

Pin Functions

Signal	No. of Lines	I/O	Device Interfaced with	Function
RS	1	I	MPU	Selects registers. 0: Instruction register (for write) Busy flag: address counter (for read) 1: Data register (for write and read)
$\overline{R/W}$	1	I	MPU	Selects read or write. 0: Write 1: Read
E	1	I	MPU	Starts data read/write.
DB4 to DB7	4	I/O	MPU	Four high order bidirectional tristate data bus pins. Used for data transfer and receive between the MPU and the HD44780U. DB7 can be used as a busy flag.
DB0 to DB3	4	I/O	MPU	Four low order bidirectional tristate data bus pins. Used for data transfer and receive between the MPU and the HD44780U. These pins are not used during 4-bit operation.
CL1	1	O	Extension driver	Clock to latch serial data D sent to the extension driver
CL2	1	O	Extension driver	Clock to shift serial data D
M	1	O	Extension driver	Switch signal for converting the liquid crystal drive waveform to AC
D	1	O	Extension driver	Character pattern data corresponding to each segment signal
COM1 to COM16	16	O	LCD	Common signals that are not used are changed to non-selection waveforms. COM9 to COM16 are non-selection waveforms at 1/8 duty factor and COM12 to COM16 are non-selection waveforms at 1/11 duty factor.
SEG1 to SEG40	40	O	LCD	Segment signals
V1 to V5	5	—	Power supply	Power supply for LCD drive $V_{CC} - V5 = 11\text{ V (max)}$
V_{CC} , GND	2	—	Power supply	V_{CC} : 2.7V to 5.5V, GND: 0V
OSC1, OSC2	2	—	Oscillation resistor clock	When crystal oscillation is performed, a resistor must be connected externally. When the pin input is an external clock, it must be input to OSC1.

Function Description

Registers

The HD44780U has two 8-bit registers, an instruction register (IR) and a data register (DR).

The IR stores instruction codes, such as display clear and cursor shift, and address information for display data RAM (DDRAM) and character generator RAM (CGRAM). The IR can only be written from the MPU.

The DR temporarily stores data to be written into DDRAM or CGRAM and temporarily stores data to be read from DDRAM or CGRAM. Data written into the DR from the MPU is automatically written into DDRAM or CGRAM by an internal operation. The DR is also used for data storage when reading data from DDRAM or CGRAM. When address information is written into the IR, data is read and then stored into the DR from DDRAM or CGRAM by an internal operation. Data transfer between the MPU is then completed when the MPU reads the DR. After the read, data in DDRAM or CGRAM at the next address is sent to the DR for the next read from the MPU. By the register selector (RS) signal, these two registers can be selected (Table 1).

Busy Flag (BF)

When the busy flag is 1, the HD44780U is in the internal operation mode, and the next instruction will not be accepted. When $RS = 0$ and $R/\overline{W} = 1$ (Table 1), the busy flag is output to DB7. The next instruction must be written after ensuring that the busy flag is 0.

Address Counter (AC)

The address counter (AC) assigns addresses to both DDRAM and CGRAM. When an address of an instruction is written into the IR, the address information is sent from the IR to the AC. Selection of either DDRAM or CGRAM is also determined concurrently by the instruction.

After writing into (reading from) DDRAM or CGRAM, the AC is automatically incremented by 1 (decremented by 1). The AC contents are then output to DB0 to DB6 when $RS = 0$ and $R/\overline{W} = 1$ (Table 1).

Table 1 Register Selection

RS	R/ \overline{W}	Operation
0	0	IR write as an internal operation (display clear, etc.)
0	1	Read busy flag (DB7) and address counter (DB0 to DB6)
1	0	DR write as an internal operation (DR to DDRAM or CGRAM)
1	1	DR read as an internal operation (DDRAM or CGRAM to DR)