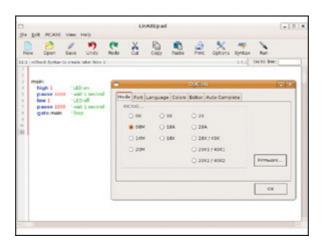
AXEpad

Cross-Platform Development for PICAXE Chips

Beta-Release Version 0.1.x

2009-01-19

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Introduction

AXEpad is a cross-platform development tool for PICAXE chips. It supports BASIC programming of PICAXE chips on Windows, Macintosh and Linux operating systems.

AXEpad is a 'notepad' type application for the development of PICAXE programs. It supports all PICAXE chips and has all the normal development features such as source code colour syntax highlighting, auto indentation, syntax check and download, debug and terminal windows etc. This is the recommended tool for Linux and Macintosh support of the PICAXE system.

Although a Windows version is also available, we would recommend use of the PICAXE Programming Editor instead.

Warranty, Licensing and Copyright

The current status of AXEpad is that of a Beta-Release.

While having undergone rigorous testing, not all advertised functionality of AXEpad may be available for all operating systems or for all configurations. Associated documentation may be incomplete and contain errors and omission.

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AXEpad, LinAXEpad, MacAXEpad and WinAXEpad are trademarks of Revolution Education Ltd.

System Requirements

Linux

x86-based Linux distributions with GTK+ 2.8 or higher glibc-2.4 CUPS (Common UNIX Printing System) libstdc++.so.6

Compatible Linux Distributions include -

Xandros on Eee PC Ubuntu 6.10 (Edgy Eft) and later SUSE Linux Enterprise Desktop 10 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5

Macintosh

Mac OS X 10.2 (Jaguar) or later, Intel or PowerPC processor

Windows

Windows 2000 or later, including Windows XP, Windows Vista

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Latest Documentation

The latest version of this document can be downloaded from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/docs/pad001.pdf

Linux Installation

Requirements

Please note that LinAXEpad requires an INtel x86-based Linux distribution with GTK+ 2.8 or higher, glibc-2.4, CUPS (Common UNIX Printing System) and libstdc++.so.6 installed.

Compatible Linux Distributions include; Xandros on Eee PC, Ubuntu 6.10 (Edgy Eft) or later, SUSE Linux Enterprise Desktop 10 and Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.

Downloading LinAXEpad

The LinAXEpad download is a single gzipped tar archive (frequently known as a "tarball") which can be downloaded from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/software/LinAXEpad.tar.gz

Save the *LinAXEpad.tar.gz* file on hard disk, memory stick or card, CD or DVD which can be accessed by the Linux PC upon which LinAXEpad will be installed.

Installing LinAXEpad

LinAXEpad is delivered as an application binary distribution and does not require the compilation of any source code. Providing the system requirements are met it can simply be installed then run.

There are numerous and varying distributions of Linux and it is recommended that the documentation which accompanies your particular distribution is consulted before installation.

Installing LinAXEpad for Eee PC

Launch the Work > File Manager application

Create or select a folder to extract the LinAXEpad application to. For example, create a "LinAXEpad" folder in "My Home".

Locate the *LinAXEpad.tar.gz* file previously downloaded.

Click on *LinAXEpad.tar.gz* to view the zipped contents.

Select all the files/folders and drag to your new folder. You will see three sub-folders - *compiler_linux*, *datasheets* and *syntax* - plus the *LinAXEpad* application executable.

Right-Click on *LinAXEpad*, select 'Properties',then select the 'Permissions' tab.

Ensure that the 'Exec' option is checked for Owner, Group and Others then click on the 'OK' button.

To launch AXEpad, double click on the *LinAXEpad* file.

Installing LinAXEpad for Ubuntu

Launch Nautilus or your favourite file manager and locate the *LinAXEpad.tar.gz* file previously downloaded.

Double-click on LinAXEpad.tar.gz and this will launch the File Roller Archive Manager. Alternatively,

right-click on *LinAXEpad.tar.gz* and select 'Open with Archive Manager'.

Click on the 'Extract' toolbar icon or use the Archive then Extract menu option to load the *LinAXEpad.tar.gz* archive.

Create or select a folder to extract the LinAXEpad application to. For example, create a "LinAXEpad" folder in your 'Home Folder'. Ensure the 'All Files', 'Re-Create Folders' and 'Overwrite Files' options are all ticked; note that preferences previously selected in LinAXEpad will not be overwritten nor altered. Click the 'Extract' button.

When the files have been extracted, close the Archive Manager and use Nautilus to navigate to the folder the LinAXEpad application was extracted to. You will see three sub-folders - *compiler_linux*, *datasheets* and *syntax* - plus the *LinAXEpad* application executable.

Right-Click on *LinAXEpad*, select 'Properties',then select the 'Permissions' tab.

Ensure that the 'Execute: Allow executing file as program' option has been ticked then click on the 'Close' button.

Right-Click on *LinAXEpad* and select 'Make Link'. This will create a *Link to LinAXEpad* file in the current folder.

Right-Click on *Link to LinAXEpad* and select 'Cut'. Then navigate to your 'Home Folder', then into 'Desktop'. Right-click in the right pane and select 'Paste'. This will move the link to your desktop which will then be available when Nautilus has been closed. Close Nautilus.

To launch AXEpad, double click on the *Link to LinAXEpad* file on your desktop. The *Link to LinAXEpad* file can be renamed if desired.

Installing LinAXEpad from a Command Shell

Login as a *root* user then open a Command Shell; under Gnome that will be *Terminal*, under KDE that will be *Konsole*. Create a *LinAXEpad* directory under the Home Directory and move into that directory. For example -

```
user@linux:~$ mkdir ~/LinAXEpad
user@linux:~$ cd ~/LinAXEpad
user@linux:~/LinAXEpad$
```

Locate the downloaded *LinAXEpad.tar.gz* file then use the *tar* command to extract the contents into the *LinAXEpad* directory. The *path* will be the directory where the *LinAXEpad.tar.gz* file was downloaded to -

```
user@linux:~/LinAXEpad$ tar -xvzf path/LinAXEpad.tar.gz
```

Use the *chmod* command to ensure the LinAXEpad application is executable -

```
user@linux:~/LinAXEpad$ chmod 755 LinAXEpad
```

Launch the LinAXEpad Application using -

```
user@linux:~/LinAXEpad$ LinAXEpad
```

Installing an AXE027 USB Download Cable

Please see the AXE027.pdf file for instructions on installing the AXE027 USB Download Cable drivers.

This document can be viewed when LinAXEpad has been installed by clicking on the 'Help' then 'AXE027 USB Download Cable' menu options, clicking on the 'USB Help' button in the 'View', 'Options', 'Port' configuration window, or by downloading from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/docs/axe027.pdf

Note that it is not necessary to install any additional software drivers for the AXE027 USB Download Cable.

Installed files

```
base ---.-- LinAXEpad Executable Application
|--- compilers_lin PICAXE Compilers for Linux
|--- datasheets PICAXE Manuals and datasheets (PDF)

`--- syntax Colour syntax highlighting definitions
```

Preferences File

Preferences for LinAXEpad are remembered on a per-user basis and are held in the normally hidden .*LinAXEpad* sub-directory of the user's home directory as an *axepad.ini* text file. Please note the leading period, full-stop or dot, which marks the directory as hidden. It may be necessary to enable the display of hidden directories depending upon file manager application used.

The *axepad.ini* file is created and automatically updated as necessary by LinAXEpad when run. It is not normally necessary nor recommended to manually edit the *axepad.ini* file.

Macintosh Installation

Requirements

Please note that MacAXEpad requires Mac OS X 10.2 (Jaguar) or later, Intel or PowerPC processor.

Downloading MacAXEpad

The MacAXEpad download is a single compressed Macintosh application bundle which can be downloaded from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/software/MacAXEpad.app.tar.gz

Save the *MacAXEpad.app.tar.gz* file on hard disk, memory stick or card, CD or DVD which can be accessed by the Macintosh upon which MacAXEpad will be installed.

Installing MacAXEpad

To install simply double-click the *MacAXEpad.app.tar.gz* file to extract the MacAXEpad application bundle.

To launch AXEpad, double-click on the MacAXEpad icon.

Installing AXE027 USB Download Cable Drivers

Please see the AXE027.pdf file for instructions on installing the AXE027 USB Download Cable drivers.

This document can be viewed when MacAXEpad has been installed by clicking on the 'Help' then 'AXE027 USB Download Cable' menu options, clicking on the 'USB Help' button in the 'View', 'Options', 'Port' configuration window, or by downloading from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/docs/axe027.pdf

The latest AXE027 Software Drivers for Macintosh can be downloaded from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/software/axe027_mac_intel.dmg.zip

Installed files

```
base ---.-- MacAXEpad Executable
|--- compilers_mac PICAXE Compilers for Mac
|--- datasheets PICAXE Manuals and datasheets (PDF)

`--- syntax Colour syntax highlighting definitions
```

Preferences File

Preferences for MacAXEpad are remembered on a per-user basis and are held in an *axepad.ini* text file stored in the user's preferences directory which will normally be -

:Users:username:Library:Preferences:

The *axepad.ini* file is created and automatically updated as necessary by MacAXEpad when run. It is not necessary, nor recommended, to manually edit the *axepad.ini* file.

Windows Installation

Requirements

Please note that WinAXEpad requires Windows 2000 or later. WinAXEpad will work with Windows XP and Windows Vista. The PICAXE Programming Editor will work with any Windows 32-bit Operating System, Windows 95 and later.

We recommend the use of the PICAXE Programming Editor for PICAXE development under Windows.

Downloading WinAXEpad

The WinAXEpad download is a single compressed installer which can be downloaded from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/software/WinAXEpad.exe

Save the *WinAXEpad.exe* file on hard disk, memory stick or card, CD or DVD which can be accessed by the Windows PC upon which WinAXEpad will be installed.

Installing WinAXEpad for Windows

Ensure you are logged on to Windows with Administrator privileges.

To install simply double-click the WinAXEpad.exe file to run the Microsoft Installer.

To launch AXEpad, from the Start Menu, select *All Programs*, *Revolution Education*, *AXEpad*, *WinAXEpad*.

Installing AXE027 USB Download Cable Drivers

It will not be necessary to re-install the AXE027 drivers if they have already been installed for the PICAXE Programming Editor.

Please see the AXE027.pdf file for instructions on installing the AXE027 USB Download Cable drivers.

This document can be viewed when WinAXEpad has been installed by clicking on the 'Help' then 'AXE027 USB Download Cable' menu options, clicking on the 'USB Help' button in the 'View', 'Options', 'Port' configuration window, or by downloading from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/docs/axe027.pdf

The latest AXE027 Software Drivers for Windows can be downloaded from Revolution Education Ltd's web site at -

```
http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/software/axe027.zip - XP, 2000, 2003, Vista http://www.rev-ed.co.uk/software/axe027x64.zip - XP (64-Bit)
```

Installed files

```
base ---. WinAXEpad.exe Executable Application
|--- WinAXEpad_libs Windows support files
|--- compilers_win PICAXE Compilers for Windows
|--- datasheets PICAXE Manuals and datasheets (PDF)
`--- syntax Colour syntax highlighting definitions
```

Preferences File

Preferences for WinAXEpad are remembered on a per-user basis and are held in an *axepad.ini* text file stored in the user's preferences directory which will normally be -

C:\Documents and Settings\username\Application Data

The *axepad.ini* file is created and automatically updated as necessary by WinAXEpad when run. It is not necessary, nor recommended, to manually edit the *axepad.ini* file.

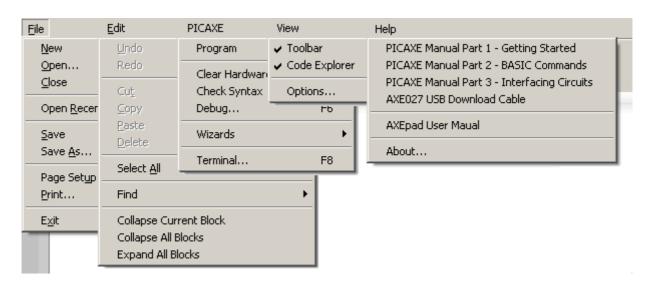
Note that preferences for WinAXEpad are entirely separate to preferences for the PICAXE Programming Editor; altering preferences in one will not affect preferences in the other if both are installed.

Using AXEpad

PICAXE programmers who have used the PICAXE Programming Editor should find AXEpad to be very familiar to work with. Those who have not should find AXEpad to be intuitive and straight-forward to use.

The following sections detail the main aspects of AXEpad.

Menu Bar



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New Create a new program

Open Open an existing program file Close Close the current program Open Recent Open a recently used file Save the current program Save Save As Save the current program Page Setup Configure the printer Print Print the program Exit Close AXEpad

Edit

Undo Undo previous changes
Redo Redo previous changes

Cut Remove selected text from program

Copy Selected text of program

Paste Paste text into program
Delete Delete the selected text

Select All Select all text

Find Find within program text

Collapse Current Block
Collapse All Blocks
Collapse all collapsible blocks
Expand All Blocks
Expand all collapsible blocks

PICAXE

Program Download program to PICAXE

Clear Hardware Memory Clear the PICAXE program and data memory

Check Syntax Check the syntax of the program

Debug Start the Debug Display

Wizards Launch a Programming Wizard

Terminal Start the serial Terminal

View

Toolbar Show or hide the toolbar

Code Explorer
Options
Show or hide the Code Explorer
Select configuration options

Help

PICAXE Manual 1 View the Getting Started manual
PICAXE Manual 2 View the Basic Commands manual
PICAXE Manual 3 View the Circuit Interfacing manual
AXE027 USB Download Cable View the AXE027 instruction manual

AXEpad User Manual View AXEpad user manual About Show AXEpad version details

Tool Bar

The Toolbar provides graphical one-click access to common operations within AXEpad.

The Toolbar will displayed when the View, Toolbar menu option is ticked.



To perform a Toolbar operation, simply move the mouse over the required icon and single left-click. Each icon will perform an associated and equivalent menu bar operation -

New	File, New	Create a new program
Open	File, Open	Open an existing program file
Save	File, Save	Save the current program
Undo	Edit, Undo	Undo previous changes
Redo	Edit, Redo	Redo previous changes
Cut	Edit, Cut	Remove selected text from program
Copy	Edit, Copy	Copy selected text of program
Paste	Edit, Paste	Paste text into program
Print	File, Print	Print the program
Options	View, Options	Select configuration options
Syntax	PICAXE, Check Syntax	Check the syntax of the program
Program	PICAXE, Program	Download program to PICAXE

Code Explorer

The Code Explorer shows a list of all constants, variables and labels which have been used in the PICAXE Basic program being edited. This list is updated whenever a Syntax Check is performed, the program is downloaded into a PICAXE or the heading of the Code Explorer is clicked.

Clicking on one of the Code Explorer entries will cause entries which match that clicked upon to be cycled through in the PICAXE Basic program being edited.

The Code Explorer will be shown when the *View*, *Show Code Explorer* menu option is ticked.

Label List

The Label List, when clicked upon, pops-up a list of all labels which have been defined in the PICAXE Basic program being edited. This list is updated whenever a Syntax Check is performed, the program is downloaded into a PICAXE or the heading of the Code Explorer is clicked (if shown).

Clicking on one of the List Label entries will cause labels which match that clicked upon to be cycled through in the PICAXE Basic program being edited.

Goto Line

The Goto Line entry field allows a line in the PICAXE Basic program to be quickly selected.

Simply enter the line number desired and press return. The line specified will be located and highlighted in the PICAXE program.

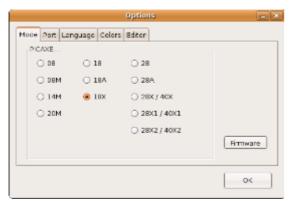
Keyboard Shortcuts

Ctrl-A	Edit, Select All	Select all of program
Ctrl-C	Edit, Copy	Copy selected text of program
Ctrl-N	File, New	Create a new program
Ctrl-O	File, Open	Open an existing program file
Ctrl-P	File, Print	Print the program
Ctrl-Q	File, Quit	Quite AXEpad
Ctrl-S	File, Save	Save the current program
Ctrl-V	Edit, Paste	Paste text into program
Ctrl-X	Edit, Cut	Remove selected text from program
Ctrl-Z	Edit, Undo	Undo previous changes
Shift + Ctrl-Z	Edit, Redo	Redo previous changes
F4	PICAXE, Check Syntax	Check the syntax of the program
F5	PICAXE, Program	Download program to PICAXE
F6	PICAXE, Debug	Start the Debug Display
F8	PICAXE, Terminal	Start the serial Terminal

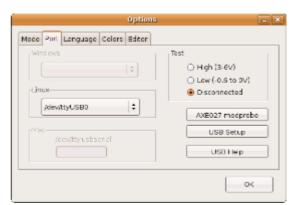
Options

AXEpad can be configured for use with a particular PICAXE type and for user preferences using the Options settings.

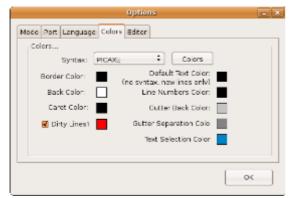
Options settings are accessed by clicking on the *View*, *Options* menu option. This will present a tabbed panel through which a variety of settings can be changed. Settings are remembered in a preferences file and are unique for each user of the computer, that is, each user can choose preferences which best suit themselves -



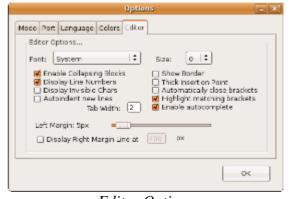
Mode Options



Port Options



Color Options



Editor Options

Mode

The Mode panel is used to select the PICAXE type being used; this should match the PICAXE you have installed in your hardware or that which you are developing code for.

The 'Firmware' button will identify or confirm the PICAXE type installed in your hardware and its Firmware Version Number. Use the Port panel to select the serial connection used to connect to your hardware.

The selection of PICAXE type affects the operation of the Debug Display and preconfigures the Ring Tone Tune and PWM Wizards. Please select the correct PICAXE type before using those facilities.

Port

The Port panel is used to specify the serial connection you have to your hardware.

Language

The Language panel is used to select the language in which you wish AXEpad to operate in.

${\bf Colors}$

The Colors panel allows AXEpad Syntax Highlighting to be configured.

Editor

The Editor panel allows basic editing functions of AXEpad to be configured.

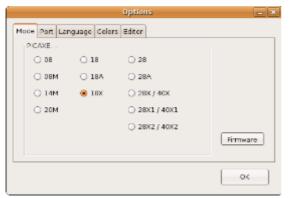
PICAXE Programming

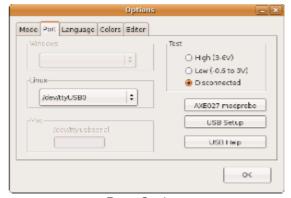
Programming a PICAXE consists of three steps; writing the PICAXE program to be executed, checking the program's syntax for correctness, and physically programming the PICAXE chip.

This section details the mechanisms for getting a PICAXE program into a physical PICAXE chip.

Configuration

Prior to programming a PICAXE it is necessary to configure AXEpad for the PICAXE being used and the serial connection to your hardware. This is done through the AXEpad configuration options which can be accessed using the *View*, *Options* menu option or by clicking on the *Options* toolbar icon -





Mode Options

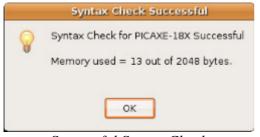
Port Options

Please see the earlier Options section for full details of AXEpad configuration.

Syntax Check

The syntax of a PICAXE program can be checked for correctness at any time by using the *PICAXE*, *Check Syntax* menu option, by using the *F4* function key or by clicking on the *Syntax* toolbar icon.

After the program has been checked for correctness a status report will be presented indicating a passed or failed result -



Successful Syntax Check



Failed Syntax Check

If the program syntax was correct, the Code Explorer and Label List will be updated to reflect the current PICAXE program.

Program

A PICAXE can be programmed by using the *PICAXE*, *Program* menu option, by using the *F5* function key or by clicking on the *Program* toolbar icon.

The syntax of the program being edited will be checked for correctness and any errors will be reported. If

the program is error free then it will be downloaded to the PICAXE hardware and then executed.

A 'splash screen' will show download and programming progress -



After programming completes a status message will be produced providing information about the programming and PICAXE firmware as appropriate or the Debug Display will automatically launch if the program contains a debug command.

Clear Hardware Memory

A Clear Hardware Memory can be performed by using the *PICAXE*, *Clear Hardware Memory* menu option.

This will download a 'blank PICAXE program' into the PICAXE, similar to programming the PICAXE with any other program but one which will "do nothing".

After the PICAXE memory has been cleared a status message will be produced providing information about the programming and PICAXE firmware as appropriate.

Debug Display

The Debug Display can be used with a PICAXE Basic program to monitor the contents of variables and PICAXE chip configuration while that program is executing.

The Debug Display is launched using the Menu Bar, *PICAXE* then *Debug*... options or by using the *F8* function key. It will also be automatically launched whenever a PICAXE Basic program containing a debug statement has been downloaded -





Byte Display

Word Display

Note that a PICAXE Basic program must contain at least one Debug statement to produce usable debugging information. The Debug Display is updated whenever (and only when) a Debug statement is executed. The Debug Display title bar will show "Waiting" until the first debugging information is received and then show a count of how many Debug statements have been executed.

The displayed information of the Debug Display will vary to match the PICAXE type which is being debugged. AXEpad should be configured through the *View*, *Options* menu option and *Mode* and panels before debugging commences.

Note that it is necessary to match the Debug Display operation to the speed of the executing PICAXE. PICAXE operating frequency is chosen using the selection box which allows a choice of 4MHz, 8MHz and 16MHz operating frequencies.

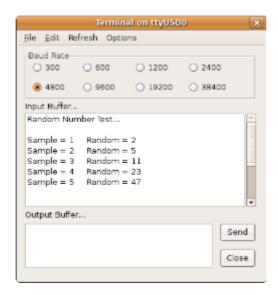
Data in PICAXE variables can be shown as byte or word data; tick the *Words* checkbox to display word data.

The 'Close' button will close the Debug Display and allow editing of the PICAXE Basic program to continue.

Terminal

The Terminal allows serial data sent by a PICAXE Basic program to be displayed on-screen and allows data to be sent to a PICAXE program.

The Terminal is launched using the Menu Bar, *PICAXE* then *Terminal* option or by pressing the *F8* function key -



Serial data sent from the PICAXE using the Sertxd or Serout commands will be displayed in the Input Buffer. The correct baud rate should be selected to match the baud rate the PICAXE is transmitting it. For the Sertxd command this will be 4800 baud, for a Serout command, whatever is specified in the command. The baud rate will need to be adjusted if over-clocking the PICAXE; 4800 baud will become 9600 baud at 8MHz, 19200 baud at 16MHz.

Data can be sent to the PICAXE to be received by a Serin or Serrxd command. The data to send is entered into the Output Buffer text area and the 'Send' button is clicked to send the data.

The *Options*, *Add 5ms delay between sent bytes* menu option when ticked will ensure there is a small delay between sending each character in the Output Buffer. The *Options*, *Add <CR> on send* menu option when ticked will cause a carriage-return character to be sent after the data in the Output Buffer is transmitted.

The *Edit*, *Clear Input Buffer* and *Copy Input Buffer* menu options will clear the Input Buffer display and copy whatever is held in the Input Buffer to the Clipboard respectively.

The *Refresh* menu option will clear the Input Buffer display, close and then re-open the serial input connection. This is convenient if the computer is buffering up a lot of serial data and it is desired to skip that data to what is currently being transmitted.

The 'Close' button and *File*, *Exit* menu option will close the Terminal and allow editing of the PICAXE Basic program to continue.

Ring Tone Tune Wizard

The Ring Tone Tune Wizard can be used to import Ring Tone Tune files (*.rtl and *.rtttl files) and convert them to appropriate numeric sequences which can be used with the PICAXE tune command.

The Ring Tone Tune Wizard is accessed using the Menu Bar, *PICAXE*, *Wizards*, then *Ring Tone Tunes*... options. This will launch the Ring Tone Tune Wizard interface -





PICAXE-08M Mode

Other PICAXE Modes

The 'Import Tune' button will allow a ring tone tune saved to disk to be loaded and converted to an equivalent Tune command.

For a PICAXE-08M, the 'Output LED' options will allow the LED Flashing which accompanies the playing of a tune to be selected. For other PICAXE variants, the 'Output Pin' options allow the output pin to which the tune will be directed to be selected (for example, an output pin with a piezo connected).

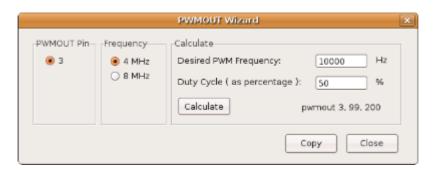
The 'Copy' button can be used to copy the converted tone command to the clipboard for pasting elsewhere and will automatically prompt to also paste the command into the PICAXE Basic program currently being edited.

The 'Close' button will close the Ring Tone Tune Wizard and allow editing of the PICAXE Basic program to continue.

PWMout Wizard

The PWMout Wizard can be used to quickly and easily determine parameters for the PICAXE pwmout command.

The PWMout Wizard is accessed using the Menu Bar, *PICAXE*, *Wizards*, then *PWMout*... options. This will launch the PWMout Wizard interface -



First, select the output pin on which PWM will be generated and selected the PICAXE operating frequency to be used. Available options will be selected according to the PICAXE type being used.

Secondly, select the PWM output frequency desired (in Hz) and the duty of the PWM signal required (as a percentage).

Click on the 'Calculate' button and the required pwmout command parameters will be calculated.

The 'Copy' button can be used to copy the determined pwmout command to the clipboard for pasting elsewhere and will automatically prompt to also paste the command into the PICAXE Basic program currently being edited.

The 'Close' button will close the PWMout Wizard and allow editing of the PICAXE Basic program to continue.