# APPENDIX B

# BASICS OF WIRE WRAPPING

## OVERVIEW

**This appendix shows the basics of wire wrapping.**

# BASICS OF WIRE WRAPPING

*Note:* For this tutorial appendix, you will need the following:
Wire-wrapping tool (Radio Shack part number 276-1570)
30-gauge (30-AWG) wire for wire wrapping
(Thanks to Shannon Looper and Greg Boyle for their assistance on this section.)

The following describes the basics of wire wrapping.

1. There are several different types of wire-wrap tools available. The best one is available from Radio Shack for less than $10. The part number for Radio Shack is 276-1570. This tool combines the wrap and unwrap functions in the same end of the tool and includes a separate stripper. We found this to be much easier to use than the tools that combined all these features on one two-ended shaft. There are also wire-wrap guns, which are, of course, more expensive.
2. Wire-wrapping wire is available prestripped in various lengths or in bulk on a spool. The prestripped wire is usually more expensive and you are restricted to the different wire lengths you can afford to buy. Bulk wire can be cut to any length you wish, which allows each wire to be custom fit.
3. Serveral different types of wire-wrap boards are available. These are usually called *perfboards* or *wire-wrap boards*. These types of boards are sold at many electronics stores (such as Radio Shack). The best type of board has plating around the holes on the bottom of the board. These boards are better because the sockets and pins can be soldered to the board, which makes the circuit more mechanically stable.
4. Choose a board that is large enough to accommodate all the parts in your design with room to spare so that the wiring does not become too cluttered. If you wish to expand your project in the future, you should be sure to include enough room on the original board for the complete circuit. Also, if possible, the layout of the IC on the board needs to be such that signals go from left to right just like the schematics.
5. To make the wiring easier and to keep pressure off the pins, install one standoff on each corner of the board. You may also wish to put standoffs on the top of the board to add stability when the board is on its back.
6. For power hook-up, use some type of standard binding post. Solder a few single wire-wrap pins to each power post to make circuit connections (to at least one pin for each IC in the circuit).
7. To further reduce problems with power, each IC must have its own connection to the main power of the board. If your perfboard does not have built-in power buses, run a separate power and ground wire from each IC to the main power. In other words, DO NOT daisy chain (making a chip-to-chip connection is called *daisy chaining*) power connections, as each connection down the line will have more wire and more resistance to get power through. However, daisy chaining is acceptable for other connections such as data, address, and control buses.
8. You must use wire-wrap sockets. These sockets have long square pins whose edges will cut into the wire as it is wrapped around the pin.
9. Wire wrapping will not work on round legs. If you need to wrap to compo-

nents, such as capacitors, that have round legs, you must also solder these connections. The best way to connect single components is to install individual wire-wrap pins into the board and then solder the components to the pins. An alternate method is to use an empty IC socket to hold small components such as resistors and wrap them to the socket.

10. The wire should be stripped about 1 inch. This will allow 7 to 10 turns for each connection. The first turn or turn-and-a-half should be insulated. This prevents stripped wire from coming in contact with other pins. This can be accomplished by inserting the wire as far as it will go into the tool before making the connection.
11. Try to keep wire lengths to a minimum. This prevents the circuit from looking like a bird nest. Be neat and use color coding as much as possible. Use only red wires for $V_{CC}$ and black wires for ground connections. Also use different colors for data, address, and control signal connections. These suggestions will make troubleshooting much easier.
12. It is standard practice to connect all power lines first and check them for continuity. This will eliminate trouble later on.
13. It's also a good idea to mark the pin orientation on the bottom of the board. Plastic templates are available with pin numbers preprinted on them specifically for this purpose or you can make your own from paper. Forgetting to reverse pin order when looking at the bottom of the board is a very common mistake when wire wrapping circuits.
14. To prevent damage to your circuit, place a diode (such as IN5338) in reverse bias across the power supply. If the power gets hooked up backwards, the diode will be forward biased and will act as a short, keeping the reversed voltage from your circuit.
15. In digital circuits, there can be a problem with current demand on the power supply. To filter the noise on the power supply, a 100 μF electrolytic capacitor and a 0.1 μF monolithic capacitor are connected from $V_{CC}$ to ground, in parallel with each other, at the entry point of the power supply to the board. These two together will filter both the high- and the low-frequency noises. Instead of using two capacitors in parallel, you can use a single 20–100 μF tantalum capacitor. Remember that the long lead is the positive one.
16. To filter the transient current, use a 0.1 μF monolithic capacitor for each IC. Place the 0.1 μF monolithic capacitor between $V_{CC}$ and ground of each IC. Make sure the leads are as short as possible.

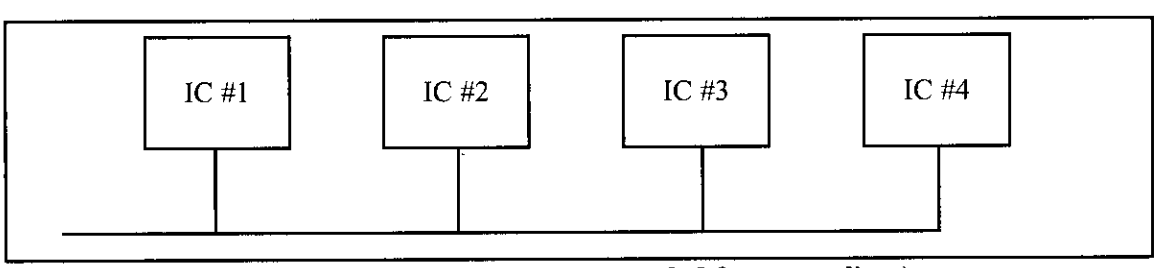


**Figure B-1. Daisy Chain Connection (not recommended for power lines)**