

# Foenix F256jr Reference Manual

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# Introduction

This manual is meant to be as complete as possible an introduction to the various hardware features of the F256jr. In it, I will attempt to explain each of the major subsystems of the F256jr and provide simple but practical examples of their use.

One thing this manual will not provide is a tutorial in programming the 65C02 processor at the heart of the F256jr. There are plenty of excellent books and videos explaining how the processor works and how to do assembly programming. While examples will generally be written in assembly, I will try to annotate them fully so that what is happening is very clear even to the novice assembly language coder.

# F256jr Basics

## 2.1 Features

## 2.2 Ports

The connectors of the back of the F256jr from left to right are (see figure: 2.1):

**Audio Line Out** the stereo audio output. These are standard RCA style line level outputs.

**SD Card Slot** for standard SD cards for storage of files and programs.

**DVI Monitor Port** for output to your monitor. This can be connected to the DVI input of a monitor or run through a simple DVI-VGA connector to use with an older VGA input.

**IEC Serial Port** supports the Commodore serial bus. A Commodore disk drive (1541, 1571, 1581, *etc.*), a Commodore compatible serial printer, or other device supporting the Commodore serial bus can be connected here.

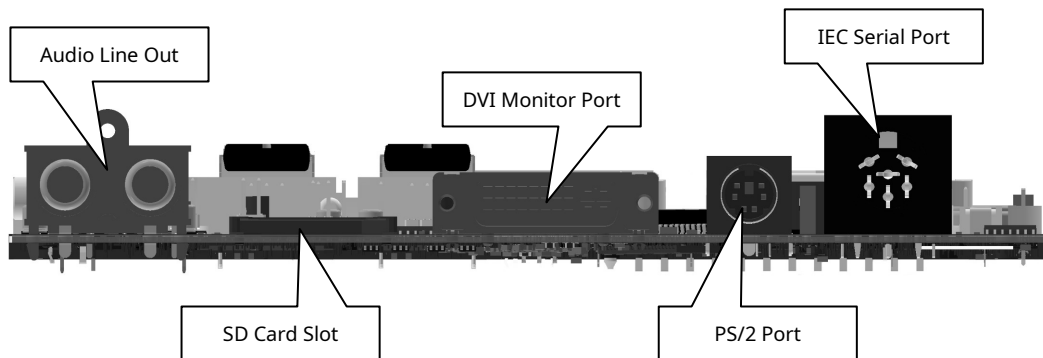


Figure 2.1: F256jr Rear Connectors

The top of the board has several connectors and other features that should be explained (see figure: 2.2):

**Power In** this is a standard ITX/ATX style power connector. Pretty much any PC power supply should work here, and a Pico-ATX style power adapter is more than sufficient.

**Debug USB Port** this provides access to the debug interface of the F256jr for a desktop computer. You can use it to upload data to the F256jr's memory or examine the memory. There is a Mini USB B connector on the board, but there is also a header that can be used to connect the USB jack on some cases to the board.

**Case Buttons and LEDs** this collection of headers is used to connect the power and reset button from the case as well as the power LED and SD access LED.

**Joystick Ports** these connectors can be used with a standard IDC to DB-9 adapter cable (such as was used by some PCs to provide RS-232 serial ports) to provide Atari style joystick connectors.

**DIP Switches** these switches allow you to manage certain aspects of the F256jr. In particular, you can control gamma correction and some boot options, depending on the kernel installed.

**Stereo SIDs** out of the box, these will be bare sockets, but they are where you would install your SID chips or SID emulators. The sockets support the original 6581, the lower voltage 8581, and the different replacements like the SwinSID, ARMSID, and BackSID.

**Wi-Fi Module** this optional module works with the built-in serial port to allow for Wi-Fi access, if a program or operating system supports it.

**RS-232 Port** this IDC header works with a standard IDC to DB-9 adapter cable to provide an RS-232 serial port. The same serial port is used for this port as is used by the Wi-Fi module, so only one of the two can be used at a time.

**GPIO** this header provides access to the I/O pins of the WDC65C22 VIA. The pin assignments are compatible with the Commodore C64 keyboard connector.

**Expansion Port** for future expansion. This is a PCI-E style connector with a custom pinout. In the future, it might be used for memory expansion or other devices.

**Clock Battery** this CR2032 cell holder provides power for the real time clock chip.

**FPGA JTAG Port** this connector is used to apply any future updates to the FPGA. A special adapter would need to be used to connect to this port.

**Gamepad Ports** this header provides access for an NES or SNES style gameport interface.

**Case Audio Port** this header provides access to the headphone and microphone signals to connect to a PC case.

**Headphone Out** this is a standard headphone adapter port that can be used if the case does not provide headphone output.

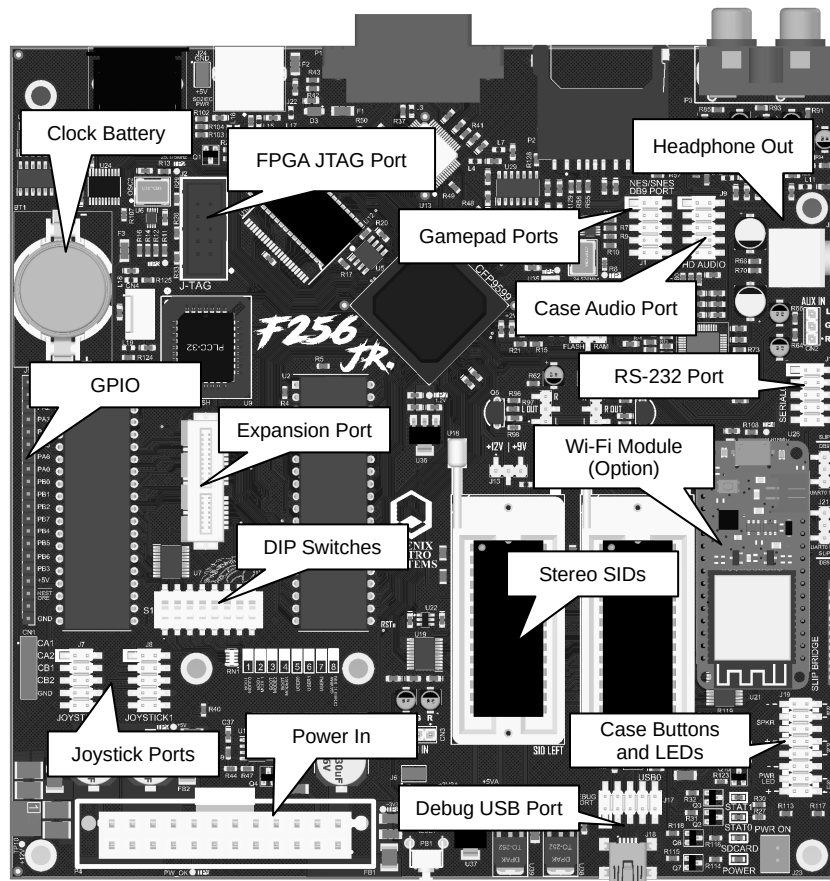


Figure 2.2: F256jr Top View

## 2.3 System Architecture

For being so small, the F256jr has a lot of components to it, so it is worth mapping out the over all structure of the computer. One of the main things to note is that most of what makes the F256jr the F256jr is the FPGA TinyVicky. TinyVicky provides the MMU, the various text and graphics engines, most of the I/O devices, controllers for the sound chips, and the controller



for the first 256KB of SRAM. The CPU, VIA, RTC, flash memory, and expansion RAM are separate from TinyVicky, although TinyVicky is still responsible for translating CPU addresses to the appropriate chip selection logic and bank selection. One of the most important aspects of this architecture is that, while the first 256KB of SRAM is accessible to both the CPU and TinyVicky, TinyVicky cannot access the data in the flash or in any expansion RAM.

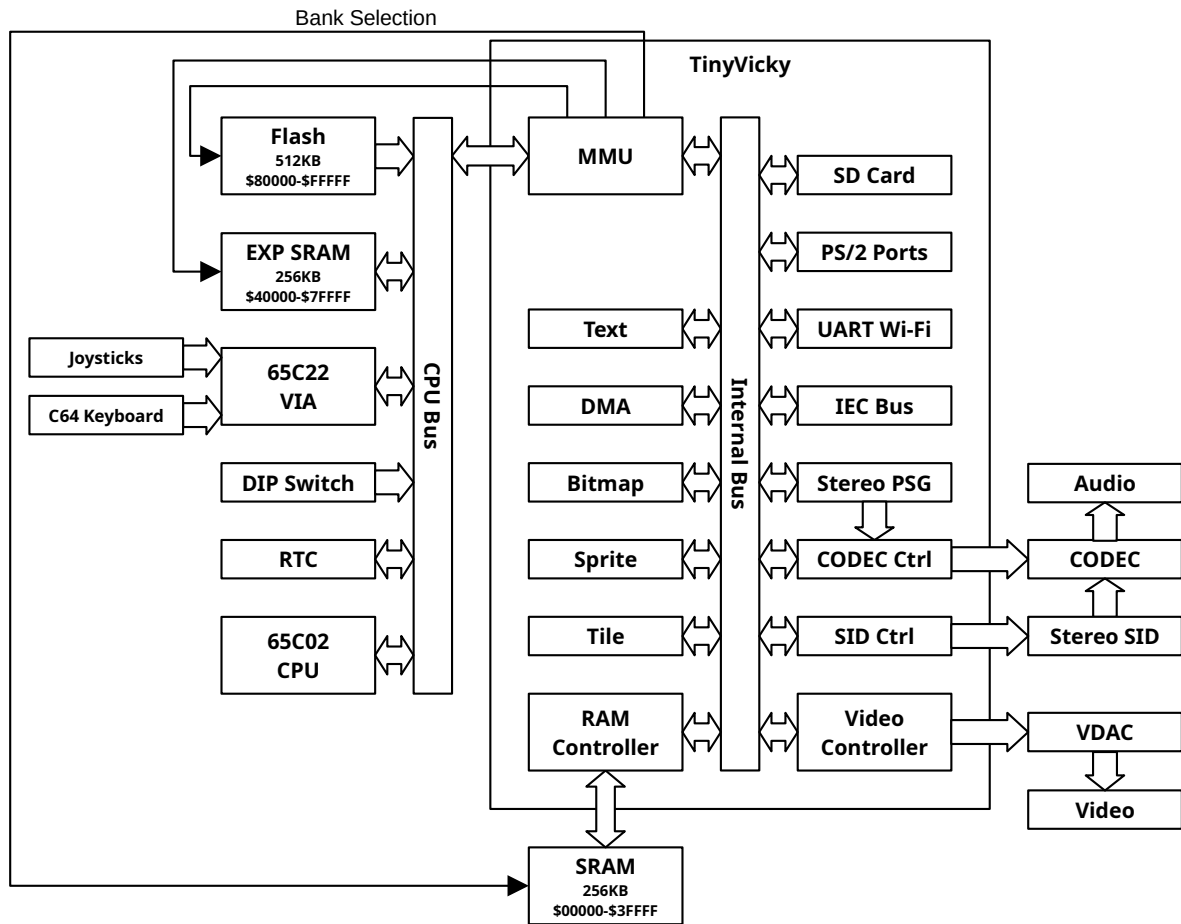


Figure 2.3: F256jr Internal Architecture

## Memory Management

The F256jr has 256 KB of system RAM which can be used for programs, data, and graphics. It also has 512 KB of read-only flash memory that can be used by whatever operating system is installed. Now, the 65C02 CPU at the heart of the F256jr has an address space of only 64 KB, so how can it access all this memory, not to mention the I/O devices on the system? The answer is paging. The F256jr has a special memory management unit (MMU) that can swap banks of memory or I/O registers into and out of the memory space of the CPU.

To understand how it all works, we first need to look at how RAM and flash memory are handled by the F256jr. Because there are 768 KB of total storage on the system, the system has a 20-bit address bus to manage the memory. RAM and flash have address on that 20-bit bus as shown in table 3.1.

| Start   | End     | Memory Type                      |
|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 0x00000 | 0x2FFFF | System RAM (256 KB)              |
| 0x30000 | 0x7FFFF | Reserved for future use (256 KB) |
| 0x80000 | 0xFFFFF | Flash Memory (512 KB)            |

Table 3.1: C256jr memory layout

This memory is divided up into “banks” of 8 KB each. The 16-bit address space of the CPU is also divided up into 8 KB banks. The MMU allows the program to assign any bank of system memory to any bank of the CPU’s memory. It does this through the use of memory look-up tables (LUT), which provide the upper bits needed to select the bank out of system memory for any given bank in CPU memory. It takes 13 bits to specify an address within 8 KB, which means for a 16-bit address from the CPU, the upper 3 bits are the bank number. Since the system bus is 20 bits, a bank number there is 7 bits. So a LUT must provide a 7-bit system bank number for each 3-bit bank number provided by the CPU.

The F256jr’s MMU supports up to four LUTs, only one of which is active at any given moment. This allows programs to define four different memory layouts and switch between them quickly, without having to alter a LUT on the fly.

| Bank | A[15..13] | Start  | End    |
|------|-----------|--------|--------|
| 0    | 000       | 0x0000 | 0x1FFF |
| 1    | 001       | 0x2000 | 0x3FFF |
| 2    | 010       | 0x4000 | 0x5FFF |
| 3    | 011       | 0x6000 | 0x7FFF |
| 4    | 100       | 0x8000 | 0x9FFF |
| 5    | 101       | 0xA000 | 0xBFFF |
| 6    | 110       | 0xC000 | 0xDFFF |
| 7    | 111       | 0xE000 | 0xFFFF |

Table 3.2: CPU Memory Banks

Of the eight CPU memory banks, one is special. Bank 6 can be mapped to memory as the rest can, or it can be mapped to I/O registers, which are not memory mapped in the same way as RAM and flash. All I/O devices on the F256jr therefore live within 0xC000 through 0xDFFF on the CPU, but only if the MMU is set to map I/O to bank 6. There is quite a lot of I/O to access on the F256jr, so there are four different banks of I/O registers and memory that can be mapped to bank 6 (see table 3.3).

The MMU is controlled through two main registers, which are always at locations 0x0000 and 0x0001 in the CPU’s address space (see table 3.4). These registers allow programs to select an active LUT, edit a LUT, and control bank 6:

**ACT\_LUT** these two bits specify which LUT (0 - 3) is used to translate CPU bus address to system bus addresses.

| I/O Bank | Purpose  |
|----------|--|
| 0        | Low level I/O registers                          |
| 1        | Text display font memory and graphics color LUTs |
| 2        | Text display character matrix                    |
| 3        | Text display color matrix                        |

Table 3.3: I/O Banks

| Address | R/W | Name         | 7       | 6 | 5        | 4 | 3 | 2          | 1       | 0 |
|---------|-----|--------------|---------|---|----------|---|---|------------|---------|---|
| 0x0000  | RW  | MMU_MEM_CTRL | EDIT_EN | — | EDIT_LUT | — | — | —          | ACT_LUT | — |
| 0x0001  | RW  | MMU_IO_CTRL  | —       | — | —        | — | — | IO_DISABLE | IO_PAGE | — |

Table 3.4: MMU Registers

**EDIT\_EN** if set (1), this bit allows a LUT to be edited by the program, and memory addresses 0x0010 - 0x0017 will be used by the LUT being edited. If clear (0), those memory locations will be standard memory locations and will be mapped like the rest of bank 0.

**EDIT\_LUT** if EDIT\_EN is set, these two bits will specify which LUT (0 - 3) is being edited and will appear in memory addresses 0x0010 - 0x0017.

**IO\_DISABLE** if set (1), bank 6 is mapped like any other memory bank. If clear (0), bank 6 is mapped to I/O memory.

**IO\_PAGE** if IO\_DISABLE is clear, these two bits specify which bank of I/O memory (0 - 3) is mapped to bank 6.

### 3.0.1 Example: Setting up a LUT

In this example, we will set up LUT 1 so that the first six banks of CPU memory map to the first banks of RAM, bank 7 of CPU memory maps to the first bank of flash memory, and bank 6 maps to the first I/O bank.

```

lda #$90      ; Active LUT = 0, Edit LUT#1
sta $0000

ldx #0        ; Start at bank 0
11: txa        ; First 6 banks will just be the first banks of RAM
sta $0010,x    ; Set the LUT mapping for this bank
inx           ; Move to the next bank
cpx #6        ; Until we get to bank 6
bne 11

lda #$40      ; Bank 7 maps to $80000, first bank of flash
sta $0017

stz $0001     ; Bank 6 should be I/O bank 0

lda #$01      ; Turn off LUT editing, and switch to LUT#1
sta $0000

```

# The Text Screen

The display on the F256jr is managed by TinyVicky, which is the smaller member of the Vicky family of display controllers in the other Foenix machines. TinyVicky provides several display engines to let your programs control the screen:

- Text: an old school style text screen where the characters to display are stored in a text matrix, and the shape of those characters comes from font memory. Text mode characters are 8 pixels wide by 8 pixels high.
- Bitmap: a simple pixel graphics mode that can be either 300x240 or 300x200.
- Sprite: an engine to display small, movable sprites on the screen.
- Tile: an engine to display images on the screen made up of tiles from a tile set.

The bitmap, sprite, and tile engines are considered graphics modes. TinyVicky will let you display either text by itself, a mix of the graphics modes by themselves, or text overlayed on top of the graphics modes.

## 4.1 Text Matrix

The memory for the characters to display on the screen is the text matrix, which is stored in I/O page 2. When this I/O page is swapped into the CPU address space, it appears at 0xC000. Each byte of memory corresponds to a single character on the screen in left to right, top to bottom order. The byte at 0xC000 is the upper left corner of the screen, the byte at 0xC001 is the next character to the right, and so on. The number of bytes per line is set by the base resolution of the screen, but is generally 80. When a border is displayed, while that limits the number of characters displayed, the layout in memory remains the same.

The text screen has two core resolutions, tied to the refresh rate of the screen: 80 by 60 at 60 Hz, and 80 by 50 at 70 Hz. Beyond that, the character display may be made double width or double height, or both. This gives the following possible character displays: 80 × 60, 40 × 60, 80 × 30, 40 × 30, 80 × 50, 40 × 50, 80 × 25, and 40 × 25.

### 4.1.1 Example: Print an A to the Screen

```
lda $0001      ; Save the current MMU setting
pha

lda #$02       ; Swap I/O Page 2 into bank 6
sta $0001

lda #'A'       ; Write 'A' to the upper left corner
sta $C000

pla           ; Restore the old MMU setting
sta $0001
```

Note: this example does not set the font or the color, so depending on how your F256jr is initialized, you may not see an actual “A” on the screen.

## 4.2 Text Color LUTs

Characters in TinyVicky text mode have two colors: the foreground and the background. The foreground and background colors are picked for each character out of two different palettes of 16 colors each. The colors in the palettes are picked from

the full range of colors F256jr can produce, which is more than 16 million colors. This is all managed through two color lookup tables (LUTs) provided by TinyVicky: a text foreground color LUT, and a text background color LUT.

The text LUTs are stored in I/O page 0. The foreground LUT starts at 0xD800, and the background LUT starts at 0xD840.

Each LUT is a list of 16 entries. Each entry is a set of four bytes: blue, green, red, and alpha. Each byte indicates how much of that primary color is present as a component of the actual color. The values range from 0 (none) to 255 (as much as possible). Currently, the alpha channel is not used and is there for future expansion.

| Index | R/W | Foreground | Background | 0       | 1        | 2      | 3 |
|-------|-----|------------|------------|---------|----------|--------|---|
| 0     | W   | 0xD800     | 0xD840     | BLUE_0  | GREEN_0  | RED_0  | X |
| 1     | W   | 0xD804     | 0xD844     | BLUE_1  | GREEN_1  | RED_1  | X |
| 2     | W   | 0xD808     | 0xD848     | BLUE_2  | GREEN_2  | RED_2  | X |
| 3     | W   | 0xD80C     | 0xD84C     | BLUE_3  | GREEN_3  | RED_3  | X |
| 4     | W   | 0xD810     | 0xD850     | BLUE_4  | GREEN_4  | RED_4  | X |
| 5     | W   | 0xD814     | 0xD854     | BLUE_5  | GREEN_5  | RED_5  | X |
| 6     | W   | 0xD818     | 0xD858     | BLUE_6  | GREEN_6  | RED_6  | X |
| 7     | W   | 0xD81C     | 0xD85C     | BLUE_7  | GREEN_7  | RED_7  | X |
| 8     | W   | 0xD820     | 0xD860     | BLUE_8  | GREEN_8  | RED_8  | X |
| 9     | W   | 0xD824     | 0xD864     | BLUE_9  | GREEN_9  | RED_9  | X |
| 10    | W   | 0xD828     | 0xD868     | BLUE_10 | GREEN_10 | RED_10 | X |
| 11    | W   | 0xD82C     | 0xD86C     | BLUE_11 | GREEN_11 | RED_11 | X |
| 12    | W   | 0xD830     | 0xD870     | BLUE_12 | GREEN_12 | RED_12 | X |
| 13    | W   | 0xD834     | 0xD874     | BLUE_13 | GREEN_13 | RED_13 | X |
| 14    | W   | 0xD838     | 0xD878     | BLUE_14 | GREEN_14 | RED_14 | X |
| 15    | W   | 0xD83C     | 0xD87C     | BLUE_15 | GREEN_15 | RED_15 | X |

Table 4.1: Text Color Lookup Tables

## 4.3 Color Matrix

The way that text color is selected for each character is through the color matrix. This section of memory is in I/O page 3 and starts at 0xC000 when page 3 is swapped into the CPU's address space. The layout is precisely the same as the text matrix (e.g. the character at 0xC123 in the text matrix has its color information at 0xC123 in the color matrix).

Each byte in the color matrix specifies two colors by providing an index into each of the two text LUTs. The most significant four bits is the number of the foreground color to use. The number of the least significant four bits is the number of the background color to use.

Let's say the color value at 0xC123 is 0x45. This means that the foreground color of the character is color 4 from the text foreground LUT, which starts at 0xD810 ( $0xD800 + 4 * 4$ ), and the background color of the character is 5 from the text background LUT, which starts at 0xD854 ( $0xD840 + 4 * 5$ ). If the bytes at 0xD810 are 0x00, 0x80, 0x80, that means the foreground will be a medium yellow. If the bytes at 0xD854 are 0xFF, 0x00, 0x00, that means the background will be blue.

### 4.3.1 Example: Make That "A" Yellow on Blue

```

lda $0001      ; Save the MMU state
pha

stz $0001      ; Switch in I/O Page #0

stz $D810      ; Set foreground #4 to medium yellow
lda #$80
sta $D811
sta $D812

lda #$FF       ; Set background #5 to blue
sta $D854
stz $D855
stz $D856

lda #$03       ; Switch to I/O page #3 (color matrix)
sta $0001

lda #$45       ; Color will be foreground=4, background=5

```

```

sta $C000

pla          ; Restore the MMU state
sta $0001

```

## 4.4 Entering Text Mode

Whether or not text mode is being displayed (and in what resolution) is controlled by the VICKY Master Control Registers (see table 4.2). For now, we're going to ignore most of the bits, which are used by other display modes. For text mode, we really only care about the TEXT bit, which needs to be set to turn on the text display. The resolution is controlled by DBL\_Y, DBL\_X, and CLK\_70. If we set 0xD000 to 0x01 and 0xD001 to 0x00, that will put us into text mode at  $80 \times 60$ .

| Address | R/W | 7 | 6     | 5      | 4    | 3      | 2     | 1     | 0      |
|---------|-----|---|-------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| 0xD000  | R/W | X | GAMMA | SPRITE | TILE | BITMAP | GRAPH | OVRLY | TEXT   |
| 0xD001  | R/W | X |       |        |      |        | DBL_Y | DBL_X | CLK_70 |

Table 4.2: VICKY Master Control Registers

**TEXT** if set (1), text mode display is enabled

**OVRLY** if set, text will be overlayed on graphics

**GRAPH** if set, one or more of the graphics modes may be used

**BITMAP** if set (and GRAPHICS is set), bitmap graphics may be displayed

**TILE** if set (and GRAPHICS is set), tile graphics may be displayed

**SPRITE** if set (and GRAPHICS is set), sprite graphics may be displayed

**GAMMA** if set, gamma correction is enabled

**CLK\_70** if set, the video refresh will be set to 70 Hz mode (640x400 text resolution, 320x200 graphics). If clear, the video refresh will be set to 60 Hz (640x480 text resolution, 320x240 graphics).

**DBL\_X** if set, text mode characters will be twice as wide (320 pixels)

**DBL\_Y** if set, text mode characters will be twice as high (240 or 200 pixels, depending on CLK\_70)

## 4.5 Text Fonts

Character shapes (or “glyphs,” if you prefer) are defined in font memory, which is in I/O page 1 and starts at 0xC000. The F256jr treats each character as a square of pixels, 8 pixels on a side. A pixel may be either in the foreground color for the character or in the background color for the character. The way this is managed is that each character has a sequence of eight bytes in the font memory. Each byte represents a row in the character, and each bit represents a pixel in the row (■ for foreground, □ for background).

As an example, let's say we wanted to have a fancy “F” for character 0:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |      |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|
| □ | □ | □ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | 0x1F |
| □ | □ | ■ | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | 0x30 |
| □ | □ | ■ | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | 0x30 |
| □ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | □ | □ | 0x7C |
| □ | ■ | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | 0x60 |
| ■ | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | 0xC0 |
| ■ | ■ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ | 0xC0 |

Table 4.3: A sample character

The glyph to display would be defined by the eight byte sequence 0x1F, 0x30, 0x30, 0x7C, 0x60, 0xC0, 0xC0. We would store that sequence in I/O page 0, starting at 0xC000 (0x1F), through 0xC007 (0xC0). After that was set, any time the byte 0x00 is written to screen memory, the glyph “F” would be displayed in that position.

## 4.6 Text Cursor

F256jr has a text mode cursor. The text mode cursor is implemented as a character which is displayed in a  $(x, y)$  position on the screen, visually replacing the character ordinarily at that position. It may be displayed continuously, or it may flash at one of four rates. When flashing, that position in the text screen will alternate between the text cursor and the character at that position in the text matrix. The color for the text cursor comes from the color for the position on the screen as specified in the color matrix. In other words, the text cursor does not have its own color.

| Address | R/W | Name | 7                | 6   | 5        | 4    | 3   | 2      | 1  | 0  |
|---------|-----|------|------------------|-----|----------|------|-----|--------|----|----|
| 0xD010  | R/W | CCR  | —                |     | FLASH_EN | RATE |     | ENABLE |    |    |
| 0xDC12  | R/W | CCH  | Cursor character |     |          |      |     |        |    |    |
| 0xDC14  | R/W | CURX | X7               | X6  | X5       | X4   | X3  | X2     | X1 | X0 |
| 0xDC15  | R/W |      | X15              | X14 | X13      | X12  | X11 | X10    | X9 | X8 |
| 0xDC16  | R/W | CURY | Y7               | Y6  | Y5       | Y4   | Y3  | Y2     | Y1 | Y0 |
| 0xDC17  | R/W |      | Y15              | Y14 | Y13      | Y12  | Y11 | Y10    | Y9 | Y8 |

Table 4.4: Text Cursor Registers

**ENABLE** if this flag is set (1), the cursor is enabled

**FLASH\_EN** if this flag is set (1), the cursor will flash. If clear (0), it will just be steady

**RATE** these two bits set the rate at which the cursor flashes (see table: )

**CCH** the character code for the cursor character to display

**CURX** the column number (16-bit) for the cursor

**CURY** the row number (16-bit) for the cursor

| RATE1 | RATE0 | Rate |
|-------|-------|------|
| 0     | 0     | 1s   |
| 0     | 1     | 1/2s |
| 1     | 0     | 1/4s |
| 1     | 1     | 1/5s |

Table 4.5: Text Cursor Flash Rates

The F256jr provides three separate graphics engines, providing programs with a choice in how they display information to the user. Those different engines do share certain features, however, and this chapter will cover the common elements. The three graphics engines are bitmaps, tile maps, and sprites. What is common between all these elements is how they determine what colors to display and how to determine, when two or more objects are in the same place, which object is displayed.

- Bitmaps are simple raster images. They are the size of the screen ( $320 \times 200$  or  $320 \times 240$ ) and cannot be moved. The TinyVicky chip used by the F256jr allows for three separate bitmaps to be displayed at the same time.
- Tile maps are images made up of tiles. The tiles come in a tile set, which is a raster image like a bitmap but provides 256 tiles. The tile map itself creates its image by indicating which tile is displayed at every position in the tile map. This mapping can be changed on the fly, allowing tile maps to be altered, and tile maps can also be scrolled horizontally and vertically to a limited degree. This allows for possibility for smooth scrolling of a tile map scene. TinyVicky allows for three separate tile maps to be displayed simultaneously.
- Sprites are small, square graphics elements that may be moved to any position on the screen. Sprites are typically used to represent game characters or very mobile UI elements. TinyVicky sprites may be 8, 16, 24, or 32 pixels on a side. There may be as many as 64 sprites active on the screen at once (without using special techniques).

## 5.1 Graphics Colors

The graphics modes use a color lookup system similar to text mode to determine colors. The pixel data for a tile, bitmap, or sprite is composed of bytes, where each byte specifies the color of that pixel. The byte serves as an index into a color lookup table where the red, green, and blue components of the desired color are stored (see figure: 5.1). As with text, the color components are bytes and specify an intensity from 0 (none of that primary color) to 255 (as much of that primary color as possible). Also, as with text, there is a fourth byte that is reserved for future use, meaning that each color takes up four bytes in the CLUT. In short, the byte order of a graphics CLUT entry is exactly the same as for a text CLUT.

However, there is a key difference from text mode. In text mode, there are two colors (foreground and background), and each color is one out of sixteen possibilities. With graphics modes, there are 256 possibilities. So a CLUT with only 16 entries will not work. There are therefore separate CLUTs for graphics. TinyVicky provides for four separate graphics CLUTs with 256 entries. Each graphic object on the screen specifies which graphics CLUT it will use for its colors. These CLUTs may be found in I/O page 0 (see table: 5.1).

| Address | R/W | Purpose         |
|---------|-----|-----------------|
| 0xD000  | R/W | Graphics CLUT 0 |
| 0xD400  | R/W | Graphics CLUT 1 |
| 0xD800  | R/W | Graphics CLUT 2 |
| 0xDC00  | R/W | Graphics CLUT 3 |

Table 5.1: Graphics Color Lookup Tables

### 5.1.1 Example: A Simple Gradient

Let's set up a CLUT so that we have the colors for a gradient fill between red and blue. In this example, `pointer` is a two byte variable down in zero page, which will be used to point to the first byte of the CLUT entry the code is updating. The `Y` register is being used to point to the individual components of the entry.



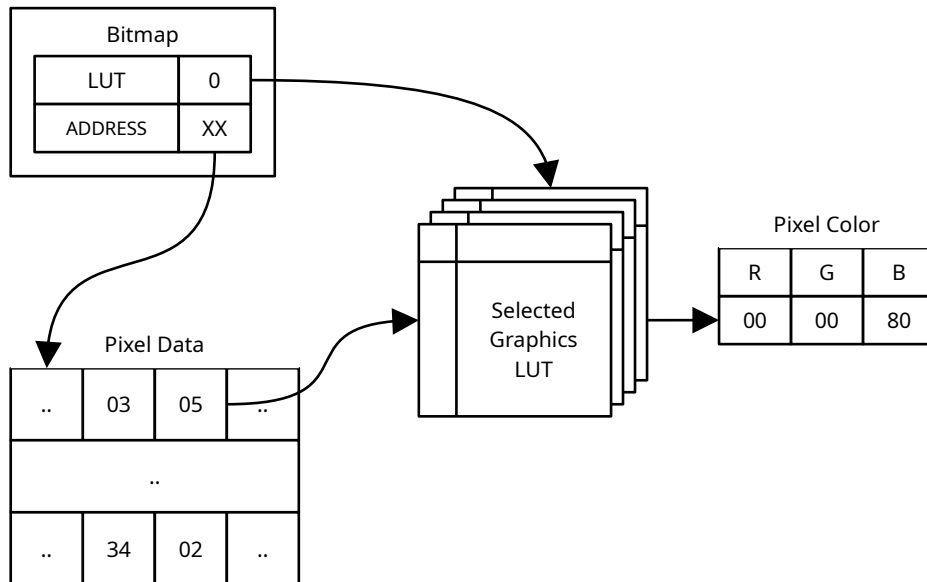


Figure 5.1: Bitmap Data to Pixels

```

MMU_IO_CTRL = $0001          ; MMU I/O Control Register
VKY_GR_CLUT_0 = $D000        ; Graphics LUT #0

;
; Initialize the LUT to greyscale from (255, 0, 0) to (0, 0, 255)
;

        lda #$01              ; Set the I/O page to #1
        sta MMU_IO_CTRL

        lda <VKY_GR_CLUT_0    ; pointer will be used to point to a particular LUT entry
        sta pointer
        lda #>VKY_GR_CLUT_0
        sta pointer+1

        ldx #0                ; Start with blue = 0

lut_loop:  ldy #0              ; And start at the offset for blue
          txa                  ; Take the current blue color level
          sta (pointer),y      ; Set the blue component
          iny

          lda #0
          sta (pointer),y      ; Set the green component to 0
          iny

          txa                  ; Get the blue component again
          eor #$ff             ; And compute the 2's complement of it
          inc a
          sta (pointer),y      ; Set the red component
          iny

          inx                  ; Go to the next color
          beq lut_done         ; If we are back to black, we're done with the LUT

          clc                  ; Move pointer to the next LUT entry (+ 4)
          lda pointer
          adc #4
          sta pointer
          lda pointer+1
          adc #0

```

```

sta pointer+1

bra lut_loop

```

```

lut_done:

```

## 5.2 Pixel Data

All three graphics engines arrange their pixel data in the same manner. They all use rectangular raster images as a base, although the width and height of the rectangle can vary. The pixels are placed in memory in sequential order in left-to-right and top-to-bottom order. That is, the first pixel in the sequence is the upper-left pixel in the image. The next pixel is the pixel to the immediate right and so on. If the image is  $w \times h$ , the position of a pixel at  $(x, y)$  in the list is  $y \times w + x$ .

## 5.3 Graphics Layers

Now, what happens if two sprites take up the same position or if a program displays a tile map and a bitmap together? How does TinyVicky determine what color to display at a given position? TinyVicky provides a flexible layering system with several layers. Elements in “near” layers (lower numbers) get displayed on top of elements in “far” layers (higher numbers). If a sprite in layer 0 says a pixel should be blue while a tile in layer 1 says it should be red, the pixel will be blue. Color 0, however, is special. It is always the transparent “color”. A pixel that is 0 in an element will be the color of whatever is behind it (or the global background color, if there is nothing behind it).

TinyVicky provides for seven layers, but they are split up a bit. Three of the layers are for bitmaps and tile maps. Only one bitmap or tile map can be placed in any of those three layers. The other four layers are for sprites only. Any sprite can be assigned to any of the sprite layers, and there can be multiple sprites in a layer. The sprite layers are interleaved with the bitmap and tile map layers (see figure: 5.2).

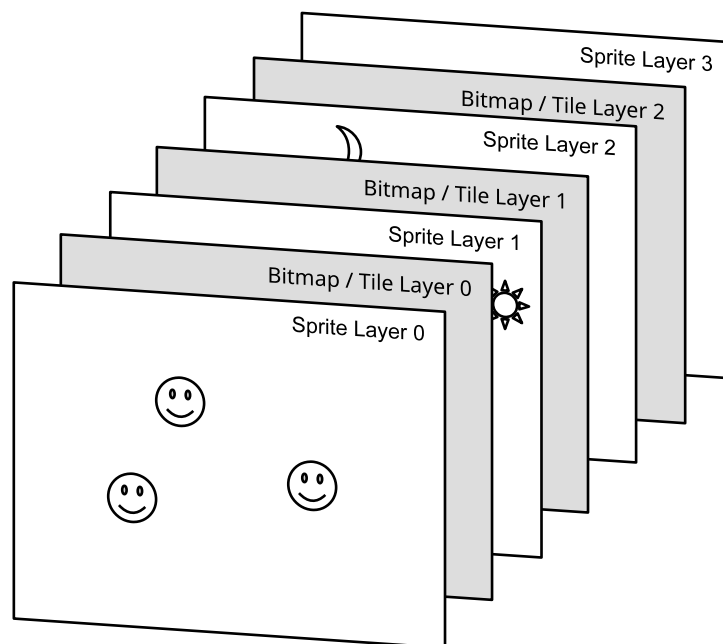


Figure 5.2: TinyVicky Graphic Layers

Bitmaps and tile maps are assigned to their layers using the layer control registers (see table: 5.2). The three fields LAYER0, LAYER1, and LAYER2 in the layer registers are three bit values, which indicate which graphical element to assign to that layer (see table: 5.3).

| Address | R/W | 7 | 6      | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2      | 1 | 0 |
|---------|-----|---|--------|---|---|---|--------|---|---|
| 0xD002  | R/W | — | LAYER1 |   |   | — | LAYER0 |   |   |
| 0xD003  | R/W | — |        |   |   |   | LAYER2 |   |   |

Table 5.2: Bitmap and Tile Map Layer Registers

| Code | Layer            |
|------|------------------|
| 0    | Bitmap Layer 0   |
| 1    | Bitmap Layer 1   |
| 2    | Bitmap Layer 2   |
| 4    | Tile Map Layer 0 |
| 5    | Tile Map Layer 1 |
| 6    | Tile Map Layer 2 |

Table 5.3: Bitmap and Tile Map Layer Codes

### 5.3.1 Example: Put Bitmap 0 on Layer 0

As an example of how to use layers, we can set things up for future examples by putting bitmap 0 in the front layer (0), tile map 0 in the next layer (1), and bitmap 1 in the back layer (2).

```
lda #$20          ; Layer 0 = BM 0, Layer 1 = TM 0
sta VKY_LAYER_CTRL_0
lda #$01          ; Layer 2 = BM 1
sta VKY_LAYER_CTRL_1
```

## 5.4 Bitmaps

TinyVicky allows for three full screen bitmaps to be displayed at once. These bitmaps are either  $320 \times 200$  or  $320 \times 240$ , depending on the value of the CLK\_70 bit of the master control register. A bitmap's pixel data contains either 64,000 bytes, or 76,800 bytes of data. In both cases, the pixel data is arranged from left to right and top to bottom. The first 320 bytes are the pixels of the first line (with the first pixel being the left-most). The second 320 bytes are the second line, and so on. Additionally, the bitmaps can independently use any of the four graphics CLUTs to specify the colors for those indexes. TinyVicky provides registers for each bitmap set the CLUT and the address of the bitmap:

| Address | R/W | Bitmap | 7    | 6    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 1   | 0      |
|---------|-----|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|--------|
| 0xD100  | R/W | 0      | —    |      |      |      |      | CLUT |     | ENABLE |
| 0xD101  | R/W |        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3  | AD2  | AD1 | AD0    |
| 0xD102  | R/W |        | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11 | AD10 | AD9 | AD8    |
| 0xD103  | R/W |        | —    |      |      |      |      | AD17 |     | AD16   |
| 0xD108  | R/W | 1      | —    |      |      |      |      | CLUT |     | ENABLE |
| 0xD109  | R/W |        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3  | AD2  | AD1 | AD0    |
| 0xD10A  | R/W |        | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11 | AD10 | AD9 | AD8    |
| 0xD10B  | R/W |        | —    |      |      |      |      | AD17 |     | AD16   |
| 0xD110  | R/W | 2      | —    |      |      |      |      | CLUT |     | ENABLE |
| 0xD111  | R/W |        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3  | AD2  | AD1 | AD0    |
| 0xD112  | R/W |        | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11 | AD10 | AD9 | AD8    |
| 0xD113  | R/W |        | —    |      |      |      |      | AD17 |     | AD16   |

Table 5.4: Bitmap Registers

**ENABLE** if set and both graphics and bitmaps are enabled in the Vicky Master Control Register (see table 4.2), then this bitmap will be displayed.

**CLUT** sets the graphics color lookup table to be used for this bitmap

**AD** give the address of the first byte of the pixel data within the 256 KB system RAM. Note that this address is relative to the system bus of 20 bits and is not based on the CPU's addressing.

To set up and display a bitmap, the following things need to be done. The order is not terribly important, although updates to the bitmap's pixel data after the bitmap is displaying will be visible. That could be desirable, depending on what the program is doing.

1. Enable bitmap graphics in the TinyVicky Master Control Register (see table: 4.2). This means you need to set both the GRAPH and BITMAP bits and either clear TEXT or set the OVRLY to display text and bitmap together.
2. Set up the pixel data for the bitmap somewhere in the first 256 KB of RAM.
3. Set the address of the bitmap's pixel data in the AD field.

4. Assign the bitmap to a layer using the layer control registers (see table: 5.2).
5. Set the bitmap's CLUT and ENABLE bit in its control register.

### 5.4.1 Example: Display a Bitmap

This example will build on the previous examples of setting up the CLUT and display a gradient on the screen. First, it needs to turn on the bitmap graphics:

```
MMU_MEM_CTRL = $0000          ; MMU Memory Control Register
MMU_IO_CTRL = $0001           ; MMU I/O Control Register
VKY_MSTR_CTRL_0 = $D000       ; Vicky Master Control Register 0
VKY_MSTR_CTRL_1 = $D001       ; Vicky Master Control Register 1
VKY_BMO_CTRL = $D100          ; Bitmap #0 Control Register
VKY_BMO_ADDR_L = $D101        ; Bitmap #0 Address bits 7..0
VKY_BMO_ADDR_M = $D102        ; Bitmap #0 Address bits 15..8
VKY_BMO_ADDR_H = $D103        ; Bitmap #0 Address bits 17..16

bitmap_base = $10000          ; The base address of our bitmap

stz MMU_IO_CTRL              ; Go back to I/O page #0

lda #$0C                     ; enable GRAPHICS and BITMAP. Disable TEXT
sta VKY_MSTR_CTRL_0          ; Save that to VICKY master control register 0
stz VKY_MSTR_CTRL_1          ; Make sure we're just in 320x240 mode (VICKY master control register 1)
```

Next, it needs to set up the bitmap: setting the address, CLUT, and enabling the bitmap:

```
;
; Turn on bitmap #0
;

stz VKY_BM1_CTRL            ; Make sure bitmap 1 is turned off

lda #$01                    ; Use graphics LUT #0, and enable bitmap
sta VKY_BMO_CTRL

lda #<bitmap_base           ; Set the low byte of the bitmap's address
sta VKY_BMO_ADDR_L
lda #>bitmap_base           ; Set the middle byte of the bitmap's address
sta VKY_BMO_ADDR_M
lda #'bitmap_base           ; Set the upper two bits of the bitmap's address
and #$03
sta VKY_BMO_ADDR_H
```

Now, the code needs to create the pixel data for the gradient in memory. This is a bit tricky on the F256jr, because the program is using the larger  $320 \times 240$  screen, which requires more than 64 KB of memory. In order to write to the entire bitmap, the program will have to work with the MMU to switch memory banks to access the whole bitmap. The program will use bank 1 (0x2000 – 0x3FFF) as its window into the bitmap, which will start at 0x10000. It will walk through the memory byte-by-byte, setting each pixel's color based on what line it is on (tracked in a line variable). Once it has written a bank's worth of pixels (8 KB), it will increment the bank number and update the MMU register. Once it has written 240 lines, it will finish.

NOTE: in the following code, `bm_bank` and `line` are byte variables, and `pointer` and `column` are two-byte variables in zero page (although really only `pointer` has to be there).

```
; Set the line number to 0
stz line

; Calculate the bank number for the bitmap
lda #(bitmap_base >> 13)
sta bm_bank

bank_loop: stz pointer          ; Set the pointer to start of the current bank
           lda #$20
           sta pointer+1
```

```

        ; Set the column to 0
        stz column
        stz column+1

        ; Alter the LUT entries for $2000 -> $bfff

        lda #$80          ; Turn on editing of MMU LUT #0, and work off #0
        sta MMU_MEM_CTRL

        lda bm_bank
        sta MMU_MEM_BANK_1 ; Set the bank we will map to $2000 - $3fff

        stz MMU_MEM_CTRL   ; Turn off editing of MMU LUT #0

        ; Fill the line with the color..

loop2:   lda line          ; The line number is the color of the line
        sta (pointer)

inc_column: inc column      ; Increment the column number
        bne chk_col
        inc column+1

chk_col:  lda column        ; Check to see if we have finished the row
        cmp #<320
        bne inc_point
        lda column+1
        cmp #>320
        bne inc_point

        lda line           ; If so, increment the line number
        inc a
        sta line
        cmp #240           ; If line = 240, we're done
        beq done

        stz column        ; Set the column to 0
        stz column+1

inc_point: inc pointer      ; Increment pointer
        bne loop2         ; If < $4000, keep looping
        inc pointer+1
        lda pointer+1
        cmp #$40
        bne loop2

        inc bm_bank        ; Move to the next bank
        bra bank_loop      ; And start filling it

done:    nop               ; Lock up here
        bra done

```

In addition to bitmaps and tiles, the F256jr provides support for sprites, which are mobile graphical objects that can appear anywhere on the screen. F256jr sprites are similar to the sprites on the Commodore 64 or player-missile graphics on the 8-bit Atari computers, but they are more flexible than either of those. A sprite is essentially a little bitmap that can be positioned anywhere on the screen. Each one can come in one of four sizes:  $8 \times 8$ ,  $16 \times 16$ ,  $24 \times 24$ , or  $32 \times 32$ . Each one can display up to 256 colors, picked from one of the four graphics color lookup tables.

A program for the F256jr can use up to 64 sprites, each one of which is controlled by a block of sprite control registers. The sprite control registers are in I/O page 0, and start at 0xD900. Each sprite takes up 8 bytes, so sprite 0 starts at 0xD900, sprite 1 starts at 0xD908, sprite 2 at 0xD910, and so on. The registers for each sprite are arranged within that block of 8 bytes as shown in table 6.1.

| Offset | R/W | Name           | 7    | 6    | 5    | 4    | 3     | 2    | 1    | 0    |
|--------|-----|----------------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| 0      | W   | Sprite Control | —    | SIZE |      |      | LAYER |      | LUT  |      |
| 1      | W   | Sprite Address | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3   | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 2      | W   |                | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11  | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 3      | W   |                | —    |      |      |      |       |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 4      | W   | Sprite X       | X7   | X6   | X5   | X4   | X3    | X2   | X1   | X0   |
| 5      | W   |                | X15  | X14  | X13  | X12  | X11   | X10  | X9   | X8   |
| 6      | W   | Sprite Y       | Y7   | Y6   | Y5   | Y4   | Y3    | Y2   | Y1   | Y0   |
| 7      | W   |                | Y15  | Y14  | Y13  | Y12  | Y11   | Y10  | Y9   | Y8   |

Table 6.1: Sprite Registers for a Single Sprite

These registers manage seven fields:

**ENABLE** if set, this particular sprite will be displayed (assuming the graphics and sprite engines are enabled in the Vicky Master Control Register).

**LUT** selects the graphics color lookup table to use in assigning colors to pixels

**LAYER** selects which sprite layer the sprite will be displayed on

**SIZE** selects the size of the sprite (see table 6.2)

**AD** the address of the bitmap (must be within the first 256 KB of RAM). The address is based on the 24-bit system bus, not the CPU's address space.

**X** the X coordinate where the sprite will be displayed (corresponds to the sprite's upper-left corner)

**Y** the Y coordinate where the sprite will be displayed (corresponds to the sprite's upper-left corner)

| SIZE |   | Meaning        |
|------|---|----------------|
| 0    | 0 | $32 \times 32$ |
| 0    | 1 | $24 \times 24$ |
| 1    | 0 | $16 \times 16$ |
| 1    | 1 | $8 \times 8$   |

Table 6.2: Sprite Sizes

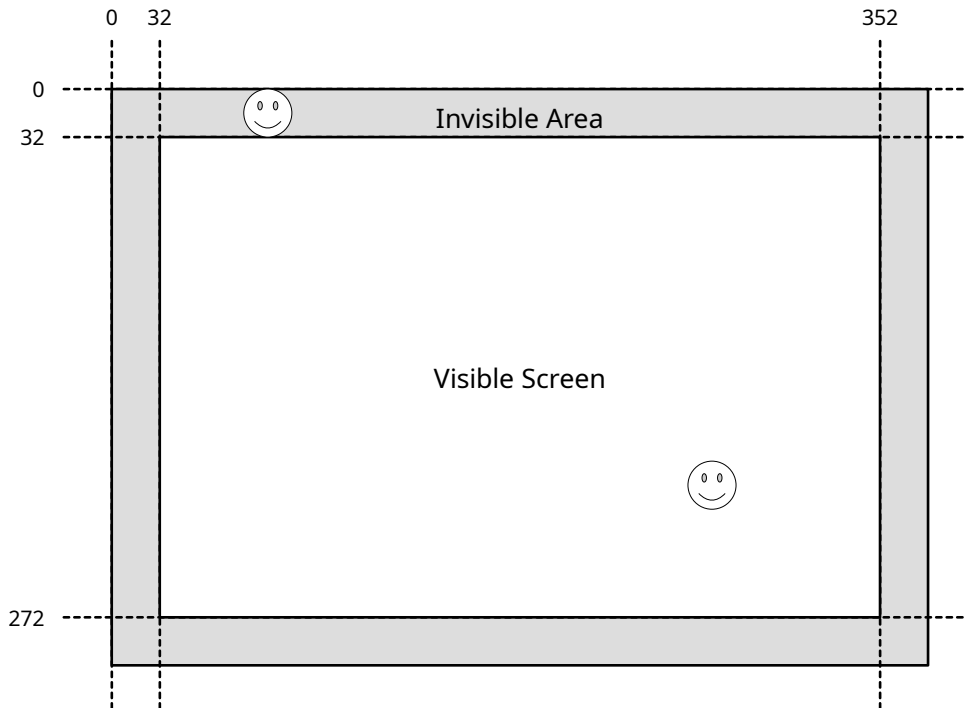


Figure 6.1: Sprite Positions

## 6.1 Sprite, Layers, and Display Priority

While a sprite can be assigned to any of four layers, this layer is only used for determining how the sprite interacts with bitmap or tile map graphics and not how sprites layer with each other. When sprites “collide,” a built-in sprite priority order is used to determine which sprite determines a pixel’s color. When two sprites are both trying to set the color of a pixel on the screen, the sprite with the lowest number is the one that determines the color. For example, if sprite 0 and sprite 5 are in the same location, it is sprite 0 that will display in the foreground. The sprite layers *cannot* be used to change this.

The best practice for assigning sprites is to place the images that need to be on top in the first sprites and those that need to be in the back in the higher numbered sprites. Use the LAYER field for the sprites to control how the sprites layer with the tile maps and bitmaps.

## 6.2 Sprite Positioning

The coordinate system for sprites is similar to that for bitmap graphics, but it is offset by 32 pixels in both the horizontal and vertical directions. There is a sort of margin area around the entire displayed screen that a sprite can be in and be either partially or completely hidden from view. The horizontal coordinate for a sprite ranges from 0 to 352. The vertical coordinate can range from 0 to 232 or 272, depending on the vertical resolution. For a sprite to have its top-left corner in the top-left of the screen, its position would need to be (32, 32). This coordinate system is the same for all sprites, regardless of their size. Figure: 6.1 shows how the coordinate system is arranged.

### 6.2.1 Example: Displaying a Sprite

In this example, we’ll just put a ball on the screen. First, the program needs to set up TinyVicky to be in sprite mode with no border and a light purple background:

```
MMU_IO_CTRL = $0001          ; MMU I/O Control Register

VKY_MSTR_CTRL_0 = $D000      ; Vicky Master Control Register 0
VKY_MSTR_CTRL_1 = $D001      ; Vicky Master Control Register 1
VKY_BRDR_CTRL = $D004        ; Vicky Border Control Register
VKY_BKG_COL_B = $D00D        ; Vicky Graphics Background Color Blue Component
VKY_BKG_COL_G = $D00E        ; Vicky Graphics Background Color Green Component
VKY_BKG_COL_R = $D00F        ; Vicky Graphics Background Color Red Component

VKY_SPO_CTRL = $D900         ; Sprite #0's control register
VKY_SPO_AD_L = $D901         ; Sprite #0's pixel data address register
VKY_SPO_AD_M = $D902
```

```

VKY_SPO_AD_H = $D903
VKY_SPO_POS_X_L = $D904          ; Sprite #0's X position register
VKY_SPO_POS_X_H = $D905
VKY_SPO_POS_Y_L = $D906          ; Sprite #0's Y position register
VKY_SPO_POS_Y_H = $D907

;
; Set up TinyVicky to display sprites
;
lda #$24                        ; Graphics and Sprite engines enabled
sta VKY_MSTR_CTRL_0
stz VKY_MSTR_CTRL_1            ; 320x240 @ 60Hz

stz VKY_BRDR_CTRL              ; No border

lda #$96                        ; Background: lavender
sta VKY_BKG_COL_R
lda #$7B
sta VKY_BKG_COL_G
lda #$B6
sta VKY_BKG_COL_B

```

Next, the program loads the sprite's colors into the CLUT (ptr\_src and ptr\_dst are 16-bit storage locations in zero page and are used as pointers):

```

;
; Load the sprite LUT into memory
;

lda #$01                        ; Switch to I/O Page #1
sta MMU_IO_CTRL

lda <balls_clut_start          ; Set the source pointer to the palette data
sta ptr_src
lda >balls_clut_start
sta ptr_src+1

lda <VKY_GR_CLUT_0             ; Set the destination pointer to Graphics CLUT 1
sta ptr_dst
lda >VKY_GR_CLUT_0
sta ptr_dst+1

ldx #0                          ; X is a counter for the number of colors copied
color_loop: ldy #0               ; Y is a pointer to the component within a CLUT color
comp_loop:  lda (ptr_src),y       ; Read a byte from the code
            sta (ptr_dst),y       ; And write it to the CLUT
            iny                   ; Move to the next byte
            cpy #4
            bne comp_loop         ; Continue until we have copied 4 bytes

inx                               ; Move to the next color
cmp #16
beq done_lut                     ; Until we have copied all 16

clc                               ; Advance ptr_src to the next source color entry
lda ptr_src
adc #4
sta ptr_src
lda ptr_src+1
adc #0
sta ptr_src+1

clc                               ; Advance ptr_dst to the next destination color entry
lda ptr_dst
adc #4

```



```

        sta ptr_dst
        lda ptr_dst+1
        adc #0
        sta ptr_dst+1

        bra color_loop          ; And start copying that new color

done_lut:  stz MMU_IO_CTRL      ; Go back to I/O Page 0

```

Finally, we point sprite 0 to the pixel data (which is included in the assembly code below), set its location on the screen (which will be the upper left corner of the screen), and then we turn on the sprite setting its LUT and LAYER in the process:

```

        ;
        ; Set up sprite #0
        ;
init_sp0:  lda #<balls_img_start      ; Address = balls_img_start
        sta VKY_SP0_AD_L
        lda #>balls_img_start
        sta VKY_SP0_AD_M
        stz VKY_SP0_AD_H

        lda #32
        sta VKY_SP0_POS_X_L          ; (x, y) = (32, 32)... should be upper-left corner of the screen
        stz VKY_SP0_POS_X_H

        lda #32
        sta VKY_SP0_POS_Y_L
        stz VKY_SP0_POS_Y_H

        lda #$41                      ; Size = 16x16, Layer = 0, LUT = 0, Enabled
        sta VKY_SP0_CTRL

```

Here is the pixel data for the sprite:

```

balls_img_start:
.byte $00, $00, $00, $00, $00, $00, $03, $02, $02, $01, $00, $00, $00, $00, $00, $00
.byte $00, $00, $00, $00, $05, $05, $04, $03, $03, $03, $03, $02, $00, $00, $00, $00
.byte $00, $00, $00, $07, $07, $07, $06, $05, $04, $04, $03, $03, $01, $00, $00, $00
.byte $00, $00, $07, $09, $0A, $0B, $0A, $08, $06, $05, $04, $03, $02, $01, $00, $00
.byte $00, $05, $07, $0A, $0D, $0E, $0D, $0A, $07, $05, $05, $04, $03, $01, $01, $00
.byte $00, $05, $07, $0B, $0E, $0E, $0E, $0C, $07, $05, $05, $04, $03, $01, $01, $00
.byte $03, $04, $06, $0A, $0D, $0E, $0D, $0A, $07, $05, $05, $04, $03, $02, $01, $01
.byte $02, $03, $05, $08, $0A, $0C, $0A, $08, $06, $05, $05, $04, $03, $02, $01, $01
.byte $02, $03, $04, $06, $07, $07, $07, $06, $05, $05, $05, $04, $03, $01, $01, $01
.byte $01, $03, $04, $05, $05, $05, $05, $05, $05, $05, $05, $03, $03, $01, $01, $01
.byte $00, $03, $03, $04, $05, $05, $05, $05, $05, $05, $04, $03, $02, $01, $01, $00
.byte $00, $02, $03, $03, $04, $04, $04, $04, $04, $03, $03, $02, $01, $01, $01, $00
.byte $00, $00, $01, $02, $03, $03, $03, $03, $03, $03, $02, $01, $01, $01, $00, $00
.byte $00, $00, $00, $01, $01, $01, $02, $02, $01, $01, $01, $01, $01, $00, $00, $00
.byte $00, $00, $00, $00, $01, $01, $01, $01, $01, $01, $01, $01, $00, $00, $00, $00
.byte $00, $00, $00, $00, $00, $00, $01, $01, $01, $01, $00, $00, $00, $00, $00, $00

```

Here are the colors for the sprite (note that this example is using only 15 colors, to make the example more understandable in print):

```

balls_clut_start:
.byte $00, $00, $00, $00
.byte $88, $00, $00, $00
.byte $7C, $18, $00, $00
.byte $9C, $20, $1C, $00
.byte $90, $38, $1C, $00
.byte $B0, $40, $38, $00
.byte $A8, $54, $38, $00
.byte $C0, $5C, $50, $00
.byte $BC, $70, $50, $00
.byte $D0, $74, $68, $00

```

```
.byte $CC, $88, $68, $00  
.byte $E0, $8C, $7C, $00  
.byte $DC, $9C, $7C, $00  
.byte $EC, $A4, $90, $00  
.byte $EC, $B4, $90, $00
```

The third graphics engine TinyVicky provides is the tile map system. The tile map system might seem a bit confusing at first, but really it is very similar to text mode, just made more flexible. In text mode, we have characters (256 of them). The shapes of the characters are defined in the font. What character is shown in a particular spot on the screen is set in the text matrix, which is a rectangular array of bytes in memory. In the same way, with the tile system we have tiles (256 of those, too). What those tiles look like are defined in a “tile set.” What tile is shown in a particular spot on the screen is set in the “tile map.” So there is an analogy:

|             |   |          |
|-------------|---|----------|
| character   | ≈ | tile     |
| font        | ≈ | tile set |
| text matrix | ≈ | tile map |

There are several differences with tile maps, however:

- A tile map may use tiles that are either  $8 \times 8$  pixels or  $16 \times 16$  pixels.
- A tile map can be scrolled smoothly horizontally or vertically.
- A tile may use 256 colors in its pixels as opposed to text mode’s two-color characters. In particular, this means that a tile set uses one byte per pixel, with that byte’s value being an index into a CLUT (as with bitmaps and sprites), where text mode fonts are one *bit* per pixel choosing between a foreground and background color.
- The tile map system allows for up to eight different tile sets to be used at the same time, where text mode has a single font.
- Up to three different tile maps can be displayed at one time, where text mode can only display one text matrix.
- A tile map can be placed on any one of three display layers, where text mode is always on top.

## 7.1 Tile Maps

There are three tile maps supported by TinyVicky, each of which has 13 bytes worth of registers (see table: 7.1). Tile map 0 starts at 0xD200. Tile map 1 starts at 0xD20C. Tile map 2 starts at 0xD218.

**TILE\_SIZE** if 0, tiles are 8 pixels wide by 8 tall. If 1, tiles are 16 pixels wide by 16 pixels tall

**ENABLE** if set, the tile map will be displayed (if GRAPH and TILES are set in TinyVicky’s Master Control Register)

**AD** the address of the tile map data in RAM

**MAP\_SIZE\_X** the width of the tile map in tiles (*i.e.* the number of columns)

**MAP\_SIZE\_Y** the height of the tile map in tiles (*i.e.* the number of rows)

**X** horizontal scroll in tile widths

**SSX** horizontal scroll in pixels. How these bits are used varies with the size. If tiles are 16 pixels wide, then flags SSX[3..0] are used. If tiles are only 8 pixels wide, then only SSX[3..1] are used.

**DIR\_X** the direction of the horizontal scroll.

| Offset | R/W | 7          | 6    | 5    | 4         | 3    | 2    | 1    | 0      |
|--------|-----|------------|------|------|-----------|------|------|------|--------|
| 0      | W   | —          |      |      | TILE_SIZE | —    |      |      | ENABLE |
| 1      | W   | AD7        | AD6  | AD5  | AD4       | AD3  | AD2  | AD1  | AD0    |
| 2      | W   | AD15       | AD14 | AD13 | AD12      | AD11 | AD10 | AD9  | AD8    |
| 3      | W   | —          |      |      |           |      |      | AD17 | AD16   |
| 4      | W   | MAP_SIZE_X |      |      |           |      |      |      |        |
| 5      | W   | RESERVED   |      |      |           |      |      |      |        |
| 6      | W   | MAP_SIZE_Y |      |      |           |      |      |      |        |
| 7      | W   | RESERVED   |      |      |           |      |      |      |        |
| 8      | W   | X3         | X2   | X1   | X0        | SSX3 | SSX2 | SSX1 | SSX0   |
| 9      | W   | DIR_X      | —    | X9   | X8        | X7   | X6   | X5   | X4     |
| 10     | W   | Y3         | Y2   | Y1   | Y0        | SSY3 | SSY2 | SSY1 | SSY0   |
| 12     | W   | DIR_Y      | —    |      |           | Y7   | Y6   | Y5   | Y4     |

Table 7.1: Tile Map Registers

**Y** vertical scroll in tile heights

**SSY** vertical scroll in pixels. How these bits are used varies with the size. If tiles are 16 pixels wide, then flags SSY[3..0] are used. If tiles are only 8 pixels wide, then only SSY[3..1] are used.

**DIR\_Y** the direction of the vertical scroll.

One way tile maps get their flexibility is that, where text mode uses 8-bit bytes for the text matrix, a tile map is actually a rectangular collection of 16-bit integers in memory. A tile map entry is divided up into two pieces: the first byte is the number of the tile to display in that position (much like the character code in text mode), but the upper byte contains attribute bits (see table: 7.2), which have two fields:

**SET** is the number of the tile set to use for this tile’s appearance

**CLUT** is the number of the graphics CLUT to use in setting the colors

This attribute system makes tiles very powerful. Effectively, a single tile map can display 1,024 completely unique shapes at one time by using all eight tile sets. Also, since the CLUT is set for each tile in the attributes, the number of tiles needed can be reduced by clever use of recoloring.

|    |    |    |      |    |     |   |             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|----|----|------|----|-----|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | 14 | 13 | 12   | 11 | 10  | 9 | 8           | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| —  |    |    | CLUT |    | SET |   | TILE NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Table 7.2: A Tile Map Entry

### 7.1.1 Scrolling

Tile maps can scroll across the screen both horizontally and vertically. The position of the tile map on the screen is controlled through the registers at offsets 8, 9, and 10. The horizontal position is controlled by DIR\_X, X, and SSX. The vertical position is controlled by DIR\_Y, Y, and SSY. The bits X and Y set the position in units of tiles. That is, the number in X[9..0] specifies how many complete tile columns the tile map is moved left or right. Likewise, Y[9..0] specifies how many tile rows the tile map is moved up or down. The SSX and SSY bits are used to specify how many rows of pixels within a tile the tile map is to move. SSX and SSY are therefore “smooth scroll” registers. They have a small trick to their use, however:

If the tile map uses tiles 16 pixels on a side, SSX[3..0] is used to specify the number of pixels to shift the tile map left or right: from 0 to 15. If, on the other hand, the tile map uses tiles 8 pixels on a side, only SSX[3..1] are used to specify the number of pixels to move: from 0 to 7. Note that SSX[0] is not used at all in this case. The SSY bits work in exactly the same way for smooth scrolling in the vertical direction.

Finally, DIR\_X and DIR\_Y are used to control the direction of the scrolling. If DIR\_X is 0, the tile map will move to the left. If DIR\_X is 1, the tile map will move to the right. If DIR\_Y is 0, the tile map will move to the left. If DIR\_Y is 1, the tile map will move down. Note that the representation of the amount of the scrolling is separate from the direction (set X to 3 to scroll by 3 tiles, whether that is 3 to the left or 3 to the right). One way to look at the scroll registers is that they are one’s complement numbers: a magnitude and a separate sign bit.

To make sure that scrolling will work properly, the tile map needs to be at least as big as the full screen (even if it is largely “empty”), and there should be blank columns to the left and the right and blank rows above and below. That is, it is best to leave an empty margin all the way around your working tile map.

## 7.2 Tile Sets

Essentially, a tile set is just a bitmap, but of a smaller size and arranged in a particular way. If the smaller ( $8 \times 8$ ) tiles are used, the tile set image is 128 pixels wide by 128 pixels tall. If the larger ( $16 \times 16$ ) tiles are used, the tile set image is 256 pixels wide by 256 pixels tall. The image is then divided up into 256 equal sized squares; that is 16 squares by 16 squares. Each square area of the tile set image is the image data for a particular tile. The tiles are arranged left-to-right and top-to-bottom. Tile 0 is in the upper left of the image and tile 255 is in the lower right. Table 7.3 shows graphically how they are arranged.

As with bitmaps and sprites, the pixels of the tiles are each an individual byte. The contents of the byte (0 – 255) serving as an index into a color lookup table. The pixels are also laid out in left-to-right and top-to-bottom order, just as with bitmaps and individual sprites.

| 128 or 256 pixels | 128 or 256 pixels |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                   | 0                 | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
|                   | 16                | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |
|                   | 32                | 33  | 34  | 35  | 36  | 37  | 38  | 39  | 40  | 41  | 42  | 43  | 44  | 45  | 46  | 46  |
|                   | 48                | 49  | 50  | 51  | 52  | 53  | 54  | 55  | 56  | 57  | 58  | 59  | 60  | 61  | 62  | 63  |
|                   | 64                | 65  | 66  | 67  | 68  | 69  | 60  | 71  | 72  | 73  | 74  | 75  | 76  | 77  | 78  | 79  |
|                   | 80                | 81  | 82  | 83  | 84  | 85  | 86  | 87  | 88  | 89  | 90  | 91  | 92  | 93  | 94  | 95  |
|                   | 96                | 97  | 98  | 99  | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 | 111 |
|                   | 112               | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 | 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 |
|                   | 128               | 129 | 130 | 131 | 132 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | 141 | 142 | 143 |
|                   | 144               | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 |
|                   | 160               | 161 | 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 | 169 | 170 | 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 |
|                   | 176               | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 | 181 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 187 | 188 | 189 | 190 | 191 |
|                   | 192               | 193 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 198 | 199 | 200 | 201 | 202 | 203 | 204 | 205 | 206 | 207 |
|                   | 208               | 209 | 210 | 211 | 212 | 213 | 214 | 215 | 216 | 217 | 218 | 219 | 220 | 221 | 222 | 223 |
|                   | 224               | 225 | 226 | 227 | 228 | 229 | 230 | 231 | 232 | 233 | 234 | 235 | 236 | 237 | 238 | 239 |
|                   | 240               | 241 | 242 | 243 | 244 | 245 | 246 | 247 | 248 | 249 | 250 | 251 | 252 | 253 | 254 | 255 |

Table 7.3: Arrangement of Tiles in a Tile Set Image

TinyVicky supports eight separate tile sets. Each one has a single three byte address register, which provides the address to the tile set pixel data, and a configuration register (see table: 7.4). To use them, a program simply stores the address of the pixel data to use into the appropriate address register. The configuration register contains a single SQUARE flag, which indicates the layout of the tile set image. If SQUARE is set (1), the tile set image is square ( $128 \times 128$  pixels for  $8 \times 8$  tiles or  $256 \times 256$  pixels for  $16 \times 16$  tiles). If SQUARE is clear (0), the tile set image is vertical ( $8 \times 2,048$  pixels for  $8 \times 8$  tiles, or  $16 \times 4,096$  pixels for  $16 \times 16$  tiles).

### 7.2.1 Example: A Simple Tile Map

```

;
; Set up TinyVicky to display tiles
;
lda #$14                                ; Graphics and Tile engines enabled
sta VKY_MSTR_CTRL_0
stz VKY_MSTR_CTRL_1                    ; 320x240 @ 60Hz

lda #$40                                ; Layer 0 = Bitmap 0, Layer 1 = Tile map 0
sta VKY_LAYER_CTRL_0
lda #$15                                ; Layer 2 = Tile Map 1
sta VKY_LAYER_CTRL_1

stz VKY_BRDR_CTRL                      ; No border

lda #$19                                ; Background: midnight blue
sta VKY_BKG_COL_R
lda #$19
sta VKY_BKG_COL_G
lda #$70
sta VKY_BKG_COL_B

```

To define the tile set, all we really need to do is to set the address register for the tile set to point to the actual pixel data. In this particular case, the code is just going to use tile set 0.

| Address | R/W | Tile Set | 7    | 6    | 5    | 4    | 3      | 2    | 1    | 0    |
|---------|-----|----------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|
| 0xD280  | W   | 0        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3    | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 0xD281  | W   |          | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11   | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 0xD282  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      |        |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 0xD283  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      | SQUARE | —    |      |      |
| 0xD284  | W   | 1        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3    | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 0xD285  | W   |          | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11   | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 0xD286  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      |        |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 0xD287  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      | SQUARE | —    |      |      |
| 0xD288  | W   | 2        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3    | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 0xD289  | W   |          | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11   | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 0xD28A  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      |        |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 0xD28B  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      | SQUARE | —    |      |      |
| 0xD28C  | W   | 3        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3    | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 0xD28D  | W   |          | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11   | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 0xD28E  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      |        |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 0xD28F  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      | SQUARE | —    |      |      |
| 0xD290  | W   | 4        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3    | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 0xD291  | W   |          | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11   | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 0xD292  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      |        |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 0xD293  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      | SQUARE | —    |      |      |
| 0xD294  | W   | 5        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3    | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 0xD295  | W   |          | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11   | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 0xD296  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      |        |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 0xD297  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      | SQUARE | —    |      |      |
| 0xD298  | W   | 6        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3    | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 0xD299  | W   |          | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11   | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 0xD29A  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      |        |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 0xD29B  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      | SQUARE | —    |      |      |
| 0xD29C  | W   | 7        | AD7  | AD6  | AD5  | AD4  | AD3    | AD2  | AD1  | AD0  |
| 0xD29D  | W   |          | AD15 | AD14 | AD13 | AD12 | AD11   | AD10 | AD9  | AD8  |
| 0xD29E  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      |        |      | AD17 | AD16 |
| 0xD29F  | W   |          | —    |      |      |      | SQUARE | —    |      |      |

Table 7.4: Tile Set Registers

```

;
; Set tile set #0 to our image
;

lda #<tiles_img_start
sta VKY_TSO_ADDR_L
lda #>tiles_img_start
sta VKY_TSO_ADDR_M
lda #'tiles_img_start
sta VKY_TSO_ADDR_H

```

Finally, the code sets up the tile map itself, setting the size of the tiles, the size of the tile map, setting the position of the screen in the tile map, and pointing to the tile map data.

```

;
; Set tile map #0
;

lda #$01 ; 16x16 tiles, enable
sta VKY_TMO_CTRL

lda #22 ; Our tile map is 20x15
sta VKY_TMO_SIZE_X
lda #16
sta VKY_TMO_SIZE_Y

```

```

lda #<tile_map                ; Point to the tile map
sta VKY_TMO_ADDR_L
lda #>tile_map
sta VKY_TMO_ADDR_M
lda #'tile_map
sta VKY_TMO_ADDR_H

lda #$0F                      ; Set scrolling (15, 0)
sta VKY_TMO_POS_X_L
lda #$00
sta VKY_TMO_POS_X_H

stz VKY_TMO_POS_Y_L
stz VKY_TMO_POS_Y_H

```

The tile map itself. In this case, we just define it in-line. The data is formatted to match the dimensions of the tile map for ease of reading. Note that the left-most and right-most columns are essentially blank, providing some buffer space to allow for scrolling. Similarly, there is a spare row on the bottom. This data is formatted as single hexadecimal digits, to make it easier to format this data on the page, but the data is actually stored as 16-bit values. This is taking advantage of the fact that the code is using CLUT 0 and LAYER 0 for the tiles and that there are no more than 16 tiles in the tile set.

```

tile_map:
.word $4,$1,$0,$1,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$4,$0,$4,$0
.word $0,$0,$1,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$4,$0,$0
.word $0,$1,$0,$1,$0,$0,$6,$7,$7,$7,$7,$7,$7,$7,$8,$0,$0,$4,$0,$4,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$9,$1,$2,$3,$4,$5,$0,$0,$0,$A,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$9,$2,$1,$2,$3,$4,$5,$0,$0,$A,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$9,$3,$2,$1,$2,$3,$4,$5,$0,$A,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$9,$4,$3,$2,$1,$2,$3,$4,$5,$A,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$9,$5,$4,$3,$2,$1,$2,$3,$4,$A,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$9,$0,$5,$4,$3,$2,$1,$2,$3,$A,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$9,$0,$0,$5,$4,$3,$2,$1,$2,$A,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$9,$0,$0,$0,$5,$4,$3,$2,$1,$A,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$B,$C,$C,$C,$C,$C,$C,$C,$C,$D,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$3,$0,$3,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$2,$0,$2,$0
.word $0,$0,$3,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$2,$0,$0,$0
.word $0,$3,$0,$3,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$2,$0,$2,$0
.word $0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$0,$2,$0,$0,$4

```

## Miscellaneous Features of TinyVicky

### 8.1 DIP Switches

F256jr has eight DIP switches on the board, which can be used to configure various options. The DIP switches are present on a single register (see table: 8.1). The DIP switches ground their signals when placed in their “on” positions. So a true or asserted value is 0, while the false or de-asserted value is 1.

| Address | R/W | 7     | 6     | 5     | 4     | 3    | 2 | 1 | 0 |
|---------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---|---|---|
| 0xD670  | R   | GAMMA | USER2 | USER1 | USER0 | BOOT |   |   |   |

Table 8.1: DIP Switch Register

There are five fields of switches:

**GAMMA** this is a dedicated switch to indicate if gamma correction should be turned on (0) or not (1)

**USER0, USER1, USER2** these three switches are reserved for use by the operating system or programs. On is 0, off is 1.

**BOOT** these four switches provide information to the operating system for boot options.

### 8.2 The Border

The F256jr’s display can have a border, which overlays all the other display elements. The border can have any color which TinyVicky can display, and can have a width from 0 to 31 pixels. The border can also be turned off, leaving the full display for graphics or text.

When using graphics modes, the border simply hides the graphics elements underneath it. For text mode, things are a little different. The text display will be shifted so that the character at (0, 0) is still the upper-left character. The layout of the text and color matrixes do not change, however. Cells that are under the right side or bottom of the border will still be in the matrixes but will not be displayed. Another way to put it is that, if the text resolution is 80 characters wide, it will remain 80 characters per line even if the border is on and only 76 characters are displayed.

| Address | R/W | Name        | 7                               | 6        | 5 | 4      | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0      |
|---------|-----|-------------|---------------------------------|----------|---|--------|---|---|---|--------|
| 0xD004  | R/W | BRDR_CTRL   | —                               | SCROLL_X |   |        | — |   |   | ENABLE |
| 0xD005  | R/W | BRDR_BLUE   | Blue component of border color  |          |   |        |   |   |   |        |
| 0xD006  | R/W | BRDR_GREEN  | Green component of border color |          |   |        |   |   |   |        |
| 0xD007  | R/W | BRDR_RED    | Red component of border color   |          |   |        |   |   |   |        |
| 0xD008  | R/W | BRDR_WIDTH  | —                               |          |   | SIZE_X |   |   |   |        |
| 0xD009  | R/W | BRDR_HEIGHT | —                               |          |   | SIZE_Y |   |   |   |        |

Table 8.2: Border Registers

**ENABLE** when set (1), the border will be displayed

**SCROLL\_X** the number of pixels the border should be shifted in the horizontal direction

**BBR** the amount of blue in the border (0 = none, 255 = maximum amount)



**BGR** the amount of green in the border (0 = none, 255 = maximum amount)

**BRR** the amount of red in the border (0 = none, 255 = maximum amount)

**SIZE\_X** the width of the left and right sides of the border in pixels (from 0 to 31)

**SIZE\_X** the height of top and bottom of the border in pixels (from 0 to 31)

### 8.3 Background Color

In text mode, the background color is determined by the color matrix and the text color LUTs. For the graphics modes, however, a background color is specified separately. There are three registers to specify the background color's red, green, and blue components (see table: 8.3). This is the color that will be displayed in graphics modes, if all the layers specify that a given pixel has the color 0 (which is always the transparent pixel color).

| Address | R/W | Name       | 7                                   | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
|---------|-----|------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0xD00D  | R/W | BGND_BLUE  | Blue component of background color  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 0xD00E  | R/W | BGND_GREEN | Green component of background color |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 0xD00F  | R/W | BGND_RED   | Red component of background color   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Table 8.3: Background Color Registers

### 8.4 Line Interrupt and Beam Position

TinyVicky can trigger an interrupt when the display has reached a given raster line. This can be useful for split-screen style effects or other programming tricks that work off of partitioning the screen into separate areas. To use this feature, a program would enable the line interrupt and set a register to the number of the line on the screen when the interrupt should be triggered. In addition to setting a line interrupt, there are two 12-bit registers that allow the program to see what line and column is TinyVicky is currently drawing. The addresses for all these registers overlap. The line interrupt registers are write-only, and the current beam position registers are read only (see table: 8.4)

| Address | R/W | Name      | 7        | 6  | 5  | 4  | 3   | 2   | 1  | 0  |        |
|---------|-----|-----------|----------|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|--------|
| 0xD018  | W   | LINT_CTRL | —        |    |    |    |     |     |    |    | ENABLE |
| 0xD019  | W   | LINT_L    | L7       | L6 | L5 | L4 | L3  | L2  | L1 | L0 |        |
| 0xD01A  | W   |           | —        |    |    |    | L11 | L10 | L9 | L8 |        |
| 0xD01B  | W   | —         | Reserved |    |    |    |     |     |    |    |        |
| 0xD018  | R   | RAST_COL  | X7       | X6 | X5 | X4 | X3  | X2  | X1 | X0 |        |
| 0xD019  | R   |           | —        |    |    |    | X11 | X10 | X9 | X8 |        |
| 0xD01A  | R   | RAST_ROW  | Y7       | Y6 | Y5 | Y4 | Y3  | Y2  | Y1 | Y0 |        |
| 0xD01B  | R   |           | —        |    |    |    | Y11 | Y10 | Y9 | Y8 |        |

Table 8.4: Line Interrupt and Beam Position Registers

**ENABLE** if set (1), TinyVicky will trigger line interrupts (write only)

**LINT\_L** the line number (12 bits) on which to trigger the next line interrupt (write only)

**RAST\_COL** the number (12 bits) of the current pixel being drawn (read only)

**RAST\_ROW** the number (12 bits) of the current line being drawn (read only)

### 8.5 Gamma Correction

TinyVicky has the ability to apply gamma correction to the video signal. This allows users to adjust their images to match their monitors. Activating gamma correction is done by setting the GAMMA flag in the Vicky master control register (see table: 4.2). When enabled, colors will be adjusted through the gamma look up tables. There are three tables: blue is at 0xC000, green is at 0xC400, and red is at 0xC800.

The way that the gamma look up tables work is very straight forward. When drawing a pixel, the separate color components are used as indexes into their respective gamma LUTs, and the value in the LUT is used as the new component value. For instance, if a pixel's color is  $(r, g, b)$ , then the new color is:

```
r_corrected = gamma_red[r]  
g_corrected = gamma_green[g]  
b_corrected = gamma_blue[b]
```

On power up, TinyVicky sets up a default gamma correction of 1.8, although software (either the user's program or the operating system) has to turn on gamma correction to use it.

The F256jr supports two different sound chips, although only one is built-in. The built-in sound chip is the SN76489 (called the “PGS” here), which was used by many vintage machines including the TI99/4A, the BBC Micro, the IBM PCjr, and the Tandy 1000. On the F256jr, the PSG is implemented as two stereo PSGs in the FPGA. The other chip supported is the Commodore SID chip (6581 or 8580). The SID is not installed by default, but the board comes with two sockets for SID chips. The F256jr supports the original 6581, the lower voltage 8580, and the modern SID replacement projects.

## 9.1 CODEC

The F256jr (and indeed all the Foenix computers up to this point) makes use of a WM8776 CODEC chip. You can think of the CODEC as the central switchboard for audio on the F256jr. The CODEC chip has inputs for several different audio channels (both analog and digital), and each audio device on the F256jr is routed to an input on the CODEC. The CODEC then has outputs for audio line level and headphones. The CODEC will convert analog inputs to digital, mix all the audio inputs according to its settings, and then convert the resulting digital audio to analog and drive the outputs. With the CODEC, you can turn on and off the various input channels, control the volume, and mute or enable the different outputs.

The CODEC is a rather complex chip with many features, and the full details are really beyond the scope of this document. Most programs for the F256jr will not need to use it or will only use it in very specific ways. Therefore, this document will really just show how to access it and initialize it and then leave a reference to the data sheet for the chip that has the complete data on the chip.

Raw access to the CODEC chip is fairly complex. Fortunately, the FPGA on the F256jr provides three registers to simply access for programs. The FPGA takes care of the actual timing of transmitting data to the CODEC, serializing the data correctly, and so on. All the program needs to know about are the correct format for the 16-bit command words that are sent to the CODEC, and then a status register to monitor.

The CODEC commands are based around a number of registers. Each command is really just writing values to those registers. The command words are 16-bits wide, with the 7 most significant bits being the number of the register to write, and the 9 least significant bits being the data to write. For instance, there is a register to enable and disable the headphone output. Bit 0 of the register controls whether or not the headphone output is enabled (0 = enabled, 1 = disabled). The register number is 13. So, to disable the output on the headphones, we would need to write 000000001 to register 13. The register number in binary is 0001101, So the command word we would need to send is 0001101000000001\ or 0x1A01.

The registers for the CODEC on the F256jr are:

| Address | R/W | 7  | 6  | 5  | 4  | 3  | 2  | 1  | 0     | Purpose      |
|---------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|--------------|
| 0xD620  | W   | D7 | D6 | D5 | D4 | D3 | D2 | D1 | D0    | Command Low  |
| 0xD621  | W   | R6 | R5 | R4 | R3 | R2 | R1 | R0 | D8    | Command High |
| 0xD622  | R   | X  |    |    |    |    |    |    | BUSY  | Status       |
| 0xD622  | W   | X  |    |    |    |    |    |    | START | Control      |

Table 9.1: CODEC Control Registers

Bit 0 of the status/control register both triggers sending the command (on a write) and indicates if the CODEC is busy receiving a command (writing a 1 triggers the sending of the command, reading a 1 indicates that the CODEC is busy).

So to mute the headphones, we would issue the following:

```
wait:  lda $D622    ; Wait for the CODEC to be ready
        and #$01
        cmp #$01
        beq wait   ; Bit 0 = 1, CODEC is still busy... keep waiting
```

```

lda #$01 ; Set command to %0001101000000001, or R13 <- 000000001
sta $D620
lda #$1A
sta $D621

lda #$01 ; Trigger the transmission of the command to the CODEC
sta $D622

```

## 9.2 Using the PSGs

The F256jr has support for dual SN76489 (PSG) sound chips, emulated in the FPGA. The SN76489 was used in several vintage machines, including the TI-99/4A, BBC Micro, IBM PCjr, and Tandy 1000. The chip provides three independent square-wave tone generators and a single noise generator. Each tone generator can produce tones of several frequencies in 16 different volume levels. The noise generator can produce two different types of noise in three different tones at 16 different volume levels.

Access to each PSG is through a single memory address, but that single address allows the CPU to write a value to eight different internal registers. For each tone generator, there is a ten bit frequency (which takes two bytes to set), and a four bit “attenuation” or volume level. For the noise generator, there is a noise control register and a noise attenuation register.

| R2 | R1 | R0 | Channel | Purpose     |
|----|----|----|---------|-------------|
| 0  | 0  | 0  | Tone 1  | Frequency   |
| 0  | 0  | 1  | Tone 1  | Attenuation |
| 0  | 1  | 0  | Tone 2  | Frequency   |
| 0  | 1  | 1  | Tone 2  | Attenuation |
| 1  | 0  | 0  | Tone 3  | Frequency   |
| 1  | 0  | 1  | Tone 3  | Attenuation |
| 1  | 1  | 0  | Noise   | Control     |
| 1  | 1  | 1  | Noise   | Attenuation |

Table 9.2: SN76489 Channel Registers

There are four basic formats of bytes that can be written to the port:

| D7 | D6 | D5 | D4 | D3 | D2 | D1 | D0 | Purpose   |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 1  | R2 | R1 | R0 | F3 | F2 | F1 | F0 | Set the low four bits of the frequency            |
| 0  | X  | F9 | F8 | F7 | F6 | F5 | F4 | Set the high seven bits of the frequency          |
| 1  | 1  | 1  | 0  | X  | FB | F1 | F0 | Set the type and frequency of the noise generator |
| 1  | R2 | R1 | R0 | A3 | A2 | A1 | A0 | Set the attenuation (four bits)                   |

Table 9.3: SN76489 Command Formats

Note: there is a PSG sound device for the left stereo channel and one for the right. The left channel PSG can be accessed at 0xD600, and the right channel at 0xD610. Both are in I/O page 0.

### 9.2.1 Attenuation

All the channels support attenuation or volume control. The PSG expresses the loudness of the sound with how much it is attenuated or dampened. Therefore, an attenuation of 0 will be the loudest sound, while an attenuation of 15 will make the channel silent.

### 9.2.2 Tones

Each of the three sound channels generates simple square waves. The frequency generated depends upon the system clock driving the chip and the number provided in the frequency register. The relationship is:

$$f = \frac{C}{32n}$$

where  $f$  is the frequency produced,  $C$  is the system clock, and  $n$  is the number provided in the register. Expressed a different way, the value we need to produce a given frequency can be computed as:

$$n = \frac{C}{32f}$$

For the F256jr the system clock is 3.57 MHz, which means:

$$n = \frac{111,563}{f}$$

So, let us say we want channel 1 to produce a concert A, which is 440Hz at maximum volume. The value we need to set for the frequency code is  $111,320/440 = 253$  or 0xFE. We can do that with this code:

```
lda #$90      ; %10010000 = Channel 1 attenuation = 0
sta $D600     ; Send it to left PSG
sta $D610     ; Send it to right PSG

lda #$8E      ; %10001100 = Set the low 4 bits of the frequency code
sta $D600     ; Send it to left PSG
sta $D610     ; Send it to right PSG

lda #$0F      ; %00001111 = Set the high 7 bits of the frequency
sta $D600     ; Send it to left PSG
sta $D610     ; Send it to right PSG
```

To turn it off later, we just need to write:

```
lda #$9F      ; %10011111 = Channel 1 attenuation = 15 (silence)
sta $D600     ; Send it to left PSG
sta $D610     ; Send it to right PSG
```

### 9.2.3 Noise

Noise works differently from tones, since it is random. The noise generator on the PSG can produce two styles of noise determined by the FB bit: white noise (FB = 1), and periodic (FB = 0). The noise has a sort of frequency, based on either the system clock or the current output of tone 3. This frequency is set using the F1 and F0 bits:

| F1 | F0 | Frequency     |
|----|----|---------------|
| 0  | 0  | $C/512$       |
| 0  | 1  | $C/1024$      |
| 1  | 0  | $C/2048$      |
| 1  | 1  | Tone 3 output |

Table 9.4: SN76489 Noise Frequencies

As an example, to set white noise of the highest frequency ( $C/512$  or around 6 kHz), we could use the code:

```
lda #$F0      ; %10010000 = Channel 3 attenuation = 0
sta $D600     ; Send it to left PSG
sta $D610     ; Send it to right PSG

lda #$E4      ; %11100100 = white noise, f = C/512
sta $D600     ; Send it to left PSG
sta $D610     ; Send it to right PSG
```

To turn it off later, we just need to write:

```
lda #$FF      ; %11111111 = Channel 3 attenuation = 15 (silence)
sta $D600     ; Send it to left PSG
sta $D610     ; Send it to right PSG
```

## 9.3 Using the SIDs

The SID is a full-featured analog sound synthesizer, and a full explanation of how to use it is really beyond the scope of this document. In this document, I will provide just an introduction to the chip and list the register addresses for the SID chips that can be installed on the F256jr (see table 9.5).

The SID chip provides three independent voices (so it can play three notes at once). The three voices are almost identical in their features, with voice 3 being the only one different. Each voice can produce one of four basic sound wave forms: randomized noise, square waves, saw tooth waves, and triangle waves. These waves can be generated over a range of frequencies, and for the square waves, the width of the pulse (*i.e.* duty cycle) may be adjusted.

The type of wave form produced by a voice is controlled by the NOISE, PULSE, SAW, and TRI bits. If NOISE is set to 1, the output is random noise. If PULSE is set, a square wave is produced. If SAW is set, a saw tooth wave is produced. If TRI is set, the voice produces a triangle wave. If PULSE is set, the duty cycle of the square wave (or pulse width, if you prefer) is set by the PW bits according to the formula  $PW/40.95$  (expressed as a percent).

| Voice | Offset | R/W | 7      | 6     | 5    | 4    | 3    | 2      | 1      | 0      |
|-------|--------|-----|--------|-------|------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| V1    | 0      | W   | F7     | F6    | F5   | F4   | F3   | F2     | F1     | F0     |
|       | 1      | W   | F15    | F14   | F13  | F12  | F11  | F10    | F9     | F8     |
|       | 2      | W   | PW7    | PW6   | PW5  | PW4  | PW3  | PW2    | PW1    | PW0    |
|       | 3      | W   | X      |       |      |      | PW11 | PW10   | PW9    | PW8    |
|       | 4      | W   | NOISE  | PULSE | SAW  | TRI  | TEST | RING   | SYNC   | GATE   |
|       | 5      | W   | ATK3   | ATK2  | ATK1 | ATK0 | DLY3 | DLY2   | DLY1   | DLY0   |
|       | 6      | W   | STN3   | STN2  | STN1 | STN0 | RLS3 | RLS2   | RLS1   | RLS0   |
| V2    | 7      | W   | F7     | F6    | F5   | F4   | F3   | F2     | F1     | F0     |
|       | 8      | W   | F15    | F14   | F13  | F12  | F11  | F10    | F9     | F8     |
|       | 9      | W   | PW7    | PW6   | PW5  | PW4  | PW3  | PW2    | PW1    | PW0    |
|       | 10     | W   | X      |       |      |      | PW11 | PW10   | PW9    | PW8    |
|       | 11     | W   | NOISE  | PULSE | SAW  | TRI  | TEST | RING   | SYNC   | GATE   |
|       | 12     | W   | ATK3   | ATK2  | ATK1 | ATK0 | DLY3 | DLY2   | DLY1   | DLY0   |
|       | 13     | W   | STN3   | STN2  | STN1 | STN0 | RLS3 | RLS2   | RLS1   | RLS0   |
| V3    | 14     | W   | F7     | F6    | F5   | F4   | F3   | F2     | F1     | F0     |
|       | 15     | W   | F15    | F14   | F13  | F12  | F11  | F10    | F9     | F8     |
|       | 16     | W   | PW7    | PW6   | PW5  | PW4  | PW3  | PW2    | PW1    | PW0    |
|       | 17     | W   | X      |       |      |      | PW11 | PW10   | PW9    | PW8    |
|       | 18     | W   | NOISE  | PULSE | SAW  | TRI  | TEST | RING   | SYNC   | GATE   |
|       | 19     | W   | ATK3   | ATK2  | ATK1 | ATK0 | DLY3 | DLY2   | DLY1   | DLY0   |
|       | 20     | W   | STN3   | STN2  | STN1 | STN0 | RLS3 | RLS2   | RLS1   | RLS0   |
|       | 21     | W   | X      |       |      |      |      | FC2    | FC1    | FC0    |
|       | 22     | W   | FC10   | FC9   | FC8  | FC7  | FC6  | FC5    | FC4    | FC3    |
|       | 23     | W   | RES3   | RES2  | RES1 | RES0 | EXT  | FILTV3 | FILTV2 | FILTV1 |
|       | 24     | W   | MUTEV3 | HIGH  | BAND | LOW  | VOL3 | VOL2   | VOL1   | VOL0   |

Table 9.5: SID Registers

The frequency of the waveform is set by the bits  $F[15..0]$ . This number sets the actual frequency according to the formula:

$$f_{\text{out}} = \frac{FC}{16777216}$$

where:  $f_{\text{out}}$  is the output frequency,  $F$  is the number set in the registers, and  $C$  is the system clock driving the SIDs. For the F256jr,  $C$  is 1.022714 MHz, so the formula for the F256jr is:

$$f_{\text{out}} = \frac{F}{16.405}$$

or:

$$F = 16.404 f_{\text{out}}$$

For example: concert A, which is 440 Hz, would be:  $F = 16.405 \times 440 \approx 7218$ . So, to play a concert A, you would set the frequency to 7218, or 0x1C32.

Each of the three voices has a sound “envelope” which changes the volume of the sound during the duration of the note. There are four phases to the sound envelope: attack, decay, sustain, and release (ADSR). When the note first starts playing (that is, the GATE bit for the voice is set to 1), it starts at the attack phase when the volume starts at zero and goes up to the current maximum volume. How fast this happens is determined by the attack rate (ATK3-0 in the registers). Once the volume reaches the maximum, the volume goes down again to the sustain volume. This phase is called decay, and the speed at which the volume drops is determined by the DCY3-0 register values. Next, the envelope enters the sustain phase, where the volume is held steady at the sustain level (STN3-0). It stays here until the note is to stop playing (GATE is set to 0). At this point, the envelope enters the release stage, where the volume drops back to zero at the release rate (RLS3-0).

The ADSR envelope allows the SID chip to mimic the qualities of various musical instruments or shape various sound effects. For instance, a pipe organ’s notes are typically either on or off, so the attack, decay, and release rates would be set to be instantaneous, and the sustain level would be set to full. A piano, on the other hand tends to have a sharp, somewhat percussive sound at the beginning with the note holding a long time on release if not dampened.

While the different voices are independent, they can be set to alter one another through two different effects: synchronization, and ring modulation. With these features, the voices can interact with each other in the following pairs:

- Voice 1 → Voice 2
- Voice 2 → Voice 3
- Voice 3 → Voice 1

### 9.3.1 Ring Modulation

If a voice's RING bit is set and the voice is set to use the triangle wave form (TRI is set), then the triangle wave will be replaced by the combination of the two voice's frequencies. So if the RING bit of voice 1 is set, the result will be the ring modulation of voice 1 and voice 3. Ring modulation tends to produce harmonics and overtones and can be used for bell like sounds.

### 9.3.2 Synchronization

If a voice's SYNC bit is set, the frequency it produces will be synchronized to the controlling voice. So if voice 1's SYNC bit is set, its frequency will be synchronized to voice 3.

## Interrupt Controller

The 65C02 has two interrupts: non-maskable interrupts (NMI) for high priority events, and the regular interrupt request line (IRQ) for normal priority events. Currently, the C256 series of computers do not use NMI for any purpose, so the only interrupt is the IRQ line. There are many devices on the F256jr which can trigger interrupts, so to save the interrupt handler the chore of querying each device in turn, the F256jr provides an interrupt controller module. The individual devices route their interrupt request signals to the interrupt controller. When an interrupt comes in, the controller knows which device it is and decides whether or not to forward the interrupt to the CPU. The interrupt handler can then query the interrupt handler to see which device or devices have interrupts pending and can then acknowledge them once they have been properly handled.

The interrupt controller provides two sets of registers to provide its functionality: interrupt masks, and interrupt pending. The mask registers provide a mask flag for every possible interrupt. If the flag is true (1), the interrupt from that device is masked, and an interrupt coming in from it will not trigger an IRQ on the processor. The pending register provides a pending flag for every possible interrupt. If the flag is true (1) on a read, the device has requested an interrupt, if false (0) there is no interrupt pending from the device. Setting a flag in a pending register to 1 will acknowledge the interrupt and cause the controller to drop the pending flag. Writing a 0 to a flag will have no effect.

NOTE: Some of the devices on the F256jr have their own interrupt enable flags (separate from the mask flags). For example, the 65C22 VIA has an interrupt enable bit in one of its registers and will not send an interrupt to the F256jr's interrupt controller if that bit is not enabled. For such devices, the interrupt enable flag on the device must be set and the corresponding mask bit in the interrupt controller must be clear in order for interrupts to be sent to the CPU. Other devices, like VICKY, do not have a separate enable flag. In their case, only their corresponding mask bits must be cleared to enable their interrupts.

| Mask   | Pending | Bit  | Name          | Purpose   |
|--------|---------|------|---------------|---|
| 0xD666 | 0xD660  | 0x01 | INT_VKY_SOF   | TinyVicky Start Of Frame interrupt <sup>1</sup> |
|        |         | 0x02 | INT_VKY_SOL   | TinyVicky Start Of Line interrupt <sup>2</sup>  |
|        |         | 0x04 | INT_PS2_KBD   | PS/2 keyboard event                             |
|        |         | 0x08 | INT_PS2_MOUSE | PS/2 mouse event                                |
|        |         | 0x10 | INT_TIMER_0   | TIMER0 has reached its target value             |
|        |         | 0x20 | INT_TIMER_1   | TIMER1 has reached its target value             |
|        |         | 0x40 | INT_DMA       | DMA has completed                               |
|        |         | 0x80 | RESERVED      |   |
| 0xD667 | 0xD661  | 0x01 | INT_UART      | The UART is ready to receive or send data       |
|        |         | 0x02 | RESERVED      |   |
|        |         | 0x04 | RESERVED      |   |
|        |         | 0x08 | RESERVED      |   |
|        |         | 0x10 | INT_RTC       | Event from the real time clock chip             |
|        |         | 0x20 | INT_VIA       | Event from the 65C22 VIA chip                   |
|        |         | 0x40 | INT_IEC       | Event from the IEC serial bus                   |
|        |         | 0x80 | INT_SDC_INS   | User has inserted an SD card                    |

As an example of working with the interrupt controller, let's try using the SOF interrupt to alter the character in the upper left corner.

To start, we will need to install our interrupt handler to respond to IRQs. For this example, we're going to completely take over interrupt processing, so we'll do some things we wouldn't ordinarily do. Also, since an interrupt could come in while we're setting things up, we need to be careful about how we do things.

1. First, we want to disable IRQs at the CPU level.



2. Then we set the interrupt vector.
3. Next, we want to mask off all but the SOF interrupt, since that is the only one we will process (in real programs, we will either need to handle several interrupts or play nicely with the operating system).
4. Now, there might be interrupts that came in earlier, so will go ahead and just clear all the pending interrupt flags so we start cleanly.
5. Finally, we enable CPU interrupt handling again and loop forever... processing the SOF interrupt when it comes in.

```
VIRQ = $FFFE
```

```
INT_PEND_0 = $D660 ; Pending register for interrupts 0 - 7
INT_PEND_1 = $D661 ; Pending register for interrupts 8 - 15
INT_MASK_0 = $D666 ; Mask register for interrupts 0 - 7
INT_MASK_1 = $D667 ; Mask register for interrupts 8 - 15

start:      ; Disable IRQ handling
            sei

            ; Load my IRQ handler into the IRQ vector
            ; NOTE: this code just takes over IRQs completely. It could save
            ;       the pointer to the old handler and chain to it when it had
            ;       handled its interrupt. But what is proper really depends on
            ;       what the program is trying to do.
            lda #<my_handler
            sta VIRQ
            lda #>my_handler
            sta VIRQ+1

            ; Mask off all but the SOF interrupt
            lda #$ff
            sta INT_MASK_1
            and #~INT00_VKY_SOF
            sta INT_MASK_0

            ; Clear all pending interrupts
            lda #$ff
            sta INT_PEND_0
            sta INT_PEND_1

            ; Put a character in the upper right of the screen
            lda #SYS_CTRL_TEXT_PG
            sta SYS_CTRL_1

            lda #'@'
            sta $c000

            ; Set the color of the character
            lda #SYS_CTRL_COLOR_PG
            sta SYS_CTRL_1

            lda #$F0
            sta $c000

            ; Go back to I/O page 0
            stz SYS_CTRL_1

            ; Make sure we're in text mode
            lda #$01
            ; enable TEXT
            sta $D000
            ; Save that to VICKY master control register 0
            stz $D001

            ; Re-enable IRQ handling
            cli
```

To actually process the interrupt, we need to read and then increment the character at the start of the screen, clear the pending flag for the S0F interrupt, and then return. However, the screen and the interrupt control registers are in different I/O banks, so we'll need to change the I/O bank a couple of times during interrupt processing. So, the first thing we will do is to save the value of the system control register at 0x0001, so we can restore it before we return from the interrupt.

```
SYS_CTRL_1 = $0001
SYS_CTRL_TEXT_PG = $02
```

```
my_handler: pha

            ; Save the system control register
            lda SYS_CTRL_1
            pha

            ; Switch to I/O page 0
            stz SYS_CTRL_1

            ; Check for S0F flag
            lda #INT00_VKY_S0F
            bit INT_PEND_0
            beq return          ; If it's zero, exit the handler

            ; Yes: clear the flag for S0F
            sta INT_PEND_0

            ; Move to the text screen page
            lda #SYS_CTRL_TEXT_PG
            sta SYS_CTRL_1

            ; Increment the character at position 0
            inc $c000

return:     ; Restore the system control register
            pla
            sta SYS_CTRL_1

            ; Return to the original code
            pla
            rti
```

# Tracking Time

## 11.1 Interval Timers

The F256jr provides two 24-bit timers. The two timers work on different clocks: timer 0 works off the CPU clock (6.29 MHz), while timer 1 works off the start-of-frame timing (either 60 Hz or 70 Hz, depending on the resolution). The timers have a few features in how they time things:

- they can count up from 0 or down from a starting value
- they can be set to trigger an interrupt on a comparison value
- they can either reload a start value or reset the value to 0 on reaching the target value

| Address | R/W | Name       | 7      | 6   | 5   | 4   | 3   | 2   | 1    | 0     |
|---------|-----|------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|
| D650    | W   | T0_CTR     | INT_EN | —   |     |     | UP  | CLR | LD   | EN    |
| D650    | R   | T0_STAT    | —      |     |     |     |     |     |      | EQ    |
| D651    | R/W | T0_VAL     | V7     | V6  | V5  | V4  | V3  | V2  | V1   | V0    |
| D652    | R/W |            | V15    | V14 | V13 | V12 | V11 | V10 | V9   | V8    |
| D653    | R/W |            | V23    | V22 | V21 | V20 | V19 | V18 | V7   | V6    |
| D654    | R/W | T0_CMP_CTR | —      |     |     |     |     |     | RELD | RECLR |
| D655    | R/W | T0_CMP     | C7     | C6  | C5  | C4  | C3  | C2  | C1   | C0    |
| D656    | R/W |            | C15    | C14 | C13 | C12 | C11 | C10 | C9   | C8    |
| D657    | R/W |            | C23    | C22 | C21 | C20 | C19 | C18 | C17  | C16   |
| D658    | W   | T1_CTR     | INT_EN | —   |     |     | UP  | CLR | LD   | EN    |
| D658    | R   | T1_STAT    | —      |     |     |     |     |     |      | EQ    |
| D659    | R/W | T1_VAL     | V7     | V6  | V5  | V4  | V3  | V2  | V1   | V0    |
| D65A    | R/W |            | V15    | V14 | V13 | V12 | V11 | V10 | V9   | V8    |
| D65B    | R/W |            | V23    | V22 | V21 | V20 | V19 | V18 | V7   | V6    |
| D65C    | R/W | T1_CMP_CTR | —      |     |     |     |     |     | RELD | RECLR |
| D65D    | R/W | T1_CMP     | C7     | C6  | C5  | C4  | C3  | C2  | C1   | C0    |
| D65E    | R/W |            | C15    | C14 | C13 | C12 | C11 | C10 | C9   | C8    |
| D65F    | R/W |            | C23    | C22 | C21 | C20 | C19 | C18 | C17  | C16   |

Table 11.1: Timer Registers

There are five registers for each timer:

**CTR** the master control register for the timer. There are five flags:

**INT\_EN** if set, the timer will trigger an interrupt on reaching the target value

**UP** if set, the timer will count up. If clear, it will count down.

**CLR** if set, the timer will reset to 0

**LD** if set, the timer will be set to the last value written to VAL

**EN** if set, the timer will count clock ticks

**STAT** this register (read on the same address as CTR) has just one flag EQ, which indicates if the timer has reached the target value

**VAL** when read, gives the current value of the timer. When written, sets the value to use when loading the timer.

**CMP\_CTR** this register contains two flags to control what happens when the target value is reached. When RECLR is set, the timer will return to 0 on reaching the target value. When RELD is set, the timer will be set to the last value written to VAL.

**CMP** this register contains the target value for comparison

## 11.2 Real Time Clock

For programs needing to keep track of time, F256jr provides a real time clock chip (RTC), the bq4802. This chip, keeps track of the year (including century), month, day, hour (in 12 or 24 hour mode), minute, and second. The coin cell battery on the F256jr motherboard is to provide power to the RTC so it can continue tracking time even when the F256jr is turned off or unplugged. Additionally, the RTC can send interrupts to the CPU, either periodically or at a specific time.

The RTC is relatively straightforward to use, but one potentially tricky thing to keep in mind is that there is a specific procedure to follow when reading or writing the date-time. As well as the registers the CPU can access, the RTC has internal registers which are constantly updating as time progresses. Normally, the internal registers update their external counterparts, but this should not be allowed to happen while the CPU is getting or setting the externally facing registers. So, to access the external registers, the program must first disable the automatic updates to the external registers. Then it can read or write the external registers. Then it can re-enable the automatic updates. If the program has changed the registers, when updates are re-enabled the data in the external registers will be sent to the internal registers in one action. This keeps the time information consistent.

| Address | R/W | Name          | 7                 | 6                | 5              | 4               | 3               | 2                 | 1     | 0   |
|---------|-----|---------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|-----|
| 0xD690  | R/W | Seconds       | 0                 | second 10s digit |                |                 | second 1s digit |                   |       |     |
| 0xD691  | R/W | Seconds Alarm | 0                 | second 10s digit |                |                 | second 1s digit |                   |       |     |
| 0xD692  | R/W | Minutes       | 0                 | minute 10s digit |                |                 | minute 1s digit |                   |       |     |
| 0xD693  | R/W | Minutes Alarm | 0                 | minute 10s digit |                |                 | minute 1s digit |                   |       |     |
| 0xD694  | R/W | Hours         | AM/PM             | 0                | hour 10s digit |                 |                 | hour 1s digit     |       |     |
| 0xD695  | R/W | Hours Alarm   | AM/PM             | 0                | hour 10s digit |                 |                 | hour 1s digit     |       |     |
| 0xD696  | R/W | Days          | 0                 | 0                | day 10s digit  |                 |                 | day 1s digit      |       |     |
| 0xD697  | R/W | Days Alarm    | 0                 | 0                | day 10s digit  |                 |                 | day 1s digit      |       |     |
| 0xD698  | R/W | Day of Week   | 0                 | 0                | 0              | 0               | 0               | day of week digit |       |     |
| 0xD699  | R/W | Month         | 0                 | 0                | 0              | month 10s digit |                 | month 1s digit    |       |     |
| 0xD69A  | R/W | Year          | year 10s digit    |                  |                |                 |                 | year 1s digit     |       |     |
| 0xD69B  | R/W | Rates         | 0                 | WD               |                |                 | RS              |                   |       |     |
| 0xD69C  | R/W | Enables       | 0                 | 0                | 0              | 0               | AIE             | PIE               | PWRIE | ABE |
| 0xD69D  | R/W | Flags         | 0                 | 0                | 0              | 0               | AF              | PF                | PWRF  | BVF |
| 0xD69E  | R/W | Control       | 0                 | 0                | 0              | 0               | UTI             | STOP              | 12/24 | DSE |
| 0xD69F  | R/W | Century       | century 10s digit |                  |                |                 |                 | century 1s digit  |       |     |

Table 11.2: MMU Registers

There are 16 registers for the RTC (see table 11.2). There is a register each for century, year, month, day of the week (*i.e.* Sunday - Saturday), day, hour, minute, and second. Each one is expressed in binary-coded-decimal, meaning the lower four bits are the ones digit (0 - 9), and the upper bits are the 10s digit. In most cases, the upper digit is limited (*e.g.* seconds and minutes can only have 0 - 6 as the tens digit). For seconds, minutes, hours, and day there is a separate alarm register, which will be described later. Finally, there are the four registers for rates, enabled, flags, and control:

The Enables register has four separate enable bits:

**AIE** if set (1), the alarm interrupt will be enabled. The RTC will raise an interrupt when the current time matches the time specified in the alarm registers.

**PIE** if set (1), the RTC will raise an interrupt periodically, where the period is specified by the RS field.

**PWRIE** if set (1), the RTC will raise an interrupt on a power failure (not relevant to the F256jr).

**ABE** if set (1), the RTC will allow alarm interrupts when on battery backup (not relevant to the F256jr).

The Flags register has four separate flags, which generally reflect why an interrupt was raised:

**AF** if set (1), the alarm was triggered

**PF** if set (1), the periodic interrupt was triggered

**PWRF** if set (1), the power failure interrupt was triggered

**BVF** if set (1), the battery voltage is within safe range. If clear (0), the battery voltage is low, and the time may be invalid.

The Control register has four bits which change how the RTC operates:

**UTI** if set (1), the update of the externally facing registers by the internal timers is inhibited. In order to read or write those registers, the program must first set UTI and then clear it when done.

**STOP** this bit allows for a battery saving feature. If it is clear (0) before the system is powered down, it will avoid draining the battery and may stop tracking the time. If it is set (1), it will keep using the battery as long as possible.

**12/24** sets whether the RTC is using 12 or 24 hour accounting.

**DSE** if set (1), daylight savings is in effect.

The Rates register controls the watchdog timer and the periodic interrupt. The watchdog timer is not really relevant to the F256jr, but it monitors for activity and raises an interrupt if activity has not been seen within a certain amount of time (specified by the WD field). The periodic interrupt will be raised repeatedly, the period of which is set by the RS field (see table 11.3).

| RS3 | RS2 | RS1 | RS0 | Period           |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | None             |
| 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 30.5175 $\mu$ s  |
| 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 61.035 $\mu$ s   |
| 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 122.070 $\mu$ s  |
| 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 244.141 $\mu$ s  |
| 0   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 488.281 $\mu$ s  |
| 0   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 976.5625 $\mu$ s |
| 0   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1.95315 ms       |
| 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3.90625 ms       |
| 1   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 7.8125 ms        |
| 1   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 15.625 ms        |
| 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 31.25 ms         |
| 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 62.5 ms          |
| 1   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 125 ms           |
| 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 250 ms           |
| 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 500 ms           |

Table 11.3: RTC Periodic Interrupt Rates

### 11.2.1 Example: Display the Time

In this example, we will read the time from the real time clock chip and print it out to the screen in *hh:mm:ss* format. To make things a little different, the code will also use the OpenKernel calls to initialize the text screen and print text. OpenKernel is a clean-room implementation of the Commodore Kernel calls. The basic procedure is fairly simple: first the code disables the update of the transfer registers, then the code reads the hours and prints them, then the code reads the minutes and prints them, then the code fetches the seconds and prints them. Finally, the code re-enables the update of the transfer registers by dropping the UTI flag.

NOTE: This code resets the MMU I/O page to 0 before it tries to read from the clock chip. This is just to allow for the possibility of the kernel routines changing the I/O page without restoring it to 0.

```
ok_cint = $FF81 ; OpenKernel call to initialize the screen
ok_cout = $FFD2 ; OpenKernel call to print the character code in A

RTC_SECS = $D690 ; RTC Seconds register
RTC_MINS = $D692 ; RTC Minutes register
RTC_HOURS = $D694 ; RTC Hours register

RTC_CTRL = $D96E ; RTC Control register
RTC_24HR = $02 ; 12/24 hour flag (1 = 24 Hr, 0 = 12 Hr)
RTC_STOP = $04 ; 0 = STOP when power off, 1 = run from battery when power off
RTC_UTI = $08 ; Update Transfer Inhibit

start:      jsr ok_cint                ; Initialize the text screen
```

```

    stz MMU_IO_CTRL          ; Make sure we're on I/O page 0

    lda RTC_CTRL             ; Stop the update of the RTC registers
    ora #RTC_UTI | RTC_24HR
    sta RTC_CTRL

    stz MMU_IO_CTRL ; Make sure we're on I/O page 0

    lda RTC_HOURS            ; Print the hours
    jsr putbcd

    lda #'.'
    jsr ok_cout

    stz MMU_IO_CTRL ; Make sure we're on I/O page 0

    lda RTC_MINS             ; Print the minutes
    jsr putbcd

    lda #'.'
    jsr ok_cout

    stz MMU_IO_CTRL ; Make sure we're on I/O page 0

    lda RTC_SECS            ; Print the seconds
    jsr putbcd

    stz MMU_IO_CTRL ; Make sure we're on I/O page 0

    lda RTC_CTRL             ; Reenable the update of the registers
    and #~RTC_UTI
    sta RTC_CTRL

```

Since the time registers of the clock chip are encoded in binary-coded-decimal, printing is relatively straightforward, and is handled by a simple `putbcd` subroutine:

```

;
; Print a BCD number to the screen
;
putbcd:    pha                ; Save the number
           and #$F0           ; Isolate the upper digit
           lsr a
           lsr a
           lsr a
           lsr a

           clc                ; Convert to ASCII
           adc #'0'
           jsr ok_cout        ; And print

           pla                ; Get the full number back
           and #$0F           ; Isolate the lower digit

           clc                ; Convert to ASCII
           adc #'0'
           jsr ok_cout        ; And print

           rts

```

## Versatile Interface Adapter

The F256jr includes a Western Design Center WDC65C22 versatile interface adapter or VIA. The VIA provides several useful features for I/O and timing:

- Two independent I/O ports of eight parallel bits (PA, and PB).
- Four handshake control lines (CA1, CA2, CB1, and CB2)
- Programmable serial register for serial I/O operations
- Two independent timer counters

On the F256jr, the VIA is connected to header which is compatible with the keyboard header on the Commodore VIC-20 and C-64. This means that a Commodore compatible keyboard could be connected to the F256jr and used for keyboard input with appropriate programming. The VIA also provides access to the two Atari-style joystick ports. The pins could also be used for general purpose I/O, although the voltage levels are for 3 volt logic instead of the 5 volt logic used in older 8-bit machines.

A complete description of the VIA would be rather long, so this guide will merely list out the register addresses and provide a quick break-down on the register functions. For a complete description, please see the data sheet from Western Design Center.

| Address | R/W | Name  | 7        | 6     | 5       | 4        | 3        | 2     | 1      | 0        |
|---------|-----|-------|----------|-------|---------|----------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| 0xDC00  | R/W | IORB  | PB7      | PB6   | PB5     | PB4      | PB3      | PB2   | PB1    | PB0      |
| 0xDC01  | R/W | IORA  | PA7      | PA6   | PA5     | PA4      | PA3      | PA2   | PA1    | PA0      |
| 0xDC02  | R/W | DDRB  | DDRB7    | DDRB6 | DDRB5   | DDRB4    | DDRB3    | DDRB2 | DDRB1  | DDRB0    |
| 0xDC03  | R/W | DDRA  | DDRA7    | DDRA6 | DDRA5   | DDRA4    | DDRA3    | DDRA2 | DDRA1  | DDRA0    |
| 0xDC04  | R/W | T1C_L | T1C7     | T1C6  | T1C5    | T1C4     | T1C3     | T1C2  | T1C1   | T1C0     |
| 0xDC05  | R/W | T1C_H | T1C15    | T1C14 | T1C13   | T1C12    | T1C11    | T1C10 | T1C9   | T1C8     |
| 0xDC06  | R/W | T1L_L | T1L7     | T1L6  | T1L5    | T1L4     | T1L3     | T1L2  | T1L1   | T1L0     |
| 0xDC07  | R/W | T1L_H | T1L15    | T1L14 | T1L13   | T1L12    | T1L11    | T1L10 | T1L9   | T1L8     |
| 0xDC08  | R/W | T2C_L | T2C7     | T2C6  | T2C5    | T2C4     | T2C3     | T2C2  | T2C1   | T2C0     |
| 0xDC09  | R/W | T2C_H | T2C15    | T2C14 | T2C13   | T2C12    | T2C11    | T2C10 | T2C9   | T2C8     |
| 0xDC0A  | R/W | SR    | SR7      | SR6   | SR5     | SR4      | SR3      | SR2   | SR1    | SR0      |
| 0xDC0B  | R/W | ACR   | T1_CTRL  |       | T2_CTRL | SR_CTRL  |          |       | PBL_EN | PAL_EN   |
| 0xDC0C  | R/W | PCR   | CB2_CTRL |       |         | CB1_CTRL | CA2_CTRL |       |        | CA1_CTRL |
| 0xDC0D  | R/W | IFR   | IRQF     | T1F   | T2F     | CB1F     | CB2F     | SRF   | CA1F   | CA2F     |
| 0xDC0E  | R/W | IER   | SET      | T1E   | T2E     | CB1E     | CB2E     | SRE   | CA1E   | CA2E     |
| 0xDC0F  | R/W | IOPA2 | PA7      | PA6   | PA5     | PA4      | PA3      | PA2   | PA1    | PA0      |

Table 12.1: VIA Registers

**IORA** Input/Output Register for Port A. The eight bits correspond to the eight pins on port A.

**DDRA** Data Direction Register for Port A. Each bit configures the corresponding pin to be input (0) or output (1).

**IORB** Input/Output Register for Port B. The eight bits correspond to the eight pins on port B.

**DDRB** Data Direction Register for Port B. Each bit configures the corresponding pin to be input (0) or output (1).

**T1C** Timer 1 counter value

**T1L** Timer 1 latch

**T2C** Timer 2 counter value

**SR** is the shift register. Serial input may be read here, or data may be written here to be shifted out.

**ACR** Auxiliary Control Register. Contains fields to control the function of timer 1, timer 2, the shift register, and how Port A and Port B latch data.

**PCR** Peripheral Control Register. Contains fields to control how the CA1, CA2, CB1, and CB2 handshake pins are used.

**IFR** Interrupt Flag Register. Contains flags indicating which condition triggered an interrupt request. Possible conditions are timer 1, timer 2, CB1, CB2, CA1, CA2, and shift register complete.

**IER** Interrupt Enable Register. Contains flags to enable or disable interrupts based on the different possible conditions.

**IOPA2** Same as IOPA except that the built-in handshaking capability is not used.

## 12.1 Joystick Support

The F256jr has two IDC headers that can be connected to a DB-9 socket to allow Atari style joysticks to be used (see figure: 12.1 for the pinouts). Joystick header 0 is wired to the pins of Port B, and joystick header 1 is connected to Port A. The various joystick switches are connected to the ports in same manner as on the C-64, with the exception that more buttons are supported (see table: 12.2).

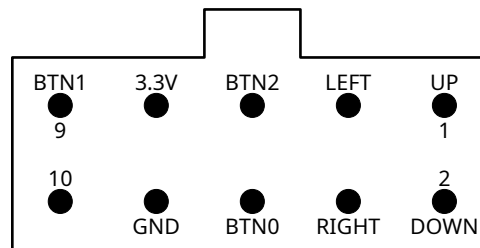


Figure 12.1: Joystick Port Pinouts

In order to use the joysticks, the DDR bits for the ports must be set to 0 for input. Then the input/output register for the port may be read. If a button or switch is closed on the joystick, the corresponding bit in the I/O register will be clear (0). If the button is not pressed, the bit will be set (1).

As a reminder: be aware that the WDC65C22 on the F256jr is being used with a 3 volt supply. This means that any device plugged into the joystick ports should be 3 volt tolerant and should not raise any pin above 3 volts. Otherwise damage could occur.

| 7 | 6       | 5       | 4       | 3     | 2    | 1    | 0  |
|---|---------|---------|---------|-------|------|------|----|
| — | BUTTON2 | BUTTON1 | BUTTON0 | RIGHT | LEFT | DOWN | UP |

Table 12.2: Joystick Flags

### 12.1.1 Example: Displaying Joystick 1

In this example, we will poll joystick 1 and print out the state of all the buttons by printing the byte we read from the joystick port as a simple binary number. The example will try to be a little bit smart by only printing the value when the value has changed. NOTE: this example expects OpenKernal to be installed, and will call two of its routines for initializing the screen and printing a character.

First, we initialize the screen, the variable we use to track the old value of the joystick port, and the VIA (setting port A to be an input port):

```
ok_cint = $FF81          ; OpenKernal routine to initialize the screen
ok_cout = $FFD2          ; OpenKernal routine to print a character in A

; Variables
```



\* = \$0080

```
value:      .byte ?           ; Variable to store the previous value of the joystick
prv:        .byte ?           ; Copy of value for printing
```

\* = \$e000

```
start:      jsr ok_cint        ; Set up the screen

            lda #$FF          ; Set the previous value to $FF
            sta value

            stz MMU_IO_CTRL    ; Switch to I/O Page 0

            lda #$00          ; Set VIA Port A to input
            sta VIA_DDRA
```

Next, we print the OpenKernal code to clear the screen, and we print out the byte in value as a binary number.

```
loop1:      lda #147           ; Print the CBM clear screen code
            jsr ok_cout

            lda value          ; Copy the value to prv
            sta prv

            ldx #8             ; Loop for all eight bits
loop2:      asl prv             ; Shift MSB into the carry
            bcc is0            ; If it's 0, print '0'

            lda #'1'          ; Otherwise, print '1'
            jsr ok_cout
            bra repeat        ; And go to the next bit

is0:        lda #'0'          ; Print '0'
            jsr ok_cout

repeat:     dex                ; Count down
            bne loop2          ; Repeat until we've done all 8 bits
```

Next, we read the value of port A. If it is different from value, we save it to value and go back to print the byte we read. Otherwise, we keep waiting and polling the joystick port.

```
            stz MMU_IO_CTRL    ; Switch to I/O Page 0

wait:       lda VIA_IORA       ; Get the status of port A
            cmp value          ; Is it different from before?
            beq wait           ; Yes: keep waiting

            sta value          ; Save this value as the previous one
            bra loop1          ; And go to print it
```

## SD Card Interface

The F256jr includes a controller for SD cards. This controller provides for a simplified interface to SD cards, allowing programs to relatively easily transfer blocks of data to and from an SD card. This simplified interface has its limitations, and it only works for older, standard SD cards. More advanced SD cards, like SDHC and SDXC cards, will not work with this simpler interface. The interface does provide a direct access method, however, which allows programs to send commands and data directly to an SD card. With adequate programming, any SD card should be usable with this method.

The simplified interface works off the idea of a transfer. The program wanting to use the SD card sets up a transfer, providing the information the controller needs to perform the transfer, and then starts the transfer. Once the transfer is completed, the program either receives an interrupt from the SD controller or monitors the BUSY status to see if the transfer is complete. There are four types of transfers:

**INIT** for initializing the SD controller. A program will very rarely need to call this.

**DIRECT** for sending data directly over the SPI interface to the SD card. This is only needed if the program needs to access functionality on the card the SD controller does not support.

**READ** to read 512 bytes of data from the SD card

**WRITE** to write 512 bytes of data to the SD card

### 13.1 Reading from the SD Card

To read from an SD card, a program needs to:

1. Set the transfer type to READ
2. Set the SD Address Register with the address of the desired memory block
3. Set the START flag to begin the transfer
4. Wait for the transfer to complete (either poll BUSY or wait for an interrupt)
5. Read bytes from RXR until RCR is 0

### 13.2 Writing to the SD Card

To write to an SD card, a program needs to:

1. Set the transfer type to WRITE
2. Set the SD Address Register with the address of the desired memory block
3. Write the 512 bytes to store in the block to TXR
4. Set the START flag to begin the transfer
5. Wait for the transfer to complete (either poll BUSY or wait for an interrupt)

**VER** contains the version of the SD controller, broken up into a major version number and a minor version number

**SCR** is the SD control register. There is just one flag here: RESET. If set, this will cause the controller to reset itself.

| Address | R/W | Name | 7       | 6    | 5         | 4    | 3        | 2    | 1         | 0      |
|---------|-----|------|---------|------|-----------|------|----------|------|-----------|--------|
| 0xDD00  | R   | VER  | VER_MAJ |      |           |      | VER_MIN  |      |           |        |
| 0xDD01  | R/W | SCR  | —       |      |           |      |          |      |           | RESET  |
| 0xDD02  | R/W | XTR  | —       |      |           |      |          |      | XFER_TYPE |        |
| 0xDD03  | R/W | XCR  | —       |      |           |      |          |      |           | START  |
| 0xDD04  | R   | XSR  | —       |      |           |      |          |      |           | BUSY   |
| 0xDD05  | R   | XSR  | —       |      | WRITE_ERR |      | READ_ERR |      | INIT_ERR  |        |
| 0xDD06  | R/W | DAR  | DA7     | DA6  | DA5       | DA4  | DA3      | DA2  | DA1       | DA0    |
| 0xDD07  | R/W | SAR  | SA7     | SA6  | SA5       | SA4  | SA3      | SA2  | SA1       | SA0    |
| 0xDD08  | R/W |      | SA15    | SA14 | SA13      | SA12 | SA11     | SA10 | SA9       | SA8    |
| 0xDD09  | R/W |      | SA23    | SA22 | SA21      | SA20 | SA19     | SA18 | SA17      | SA16   |
| 0xDD0A  | R/W |      | SA31    | SA30 | SA29      | SA28 | SA27     | SA26 | SA25      | SA24   |
| 0xDD0B  | R/W | SCLK | SPI_CLK |      |           |      |          |      |           |        |
| 0xDD10  | R   | RXR  | RX7     | RX6  | RX5       | RX4  | RX3      | RX2  | RX1       | RX0    |
| 0xDD12  | R   | RCR  | RC15    | RC14 | RC13      | RC12 | RC11     | RC10 | RC9       | RC8    |
| 0xDD13  | R   |      | RC7     | RC6  | RC5       | RC4  | RC3      | RC2  | RC1       | RC0    |
| 0xDD14  | R   | RFCR | —       |      |           |      |          |      |           | RX_CLR |
| 0xDD20  | W   | TXR  | TX7     | TX6  | TX5       | TX4  | TX3      | TX2  | TX1       | TX0    |
| 0xDD24  | R   | TFCR | —       |      |           |      |          |      |           | TX_CLR |

Table 13.1: VIA Registers

**XTR** is the transfer type register. The SD controller supports four types of transfers: direct access (00), initialization (01), read from the SD card (10), and write to the SD card (11).

**XCR** is the transfer control register. There is just one flag: START. When set, this begins the transfer. It will clear itself when the transfer is done.

**XSR** is the transfer status register. There is one flag: BUSY. When set, the controller is busy with a transfer.

**XER** is the transfer error register. This contains three fields that describes any error condition for the transfer type that applies.

**DAR** is the register used to send and receive data for a direct access transfer. This direct access feature is for low-level access to the SPI interface on the SD card and allows for access to more general SD cards than the higher level transfers can use.

**SAR** is the SD address register. This is a 32-bit address for the block of data on the SD card to read or write.

**SCLK** is the SPI clock register. It sets the speed of the SPI bus after SD initialization has completed.

**RXR** is the received data register. All data read from the SD card will be read into a 512 byte FIFO and can be read by the CPU through this register.

**RCR** is the 16-bit count of the number of bytes available to read from the receive FIFO. Note that the count is in big-endian format.

**RFCR** is the receive FIFO control register. There is one flag: RX\_CLR. When set, it will force the receive FIFO to clear. The flag will clear itself.

**TXR** is the transmission data register. All data written to the SD card will be written into a 512 byte FIFO through this register.

**TFCR** is the receive FIFO control register. There is one flag: TX\_CLR. When set, it will force the transmit FIFO to clear. The flag will clear itself.

## PS/2 Keyboard and Mouse

The F256jr provides a single PS/2 port for use with either a keyboard or a mouse. A simple PS/2 keyboard controller is included in the F256jr. The controller emulates the classic Intel 8042 keyboard controller.

| Address | R/W | Name | 7       | 6  | 5 | 4       | 3       | 2   | 1   | 0 |
|---------|-----|------|---------|----|---|---------|---------|-----|-----|---|
| 0xD640  | R   | RXD  | RX_DATA |    |   |         |         |     |     |   |
| 0xD640  | W   | TXR  | TX_DATA |    |   |         |         |     |     |   |
| 0xD644  | R   | STAT | PE      | TE | — | CMD_DAT | SYSFLAG | RXF | TXF |   |
| 0xD644  | W   | CMD  | COMMAND |    |   |         |         |     |     |   |

Table 14.1: UART Registers

**RXD** Data returned by either the keyboard or the controller

**TXD** Data to be sent to the keyboard or the controller

**STAT** Status register of the controller:

**PE** Parity Error

**TE** Timeout Error

**CMD\_DAT** 0 = data written to the data register is for the PS/2 device. 1 = data is for the controller

**SYSFLAG** System flag

**RXF** If set, receive FIFO contains data

**TXF** If set, transmit FIFO is full

**CMD** Commands to the controller (not the keyboard) are written here

## Serial and Wi-Fi Port

The F256jr has a simple UART for serial communications. This UART can be used to provide an RS-232 serial connection (via an IDC header on the board compatible with IDC to DB-9 cables) or a Wi-Fi serial connection using an ESP Feather adapter board. The UART is compatible with the standard 16750.

| Address  | R/W | Name | 7                  | 6     | 5      | 4     | 3      | 2      | 1        | 0        |
|----------|-----|------|--------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| DLAB = 0 |     |      |                    |       |        |       |        |        |          |          |
| 0xD630   | R   | RXD  | RX_DATA            |       |        |       |        |        |          |          |
| 0xD630   | W   | TXR  | TX_DATA            |       |        |       |        |        |          |          |
| 0xD631   | R/W | IER  | —                  |       |        |       | STATUS | ERROR  | TX_EMPTY | RX_AVAIL |
| 0xD632   | R   | ISR  | —                  |       |        |       | STATUS | ERROR  | TX_EMPTY | RX_AVAIL |
| 0xD632   | W   | FCR  | RXT                |       | FIFO64 | —     | —      | TX_RST | RX_RST   | FIFO_EN  |
| 0xD633   | R/W | LCR  | DLAB               | —     | PARITY |       |        | STOP   | DATA     |          |
| 0xD634   | R/W | MCR  | —                  |       |        | LOOP  | OUT2   | OUT1   | RTS      | DTR      |
| 0xD635   | R   | LSR  | ERROR              | TEMT  | THRE   | BI    | FE     | PE     | OE       | DR       |
| 0xD636   | R/W | MSR  | DCD                | RI    | DSR    | CTS   | DDCD   | TERI   | DDSR     | DCTS     |
| 0xD637   | R   | SPR  | scratch data       |       |        |       |        |        |          |          |
| DLAB = 1 |     |      |                    |       |        |       |        |        |          |          |
| 0xD630   | R/W | DLL  | DIV7               | DIV6  | DIV5   | DIV4  | DIV3   | DIV2   | DIV1     | DIV0     |
| 0xD631   | R/W | DLH  | DIV15              | DIV14 | DIV13  | DIV12 | DIV11  | DIV10  | DIV9     | DIV8     |
| 0xD632   | W   | PSD  | prescaler division |       |        |       |        |        |          |          |

Table 15.1: UART Registers

| LCR1 | LCR0 | Length |
|------|------|--------|
| 0    | 0    | 5      |
| 0    | 1    | 6      |
| 1    | 0    | 7      |
| 1    | 1    | 8      |

Table 15.2: UART Data Length

| LCR2 | Stop Bits |
|------|-----------|
| 0    | 1         |
| 1    | 1.5 or 2  |

Table 15.3: UART Stop Bits

| LCR5 | LCR4 | LCR3 | Parity |
|------|------|------|--------|
| —    | —    | 0    | NONE   |
| 0    | 0    | 1    | ODD    |
| 0    | 1    | 1    | EVEN   |
| 1    | 0    | 1    | MARK   |
| 1    | 1    | 1    | SPACE  |

Table 15.4: UART Parity

| FCR7 | FCR6 | Trigger Level (bytes) |
|------|------|-----------------------|
| 0    | 0    | 1                     |
| 0    | 1    | 4                     |
| 1    | 0    | 8                     |
| 1    | 1    | 14                    |

Table 15.5: UART RX FIFO Trigger

## Direct Memory Access

The DMA engine can either write a specific byte to RAM or copy a set of bytes from one location in RAM to another. The DMA engine can also treat memory as being arranged either linearly (that is, as a certain number of consecutive locations) or rectangularly (the data is a rectangular area of an image).

### 16.1 Linear Data

Linear data (or “1D”, if you prefer) is just a single block of sequential memory locations. When filling or copying data linearly, you need a destination address (and a source address if copying), and a count of bytes to copy. That is really all there is to it.

### 16.2 Rectangular Data

Rectangular data (or “2D”) is a bit more complicated and is meant to be working with image data. With a bitmap, the pixel bytes are arranged in memory left to right and top to bottom. If the image starts at address  $a$  and is  $w$  pixels wide, then the pixel at  $(x, y)$  can be found at location  $a + y \times w + x$ . Rectangular fills and copies are meant to work on data that is arranged in this fashion. In this case, you can use DMA to fill or copy a rectangular area within that image. As with linear fills and copies, you will need a destination address (and source address if doing a copy), but instead of a count of bytes you need the width and height of the rectangular areas affected. But you need one other thing, too. You need to tell the DMA the geometry of the over-all image... you need to tell it the width of the image containing the rectangular areas. This is called the “stride” and effectively tells the DMA how many pixels to skip between lines when it finishes one line of the rectangle before getting to the next line.

**START** set to trigger the DMA

**INT\_EN** enables triggering an interrupt when DMA is complete

**FILL** when set, DMA will write a specific byte to memory. When clear, DMA will copy data from a source address to the destination address

**2D** when set, DMA copies or fills a rectangular region of memory. When clear, DMA copies or fills a certain number of sequential bytes

**ENABLE** set to enable DMA

**FD** the byte to be written to memory when FILL is set

**BUSY** status bit set when DMA is busy copying data

**SA** the 18 bit source address (must be a location in the first 256KB of RAM). Only relevant when FILL is clear.

**DA** the 18 bit destination address (must be a location in the first 256KB of RAM)

**CNT** the number of bytes to copy (only available when 2D is clear)

**W** the width of the rectangle of data to copy (only available when 2D is set)

**H** the height of the rectangle of data to copy (only available when 2D is set)

**SX** the width of the “stride” (only available when 2D is set)

**SY** the height of the “stride” (only available when 2D is set)

| Address | R/W | 7     | 6     | 5     | 4     | 3      | 2     | 1     | 0      |
|---------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| 0xDF00  | R/W | START | —     |       |       | INT_EN | FILL  | 2D    | ENABLE |
| 0xDF01  | W   | FD7   | FD6   | FD5   | FD4   | FD3    | FD2   | FD1   | FD0    |
| 0xDF01  | R   | BUSY  | —     |       |       |        |       |       |        |
| 0xDF04  | R/W | SA7   | SA6   | SA5   | SA4   | SA3    | SA2   | SA1   | SA0    |
| 0xDF05  | R/W | SA15  | SA14  | SA13  | SA12  | SA11   | SA10  | SA9   | SA8    |
| 0xDF06  | R/W | —     |       |       |       |        |       | SA17  | SA16   |
| 0xDF08  | R/W | DA7   | DA6   | DA5   | DA4   | DA3    | DA2   | DA1   | DA0    |
| 0xDF09  | R/W | DA15  | DA14  | DA13  | DA12  | DA11   | DA10  | DA9   | DA8    |
| 0xDF0A  | R/W | —     |       |       |       |        |       | DA17  | DA16   |
| 0xDF0C  | R/W | CNT7  | CNT6  | CNT5  | CNT4  | CNT3   | CNT2  | CNT1  | CNT0   |
| 0xDF0D  | R/W | CNT15 | CNT14 | CNT13 | CNT12 | CNT11  | CNT10 | CNT9  | CNT8   |
| 0xDF0E  | R/W | —     |       |       |       |        |       | CNT17 | CNT16  |
| 0xDF0C  | R/W | R/W7  | R/W6  | R/W5  | R/W4  | R/W3   | R/W2  | R/W1  | R/W0   |
| 0xDF0D  | R/W | R/W15 | R/W14 | R/W13 | R/W12 | R/W11  | R/W10 | R/W9  | R/W8   |
| 0xDF0E  | R/W | H7    | H6    | H5    | H4    | H3     | H2    | H1    | H0     |
| 0xDF0F  | R/W | H15   | H14   | H13   | H12   | H11    | H10   | H9    | H8     |
| 0xDF10  | R/W | SX7   | SX6   | SX5   | SX4   | SX3    | SX2   | SX1   | SX0    |
| 0xDF11  | R/W | SX15  | SX14  | SX13  | SX12  | SX11   | SX10  | SX9   | SX8    |
| 0xDF12  | R/W | SY7   | SY6   | SY5   | SY4   | SY3    | SY2   | SY1   | SY0    |
| 0xDF13  | R/W | SY15  | SY14  | SY13  | SY12  | SY11   | SY10  | SY9   | SY8    |

Table 16.1: DMA Registers



## System Control Registers

### 17.1 The Buzzer and Status LEDs

The F256jr has several software controllable LEDs. There are the SD card access LED and the power LED, but there are also two status LEDs on the board which may be controlled either manually or set to flash automatically. All the LEDs under “manual” control can be controlled by setting or clearing their relevant flags in the SYS0 register (0xD6A0) (see table: 17.1). The power LED is controlled by PWR\_LED. The SD card LED is controlled by SD\_LED.

| Address | R/W | Name | 7       | 6     | 5       | 4    | 3  | 2  | 1      | 0       |
|---------|-----|------|---------|-------|---------|------|----|----|--------|---------|
| 0xD6A0  | R/W | SYS0 | RESET   | SD_WP | SD_CD   | BUZZ | L1 | L0 | SD_LED | PWR_LED |
| 0xD6A1  | R/W | SYS1 | L1_RATE |       | L0_RATE |      | —  |    | L1_MAN | L0_MAN  |

Table 17.1: System Control Registers

The two status LEDs on the board are a little more complex. They may be in manual or automatic mode. The two flags L0\_MAN and L1\_MAN in SYS1 control which mode they are in. If an LED’s flag is clear (0), then the LED is under manual control and its equivalent flag in SYS0 controls whether the LED is on or off. If the flag is set, then the LED is set to flash automatically, and the LED’s flashing rate will be set by pair of bits L0\_RATE or L1\_RATE according to table 17.2.

For the PC speaker, there is the BUZZ flag. By toggling BUZZ, a program can tweak the speaker and make a noise.

| RATE1 | RATE0 | Rate |
|-------|-------|------|
| 0     | 0     | 1s   |
| 0     | 1     | 0.5s |
| 1     | 0     | 0.4s |
| 1     | 1     | 0.2s |

Table 17.2: LED Flash Rates

### 17.2 Software Reset

A program can trigger a system reset. This can be done by writing the value 0xDE to 0xD6A2 and the value AD to 0xD6A3 to validate that a reset is really intended (see table: 17.3), and then setting the most significant bit (RESET) of 0xD6A0 to actually trigger the reset.

| Address | R/W | Name | 7                                    | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
|---------|-----|------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0xD6A2  | R/W | RST0 | Set to 0xDE to enable software reset |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 0xD6A3  | R/W | RST1 | Set to 0xAD to enable software reset |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

Table 17.3: System Reset

## 17.3 Random Numbers

The F256jr has a built-in pseudo-random number generator that produces 16-bit random numbers (see table: 17.4). To use the random number generator, a program just sets the enable flag and then reads the random numbers from RNDL and RNDH (0xD6A4 and 0xD6A5). The program can set the seed value to better randomize the numbers by storing a seed value in those same locations and then toggling SEED\_LD (set to load the seed value then reclear).

| Address | R/W | Name     | 7      | 6      | 5      | 4      | 3      | 2      | 1       | 0      |
|---------|-----|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| 0xD6A4  | W   | SEEDL    | SEED7  | SEED6  | SEED5  | SEED4  | SEED3  | SEED2  | SEED1   | SEED0  |
| 0xD6A4  | R   | RNDL     | RND7   | RND6   | RND5   | RND4   | RND3   | RND2   | RND1    | RND0   |
| 0xD6A5  | W   | SEEDH    | SEED15 | SEED14 | SEED13 | SEED12 | SEED11 | SEED10 | SEED9   | SEED8  |
| 0xD6A5  | R   | RNDH     | RND15  | RND14  | RND13  | RND12  | RND11  | RND10  | RND9    | RND8   |
| 0xD6A6  | W   | RND_CTRL | —      |        |        |        |        |        | SEED_LD | ENABLE |
| 0xD6A6  | R   | RND_STAT | DONE   | —      |        |        |        |        |         |        |

Table 17.4: Random Number Generator

**ENABLE** set to turn on the random number generator

**SEED\_LD** set to load a value stored in SEEDL and SEEDH as the seed value for the random number generator

**RNDL and RNDH** read 16-bit random numbers from these registers when the random number generator is enabled

## 17.4 Machine ID and Version Information

Nine registers are set aside to identify the machine, the version of the printed circuit board, and the version of the FPGA. See table 17.5 for the various registers. All of the registers are read-only, and only the chip information will change over the course of the machine's life span. The machine ID contains a four-bit code that is common between all the Foenix machines (see table: ).

For the F256jr, the machine ID will be 2.

| Address | R/W | Name   | 7                             | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3  | 2 | 1 | 0 |
|---------|-----|--------|-------------------------------|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| 0xD6A7  | R   | MID    | —                             |   |   |   | ID |   |   |   |
| 0xD6A8  | R   | PCBID0 | ASCII character 0: “A”        |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 0xD6A9  | R   | PCBID1 | ASCII character 1: “0”        |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 0xD6AA  | R   | CHSV0  | Chip subversion in BCD (low)  |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 0xD6AB  | R   | CHSV1  | Chip subversion in BCD (high) |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 0xD6AC  | R   | CHV0   | Chip version in BCD (low)     |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 0xD6AD  | R   | CHV1   | Chip version in BCD (high)    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 0xD6AC  | R   | CHN0   | Chip number in BCD (low)      |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 0xD6AD  | R   | CHN1   | Chip number in BCD (high)     |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |

Table 17.5: Machine ID and Versions

| MID3 | MID2 | MID1 | MID0 | Machine   |
|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | C256 FMX  |
| 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | C256 U    |
| 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | F256jr    |
| 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | A2560 Dev |
| 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | Gen X     |
| 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | C256 U+   |
| 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | Reserved  |
| 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    | Reserved  |
| 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | A2560 X   |
| 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    | A2560 U   |
| 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    | A2560 M   |
| 1    | 0    | 1    | 1    | A2560 K   |

Table 17.6: Machine IDs

# 18

## Memory Maps

| Address | Purpose  |
|---------|--|
| 0x00000 | System RAM for programs, data, and graphics (256 KB) |
| 0x3FFFF |  |
| 0x40000 | Reserved (256 KB)                                    |
| 0x7FFFF |  |
| 0x80000 | Flash memory (512 KB)                                |
| 0xFFFFF |  |

Table 18.1: System Memory Map for the F256jr

| Bank | Purpose |   |
|------|---------|---|
| 0    | 0x0000  | MMU Memory Control Register                         |
|      | 0x0001  | MMU I/O Control Register                            |
|      | 0x0002  | RAM or Flash  |
|      | 0x000F  |   |
|      | 0x0010  | RAM, Flash, or MMU LUT Registers                    |
|      | 0x001F  |   |
|      | 0x0020  | 65C02 Page Zero                                     |
|      | 0x00FF  |   |
|      | 0x0100  | 65C02 Stack   |
|      | 0x01FF  |   |
|      | 0x0200  | RAM or Flash  |
|      | 0x1FFF  |   |
| 1    | 0x2000  | RAM or Flash  |
|      | 0x3FFF  |   |
| 2    | 0x4000  | RAM or Flash  |
|      | 0x5FFF  |   |
| 3    | 0x6000  | RAM or Flash  |
|      | 0x7FFF  |   |
| 4    | 0x8000  | RAM or Flash  |
|      | 0x9FFF  |   |
| 5    | 0xA000  | RAM or Flash  |
|      | 0xBFFF  |   |
| 6    | 0xC000  | RAM, Flash, I/O, Text mode character, or color data |
|      | 0xDFFF  |   |
| 7    | 0xE000  | RAM or Flash  |
|      | 0xFFFFA |   |
|      | 0xFFFFA | 65C02 NMI Vector                                    |
|      | 0xFFFFB |   |
|      | 0xFFFFC | 65C02 Reset Vector                                  |
|      | 0xFFFFD |   |
|      | 0xFFFFE | 65C02 IRQ Vector                                    |
|      | 0xFFFFF |   |

Table 18.2: CPU Memory Map for the F256jr

| Start  | End    | Purpose                        |
|--------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 0xC000 | 0xC3FF | Gamma Table Blue               |
| 0xC400 | 0xC7FF | Gamma Table Green              |
| 0xC800 | 0xCBFF | Gamma Table Red                |
| 0xCC00 | 0xCFFF | Reserved                       |
| 0xD000 | 0xD0FF | VICKY Master Control Registers |
| 0xD100 | 0xD1FF | VICKY Bitmap Control Registers |
| 0xD200 | 0xD2FF | VICKY Tile Control Registers   |
| 0xD300 | 0xD3FF | Reserved                       |
| 0xD400 | 0xD4FF | SID Left                       |
| 0xD500 | 0xD4FF | SID Right                      |
| 0xD600 | 0xD60F | PSG Left                       |
| 0xD610 | 0xD61F | PSG Right                      |
| 0xD620 | 0xD62F | CODEC                          |
| 0xD630 | 0xD63F | UART                           |
| 0xD640 | 0xD64F | PS/2 Interface                 |
| 0xD650 | 0xD65F | Timers                         |
| 0xD660 | 0xD66F | Interrupt Controller           |
| 0xD670 | 0xD67F | DIP Switch                     |
| 0xD680 | 0xD68F | IEC Controller                 |
| 0xD690 | 0xD69F | Real Time Clock                |
| 0xD6A0 | 0xD6AF | System Control Registers       |
| 0xD6B0 | 0xD7FF | Reserved                       |
| 0xD800 | 0xD83F | Text Foreground Color LUT      |
| 0xD840 | 0xD87F | Text Background Color LUT      |
| 0xD880 | 0xD8FF | Reserved                       |
| 0xD900 | 0xDAFF | VICKY Sprite Control Registers |
| 0xDB00 | 0xDBFF | Reserved                       |
| 0xDC00 | 0xDCFF | 65C22 VIA Control Registers    |
| 0xDD00 | 0xDDFF | SD Card Controller             |

Table 18.3: I/O Page 0 Addresses

| Start  | End    | Purpose               |
|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| 0xC000 | 0xC7FF | Text Mode Font Memory |
| 0xC800 | 0xCFFF | Reserved              |
| 0xD000 | 0xD3FF | Graphics Color LUT 0  |
| 0xD400 | 0xD7FF | Graphics Color LUT 1  |
| 0xD800 | 0xDBFF | Graphics Color LUT 2  |
| 0xDC00 | 0xDFFF | Graphics Color LUT 3  |

Table 18.4: Memory Map for I/O Page 1

## Using the Debug Port

One of the ways to get software and data onto the F256jr is through the USB debug port. The debug port uses a USB serial protocol to allow a host computer to issue commands to the F256jr. These commands allow the host computer to stop and start the CPU, write to memory, read from memory, erase the flash memory, and reprogram the flash memory. With this port, it is possible to load a program and its data directly into the F256jr's memory and start it running. It is also possible to examine the F256jr's memory to see what state a program has left it in.

There are three main tools available to provide user access to the debug port:

**Foenix IDE** A full featured emulator and development tool for the Foenix line of computers. Among the many tools provided by the IDE is a built-in GUI tool to upload and download data to the F256jr and program the flash. The main limitation of the IDE is that it was written in .NET and uses features that are available under the Windows API.

**Foenix Uploader Tool** A stand-alone version of just the uploader tool from the Foenix IDE. This tool is more limited (it may only support binary files) and is tailored to specific machines.

**FoenixMgr** A script written in Python 3 which provides command line access on the host computer to the debug port. It supports files in Intel HEX, Motorola SREC, raw binary, PGX, and PGZ files. It should run on any computer or operating system that can run Python 3 and provide sufficient access to USB serial interfaces. It runs under Windows and Linux definitely and may be able to run under Mac OS X eventually.

### 19.1 Debug Protocol

The USB debug port is accessed over the USB Serial protocol. Data is sent from the host computer to the F256jr using data packets, each one of which is a command. The general process is:

1. Host PC sends the command to enter debug mode
2. The F256jr replies
3. Host PC sends one or more command packets
4. The F256jr replies
5. Host PC send the command to exit debug mode
6. The F256jr replies and sends a reset signal to the CPU

The commands sent from the host PC are in the form of command packets show in table 19.1. The command codes themselves are listed in table 19.3. The F256jr will respond to each command packet with a response packet as shown in table 19.2. The size of a packet can vary depending on the command. Some commands and responses include no actual data payload bytes. Others will transfer actual data and will include however many bytes of payload are needed.

Each command and response packet includes an LRC check byte, which is simply the exclusive-or of all the bytes in the packet, with the exception of the LRC value itself. This provides only rudimentary error checking, but the connection itself is generally pretty reliable, so more sophisticated error checking is really not needed.

**Command sync byte** This is always 0x55 and signals the start of a command packet

**Command byte** This byte specifies what command is being sent (see table: 19.3)

**Address** This is a three byte, big-endian integer that provides the address relevant to the command. For a write command, it is the address of the first block of memory to receive data. For a read command, it is the address of the first byte of memory to read. For the program flash command, it is the address of the first byte of data to write to flash.

| Offset  | Size | Name              |
|---------|------|-------------------|
| 0       | 1    | Command sync byte |
| 1       | 1    | Command byte      |
| 2       | 3    | Address           |
| 5       | 2    | Length            |
| 7       | $n$  | Payload           |
| $7 + n$ | 1    | LRC check byte    |

Table 19.1: USB Debug Port Command Packet

**Length** This is the number of bytes to transfer. For a write command, it is the number of bytes to be sent to the F256jr and will be control the size of the payload section of the write command packet. For the read command, it is the number of bytes to read from the F256jr and will control the size of the payload section of the response packet (the payload section of the read command packet is empty).

**Payload** This is an option section of the packet that contains the actual data to transfer between the host PC and the F256jr.

**LRC check byte** This byte provides for simple error checking on the packet transmission.

| Offset  | Size | Purpose                   |
|---------|------|---------------------------|
| 0       | 1    | Response sync byte (0xAA) |
| 1       | 2    | Status bytes              |
| 3       | $m$  | Payload                   |
| $3 + m$ | 1    | LRC check byte            |

Table 19.2: USB Debug Port Command Packet

**Response sync byte** This is always 0xAA and signals the start of a response packet

**Status bytes** These two bytes contain the status codes for the success or failure of the command

**Payload** This is an option section of the packet that contains the actual data to transfer between the host PC and the F256jr.

**LRC check byte** This byte provides for simple error checking on the packet transmission.

| Command | Purpose   |
|---------|---|
| 0x80    | Enter debug mode                                    |
| 0x81    | Exit debug mode (resets CPU)                        |
| 0x00    | Read a block of data from the F256jr to the host PC |
| 0x01    | Write a block of data to RAM on the F256jr          |
| 0x10    | Program flash memory from data in F256jr's RAM      |
| 0x11    | Erase flash memory                                  |
| 0x12    | Erase flash sector                                  |
| 0x13    | Program flash sector                                |
| 0xFE    | Fetch the revision number of the debug interface    |

Table 19.3: USB Debug Port Commands

## 19.2 Flash Sectors

Individual blocks or sectors of flash may be erased or programmed without affecting the rest of flash memory. This can be done through the commands 0x12 to erase flash sectors and 0x13 to program them from RAM. The packets for sectors are a little different from the others. The main difference is that third byte of the packet (ordinarily the high byte of the address) is the number of the sector to program, and addresses are limited to 16-bits. Each sector is a 4KB block, with 0 being the first 4KB of flash, 1 being the second 4KB of flash, and so on.

The flash of the F256jr has a limitation that the smallest block of flash that can be erased is 8KB, so when erasing sectors, two sectors must be erased, not just one. And the sector pairs must be aligned to 8KB. So sector 0 and sector 1 would be erased together, but not sector 1 and sector 2 (although sectors 0 – 3 would be fine).

Programming flash sectors has no such limitation (it is fine to flash just a 4KB block). However, for simplicity's sake, it would probably be best for any program directly accessing the debug port to limit erasing and programming to 8KB blocks. Programming the flash sectors does have a limitation: since the address is limited to 16-bits, the data can only be stored in the first 64KB of the 256KB system RAM.