

22. 2-wire Serial Interface (TWI)

22.1 Features

- Simple Yet Powerful and Flexible Communication Interface, only two Bus Lines Needed
- Both Master and Slave Operation Supported
- Device can Operate as Transmitter or Receiver
- 7-bit Address Space Allows up to 128 Different Slave Addresses
- Multi-master Arbitration Support
- Up to 400kHz Data Transfer Speed
- Slew-rate Limited Output Drivers
- Noise Suppression Circuitry Rejects Spikes on Bus Lines
- Fully Programmable Slave Address with General Call Support
- Address Recognition Causes Wake-up When AVR is in Sleep Mode
- Compatible with Philips' I²C protocol

Figure 22-1. TWI Bus Interconnection

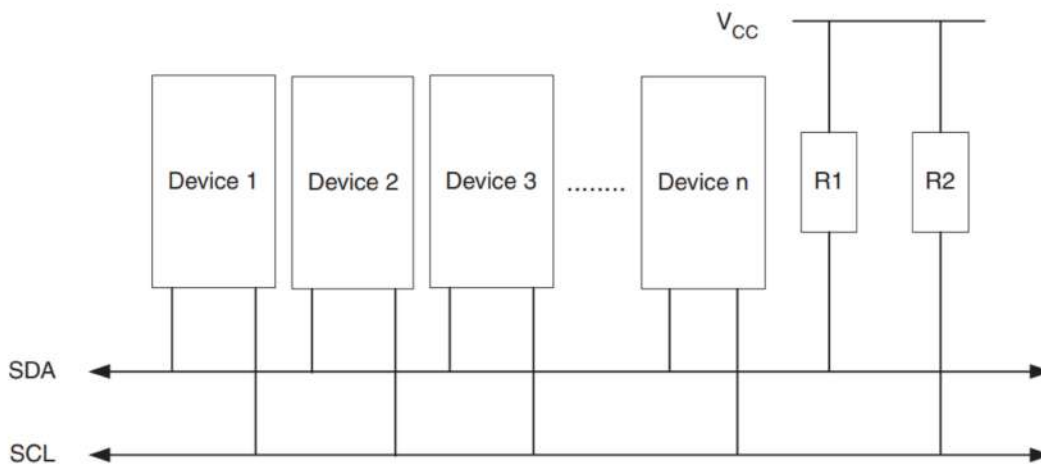
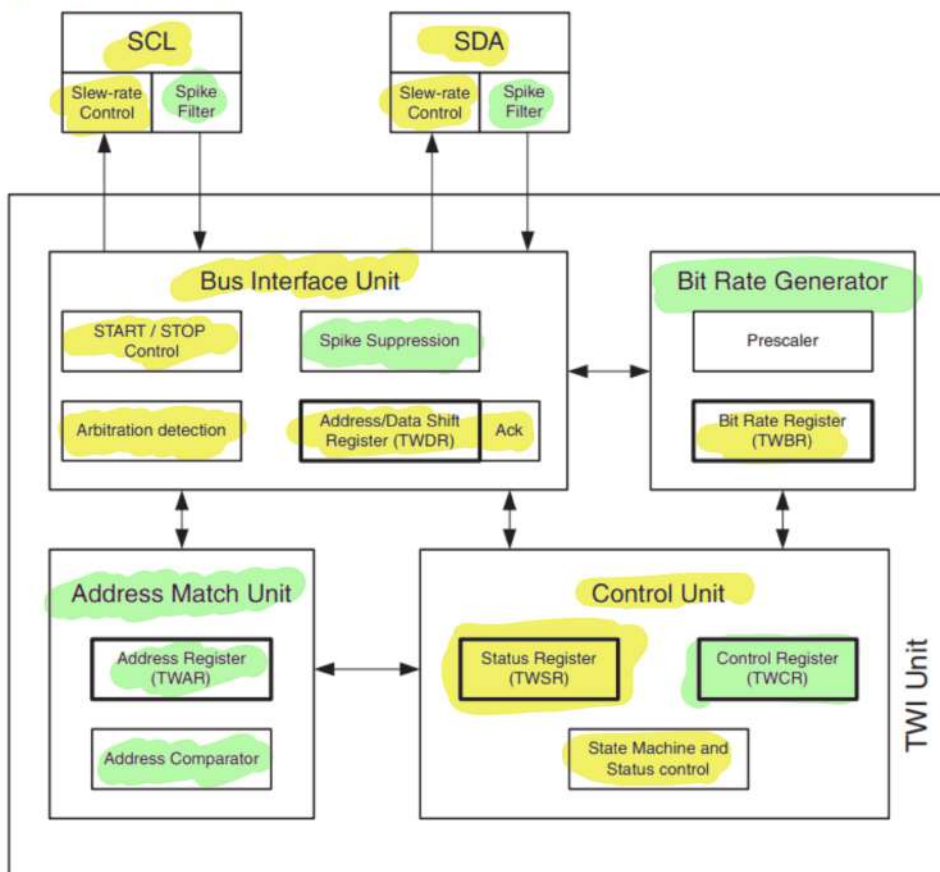


Figure 22-9. Overview of the TWI Module



Term	Description
Master	The device that initiates and terminates a transmission. The Master also generates the SCL clock.
Slave	The device addressed by a Master.
Transmitter	The device placing data on the bus.
Receiver	The device reading data from the bus.

The diagram shows the timing of SDA and SCL signals. The SDA signal is a series of high and low pulses, and the SCL signal is a series of high and low pulses. The signals are labeled SDA and SCL on the left. The events are labeled START, STOP, START, REPEATED START, and STOP at the bottom.

The diagram illustrates the sequence of events for an I2C transmission. It features a central horizontal timeline labeled 'TWI bus' with segments for START, SLA+W, A, Data, A, and STOP. Above the bus, 'Application Action' boxes describe software steps: 1. Writing to TWCR to start, 3. Checking TWSR and loading SLA+W, 5. Checking TWSR for SLA+W and ACK, and 7. Checking TWSR for data and ACK. Below the bus, 'TWI Hardware Action' boxes describe hardware events: 2. TWINT set on START, 4. TWINT set on SLA+W and ACK, and 6. TWINT set on Data and ACK. Black squares on the bus indicate when TWINT is set. A legend shows a black square indicating 'TWINT set'.

Application Action	TWI Hardware Action
1. Application writes to TWCR to initiate transmission of START	2. TWINT set. Status code indicates START condition sent
3. Check TWSR to see if START was sent. Application loads SLA+W into TWDR, and loads appropriate control signals into TWCR, making sure that TWINT is written to one, and TWSTA is written to zero.	4. TWINT set. Status code indicates SLA+W sent, ACK received
5. Check TWSR to see if SLA+W was sent and ACK received. Application loads data into TWDR, and loads appropriate control signals into TWCR, making sure that TWINT is written to one	6. TWINT set. Status code indicates data sent, ACK received
7. Check TWSR to see if data was sent and ACK received. Application loads appropriate control signals to send STOP into TWCR, making sure that TWINT is written to one	

Legend: ■ Indicates TWINT set

The diagram illustrates the I2C protocol timing. It shows two signals: SDA (Serial Data) and SCL (Serial Clock). The sequence starts with a START condition (SDA high-to-low transition while SCL is high). This is followed by the SLA+R/W phase, which includes 7 address bits (Addr MSB to Addr LSB), a Read/Write bit (R/W), and an acknowledgment (ACK). The Data Byte phase follows, consisting of 8 data bits (Data MSB to Data LSB) and an acknowledgment (ACK). The sequence ends with a STOP condition (SDA low-to-high transition while SCL is high). Red circles highlight the START and STOP conditions. A yellow highlight marks the 'START' label.

TWCR – TWI Control Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
(0xBC)	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	–	TWIE	TWCR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R	R/W	R	R/W	
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

The TWCR is used to control the operation of the TWI. It is used to enable the TWI, to initiate a Master access by applying a START condition to the bus, to generate a Receiver acknowledge, to generate a stop condition, and to control halting of the bus while the data to be written to the bus are written to the TWDR. It also indicates a write collision if data is attempted written to TWDR while the register is inaccessible.

• Bit 7 – TWINT: TWI Interrupt Flag

This bit is set by hardware when the TWI has finished its current job and expects application software response. If the I-bit in SREG and TWIE in TWCR are set, the MCU will jump to the TWI Interrupt Vector. While the TWINT Flag is set, the SCL low period is stretched. The TWINT Flag must be cleared by software by writing a logic one to it. Note that this flag is not automatically cleared by hardware when executing the interrupt routine. Also note that clearing this flag starts the operation of the TWI, so all accesses to the TWI Address Register (TWAR), TWI Status Register (TWSR), and TWI Data Register (TWDR) must be complete before clearing this flag.

• Bit 6 – TWEA: TWI Enable Acknowledge Bit

The TWEA bit controls the generation of the acknowledge pulse. If the TWEA bit is written to one, the ACK pulse is generated on the TWI bus if the following conditions are met:

1. The device's own slave address has been received.
2. A general call has been received, while the TWGCE bit in the TWAR is set.
3. A data byte has been received in Master Receiver or Slave Receiver mode.

By writing the TWEA bit to zero, the device can be virtually disconnected from the 2-wire Serial Bus temporarily. Address recognition can then be resumed by writing the TWEA bit to one again.

• Bit 5 – TWSTA: TWI START Condition Bit

The application writes the TWSTA bit to one when it desires to become a Master on the 2-wire Serial Bus. The TWI hardware checks if the bus is available, and generates a START condition on the bus if it is free. However, if the bus is not free, the TWI waits until a STOP condition is detected, and then generates a new START condition to claim the bus Master status. TWSTA must be cleared by software when the START condition has been transmitted.

• Bit 4 – TWSTO: TWI STOP Condition Bit

Writing the TWSTO bit to one in Master mode will generate a STOP condition on the 2-wire Serial Bus. When the STOP condition is executed on the bus, the TWSTO bit is cleared automatically. In Slave mode, setting the TWSTO bit can be used to recover from an error condition. This will not generate a STOP condition, but the TWI returns to a well-defined unaddressed Slave mode and releases the SCL and SDA lines to a high impedance state.

• Bit 3 – TWWC: TWI Write Collision Flag

The TWWC bit is set when attempting to write to the TWI Data Register – TWDR when TWINT is low. This flag is cleared by writing the TWDR Register when TWINT is high.

• Bit 2 – TWEN: TWI Enable Bit

The TWEN bit enables TWI operation and activates the TWI interface. When TWEN is written to one, the TWI takes control over the I/O pins connected to the SCL and SDA pins, enabling the slew-rate limiters and spike filters. If this bit is written to zero, the TWI is switched off and all TWI transmissions are terminated, regardless of any ongoing operation.

• Bit 1 – Reserved

This bit is a reserved bit and will always read as zero.

• Bit 0 – TWIE: TWI Interrupt Enable

When this bit is written to one, and the I-bit in SREG is set, the TWI interrupt request will be activated for as long as the TWINT Flag is high.

The TWINT Flag is set in the following situations:

- After the TWI has transmitted a START/REPEATED START condition.
- After the TWI has transmitted SLA+R/W.
- After the TWI has transmitted an address byte.
- After the TWI has lost arbitration.
- After the TWI has been addressed by own slave address or general call.
- After the TWI has received a data byte.
- After a STOP or REPEATED START has been received while still addressed as a Slave.
- When a bus error has occurred due to an illegal START or STOP condition.

TWBR – TWI Bit Rate Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
(0xBB)	TWBR7	TWBR6	TWBR5	TWBR4	TWBR3	TWBR2	TWBR1	TWBR0	TWBR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

$$SCL \text{ frequency} = \frac{CPU \text{ Clock frequency}}{16 + 2(TWBR) \cdot (PrescalerValue)}$$

Handwritten notes: 16×10^3 (pointing to CPU Clock frequency), $1, 4, 16, 64$ (pointing to PrescalerValue), 16×10^6 (pointing to denominator), 16×10^3 (pointing to numerator).

TWDR – TWI Data Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
(0xBB)	TWD7	TWD6	TWD5	TWD4	TWD3	TWD2	TWD1	TWD0	TWDR
Read/Write	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

In Transmit mode, TWDR contains the next byte to be transmitted. In Receive mode, the TWDR contains the last byte received. It is writable while the TWI is not in the process of shifting a byte. This occurs when the TWI Interrupt Flag (TWINT) is set by hardware. Note that the Data Register cannot be initialized by the user before the first interrupt occurs. The data in TWDR remains stable as long as TWINT is set. While data is shifted out, data on the bus is simultaneously shifted in. TWDR always contains the last byte present on the bus, except after a wake up from a sleep mode by the TWI interrupt. In this case, the contents of TWDR is undefined. In the case of a lost bus arbitration, no data is lost in the transition from Master to Slave. Handling of the ACK bit is controlled automatically by the TWI logic, the CPU cannot access the ACK bit directly.

Bits 7:0 – TWD: TWI Data Register

These eight bits constitute the next data byte to be transmitted, or the latest data byte received on the 2-wire Serial Bus.

TWSR – TWI Status Register

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
(0xB9)	TWS7	TWS6	TWS5	TWS4	TWS3	-	TWPS1	TWPS0	TWSR
Read/Write	R	R	R	R	R	R	R/W	R/W	
Initial Value	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	

Bits 7:3 – TWS: TWI Status

These 5 bits reflect the status of the TWI logic and the 2-wire Serial Bus. The different status codes are described later in this section. Note that the value read from TWSR contains both the 5-bit status value and the

2-bit prescaler value. The application designer should mask the prescaler bits to zero when checking the Status bits. This makes status checking independent of prescaler setting. This approach is used in this datasheet, unless otherwise noted.

Bit 2 – Reserved

This bit is reserved and will always read as zero.

Bits 1:0 – TWPS: TWI Prescaler Bits

These bits can be read and written, and control the bit rate prescaler.

Table 22-7. TWI Bit Rate Prescaler

TWPS1	TWPS0	Prescaler Value
0	0	1
0	1	4
1	0	16
1	1	64

To calculate bit rates, see "Bit Rate Generator Unit" on page 221. The value of TWPS1...0 is used in the equation.

Handwritten notes: $status = TWS \& 0xFF$, $if (status == 0x08)$, $axad$, $5bit$, $axad$.

Table 22-2. Status codes for Master Transmitter Mode

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWINT	TWEA	
0x08	A START condition has been transmitted	Load SLA+W	0	0	1	X	SLA+W will be transmitted; ACK or NOT ACK will be received
0x10	A repeated START condition has been transmitted	Load SLA+W or	0	0	1	X	SLA+W will be transmitted; ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		Load SLA+R	0	0	1	X	SLA+R will be transmitted; Logic will switch to Master Receiver mode
0x18	SLA+W has been transmitted; ACK has been received	Load data byte or	0	0	1	X	Data byte will be transmitted and ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		No TWDR action or	1	0	1	X	Repeated START will be transmitted
		No TWDR action or	0	1	1	X	STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
0x20	SLA+W has been transmitted; NOT ACK has been received	Load data byte or	0	0	1	X	Data byte will be transmitted and ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		No TWDR action or	1	0	1	X	Repeated START will be transmitted
		No TWDR action or	0	1	1	X	STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
0x28	Data byte has been transmitted; ACK has been received	Load data byte or	0	0	1	X	Data byte will be transmitted and ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		No TWDR action or	1	0	1	X	Repeated START will be transmitted
		No TWDR action or	0	1	1	X	STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
0x30	Data byte has been transmitted; NOT ACK has been received	Load data byte or	0	0	1	X	Data byte will be transmitted and ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		No TWDR action or	1	0	1	X	Repeated START will be transmitted
		No TWDR action or	0	1	1	X	STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
0x38	Arbitration lost in SLA+W or data bytes	No TWDR action or	0	0	1	X	2-wire Serial Bus will be released and not addressed
		No TWDR action	1	0	1	X	Slave mode entered
							A START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free

Table 22-3. Status codes for Master Receiver Mode

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWIN T	TWE A	
0x08	A START condition has been transmitted	Load SLA+R	0	0	1	X	SLA+R will be transmitted ACK or NOT ACK will be received
0x10	A repeated START condition has been transmitted	Load SLA+R or	0	0	1	X	SLA+R will be transmitted ACK or NOT ACK will be received
		Load SLA+W	0	0	1	X	SLA+W will be transmitted Logic will switch to Master Transmitter mode
0x38	Arbitration lost in SLA+R or NOT ACK bit	No TWDR action or	0	0	1	X	2-wire Serial Bus will be released and not addressed Slave mode will be entered
		No TWDR action	1	0	1	X	A START condition will be transmitted when the bus becomes free
0x40	SLA+R has been transmitted; ACK has been received	No TWDR action or	0	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		No TWDR action	0	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x48	SLA+R has been transmitted; NOT ACK has been received	No TWDR action or	1	0	1	X	Repeated START will be transmitted
		No TWDR action or	0	1	1	X	STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
		No TWDR action	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
0x50	Data byte has been received; ACK has been returned	Read data byte or	0	0	1	0	Data byte will be received and NOT ACK will be returned
		Read data byte	0	0	1	1	Data byte will be received and ACK will be returned
0x58	Data byte has been received; NOT ACK has been returned	Read data byte or	1	0	1	X	Repeated START will be transmitted
		Read data byte or	0	1	1	X	STOP condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset
		Read data byte	1	1	1	X	STOP condition followed by a START condition will be transmitted and TWSTO Flag will be reset

Table 22-6. Miscellaneous States

Status Code (TWSR) Prescaler Bits are 0	Status of the 2-wire Serial Bus and 2-wire Serial Interface Hardware	Application Software Response					Next Action Taken by TWI Hardware
		To/from TWDR	To TWCR				
			STA	STO	TWINT	TWEA	
0xF8	No relevant state information available; TWINT = "0"	No TWDR action	No TWCR action				Wait or proceed current transfer
0x00	Bus error due to an illegal START or STOP condition	No TWDR action	0	1	1	X	Only the internal hardware is affected, no STOP condition is sent on the bus. In all cases, the bus is released and TWSTO is cleared.

~~TwAR~~ – TWI (Slave) Address Register

~~TwAMR~~ – TWI (Slave) Address Mask Register

22.7.1 Master Transmitter Mode

In the Master Transmitter mode, a number of data bytes are transmitted to a Slave Receiver (see Figure 22-11). In order to enter a Master mode, a START condition must be transmitted. The format of the following address packet determines whether Master Transmitter or Master Receiver mode is to be entered. If SLA+W is transmitted, MT mode is entered, if SLA+R is transmitted, MR mode is entered. All the status codes mentioned in this section assume that the prescaler bits are zero or are masked to zero.

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A START condition is sent by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	1	0	X	1	0	X

TWEN must be set to enable the 2-wire Serial Interface, TWSTA must be written to one to transmit a START condition and TWINT must be written to one to clear the TWINT Flag. The TWI will then test the 2-wire Serial Bus and generate a START condition as soon as the bus becomes free. After a START condition has been transmitted, the TWINT Flag is set by hardware, and the status code in TWSR will be 0x08 (see Table 22-2). In order to enter MT mode, SLA+W must be transmitted. This is done by writing SLA+W to TWDR. Thereafter the TWINT bit should be cleared (by writing it to one) to continue the transfer. This is accomplished by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	0	0	X	1	0	X

When SLA+W have been transmitted and an acknowledgement bit has been received, TWINT is set again and a number of status codes in TWSR are possible. Possible status codes in Master mode are 0x18, 0x20, or 0x38. The appropriate action to be taken for each of these status codes is detailed in Table 22-2.

When SLA+W has been successfully transmitted, a data packet should be transmitted. This is done by writing the data byte to TWDR. TWDR must only be written when TWINT is high. If not, the access will be discarded, and the Write Collision bit (TWWC) will be set in the TWCR Register. After updating TWDR, the TWINT bit should be cleared (by writing it to one) to continue the transfer. This is accomplished by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	0	0	X	1	0	X

This scheme is repeated until the last byte has been sent and the transfer is ended by generating a STOP condition or a repeated START condition. A STOP condition is generated by writing the following value to TWCR:

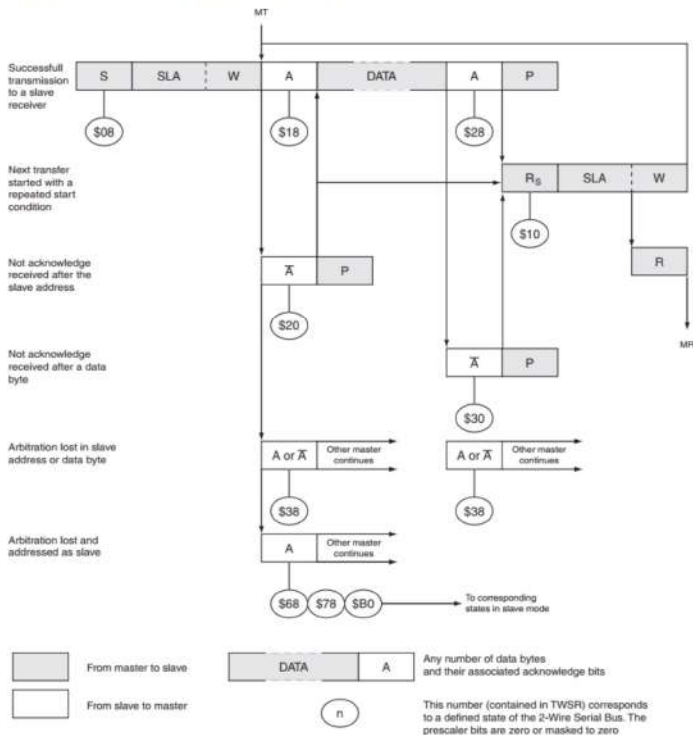
TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	0	1	X	1	0	X

A REPEATED START condition is generated by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	1	0	X	1	0	X

After a repeated START condition (state 0x10) the 2-wire Serial Interface can access the same Slave again, or a new Slave without transmitting a STOP condition. Repeated START enables the Master to switch between Slaves, Master Transmitter mode and Master Receiver mode without losing control of the bus.

Figure 22-12. Formats and States in the Master Transmitter Mode



22.7.2 Master Receiver Mode

In the Master Receiver mode, a number of data bytes are received from a Slave Transmitter (Slave see [Figure 22-13](#)). In order to enter a Master mode, a START condition must be transmitted. The format of the following address packet determines whether Master Transmitter or Master Receiver mode is to be entered. If SLA+W is transmitted, MT mode is entered, if SLA+R is transmitted, MR mode is entered. All the status codes mentioned in this section assume that the prescaler bits are zero or are masked to zero.

A START condition is sent by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	1	0	X	1	0	X

TWEN must be written to one to enable the 2-wire Serial Interface, TWSTA must be written to one to transmit a START condition and TWINT must be set to clear the TWINT Flag. The TWI will then test the 2-wire Serial Bus and generate a START condition as soon as the bus becomes free. After a START condition has been transmitted, the TWINT Flag is set by hardware, and the status code in TWSR will be 0x08 (See [Table 22-2](#)). In order to enter MR mode, SLA+R must be transmitted. This is done by writing SLA+R to TWDR. Thereafter the TWINT bit should be cleared (by writing it to one) to continue the transfer. This is accomplished by writing the following value to TWCR:

TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	0	0	X	1	0	X

When SLA+R have been transmitted and an acknowledgement bit has been received, TWINT is set again and a number of status codes in TWSR are possible. Possible status codes in Master mode are 0x38, 0x40, or 0x48. The appropriate action to be taken for each of these status codes is detailed in [Table 22-3](#). Received data can be read from the TWDR Register when the TWINT Flag is set high by hardware. This scheme is repeated until the last byte has been received. After the last byte has been received, the MR should inform the ST by sending a NACK after the last received data byte. The transfer is ended by generating a STOP condition or a repeated START condition. A STOP condition is generated by writing the following value to TWCR:

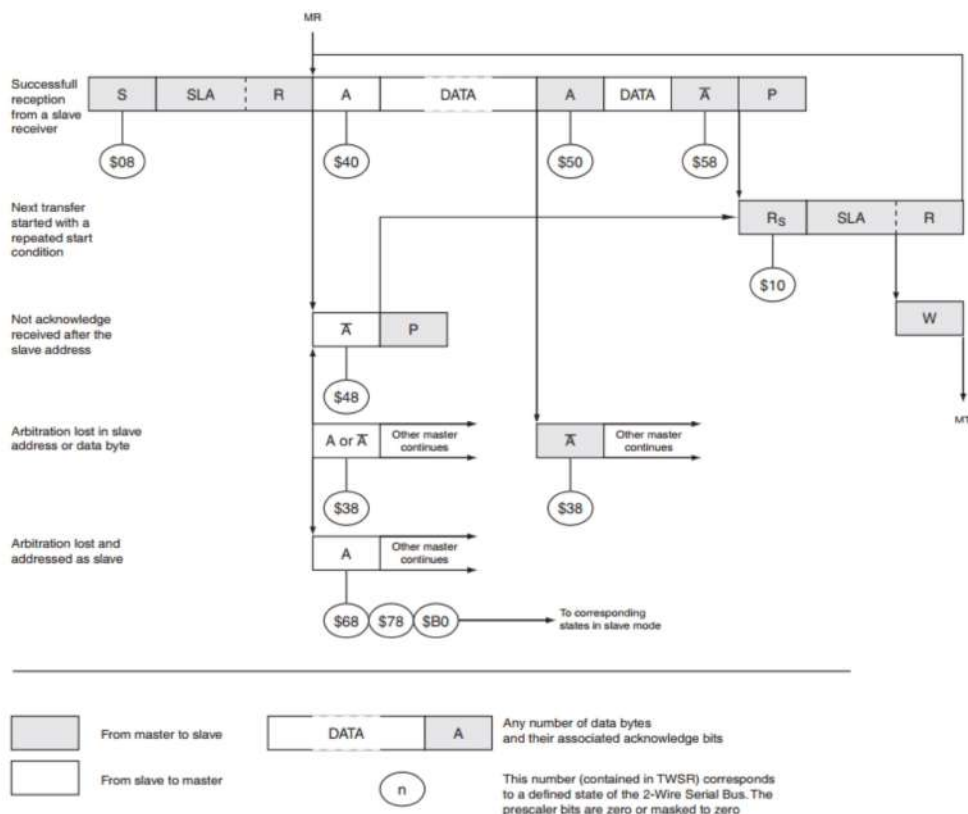
TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	0	1	X	1	0	X

A REPEATED START condition is generated by writing the following value to TWCR:

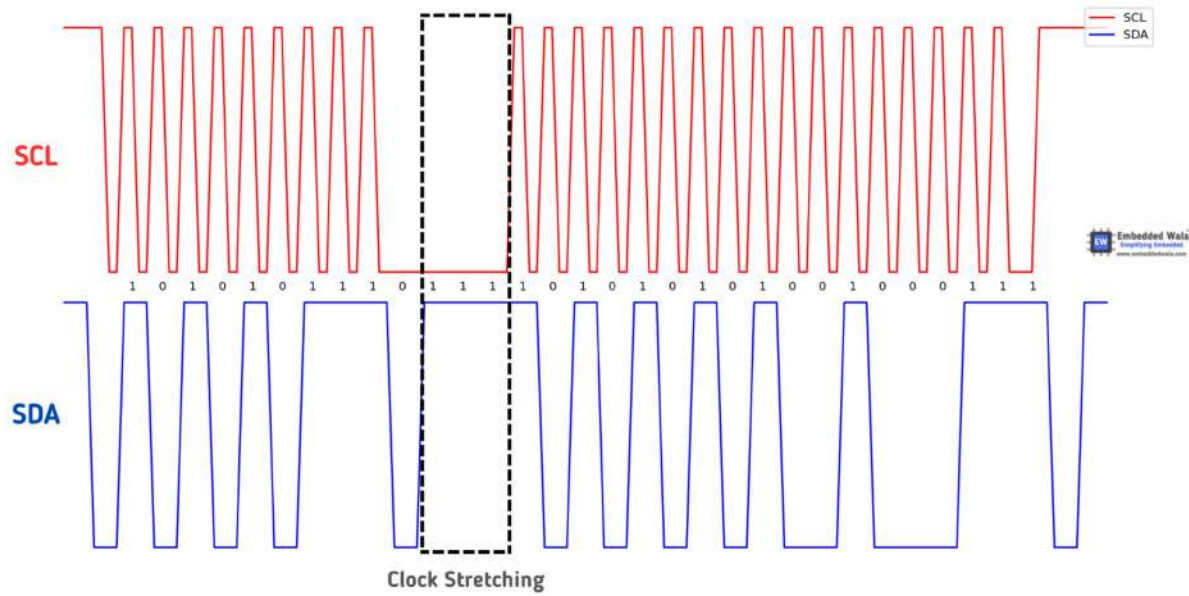
TWCR	TWINT	TWEA	TWSTA	TWSTO	TWWC	TWEN	—	TWIE
value	1	X	1	0	X	1	0	X

After a repeated START condition (state 0x10) the 2-wire Serial Interface can access the same Slave again, or a new Slave without transmitting a STOP condition. Repeated START enables the Master to switch between Slaves, Master Transmitter mode and Master Receiver mode without losing control over the bus.

Figure 22-14. Formats and States in the Master Receiver Mode



I2C Clock Stretching



I2C Arbitration

