrants that the Product shall conform to and perform in accordance with published technical specifications and shall be free of defects in materials and workmanship for the warranty period. In the event of failure, Sealevel will repair or replace the product at Sealevel's sole discretion. Failures resulting from misapplication or misuse of the Product, failure to adhere to any specifications or instructions, or failure resulting from neglect, abuse, accidents, or acts of nature are not covered under this warranty.

Warranty service may be obtained by delivering the Product to Sealevel and providing proof of purchase. Customer agrees to ensure the Product or assume the risk of loss or damage in transit, to prepay shipping charges to Sealevel, and to use the original shipping container or equivalent. Warranty is valid only for original purchaser and is not transferable.

This warranty applies to Sealevel manufactured Product. Product purchased through Sealevel but manufactured by a third party will retain the original manufacturer's warranty.

Non-Warranty Repair/Retest

Products returned due to damage or misuse and Products retested with no problem found are subject to repair/retest charges. A purchase order or credit card number and authorization must be provided in order to obtain an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization) number prior to returning Product.

How to obtain an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization)

If you need to return a product for warranty or non-warranty repair, you must first obtain an RMA number. Please contact Sealevel Systems, Inc. Technical Support for assistance:

Available	Monday – Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM EST
Phone	864-843-4343
Email	support@sealevel.com

Trademarks

Sealevel Systems, Incorporated acknowledges that all trademarks referenced in this manual are the service mark, trademark, or registered trademark of the respective company.