

**PIC B&W Video****PIC Game System****Building it****PIC-PONG****PIC-Tetris****Howto****FAQ****SX Color Video****SX Game System****Building it****SX-Tetris****SX-PONG****Howto****FAQ****Mechanically scanned****Virtual Game System****Virtual Pong****Virtual Tetris****Virtual Clock****Virtual RS232 display****FAQ****Mixed stuff****Playmobile****AVR Color Clock****PIC Mini Dice****Links****Contact Info****Web shop****Back****Page Counter**

You are visitor number 558836 to my How to generate composite video signals in software using PIC. page since 2003-05-02.

**About the Layout**

This page use stylesheets, your browser should be

**How to generate video signals in software using PIC****Background**

During the Christmas holidays 1997-1998, I started on a small project, trying to generate a video signal with a PIC16C84. I had seen some video clock generating video signals in software, and thought it was a quite interesting idea, and wanted to take it a step further. I didn't know much about video signals back then, I basically just had seen how a single scan-line works.

But during the spring I learned more and succeeded in making the game [Pong](#) with a PIC16C84. I thought this was quite cool, so I made it available on the Internet, and during the summer I also made the game [Tetris](#). I had a lot of feedback about the games from people telling me how cool it was, and from people who actually built the games. Based on this feedback I guess that probably 200-300 people have built my games, which is much more than I expected. A lot of people ask me stuff about video signals and how these games can generate a video signal in real-time in software, so that's why I'm writing this small piece of text about how to generate video signals in real-time. Hopefully this text will help you to understand video signals and how my games work.

*Note: I've written [a much better document](#) also describing how to generate color, it is based on my [SX28 game system](#), SX28 is a "PIC-compatible microcontroller on steroids" (or actually they've just made a true RISC processor with CPI=1 and clocked it very fast)*

In this text I assume that you have some basic knowledge about TV's and good knowledge in electronics and PIC programming, but even if you know a lot of electronics and PIC micro-controllers, you would probably have to read it a couple of times before you understand it completely. (If you don't understand this text, then don't ask me about it because if you don't understand it when I explain it in such detail as in this text, then it is impossible for me to make you understand in a short email)



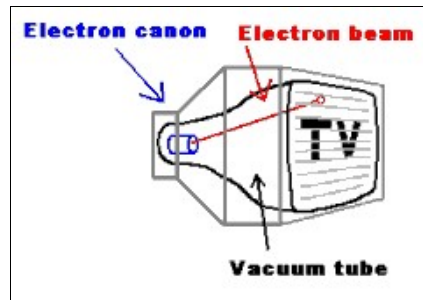
*My open source [PIC-based video game system](#) that this howto is based on.*

**Video signals**

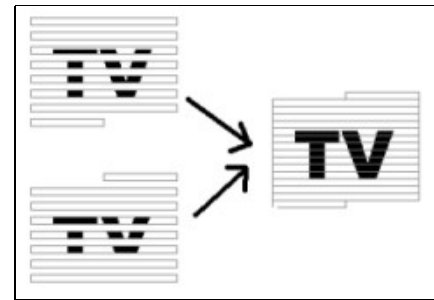
To understand anything about generating video signals in real-time, one must know how video-signals work in detail, so before we look at any code we'll have to talk about video signals.

**How a standard TV-set works.**

A standard TV-set is built with a vacuum tube, which has a phosphor screen that an electron canon shoots at. When the electrons from the cannon hits the screen, light is emitted from the phosphor as long as the canon shoots electrons at it, and it also has a short afterglow. The electron beam from the electron-cannon can be bent using magnets so it shoots at different parts of the screen. If this is controlled so it draws horizontal lines all over the screen repeatedly, while the intensity of the beam is controlled, an image can be drawn on the screen. The screen is redrawn 25 times per second on a PAL system, but to reduce flickering the image is interlaced, showing first all odd lines then all even lines, so the image is partially updated 50 times per second. Thanks to the ["persistence of vision effect"](#) of the human brain the image



*The electron beam drawing the screen*



*The two part images becomes one whole image.*

### Different TV standards

There are three major TV-standards: NTSC, SECAM and PAL. The NTSC (Short for "National Television System Committee", but back in the early days of TV there was problems with getting the same color over the whole picture so a more evil interpretation of the letters is that it stands for "Never The Same Color" ) is the American TV-standard, it has only 525 scan-lines, but it has a update frequency of 30Hz. SECAM (Short for "SÉquentiel Couleur Avec Mémoire" (French for "Sequential Color With Memory"), but as the French usually want to get their own solution to problems, a more evil interpretation is that it stands for "System Essentially Contrary to the American Method") is the French TV-standard, it has improved color stability and higher intensity resolution but with less color resolution, I don't know much about that standard. The European standard is PAL (Phase Alternating Lines, or as a PAL enthusiast would interpret the letters: "Perfect At Last"), it has 625 lines per frame, 25 frames per second. It is based on NTSC, but the color-coding has been improved by using a phase shift on every other line to remove the color errors that occurred with NTSC. In this document I will focus on the PAL.

### The information in the video signal

The image seen on the screen has different intensities. As the electron beam sweeps over the screen, the intensity that should be at the position of the beam, is sent as a voltage level in the video signal.. There is no information in this intensity information about where the electron beam is on the screen. To solve this, a synchronization pulse is sent in the beginning of each line to tell the TV that the current line is finished and move down the electron beam to the next line. (Like the <Enter> key on the keyboard, when writing a text with a computer) The TV must also know when a new image is coming, this is done by making a special synchronization pattern. (Like the "new document" function when writing a text with a computer) An image that is updated 25 times per second would be quite flickering, so therefor all even lines are drawn first and then all odd, this method shows 50 half images per second, making the picture have less flickering. The information whether the image contains even or odd lines are sent in the vertical synchronization pattern, as different patterns for odd and even images. The video signal has a voltage range 0 to 1V, where 0.3V represents black, and 1.0V is white (gray intensities have voltages between these values). Levels close to zero represent synchronization pulses

### The scan-line

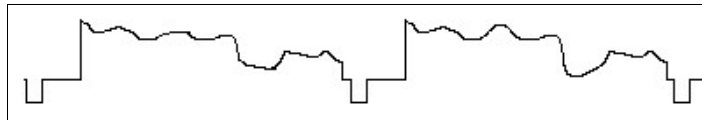
The image is divided into scan-lines, it is the most important part of the image since it contains the image data. The scan-lines are all 64us long. First a 4us long sync pulse is sent, by setting the signal level to 0V, to tell the TV that a new line is coming. The old TV's was kind of slow, so they needed 8us after the sync-pulse to get the electron beam in position. During this time the signal is

the screen from the left to the right with the intensities obtained from the video signal. Black is represented by 0.3V and as the voltage increases the intensity increases, with the maximum intensity at 1.0v (white). See the image right to see the scan-line.



### Putting the scan-lines together to an image

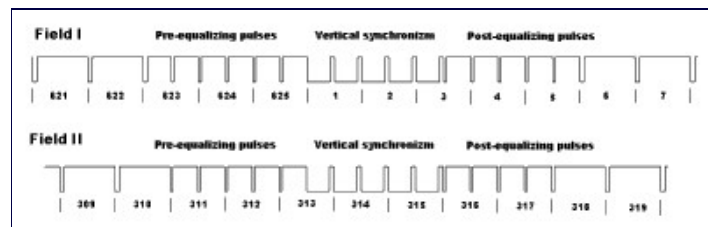
An image is built from 625 scanlines, but a TV doesn't show 625 lines. Some of the lines are used for synchronization pulses, and some lines are invisible (I don't know exactly how many) because old TVs needed some time to move the electron beam from the bottom of the screen. (Those invisible lines are nowadays used for other purposes, Text-TV for example).



*"Oscilloscope"-picture of several scan-lines in a video signal.*

### The vertical synchronization pulses.

To tell the TV that a new image is coming, a special pattern of synchronization pulses is sent. Since the picture is built from two half pictures, the pattern is different for the odd and even images. The vertical synchronization pulses looks like this



*This picture shows the different vertical synchronization pulses for the two half images. The levels are 0v and 0.3v. Numbers below signals shows scan-line number. (Click to enlarge)*

## How to do it in software

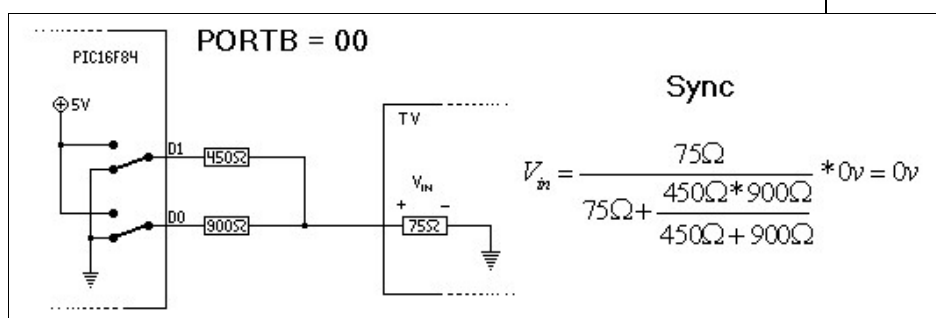
**Creating video signals in software** Ok, this is the part about how to create the video signal in software, it will not be possible to understand if you don't understand the video signal stuff described above.

When you know how a video signal should look like, it is quite easy to generate it in software, if you have unlimited processing power. The problem is that it requires a lot of power from the processor, but if you don't have a powerful processor it can be done anyway, by thinking before writing the code.

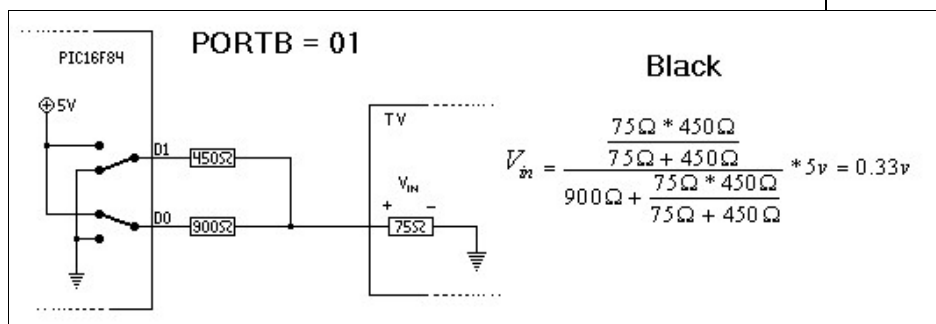
In my code examples in this part I will use the two following macros:

### The hardware

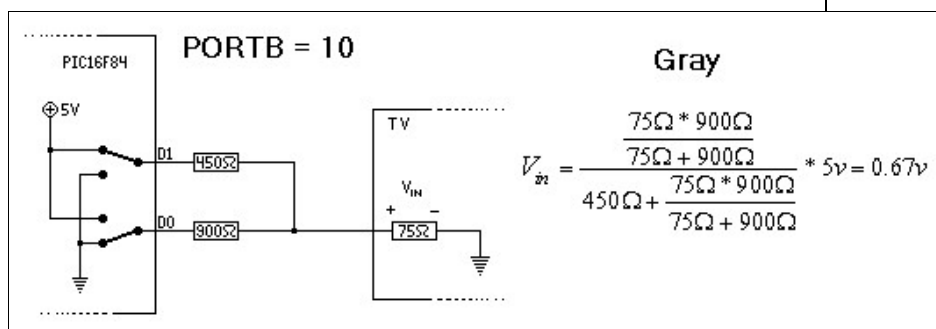
To be able to generate a video signal, some hardware is needed to be able to generate signal levels between 0 and 1V. To get a picture you'll need at least 3 levels. The TV needs sync and black level to be able to lock on the video signal. If you want more than a black image you'll need some gray or white level. Some kind of digital to analog converter is needed, with at least 2bits to get enough levels. The input impedance of the composite input on a standard TV is 75 Ohms, and by using two resistors a 2-bit DA can be created (as in the images below) thanks to voltage division.

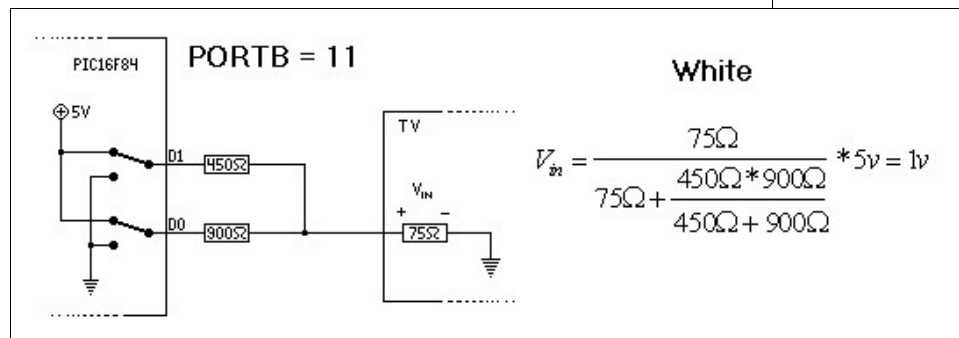


By connecting both D0 and D1 to ground, the voltage at the input of the TV will be 0v (sync level) because nothing is connected to VDD.



Connecting D1 to ground and D0 to 5v, will put the 450ohm resistor in parallel with the 75ohm input impedance of the TV, and with the 900ohm resistor connected in series, and thanks to voltage division this generates 0.33v at the input of the TV, and that is quite black. (true black level is 0.3v)





Connecting both D1 and D0 to 5v, will put the 450ohm resistor in parallel with the 900 ohm resistor, with the 75ohm input impedance of the TV connected in series, and thanks to voltage division this generates 1.0 at the input of the TV, and that is white level.

With this circuit, four levels can be created. The image above shows the equivalent circuits for the four different levels and how the voltages are created. Resistor values are not critical, you could use the more standard values 470 and 1k instead of 450 and 900, it will still work anyway. (Little bit different intensities, but not much)

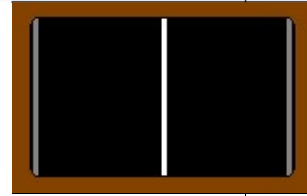
Ok, so now we can create sync, black, gray and white levels. That is enough to make simple graphics like in my Pong and Tetris games. It is possible to create more levels by using better DA converters with more levels, but if you want more bits in the DA you should use a real DA instead of the resistor-based that I use in my games. (You'll also need a faster processor)

#### Software vs. hardware generated video signals.

On a standard video system like the graphics card in a PC, information about what to draw on the screen is taken from a memory. This is done automatically in hardware. Synchronization pulses are also created automatically in hardware, all the software need to do is to write to the memory to tell the hardware what the image on the screen should look like. Not only does this require a lot of hardware, it also requires a lot of memory, on a PC graphics card there is usually several megabytes of graphics memory. In a PIC16F84 there is 68byte memory, and that memory should also be used for other purposes like application variables and such. It is not possible to store the whole image in memory like on graphics cards, the image has to be generated as the video signal sweeps across the screen. Generating video signals in software on such a simple processor is kind of hard, only very simple images can be created. The advantage is that it is quite cheap, and it is quite cool too. =)

#### One scan-line, making a vertical bar.

The first test I made when I started experimenting with software generated video was to make a white vertical bar on the screen. By creating one scan-line with color information gray-black-white-black-gray, and repeated the scan-line forever, an image could be seen on a TV. The signal contained the horizontal sync-pulse, followed by a delay and then the color information, so the TV could lock to the signal horizontally. (Not vertically because,



The video signal generated by the code below would look like this on an oscilloscope. The low bumps are the gray bars, and the big bump in the middle is the white bar.

The video signal generated by the code below would look like this if input into a TV. Two gray bars and one white bar. (The brown border is supposed to be the TV)

main:

```
movlw COLOR_SYNC    ;get sync level (1)
;**** 4us sync ****
movwf VIDEO_PORT    ;set port value(1)
movlw 3              ;setup delaytime
DELAY                ;delay for 3us (9)
movlw COLOR_BLACK   ;get black level (1)
; **** 8 us delay ****
movwf VIDEO_PORT    ;set port value (1)
movlw 7              ;setup delaytime (1)
DELAY                ;delay for 7us (21)
movlw COLOR_GRAY    ;get gray color (1)
; **** 52 image data ****
movwf VIDEO_PORT    ;set port value (1)
movlw 3              ;setup delaytime (1)
DELAY                ;delay for 3us (9)
movlw COLOR_BLACK   ;get black level (1)
movwf VIDEO_PORT    ;set port value (1)
movlw 19             ;setup delaytime (1)
DELAY                ;delay for 19us (57)
movlw COLOR_WHITE   ;get white level (1)
movwf VIDEO_PORT    ;set port value (1)
movlw 3              ;setup delaytime (1)
DELAY                ;delay for 3us (9)
movlw COLOR_BLACK   ;get black level (1)
movwf VIDEO_PORT    ;set port value (1)
movlw 19             ;setup delaytime (1)
DELAY                ;delay for 19us (57)
movlw COLOR_GRAY    ;get gray level (1)
movwf VIDEO_PORT    ;set port value (1)
```



```

DNC1          ;delay for 2 clocks (2)
goto main      ;loop forever jump (3)

```

As you can see, the total number of clock cycles is 192 for each lap in the loop, making the scan-line 64us. The timing is very important, so this is what it is all about counting clock-cycles.

### The problem with poor resolution

On a PIC16F84 @ 12Mhz, 3 million instructions per seconds are performed, during one 64us long scan-line 192 instructions can be performed, and during the 52us visible part of the scan-line only 156 instructions can be performed. If the value of the DA is set for each instruction during the 52us, you would get a resolution of 156 pixels in x-axis, that is really bad. What is even worse is that not all 156 pixels can be used exactly as you want, you just can't calculate the value of one pixel in one clock cycle unless it is always the same so it can be generated by a set bit instruction.

### Obtaining higher resolution by shifting out data

If you want to show 8 pixels black and white, stored in one byte in memory it would look something like this:

```

movlw 8          ;number of pixels is 8 (1)
movwf counter    ;set counter to number of pixels (1)
shiftloop:
movlw COLOR_BLACK ;set default color to black (1)
rrf thedata,f     ;rotate the data right, puts bit in carry (1)
skpnc            ;check if carry, if not pixel remains black (1 or 2)
movlw COLOR_WHITE ;carry was set, set color to white (1)
movwf VIDEO_PORT ;set color to DA (1)
decfsz counter    ;decrease counter, check for zero (1 or 2)
goto shiftloop    ;if more pixels, keep looping (2)

```

*This code outputs the bits of one byte to the video port. So different bitmaps can be shown on the screen*

The example above uses 8 clocks per bit. At this speed, we only get 19 pixels of x-resolution, and that is quite useless, but there is one nice solution to this problem. The solution is to use one port as a shift register shifting out one bit per clock, but as usual there is no free lunch, you'll have to sacrifice the possibility to use the port for whatever you want, and it only works for black and white (not gray levels). For example you can do like this:

Connect the MSB of the DA is to bit 0 at PORTB and the LSB is connected to some pin at PORTA. To use the PORTB as a shift register all pins have to be set to outputs. (So it is hard to use it for anything else). The LSB should be set high, and then one byte is placed in

```
movfw thedata      ;set up the byte to be shifted out (1)
movwf PORTB,f      ;now the first bit becomes visible (1)
rrf PORTB,f        ;second bit is shifted out (1)
rrf PORTB,f        ;third bit is shifted out (1)
rrf PORTB,f        ;fourth bit is shifted out (1)
rrf PORTB,f        ;fifth bit is shifted out (1)
rrf PORTB,f        ;sixth bit is shifted out (1)
rrf PORTB,f        ;seventh bit is shifted out (1)
rrf PORTB,f        ;eighth bit is shifted out (1)
```

*This code outputs the bits of one byte to the video port, like the last example, but this one is much faster, but it requires the pins to be changed.*

The



*The chars are only drawn on every second line as described above.*

example above uses one clock per bit, giving a resolution of 156 pixels if there wouldn't be any setup time. In reality there is quite a lot of setup time, so just before and just after the 8 bits of graphics there will be wither white or black pixels during the setup.time. In my pong game the setup time can be seen when text is displayed on the screen, it is done using this method, so there are big black spaces between the characters on the screen. The strings are 8 charcters long, but I think it would be possible to get 10 characters on the screen, each 8 pixels wide, so each pixel uses about 1.5 clocks including setup. In pong, the bits to be shifted out are taken from a memory location containing the 8\*8 bits = 8 byte, to be shifted out. For each line these 8 bytes has to be calculated by reading the string charcters from the data-EEPROM where it is stored, and then get the correct bitmap from a constant lookup table in code memory, and store the bitmap data in memory. Doing all this for 8 characters takes a lot of time, so it is done during an entire scanline. The reason why the text is only displayed every second scan-line is that the processor is calculating the next line to show during the black lines in between the graphics scan-lines.



shifting operation. It might seem impossible to use PORTB for other stuff, but it is possible. It can easily be used as an output if one pin of PORTA is used to disable the hardware attached to PORTB when it is used as a shift register. It is also possible to be used as input when not used for shifting. In my games I needed a lot of pins to connect the joystick, but connecting the joystick directly to the port is hazardous, because when used as an output the joystick could burn the output buffer of the port. (The joystick is a bunch of switches shorting pin to ground when pushed). I solved this by using 100k pull-up resistors, and 1k protecting resistors. This giving a voltage close to zero, when the joystick switch is short, when the joystick is read by the port, but protecting the port against shortcut to ground when used as output when port is used as a shift register.

### The vertical synchronization.

To get the TV to lock on the video signal, the vertical pulses must be generated. It can be done by the following code:

```
Shortsync:                ;label "Shortsync", entry for short sync
                           ;generator
movwf counter1            ;set counter1 to number of shortsyzns
shortsync_10:             ;label "Shortsync_10", short sync count loop
                           ;entry
bcf porta,0              ;set level to synclevel (bit 1)
bcf portb,0              ;set level to synclevel (bit 0)
dnop                      ;
movlw 0x1d               ;
movwf counter2           ;set counter2 to "30us"
nop                      ;
bsf PORTA,0              ;set level to black
shortsync_11             ;label "Shortsync_11", short sync delay loop
decfsz counter2          ;do delay counting
goto shortsync_11        ;loop if not finished with delay
decfsz counter1          ;count number of shortsyzns
goto shortsync_10        ;if more shortsyzns, keep looping
retlw 5                  ;return and set w to number of longsyzns (5
                           ;longsyzns)

vertsyzn:                ;
movlw 5                  ;
btfss videostuff,0       ;
movlw 6                  ;
call shortsyzn           ;
```

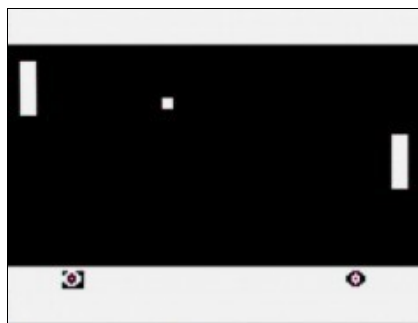
```

movlw counter1      ;set sync counter to number of longsyncs (1)
longsync:           ;label "longsync"
movlw 0x1d          ;(1)
movwf counter2      ;set counter to 30us (1)
bcf porta,0         ;set level to sync bit 1 (1)
bcf portb,0         ;set level to sync bit 0 (1)
longsync_11         ;label "longsync_11", long sync delay loop
decfsz counter2     ;do delay counting (1)
goto longsync_11    ;loop if not finished with delay (3)
nop                ;(1)
bsf porta,0         ;set level to black (1)
nop                ;(1)
decfsz counter1     ;count number of shortsyzns (1 or 2)
goto longsync_10    ;if more shortsyzns, keep looping (3)
movlw 5             ;set number of shortsyzns to 5 (1)
btfss videostuff,0  ;check if second field (1 or 2)
movlw 4             ;yes, do 4 shortsyzns instead (1)
goto shortsyznc     ;do those short syncs

```

*This code generates the needed sync pulses, as described earlier. It is the vertysync label that is called, it calls first shortsyznc, then go to longsync that go back to shortsyznc where the call returns. This is kind of messy but it saves code memory =)*

### My games



*My Pong game in action.*

#### My Pong game.

The code in the [pong-game](#) is kind of messy, it was the first video thing I wrote, so I learned more as I wrote it, so therefor it could probably be done more efficient if it was rewritten. The game logic is mostly a lot of if-statements to keep the ball inside the screen. The first lines are just white, and it is on the

lines, the ones with a ball and the ones without a ball. The without a ball first shows the left player if needed, then the line is black until the right player should be shown (or not). Lines with a ball on are similar, with the difference that a ball should be shown at the black area. Having two computed delays before and after the ball is shown does this, where the delays are depending of the x-position of the ball. Since the delay is quantified to 3-clock chunks, the ball moves in quite big steps in x-axis.

At the bottom of the screen, the score is shown. Shifting out the score with the method described earlier does this. On most lines the sound routine checks if the sound is active, if so it toggles the audio output.

All text-menus have their text stored in the data-eeeprom in 8-char long strings. These are shown with the shifting out method. The text is only shown on each every second line because on one line the text is extracted from data eeeprom and the bitmap data is stored in a buffer area. On the second line it is shifted out.



*My Tetris game in action.*

### **My Tetris game.**

The [Tetris game](#) logic was first made with Borland C in DOS on a PC, just to get the logic correct before it was made for PIC assembler. The blocks are stored in memory in a compressed format, and then decompressed according to the current angle to a buffer area where it is stored as relative

the screen buffer. Set, Clear and Test. The set and clear are of course routines that can add or remove the block to/from a specified position on the screen, and the test routine check if a block can be placed on a certain position. This approach makes the game quite structured, and easier to follow than pong. The output routine is quite similar to the one shifting out characters to the screen, except for that this one doesn't have to be that fast and it puts black pixels between the blocks, so it just shifts out the game-field to the screen, quite easy actually.

On most lines a music routine is called that plays a tune by switching the audio channel on and off with different frequencies, this is done on all lines except the first ones where the game logic is taken care of. Due to that the music isn't played on all lines it will be quite distorted. The music is in a compressed format in the data-EEPROM, with a tone and a length stored in one byte, with tones as indexes in a frequency delay lookup table. All frequencies has to be a multiple of the frequency of the scan-lines, so the frequencies are not exactly correct, and this makes the music sound even worse. Even though the music sound like shit I think it is quite nice that I could get music to the game.  
=>

The score is shown with the shift-out method, nothing special about it. There are no menus in Tetris because there was no room left for that.

### **Overlay and color**

#### **Overlaying video onto an existing signal**

A lot of people have asked me about how to overlay a video

and two video signals, it require a lot of hardware, but it a lot more easily to overlay graphics on a video signal if you generate the graphics yourself. Instead of generating the sync-pulses, they are extracted from the video signal and lock the timing in your code with the inputted sync pulses.

The LM1881 sync separation chip can extract the horizontal and the vertical sync pulses from a video signal, which makes things really easy. If we would like to add a small bitmap in the lower right corner of the current video image, then we wait for the vertical sync pulse, and after that we just could the horizontal sync-pulses until we are at the line where the image should be added. Lets say the image to be added is 8x8 pixels, then we should add our image to the following 8 lines, but only at the end. The image is added by switching away the original signal and sending our own video information. The switching should be done in the end of each line, so on each line we need to wait for 40-50us depending of the x-position of the added image. When we have done this for all the lines in the bitmap, we go back and wait for the vertical sync pulse, and do it all again. It becomes more complicated when there is more information to be added, especially with a PIC due to the memory limitations.

I plan to do a project on

### Generating a color video signal

The color coding in composite video signals is quite hard to understand if you don't have some basic knowledge in radio electronics. I will just touch the subject briefly here as it impossible to do useful color signals with PIC in software.

When color television was introduced, compatibility with the old black and white TV's was needed, because there were still a lot of B/W TV's around. If color TV signals were input in a B&W TV it should be possible to watch with no difference to B/W video signals. To do so, a amplitude modulated color carrier signal was added to the video signal, with a carrier at the frequency 4.43 MHz (PAL). The color carrier actually added some noise to the image, but it was not much, but in B/W televisions created after color was introduced, a color trap was added to remove the color carrier.

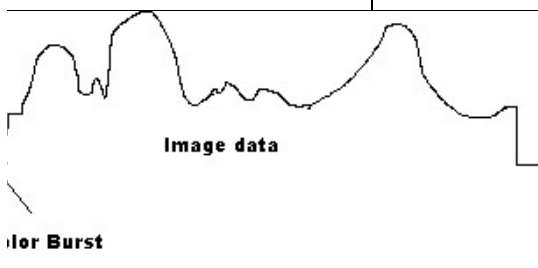
Combining the color Red, Green and Blue can generate most of the colors we can see. So the video signal must contain the three colors component's



Color signal

The sum of all components is actually already being sent as the B/W intensity information, so by also sending the color differences R-G and B-G, all three colors could be extracted. But sending two color components on one carrier, is that possible? Yes, it can be done if two versions of the carrier is generated, if the phase is changed 90degrees. The R-G is sent with the original carrier, and the B-G is sent with the phase changed. Simplified the video signal is calculated like this:

$$\text{signal\_level} = (R+G+B) + (R-G)*\sin(w*t) + (B-G)*\cos(w*t)$$



-picture of one scan-line in a color video signal.  
ie 4us sync pulse, in the 8us delay time there is a t, then the 52us of image data is sent.

components, the TV needs an oscillator that runs synchronous with the oscillator in the signal generator. Adding the color burst to the video signal has made it possible to synchronize the oscillator. In the 8 $\mu$ s delay when the electron beam is moving to the next line, nothing is sent in a B/W video signal. However, in a color signal, about 10 clock cycles of the color carrier is sent, called the color burst, so the oscillator in the TV is synchronized with the one in the signal generator. If this wouldn't be done it wouldn't

correct  
colors.  
In the  
early  
ages  
of  
color  
television,  
the  
color  
burst  
was  
not  
always  
enough,  
the  
oscillator  
was  
not  
stable,  
so the  
phase  
changed  
over  
the  
screen,  
making  
people  
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This  
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"Never  
the  
Same  
Color"),  
so  
when  
the  
PAL  
standard  
was  
created,  
they  
added



of  
180  
degrees  
every  
line,  
so  
that  
phase  
errors  
would  
take  
out  
each  
other.

This  
is  
kinda  
complex  
to  
generate  
in  
realtime  
in  
software,  
but  
fortunately  
if  
we  
have  
some  
knowledge  
about  
the  
TV  
input  
bandwidth  
and  
rgb-  
relations  
we  
could  
simplify  
this  
to  
a  
single  
square  
wave  
with  
help  
from  
some  
mathematics,  
still  
it  
would  
require  
quite



processor power.

so

it

is

quite

useless

when

using

a

PIC,

it

is

interesting

using

a

faster

chip

like

the

SX-

chips

from

Ubicom.

I

have

made

versions

of

pong

and

tetris

generating

a

color

composite

video

signal

in

software

using

SX

chips,

so

if

you

want

to

know

more

about

color

generation

have

a

look

at

those

projects

and

[on](#)  
[how](#)  
[color](#)  
[generation](#)  
[with](#)  
[SX](#)  
[works.](#)

### ***Emulators.***

If  
you  
plan  
to  
try  
generating  
videosegments  
with  
PIC-  
chips  
you  
should  
try  
to  
use  
an  
emulator,  
makes  
it  
much  
easier.  
There  
are  
people  
that  
have  
developed  
emulators  
for  
PIC  
processors  
and  
have  
implemented  
plugins  
for  
emulating  
my  
hardware:

- [PIC16F84](#)  
[EMULATOR](#)  
is  
an  
Open  
Source  
emulator  
by



comes  
with  
a  
TV-  
plugin  
that  
emulates  
my  
game  
hardware,  
and  
it  
also  
has  
a  
"logic  
analyzer"  
which  
can  
show  
the  
timing  
on  
how  
the  
different  
pins  
change  
wich  
is  
a  
really  
nice  
feature  
when  
writing  
time  
critical  
software  
=)

- [GPSIM](#)  
is  
another  
PIC  
emulator  
with  
Open  
Source  
code,  
for  
which  
there  
soon  
will  
be  
a  
TV-  
module



- [Misim](#)  
is  
a  
platform  
independent  
emulator  
running  
in  
Java  
by  
Andrew  
Toone  
has  
created  
.  
It  
allows  
one  
to  
write  
plugins  
to  
to  
emulate  
different  
hardware,  
one  
of  
the  
example  
plugins  
is  
a  
TV  
emulating  
my  
game  
system.

### ***More info about video signals.***

If  
you  
want  
to  
know  
more  
about  
video  
signals  
and  
about



...  
software  
using  
PIC's,  
check  
out  
some  
of  
these  
links:

- [Howto](#)  
[on](#)  
[generating](#)  
[video](#)  
[signals](#)  
[using](#)  
[PIC.](#)  
(Written  
by  
me)
- [Howto](#)  
[on](#)  
[generating](#)  
[video](#)  
[signals](#)  
[in](#)  
[COLOR](#)  
[using](#)  
[SX.](#)  
(Written  
by  
me)  
is  
not  
PIC  
but  
SX-  
chips  
are  
quite  
similar  
to  
pic  
so  
it  
might  
be  
interesting  
anyway.
- [Conventional](#)  
[Analog](#)  
[Television](#)  
-  
[An](#)  
[Introduction](#)  
by



- [Video Superimposer](#)  
by  
David.B  
Thomas  
shows  
how  
to  
overlay  
graphics  
to  
an  
existing  
video  
signal  
using  
a  
PIC.
- [Documentation of Marcelo Maggi's pattern generator circuit](#)
- [Breakout](#)  
by  
Joel  
Jordan  
is  
a  
breakoutgame  
inspired  
by  
my  
games  
using  
the  
same  
technique  
to  
generate  
a  
video  
signal  
in  
software.
- [David B. Thomas' Pong game](#)  
also  
using



- [Eric Smith's PIC-Tock](#) generating a video singal showing a clock using a PIC16C61
- [Cedric Beaudoin's game console project with memory mapped graphics using an ATMEGA64 with CPLD-based hardware for phase modulation to generate color.](#)
- [Cornell University Electrical Engineering 476 Video Generation with AVR microcontrollers is an interesting project with memory](#)



on  
AVR  
microcontrollers.

- Alien  
slaughter  
by  
John  
Sachs  
Beeckle  
is  
a  
game  
running  
on  
two  
PICs  
with  
a  
shared  
external  
RAM  
generating  
a  
B&W;  
video  
signal  
in  
software
- PIC12F675  
based  
simple  
oscilloscope  
generating  
a  
video  
signal  
in  
software,  
by  
Ronald  
Dekker.
- PAL  
video  
library  
generating  
memory  
mapped  
video  
with  
a  
PIC18,  
by  
Bruno  
Gavand.





If  
you  
have  
questions  
about  
the  
games,  
make  
sure  
to  
check  
out  
the  
[FAQ](#)  
(Frequently  
Asked  
Questions)  
before  
you  
[ask](#)  
[me](#).

### **Copyright note**

Text  
on  
how  
to  
generate  
video  
signals  
(C)  
Rickard  
Gunee.  
This  
is  
open  
source,  
use  
this  
at  
your  
own  
risk  
!  
You  
may  
use  
the  
information  
on  
this  
page  
for  
your  
own  
projects

[156 captures](#)

3 Oct 2003 - 1 Sep 2018

Go

JUN JUL SEP

27

2017 2018 2019



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you  
refer  
to  
the  
original  
author  
(by  
name  
and  
link  
to  
authors  
homepage),  
don't  
do  
it  
for  
profit  
and  
don't  
hurt  
or  
harm  
anyone  
or  
anything  
with  
it.  
The  
author  
can  
not  
be  
held  
responsible  
for  
any  
damage  
caused  
by  
the  
information  
on  
this  
and  
related  
pages.