

YBox2 Kit

Making a programming cable

March 30, 2011 18:51

Making an FTDI programming cable

If you have a [3.3V FTDI cable](#), turning it into a Propeller programming cable is rather easy. A modified cable is cheaper than a [propplug](#), too!

You can also build a serial-only cable using the FTDI design, it only requires a DB-9, a couple transistors & passives:

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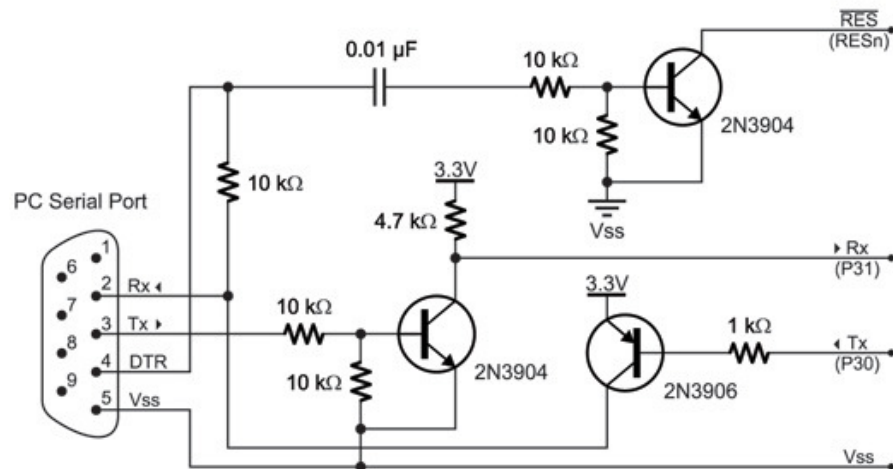
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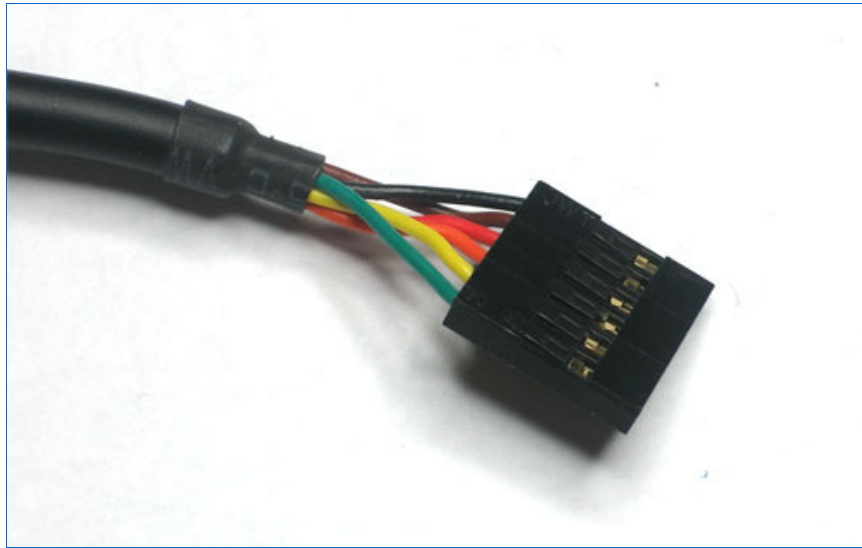


Parallax Propeller

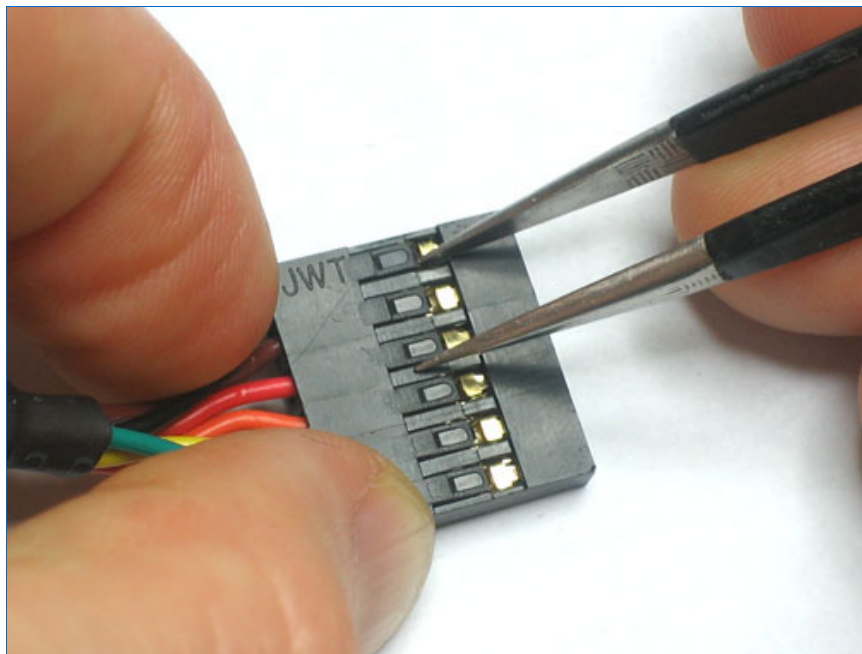
Step 1. Hack the cable

First get yourself a FTDI cable, make sure its the 3.3V version!

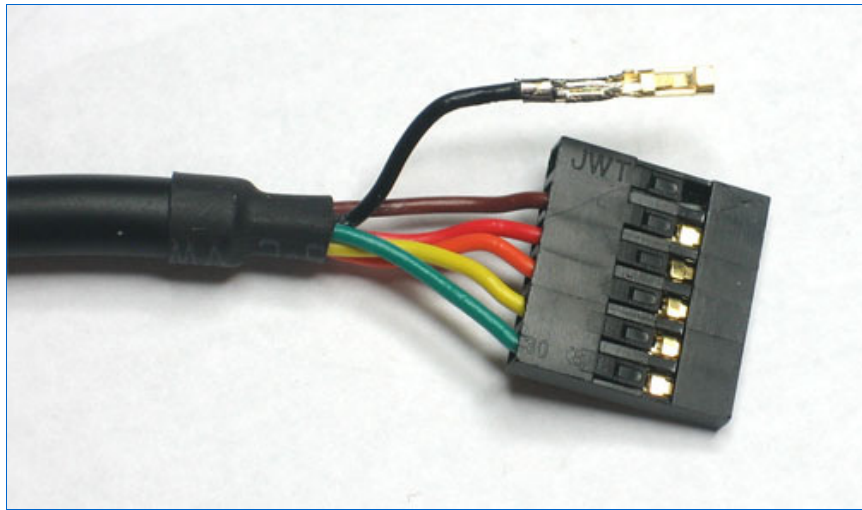
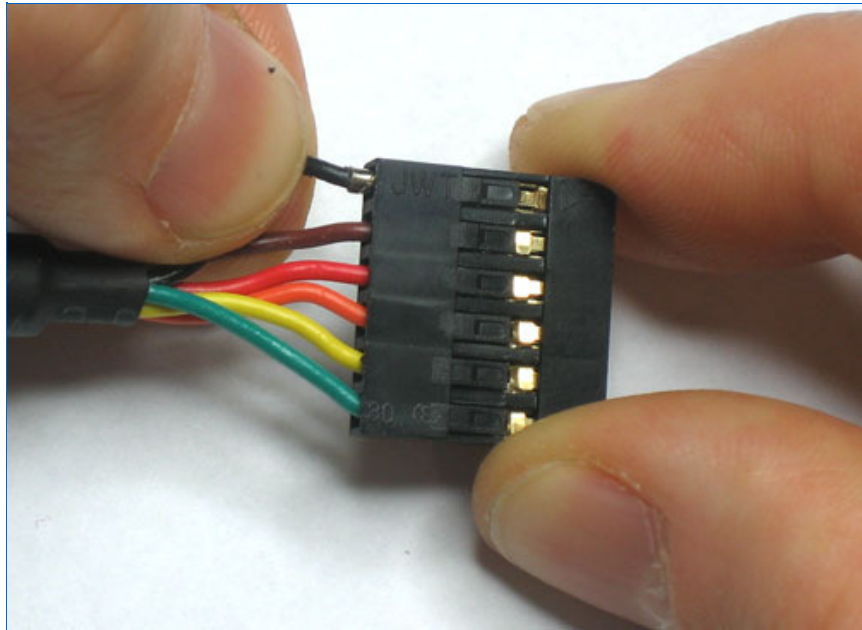




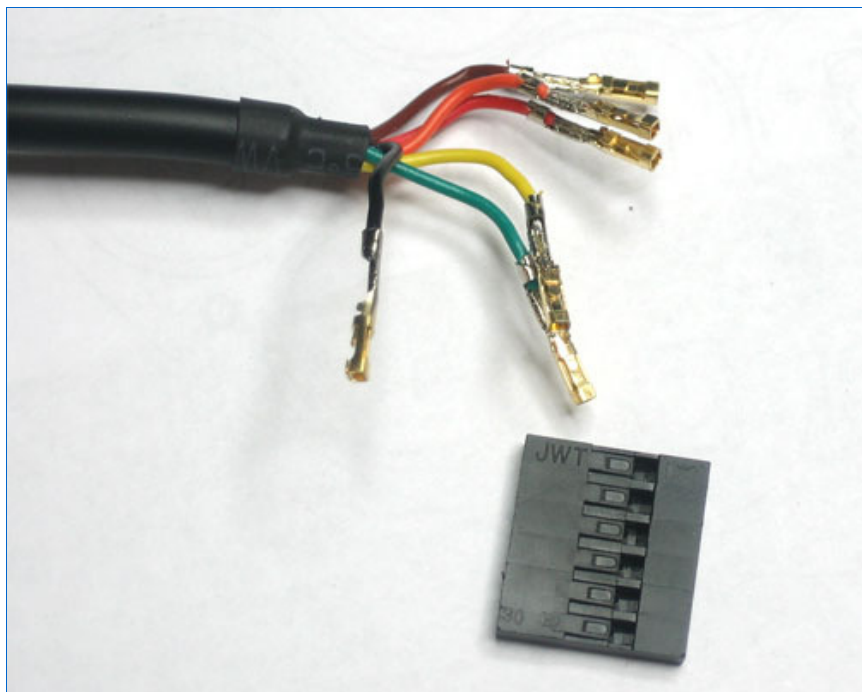
Use tweezers to lift up the black connector tabs



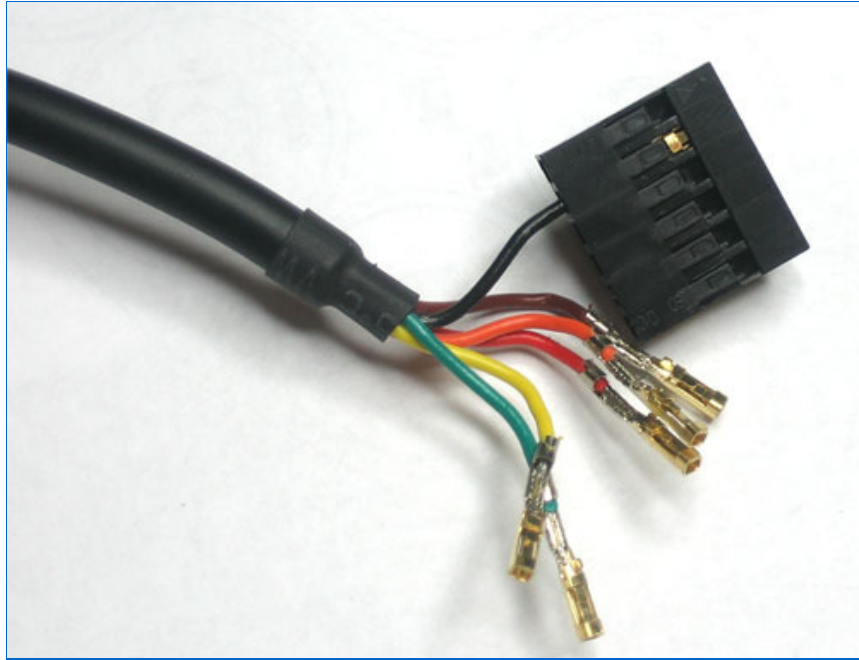
Then pull out the wires



Repeat for all 6 wires

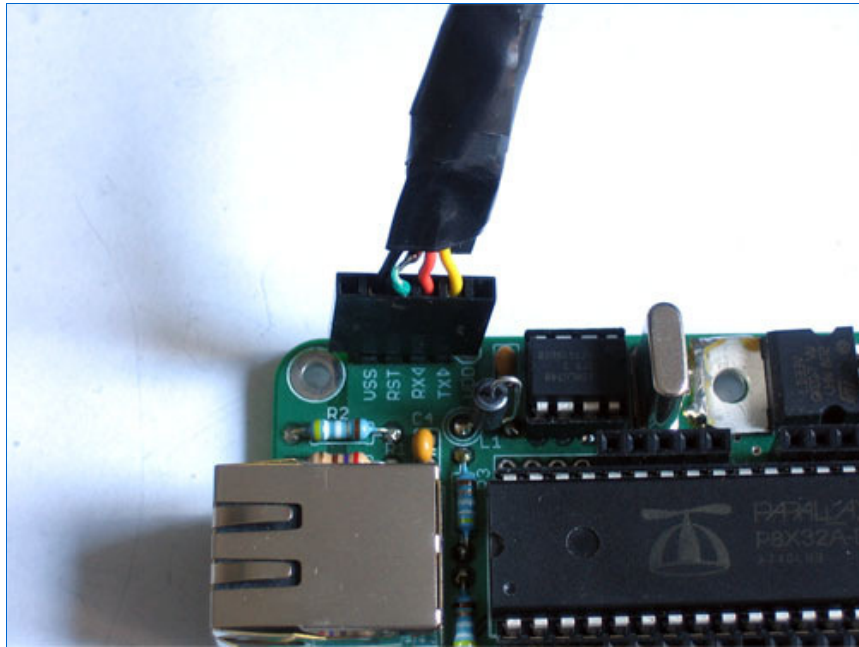


Now reassemble the cable, starting with the black wire



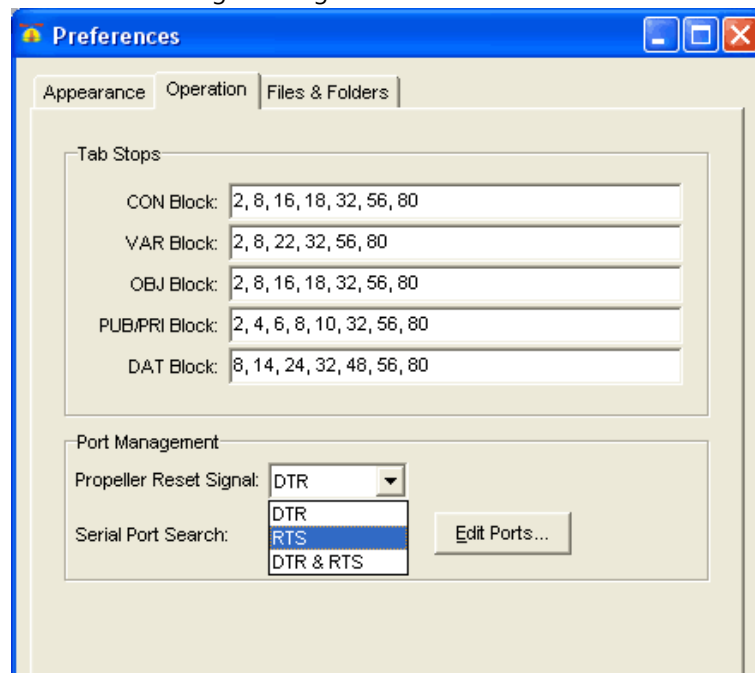
The cables should be in the order: Black, Green, Orange, Yellow.

Finally, a little electrical tape wrapped around the unused wires (Red and Brown) and onto the cable keeps it nice & neat, without risk of the Red wire shorting out to the others. When plugging in, make sure the black wire goes to VSS



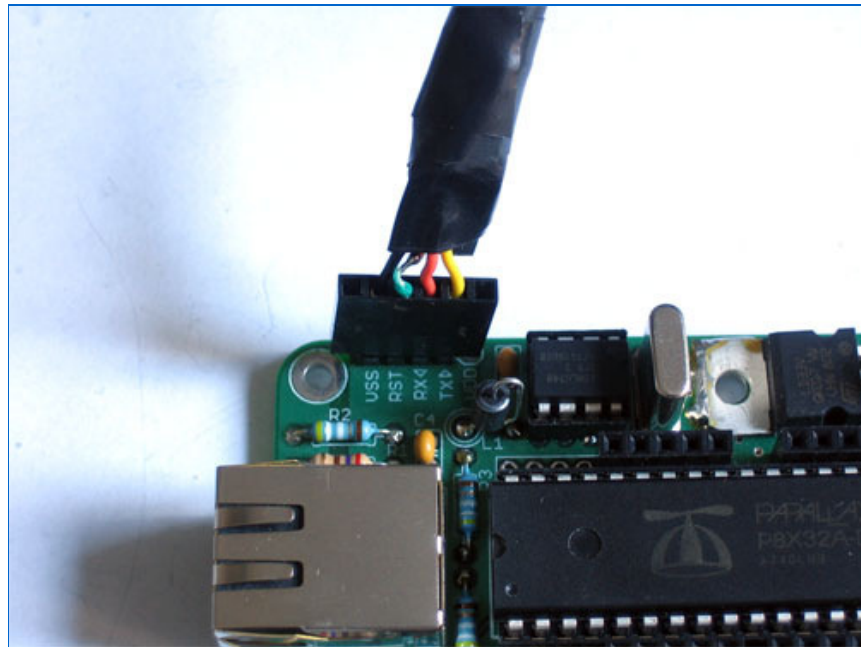
Step 2. Change Propeller Tool

Start up the Propeller tool and go to **Preferences...** Then under the **Operation** tab, select **RTS** as the Reset Signal.

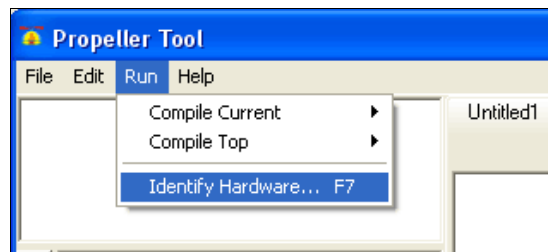


Test it out

Power up the YBox2 (or your favorite Propeller project) and plug in the cable so that the black wire goes to VSS.



Now start up the Propeller software and select **Identify Hardware**



You should get the following notice, indicating everything is good to go:

