```vb
Imports System.IO.Ports
Imports System.Windows.Forms.VisualStyles.VisualStyleElement

Public Class SerialPortForm
    ' --- NEW: Ring Counter State & Timer ---
    Private WithEvents RingTimer As New System.Windows.Forms.Timer()
    ' Tracks the current index (1-6) for the ring counter sequence
    Private RingCounterStep As Integer = 1
    ' ---------------------------------------

    ' This method now checks if the port is open before attempting to configure and open it.
    Sub Connect()
        If Not SerialPort1.IsOpen Then
            ' Set port configuration
            SerialPort1.BaudRate = 9600 'Q@ Board Default
            SerialPort1.Parity = Parity.None
            SerialPort1.StopBits = StopBits.One
            SerialPort1.DataBits = 8
            SerialPort1.PortName = "COM5"

            Try
                SerialPort1.Open()
                Console.WriteLine("COM port opened successfully.")
            Catch ex As Exception
                ' Handle the case where the port cannot be opened (e.g., in use, wrong port name)
                Console.WriteLine($"Error opening COM port: {ex.Message}")
            End Try
        Else
            Console.WriteLine("COM port is already open.")
        End If
    End Sub

    ' The form's Load event is the best place to call Connect initially.
    Private Sub SerialPortForm_Load(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles MyBase.Load
        ' Initialize the Ring Counter Timer
        RingTimer.Interval = 100 ' Set rotation speed to 250ms (4 steps per second)
        RingTimer.Enabled = False ' Start disabled

        Connect()
    End Sub

    ' New: Centralized function to handle the serial write logic based on an index (1-8).
    Sub SendCommand(ByVal caseIndex As Integer)
        If Not SerialPort1.IsOpen Then
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45              Console.WriteLine("Command skipped: COM port is closed.")
46              Return
47          End If
48
49          Dim byteToSend(1) As Byte
50
51          ' The caseIndex (from 1 to 8) now determines which command is
              sent.
52          Select Case caseIndex
53              Case 1  ' Step 0: ~0.50 ms
54                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H0   ' 0x00 (bits
                      7:3=00000)
55              Case 2  ' Step 1: ~0.56 ms
56                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H8   ' 0x08 (bits
                      7:3=00001)
57              Case 3  ' Step 2: ~0.63 ms
58                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H10  ' 0x10
59              Case 4  ' Step 3: ~0.69 ms
60                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H18  ' 0x18
61              Case 5  ' Step 4: ~0.76 ms
62                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H20  ' 0x20
63              Case 6  ' Step 5: ~0.82 ms
64                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H28  ' 0x28
65              Case 7  ' Step 6: ~0.88 ms
66                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H30  ' 0x30
67              Case 8  ' Step 7: ~0.95 ms
68                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H38  ' 0x38
69              Case 9  ' Step 8: ~1.01 ms
70                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H40  ' 0x40
71              Case 10 ' Step 9: ~1.08 ms
72                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H48  ' 0x48
73              Case 11 ' Step 10: ~1.14 ms
74                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H50  ' 0x50
75              Case 12 ' Step 11: ~1.22 ms
76                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H58  ' 0x58
77              Case 13 ' Step 12: ~1.28 ms
78                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H60  ' 0x60
79              Case 14 ' Step 13: ~1.34 ms
80                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H68  ' 0x68
81              Case 15 ' Step 14: ~1.41 ms
82                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H70  ' 0x70
83              Case 16 ' Step 15: ~1.47 ms
84                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H78  ' 0x78
85              Case 17 ' Step 16: ~1.54 ms
86                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H80  ' 0x80
87              Case 18 ' Step 17: ~1.60 ms
88                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H88  ' 0x88
89              Case 19 ' Step 18: ~1.66 ms
90                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H90  ' 0x90
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91              Case 20 ' Step 19: ~1.73 ms
92                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &H98  ' 0x98
93              Case 21 ' Step 20: ~1.79 ms
94                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HA0  ' 0xA0
95              Case 22 ' Step 21: ~1.86 ms
96                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HA8  ' 0xA8
97              Case 23 ' Step 22: ~1.92 ms
98                  byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HB0  ' 0xB0
99              Case 24 ' Step 23: ~1.98 ms
100                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HB8  ' 0xB8
101             Case 25 ' Step 24: ~2.05 ms
102                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HC0  ' 0xC0
103             Case 26 ' Step 25: ~2.11 ms
104                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HC8  ' 0xC8
105             Case 27 ' Step 26: ~2.18 ms
106                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HD0  ' 0xD0
107             Case 28 ' Step 27: ~2.24 ms
108                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HD8  ' 0xD8
109             Case 29 ' Step 28: ~2.30 ms
110                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HE0  ' 0xE0
111             Case 30 ' Step 29: ~2.37 ms
112                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HE8  ' 0xE8
113             Case 31 ' Step 30: ~2.43 ms
114                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HF0  ' 0xF0
115             Case 32 ' Step 31: ~2.50 ms
116                 byteToSend(0) = &H24 : byteToSend(1) = &HF8  ' 0xF8
117             Case Else
118                 Console.WriteLine($"Invalid index: {caseIndex}")
119                 Return
120         End Select
121
122         ' Write the 2-byte command
123         SerialPort1.Write(byteToSend, 0, 2)
124         Console.WriteLine($"Sent command for Case {caseIndex} (Value: &H
              {byteToSend(1).ToString("X2")})")
125         UpdateLogBox($"Sent command for Case {caseIndex} (Value: &H
              {byteToSend(1).ToString("X2")})")
126     End Sub
127     Private Sub UpdateLogBox(ByVal text As String)
128         ' This ensures the update happens safely on the UI thread
129         If Me.TransmissionToPicTextBox.InvokeRequired Then
130             Me.Invoke(Sub() UpdateLogBox(text))
131         Else
132             Me.TransmissionToPicTextBox.AppendText(text &
                  Environment.NewLine)
133             Me.TransmissionToPicTextBox.ScrollToCaret()
134         End If
135     End Sub
136     Sub Write()
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137         If SerialPort1.IsOpen Then
138             Dim data(0) As Byte 'put bytes into array
139             data(0) = &B0 'actual data as a byte
140             SerialPort1.Write(data, 0, 1) 'send bytes as array, start at
                  index 0, send 1 byte
141         Else
142             Console.WriteLine("Error: Cannot Write. COM port is closed.")
143         End If
144     End Sub
145
146     Sub Output_High()
147         ' Now calls SendCommand Case 8 (All High)
148         SendCommand(32)
149     End Sub
150
151     Sub Output_Low()
152         ' Now calls SendCommand Case 7 (All Low)
153         SendCommand(1)
154     End Sub
155
156     Sub Read()
157         ' Reading only happens if data is available (triggered by
              DataReceived event)
158         Try
159             Dim bytesToRead As Integer = SerialPort1.BytesToRead
160             If bytesToRead > 0 Then
161                 Dim data(bytesToRead - 1) As Byte ' Array size is
                      bytesToRead - 1 (0-based)
162                 SerialPort1.Read(data, 0, bytesToRead)
163
164                 For i = 0 To UBound(data)
165                     Console.WriteLine($"Byte {i}: {Chr(data(i))}")
166                 Next
167
168                 Console.WriteLine($"Bytes read: {bytesToRead}")
169             End If
170         Catch ex As Exception
171             Console.WriteLine($"Error during Read operation:
                  {ex.Message}")
172         End Try
173     End Sub
174
175     Function CheckIfQuietBoard() As Boolean
176         If SerialPort1.IsOpen Then
177             Dim bytes(0) As Byte
178             bytes(0) = &B11110000
179             SerialPort1.Write(bytes, 0, 1)
180             Return True
181         Else
```

```
182             Console.WriteLine("Error: Cannot CheckIfQuietBoard. COM port
                  is closed.")
183             Return False
184         End If
185     End Function
186
187     ' --- Ring Counter Logic ---
188     Sub RingCounter()
189         If RingTimer.Enabled Then
190             RingTimer.Stop()
191             ' Stop the rotation and turn all outputs OFF (Case 7)
192             SendCommand(7)
193             Console.WriteLine("Ring Counter Stopped.")
194         Else
195             ' Reset the step to start at the first output (Case 1)
196             RingCounterStep = 1
197             RingTimer.Start()
198             Console.WriteLine("Ring Counter Started.")
199         End If
200     End Sub
201
202     ' Event handler that fires every time the RingTimer interval elapses
203     Private Sub RingTimer_Tick(sender As Object, e As EventArgs) Handles
          RingTimer.Tick
204         ' The ring counter cycles through Cases 1 through 6
205         If RingCounterStep > 32 Then
206             RingCounterStep = 1 ' Wrap back to the first step
207         End If
208
209         ' Send the command for the current step
210         SendCommand(RingCounterStep)
211
212         ' Move to the next step
213         RingCounterStep += 1
214     End Sub
215
216     ' --- Event Handlers ---
217
218     Private Sub SerialPortForm_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs)
          Handles Me.Click
219         Write()
220     End Sub
221
222     Private Sub SerialPort1_DataReceived(sender As Object, e As
          SerialDataReceivedEventArgs) Handles SerialPort1.DataReceived
223         ' 1. Read ALL available bytes into the buffer.
224         '    BytesToRead is volatile, but this operation will empty the
              buffer
225         '    of whatever was there when it executes.
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```
226         Dim bytesToRead As Integer = SerialPort1.BytesToRead
227         Dim buffer(bytesToRead - 1) As Byte
228 
229         ' This single Read() command extracts all the data
230         SerialPort1.Read(buffer, 0, bytesToRead)
231 
232         ' 2. Convert and update the UI using Me.Invoke (essential for
              thread safety)
233         Dim hexData As String = ConvertBytesToHexString(buffer)
234 
235         Me.Invoke(Sub()
236                       UpdateTextBox(hexData)
237                   End Sub)
238 
239         Try
240             Console.WriteLine($"Data received. Bytes read: {bytesToRead}.
                  Remaining: {SerialPort1.BytesToRead}")
241         Catch ex As Exception
242             Console.WriteLine("oops! Error accessing BytesToRead.")
243         End Try
244     End Sub
245 
246     Private Function ConvertBytesToHexString(ByVal data As Byte()) As
          String
247         Dim sb As New System.Text.StringBuilder()
248         For Each b As Byte In data
249 
250             sb.Append(b.ToString("X2") & " ")
251         Next
252 
253         Return sb.ToString().TrimEnd()
254 
255     End Function
256 
257     Private Sub UpdateTextBox(ByVal text As String)
258         VBRecieveTextBox.AppendText(text & Environment.NewLine)
259         VBRecieveTextBox.ScrollToCaret()
260 
261     End Sub
262 
263     Private Sub SendDataButton_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs)
          Handles SendDataButton.Click
264         If Not SerialPort1.IsOpen Then
265             Console.WriteLine("Error: Cannot Send Data. COM port is
                  closed.")
266             UpdateLogBox("ERROR: COM port is closed. Cannot send data.")
267             Return
268         End If
269 
```

```
270         ' **ASSUMPTION:** The text box is named 'DataToSendTextBox'
271         Dim hexInput As String = InputTextBox.Text
272
273         If String.IsNullOrWhiteSpace(hexInput) Then
274             Console.WriteLine("Cannot send: Text box is empty.")
275             Return
276         End If
277
278         Try
279             ' 1. Convert the Hex string (e.g., "24 F8") into a Byte array
280             Dim dataToSend As Byte() = ConvertHexStringToByteArray
                  (hexInput)
281
282             ' 2. Write the byte array to the serial port
283             SerialPort1.Write(dataToSend, 0, dataToSend.Length)
284
285             ' 3. Log the action
286             Console.WriteLine($"Sent {dataToSend.Length} bytes:
                  {hexInput.Trim()}")
287             UpdateLogBox($"Sent Bytes: {hexInput.Trim()}")
288
289         Catch ex As FormatException
290             ' Handle error from the conversion function
291             Console.WriteLine($"Error in hex format: {ex.Message}")
292             UpdateLogBox($"ERROR: Invalid Hex Format. {ex.Message}")
293         Catch ex As Exception
294             ' Handle general serial port error
295             Console.WriteLine($"Error sending data: {ex.Message}")
296             UpdateLogBox($"ERROR: Serial Write Failed. {ex.Message}")
297         End Try
298     End Sub
299
300     ''' <summary>
301     ''' Converts a space-separated string of hex values (e.g., "24 F8
        0A") into a Byte array.
302     ''' </summary>
303     Private Function ConvertHexStringToByteArray(ByVal hexString As
        String) As Byte()
304         ' Remove leading/trailing spaces and split the string by spaces
305         Dim hexValues As String() = hexString.Trim().Split(" "c)
306
307         ' Determine the size of the output array
308         Dim byteCount As Integer = hexValues.Length
309         If byteCount = 0 Then Return New Byte() {} ' Return empty array
              if input is empty
310
311         Dim bytes As Byte() = New Byte(byteCount - 1) {}
312
313         For i As Integer = 0 To byteCount - 1
```

```
314             Try
315                 ' Remove any non-hex characters (like commas, if present)
316                 Dim hex As String = hexValues(i).Trim().Replace(",", "")
317
318                 ' Convert the 1 or 2 character hex string to a Byte
319                 bytes(i) = Convert.ToByte(hex, 16) ' Base 16 (Hexadecimal)
320             Catch ex As Exception
321                 ' Handle conversion error (e.g., "G2" is not valid hex)
322                 Throw New FormatException($"Invalid hexadecimal value
                      found: '{hexValues(i)}'", ex)
323             End Try
324         Next
325
326         Return bytes
327     End Function
328
329     Private Sub HighOutputButton_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs)
        Handles HighOutputButton.Click
330         Output_High()
331     End Sub
332
333     Private Sub LowOutputButton_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs)
        Handles LowOutputButton.Click
334         Output_Low()
335     End Sub
336
337     ' NEW: TrackBar Scroll Event Handler
338     Private Sub TrackBar1_Scroll(sender As Object, e As EventArgs)
        Handles TrackBar1.Scroll
339         ' Stop the ring counter if the user manually adjusts the output
340         If RingTimer.Enabled Then
341             RingTimer.Stop()
342             Console.WriteLine("Ring Counter Stopped by TrackBar input.")
343         End If
344         ' This sends the command whenever the TrackBar position changes.
345         SendCommand(TrackBar1.Value)
346     End Sub
347
348     Private Sub RingCounterButton_Click(sender As Object, e As EventArgs)
        Handles RingCounterButton.Click
349         RingCounter()
350     End Sub
351
352     ' Ensure the port is closed when the form closes
353     Private Sub SerialPortForm_FormClosing(sender As Object, e As
        FormClosingEventArgs) Handles Me.FormClosing
354         If SerialPort1.IsOpen Then
355             SerialPort1.Close()
356         End If
```

```
357         End Sub
358
359
360     End Class
```