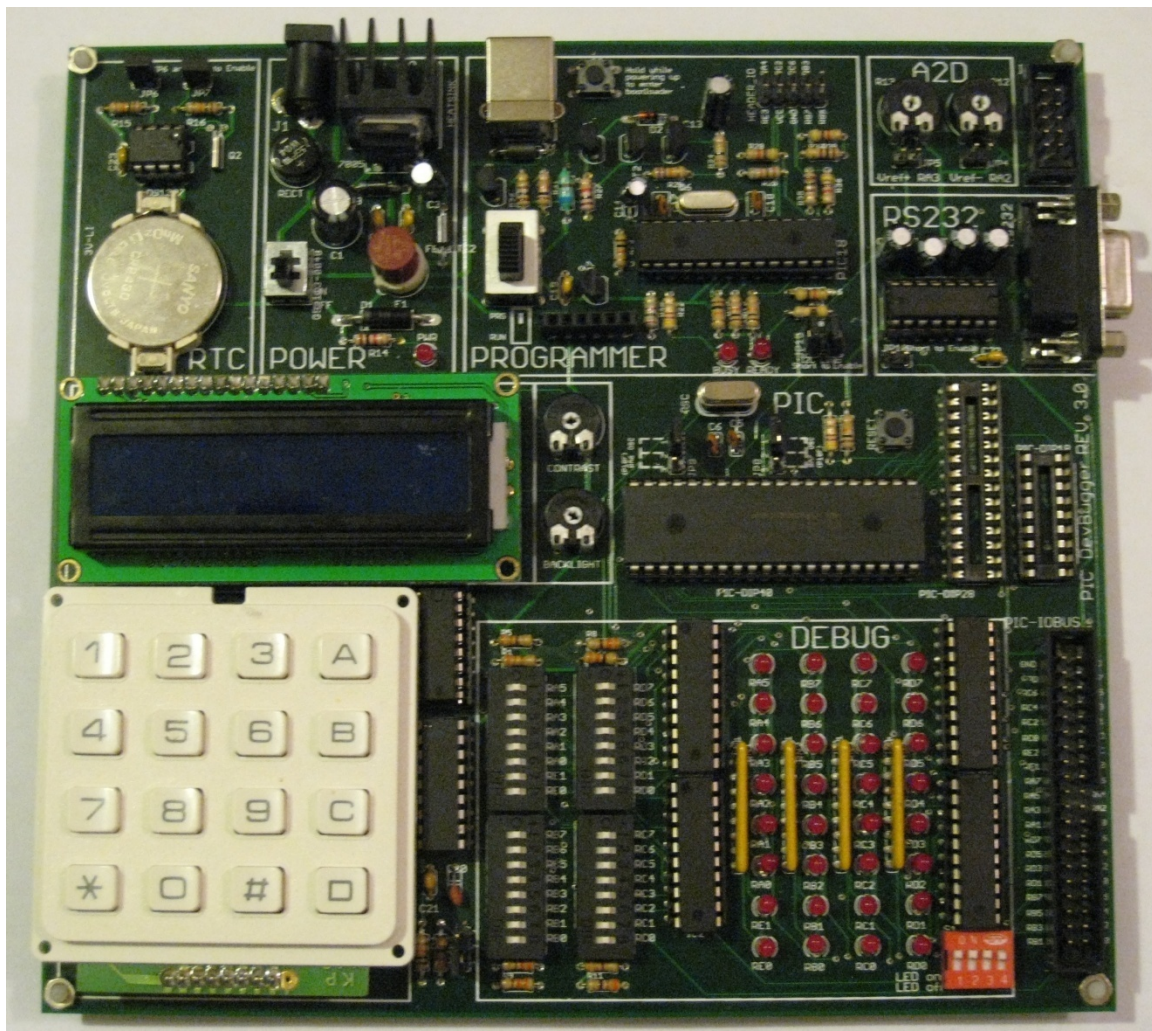




Affordable Comprehensive Transparent  
**PERSONAL MECHATRONICS LAB**

## Personal Mechatronics Lab

# Microcontroller Board User Manual



August 2010

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

The *PIC Microcontroller board* development board was designed as a complete mobile solution to the PIC development, including a full-speed USB programmer and a number of peripheral modules, such as LCD, Keypad, Real Time Clock, A2D, and RS232 and I<sup>2</sup>C serial ports. One especially useful feature of the board is the debugging module, which monitors all pin states and allows the user to emulate inputs to the PIC. The board is ideal for students, as it can be used to develop and test codes quickly and effectively. It is also easy to track down and repair all components on the board. Applications can vary from an exclusive development platform to a full-scale embedded processing/control system used in a final design.

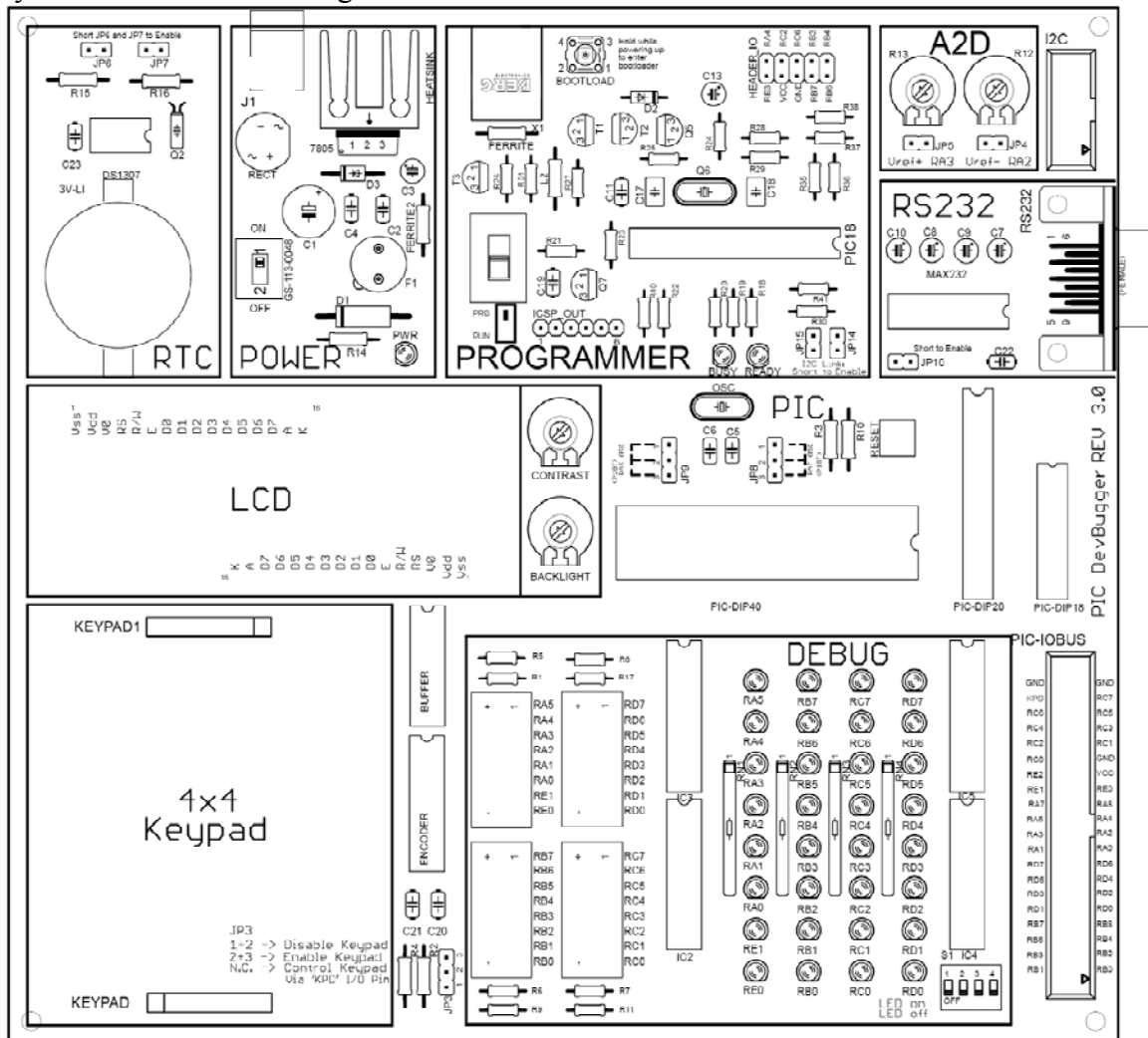


Figure 1: The PIC Microcontroller board

## **1.2 Features**

- Open, modular, and simple design for learning purposes
- Supports a wide range of implementations, from simple MCU operation to parallel processing, memory extension, serial communication, etc.
- Supports 18-, 28-, and 40-pin packages for PIC16 and 18 families
- In-circuit USB High Voltage Programmer (compatible with MPLAB<sup>®</sup> IDE)
- Dual USB-adaptor power supply (ranging from 7.5VDC to 17VDC)
- Debugging Module with 32 indicator LEDs and signal-emulation switches
- Programmer firmware can be modified for extra memory, parallel processing, and/or I/O pin extension
- Real Time Clock peripheral with 32.768khz crystal and battery socket
- On-board HD44780 LCD socket with contrast and backlight controls
- On-board 4x4 keypad socket and signal encoder
- 40-pin I/O bus with ribbon cable connector
- Changeable oscillator clock (10MHz crystal included)
- On-board RS232 peripheral including female socket and level converter
- I<sup>2</sup>C bus expansion socket
- On-board A2D voltage reference setting

## **1.3 Included in the Box**

The development kit should come with the following items:

- *PIC Microcontroller* development board
- CD/URL from which to download necessary software, drivers, and sample codes
- 2 USB cables
- 40-pin I/O bus cable with header
- 40-pin I/O bus cable without header
- HD44780-controlled LCD display
- 4x4 matrix keypad
- AC-DC adaptor unit
- USB AC-DC Adaptor

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## 2. Operation

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### 2.1 Operational Modes

The PIC *Microcontroller board* has three modes of operation, as follows:

- Programming:** Used to load compiled HEX code onto the main PIC device. To enter this mode, flip the slide switch of the programmer module to the PRG position. The VPP, PGC and PGD pins of the main PIC device are disconnected from the main I/O bus, and connected instead to the programmer module. A PC application, such as MPLAB<sup>®</sup> IDE or PICusb, can be used to control the execution of code in this mode.
- Executing:** This is the primary operational mode of the board. To enter this mode, flip the slide switch of the programmer to the RUN position. All I/O pins of the main PIC device are connected to the I/O bus, and code executes freely. In addition, if the parallel processing firmware is used, the user-defined code on the programmer PIC begins to execute simultaneously to the main PIC.
- Bootloader:** For advanced users only. This mode allows the user to re-program the firmware of the programmer module via the USB link. The bootloader mode also allows the user to restore the programmer firmware in case it becomes corrupt. This mode can be entered either from the PC application or manually. To enter this mode manually, turn off the board power supply, then hold the BOOTLOAD button on the programmer module while turning the power supply back on. More details on using the bootloader feature can be found in Section 5.3.

### 2.2 Connecting to the PC for Programming

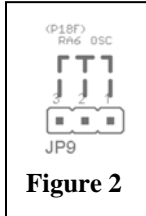
In order to load HEX code to the PIC device, the *Microcontroller board* must connect to a PC:

1. Install the **PICusb** programming software before connecting the board:
  - a. Run the PICusb setup program.An alternative option is to use MPLAB<sup>®</sup> IDE. In this case, PICusb installation is not required, and the Microcontroller board is recognized as PICKIT<sup>™</sup> 2 in MPLAB<sup>®</sup> IDE. (In this manual it is assumed that PICusb is used.)
2. Connect the *Microcontroller board* to the PC using the included USB cable.
3. The board can be powered by the USB cable. However, use of the wall adaptor is recommended for powering the board.
4. Set the board to **Programming** mode. (Section 2.1)
5. Flip the power switch to the ON position. (Section 3.1)
6. The PC should detect the Microcontroller board as a Human Interface Device and install the driver automatically.

7. The PIC device on the board is now ready to be programmed. (Section 4)

## 2.3 Customizing Board Operation

The *Microcontroller board* was designed with versatility in mind. To customize the operation of the board, several configuration jumpers and switches have been included, which must be set by the user. Before using the board for the first time, please ensure that the jumpers for each module have been configured as desired. More information about jumper settings for individual modules can be found in Section 3.



**Figure 2**

For those unfamiliar with jumpers, a jumper is a set of 2 or more exposed pins that can be connected adjacently in pairs, using a ‘shunt’. When two pins of the jumper are connected to each other, they are ‘shorted’. As a case example, if pins 1 and 2 in the following figure are connected using a shunt, then we say we have ‘shorted’ pins 2+3, and we have configured the board for use with a P18F type microcontroller as labeled above the jumper.

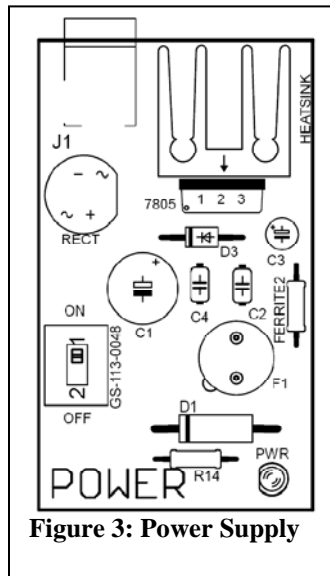
## 2.4 Interfacing with External Circuits

While the board is operating in **Executing** mode, all I/O pins of the PIC microcontroller are directly connected to the main I/O bus socket. Using the provided ribbon cable, this bus can be used to interface directly with external circuitry, since it provides a +5V supply and ground reference in addition to direct access to the pins of the main PIC. Also, note that the Keypad peripheral adds an extra pin to the bus, for on-the-fly enable/disable control, as described in Section 3.5. A detailed description of the pin connections on the ribbon cable is given in Section 3.9.

**WARNING:** the 5V supply on the bus is NOT intended as an alternate method of powering the Microcontroller board board, and NO guarantee is made for the continued integrity of the board in cases of such usage.

### 3. Board Modules

### 3.1 Power Supply



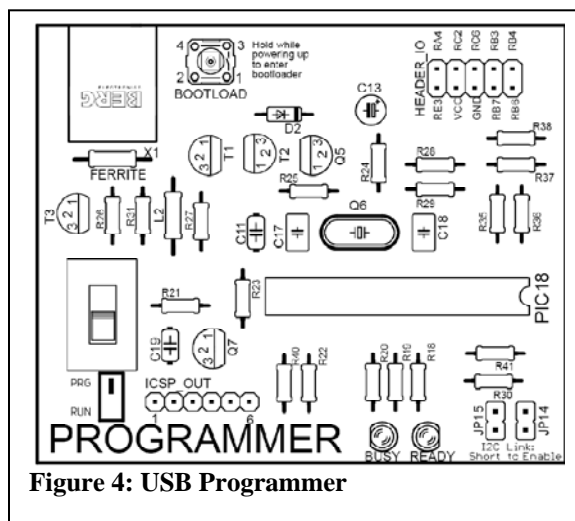
### Figure 3: Power Supply

The Power Supply module is designed to take DC input of 7.5V to 17V, and output a regulated 5V for all modules to share including the I/O bus. It also receives a regulated 5V from the USB as a power source for all modules. Either of these sources can be used as power supply, although the former is recommended. The max current capacity for all modules combined is 1A, enforced by a small replaceable fuse (1.25A, TR5 size).

The input connector is a female 5.5×2.1mm jack, which is compatible with many commonplace adaptors, and wall adaptors of any polarity may be used since the input is rectified.

A single two-pole slide switch controls power to the entire board by interrupting the positive power terminal immediately after rectification as well as interrupting the positive power terminal from the USB. In the ON position, the board is powered, as indicated by a red LED; in the OFF position, all modules are unpowered.

### 3.2 On-board USB Programmer



### Figure 4: USB Programmer

The *Microcontroller board* includes an on-board USB PIC programmer. The programmer operates in High Voltage Programming (HVP) mode given a supply voltage of 5V. It incorporates an internal voltage converter that boosts the 5V supply to 12V needed for HVP.

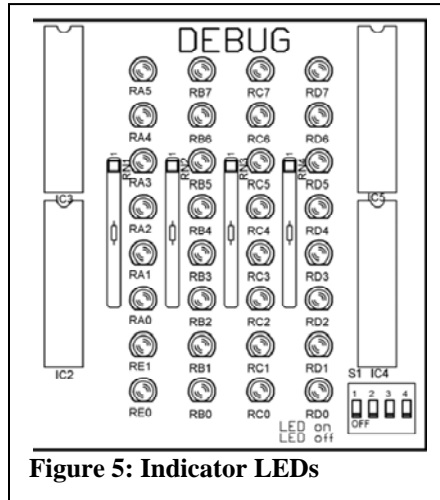
To enter Programming Mode, set the slide switch to the PRG position, and to enter Executing mode, set the slide switch to the RUN position. To enter bootloader mode (see Section 5.3), turn off the board power supply, hold the BOOTLOAD button, and turn the power supply back on.

For advanced users wishing to modify the programmer source code in order to take advantage of parallel computing, an I<sup>2</sup>C link may be established between the PIC18F2550 of the programmer module and the main PIC device. To physically establish

the electrical connection between the two devices, jumpers **JP14** and **JP15** must be shorted.

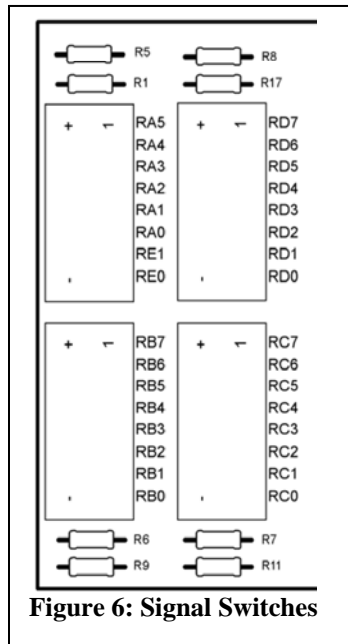
Users who want to use the PIC18F2550's I/O pins from the main PIC during runtime also need to short jumpers **JP14** and **JP15**. This function also makes use of the I<sup>2</sup>C bus implemented on the Microcontroller board between the main PIC and the programmer PIC. Please refer to Section 6.2 for more information on these capabilities.

### 3.3 Debugging Module



The Debugging module allows the user to monitor the states of the I/O pins of the main PIC device via 32 indicator LEDs. These indicators are fully buffered, so they do not impact the voltage levels of the signals they are monitoring – in other words, they can safely monitor the logic states of low-power sensor signals. However, it should be noted that unless specific lines are connected to signals or driven by the I/O ports, their indicators may flash unpredictably since they are floating.

The indicators can be disabled in four columns through the included DIP switch, in order to reduce current draw.



To control the LEDs (refer to Figure 5):

Slide switch 1 for **PORTA/PORTE**

Slide switch 2 for **PORTB**

Slide switch 3 for **PORTC**

Slide switch 4 for **PORTD**

The Microcontroller board also comes with 32 DIP switches to provide input to the pins of the main PIC for debugging purposes. Each switch corresponds to an indicator LED. Each DIP switch has 3 states – 5V, Ground, and Disconnected. The middle position of each switch disconnects it from its corresponding pin. The user can choose to set each pin high or low by switching the switch to its corresponding state.



### 3.4 HD44780 Based LCD

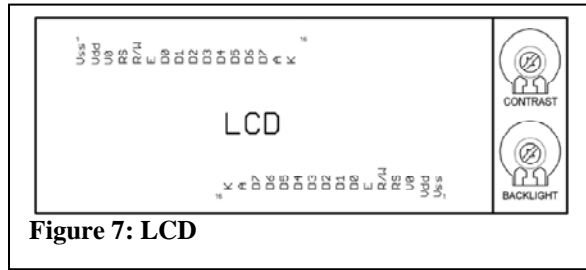


Figure 7: LCD

HD44780	PIC I/O Pin
RS	RD2
R/W	GND
E	RD3
D4	RD4
D5	RD5
D6	RD6
D7	RD7

Table 1

This peripheral module allows a HD44780-based LCD display to be easily connected to the board. Controls are provided for backlight and contrast, and two equivalent headers have been provided to support different LCD orientations.

Since the HD44780 protocol supports either 8-bit or 4-bit data transfer modes, the *Microcontroller board* has been configured to use 4-bit mode in the interest of conserving I/O pins. The HD44780 interface pins have been mapped to the PIC I/O ports as shown in Table 1.

### 3.5 4x4 KEYPAD

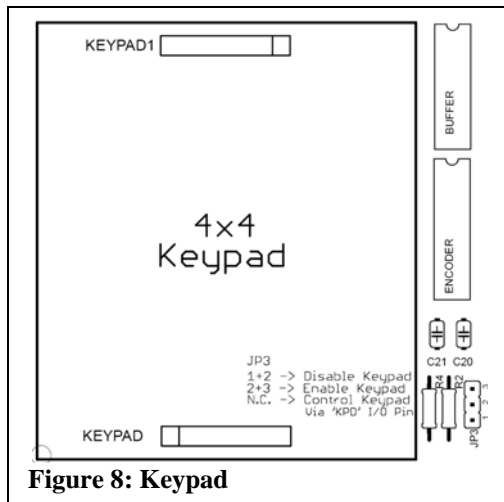


Figure 8: Keypad

Since 4x4 keypads are commonly used in microcontroller applications, this module was included to simplify the required interface. Two equivalent headers provide a socket for the keypad in different orientations, and a **MM74C922** hex encoder simplifies the polling process while reducing pin requirements. The data pins for the encoder are connected to **PORTB<7:4>** and the 'data available' pin (active high) is connected to **RB1**.

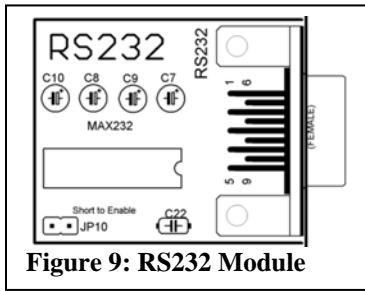
**JP3** allows the user to enable or disable the keypad:

Short pins **1 and 2** to *disable* keypad

Short pins **2 and 3** to *enable* keypad

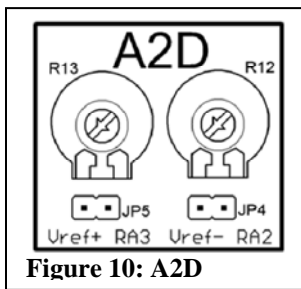
The Keypad module can also be enabled or disabled on-the-fly through the special **KPD** pin on the I/O bus. If this is desired, **JP3** should be left unconnected. If **KPD** is set high, the keypad will be *disabled*, and if set low, the keypad will be *enabled*. Note that **KPD** can be controlled either by external circuitry or directly by the PIC by connecting it to one of the ports on the I/O bus.

### 3.6 RS-232 DB-9 Communication



This peripheral module allows the user to communicate with a PC through a serial port, using the PIC's USART module. A MAX232 chip is used as a level converter since the USART and the serial port use different voltage levels, and a built-in DB9 connector allows easy connection to other RS232-compatible devices. Note that this module is connected to pins RC6 and RC7 when enabled. To enable this module, short **JP10**.

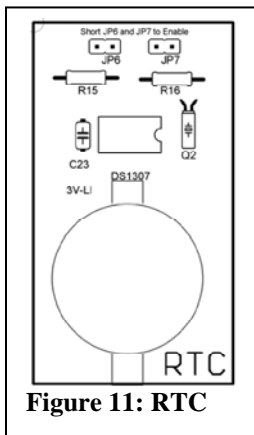
### 3.7 A2D Reference



The *Microcontroller board* has been equipped with two potentiometers, **R12** and **R13** to set the voltage reference levels for the Analog to Digital Converter (**ADC**). To enable these references, short **JP4** and **JP5**; if left unconnected, the references are disabled.

Short **JP4** to enable Vref on **RA2**  
Short **JP5** to enable Vref on **RA3**

### 3.8 Real Time Clock



A Real Time Clock (**RTC**) and disk battery allow for off-chip timekeeping, even when the rest of the board is unpowered. The circuit is designed for a DS1307 RTC chip, interfaced through I<sup>2</sup>C on pins **RC3** and **RC4**. To enable, short **JP6** and **JP7**.

*Note 1: The DS1307, 3V lithium disk battery, and jumper shunts are **not** included with the board.*

*Note 2: The RTC module was designed to be used with backup power (the 3V disk battery) and therefore must have the battery in the socket to ensure consistent operation.*

#### 3.8.1 Using the Real Time Clock

The DS1307 real time clock can be used to keep track of times in seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, and years. The numbers of days in months are automatically adjusted, including leap years. The hours function allows the chip to keep time in either 12 or 24 hour format with AM/PM indicator for 12 hour format. The advantage of the off-chip timekeeping functionality of the RTC is to free the microcontroller from the task

so that it may focus on other tasks. For more detail on the DS1307 real time clock, please refer to Chapter 7 of the AER201 course notes.

The RTC communicates with the main PIC microcontroller through the I<sup>2</sup>C protocol and acts as a slave device with a 7-bit address of 1101 000X (where X denotes if the transaction is a read or a write). In order to use the RTC, the main PIC must be configured as a MSSP device or master device for I<sup>2</sup>C. The master device is responsible for initiating and controlling the clock pulse for all slave devices, including the RTC. The configuration code for I<sup>2</sup>C is available to students as two files: `i2c_common.asm` and `rtc_macros.inc`. Note that these two files were written for PIC16 devices. Users may modify the source code in order to use these files for PIC18.

*i2c\_common.asm*: This source file contains the lowest level algorithm to deal directly with the I<sup>2</sup>C protocol. It also contains the algorithm to deal with communication between the microcontroller and RTC as well as for the PIC-to-PIC I<sup>2</sup>C communication. This file must be included in the user's MPLAB project.

*rtc\_macros.inc*: This file must be included in the MPLAB project as well as the user code wherever these macros are called. This file contains three primary macros that can access all the timekeeping functions of the RTC. These are:

**Macro:** `rtc_resetAll`

**Input parameters:** none

**Output:** none

**Description:** When invoked, this macro resets all the time keeping registers on the RTC memory or resets time to zero.

**Macro:** `rtc_set    address , data`

**Input parameters:** Takes in 2 literal parameters, the address of the register being written to and the data which will be written

**Output:** none

**Description:** This macro will initiate a write event to the RTC. The user must specify the address which will be written to (i.e. the seconds register which holds the time in seconds) and the data which will be written to the specified address.

**Macro:** `rtc_read    address`

**Input parameters:** address to be read from

**Output:** DOUT (0x75), dig10 (0x77), dig1 (0x78)

**Description:** This macro will initiate a read event to the RTC and read data from the specified address. The data from the RTC will be saved to data memory general purpose register 0x75 or DOUT as an 8-bit binary number. For the convenience of the user, this data will also be converted into a two digit ASCII number and the tens digit will be stored in 0x77 or dig10 and the ones digit will be stored in 0x78 or dig1. This is advantageous because HD447780 based LCDs only display ASCII numbers.

In order to use these files, simply add them to your existing MPLAB project (If you do not know how to make a project in MPLAB, use the MPLAB Project Wizard under *Project* to generate a project). To do this, follow these steps:

1. Copy `i2c_common.asm` and `rtc_macros.inc` into your project directory.
2. Open MPLAB and load the project where the RTC is to be used.
3. Go to *View* and make sure *Project* is checked.
4. In the Project window where all the files in the project are listed. Right click Source File and select Add Files... Select and add `i2c_common.asm` in your project directory.
5. In the Project window where all the files in the project are listed. Right click Header Files and select Add Files... Select and add `rtc_macros.inc` in your project directory.
6. In any source files in which the user code calls the RTC macros, you must use the include directive at the top of the page to include `rtc_macros.inc`. Simply type at the top: `include <rtc_macros.inc>`.
7. Before using the RTC macros, you must enable and configure the main PIC as a master I<sup>2</sup>C device. To do this, simply call `i2c_common_setup` subroutine (this subroutine is located in `i2c_common.asm`). Simply type: `call i2c_common_steup`. It is suggested that this subroutine to be called at the top of the main source file. You only need to call this subroutine once.
8. Invoke the RTC macros when needed in the user code to use the RTC.

Here is the memory map of the RTC registers:

ADDRESS	BIT 7	BIT 6	BIT 5	BIT 4	BIT 3	BIT 2	BIT 1	BIT 0	FUNCTION	RANGE
00H	CH	10 Seconds			Seconds				Seconds	00–59
01H	0	10 Minutes			Minutes				Minutes	00–59
02H	0	12	10 Hour	10 Hour	Hours				Hours	1–12 +AM/PM 00–23
		24	PM/ AM							
03H	0	0	0	0	0	DAY			Day	01–07
04H	0	0	10 Date		Date				Date	01–31
05H	0	0	0	10 Month	Month				Month	01–12
06H	10 Year				Year				Year	00–99
07H	OUT	0	0	SQWE	0	0	RS1	RS0	Control	—
08H-3FH									RAM 56 x 8	00H–FFH

0 = Always reads back as 0.

**Figure 12: RTC memory map. Register 00h to 07h are used for timekeeping. 07h is used to generate square waves but this function is not included. 08h to 3fh are general purpose registers and can act as extra memory.**

To reset register 00h to 07h to zero, simply invoke the `rtc_resetAll` macro. To set a register invoke `rtc_set` macro with the address of the register and the data to be set as parameters to the macro (i.e. setting seconds to zero: `rtc_set 00h, 00h`). To read from these registers, invoke the `rtc_read` macro with the address of the register to be read from (i.e. reading seconds register: `rtc_read 00h`). The result will be saved in bank0 0x75 of PIC16F877/A or as a two digit BCD number in 0x77 (tens digit) and 0x78 (ones digit).

### 3.9 Main I/O BUS

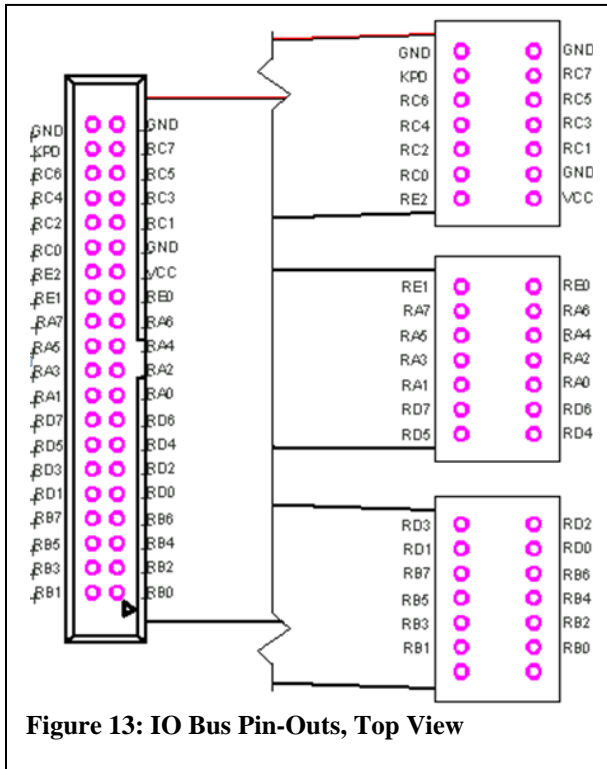


Figure 13: IO Bus Pin-Outs, Top View

A 40-pin bus has been provided to allow direct access to each I/O pin available on the PIC, as well as a special purpose pin for enabling/disabling the keypad at runtime (see Section 3.5). The pinouts for the socket and the provided protoboard adaptor cable are shown to the left.

It is important to note that to access **RA6** and **RA7**, jumpers **JP8** and **JP9** must be properly set, as described in Section 3.11.

Also the user needs to note that RA6 and RA7 do not exist for PIC16. These pins in the I/O bus are intended to be used by PIC18.

### 3.10 I<sup>2</sup>C BUS

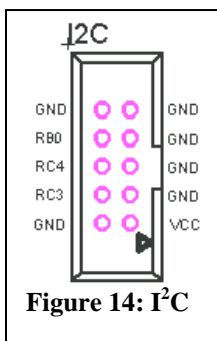


Figure 14: I<sup>2</sup>C

An I<sup>2</sup>C bus socket has also been provided to allow a separate I<sup>2</sup>C bus to a peripheral device. A 10-pin ribbon cable connector (not supplied with board) should be used for this purpose. The pinouts of the socket are shown to the left.

### 3.11 Main PIC Device

This section of the board has several sockets for PIC devices of different sizes. Only one socket may be occupied at a time, otherwise bus conflicts will arise. The *Microcontroller board* is primarily intended to be used with a PIC16F877(A) or a PIC18F4620, although most other PIC devices in the **PIC16F** and **PIC18F** families are currently supported. Additionally, some PIC16F and PIC18F devices allow the user to employ an internal oscillator and configure **RA6** and **RA7** as general purpose I/O pins. If this is intended, jumpers **JP9** and **JP8** must be set as follows:

Short pins **1 and 2** to use external oscillator

Short pins **2 and 3** to enable **RA6, RA7**



Figure 15

Of course, the appropriate configurations must also be set from within the code.

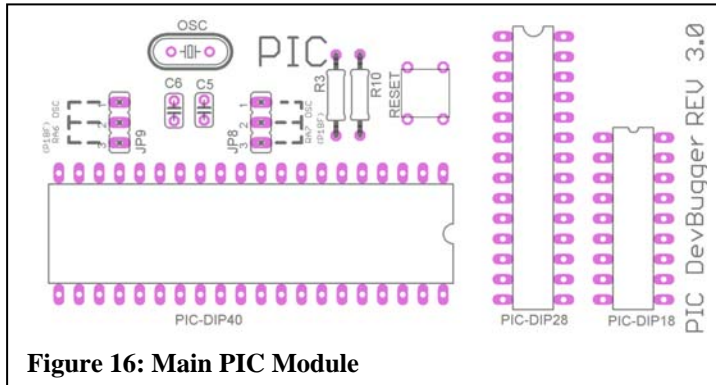


Figure 16: Main PIC Module

## 4. Programming Software

### 4.1 Overview

A Windows application called **PICusb** is provided with the Microcontroller board, which is designed specifically to communicate with the *Microcontroller board* hardware. Note that Microcontroller board is also fully compatible with MPLAB<sup>®</sup> IDE, and PICusb is not needed (although recommended) except for some advanced applications, such as appending a user code to the firmware on the programmer PIC for parallel processing.

PICusb currently supports all devices in the PIC10, PIC12, PIC16 and PIC18 families, and it is compatible with all Windows platforms.

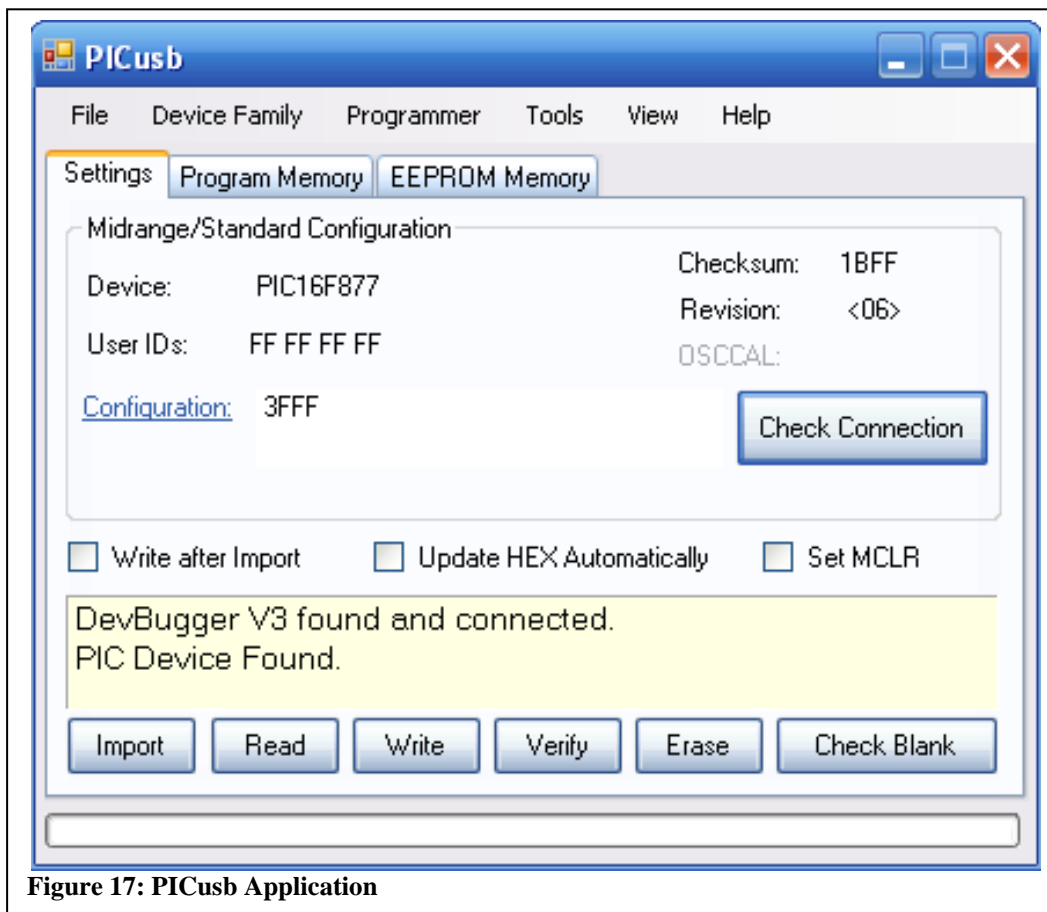


Figure 17: PICusb Application

### 4.2 Quick Start

The user interface for **PICusb** is fairly intuitive, with reasonable defaults for all settings. For those without prior experience with PIC programming software, the following steps can generally be used to load the HEX code onto the device:

1. Connect the *Microcontroller board* to the PC as described in Section 2.2.
2. Flip the programming switch to PRG mode.
3. Turn on the Microcontroller board.

4. Click “Check Connection” on the PICusb window shown above. Wait for the application to detect the Microcontroller board and the PIC device.
5. Click “Import” or go to File→Import Hex to load a HEX file.
6. Press the **Write** button to download the HEX file to the PIC device. If no error message occurs, then the PIC should have been programmed successfully.

Note if the USB connection is disconnected at any point or the programming switch is flipped to RUN mode, the Microcontroller board must be reconnected to the application by pressing the “Check Connection” button before programming.

Any time that the “Check Connection” button is pressed, the HEX file must be reloaded.

### **4.3 Operations**

The following is a description of common operations that may be performed upon the PIC device used in the *Microcontroller board*.

**Import** loads a HEX file into memory, for loading onto a PIC device or for verification against the code already loaded onto a PIC device.

**Read** is used to read the current program loaded into the target PIC device. This program can be retrieved and stored in a HEX file.

**Write** programs the currently loaded HEX code into the target device. Several options for this operation are available. By default, all aspects of the HEX file are programmed into the device; however, checkboxes in the Program Memory tab and the EEPROM Memory tab can allow sections of the HEX file to be programmed.

**Verify** reads the contents of the PIC device and compares it against the loaded HEX file. If any differences are observed, an error is given and the operation fails.

**Erase** performs a bulk erase of the device, effectively returning it to its factory state. In some cases, this may fix a device that appears faulty.

**Check Blank** is used to verify that the chip is indeed ‘blank’. This is useful after performing an **Erase** chip operation to verify that the operation succeeded.

### **4.4 Additional Features of PICusb**

The PICusb application incorporates a number of additional features designed to increase efficiency and speed up the code development process as well as to provide advanced functionality.

**Write after Import:** This checkbox, when checked, will automatically download the code onto the target PIC device after a successful import. The user will no longer have to manually press the **Write** button.

**Update HEX Automatically:** When this checkbox is first checked, it prompts the user to load a HEX file to download to the PIC. After the code is downloaded, the PICusb application continuously monitors that HEX file. If the HEX file is modified in any way



(if the HEX file was updated after a successful build in MPLAB), PICusb detects this change and automatically writes the new updated version onto the PIC. This function will continue to work as long as the programming switch is set to PRG and the USB connection is not severed. This is a useful debugging feature for users who are programming the PIC multiple times in succession. After the code is downloaded, the user may test the code without flipping the programming switch to RUN mode using the **Set MCLR** function. The only drawback is that the bottom two rows of the keypad will be disabled in this mode.

**Set MCLR:** This function is a software reset for the target PIC. It is useful when debugging and especially when used with the **Update HEX Automatically** function. This feature allows the code on the main PIC to run without flipping the programming switch to RUN mode. When checked, the PIC18F2550 programmer PIC holds the main PIC in a reset state. When unchecked, the programmer releases the reset and the main PIC device will begin to execute code. Note that this reset, when the programming switch is set to PRG, will override the pushbutton reset switch. This function can also be reached from Programmer→Hold Device in Reset.

**Export Hex:** This function, located under the File menu, allows the user to save the HEX code currently loaded onto PICusb into a HEX file. To check what HEX code is currently loaded onto PICusb, go to the Program Memory or EEPROM Memory tabs. This feature is mainly used in conjunction with the **Read** function for saving the HEX code read from the PIC device into a file.

**Recent Files:** PICusb preserves the 4 most recently loaded HEX files for faster access under the File menu.

**Manual Device Select:** This function is used for some PIC10 and PIC12 devices that do not support automatic device detection. This function is found under the Programmer menu. Once activated, a device family must be chosen from the Device Family menu and a particular device must be selected from the “Select Part” dropdown box. To exit this mode, a device must be selected.

**Enable Code Protect and Enable Data Protect:** These two functions are found under the Tools menu. These functions set the configuration data to enable code or data protection. During development, do not enable these features as they may be permanent.

**Use VPP First Program Entry:** This function is used when the configuration or ID of the target PIC device becomes corrupt and the programmer is unable to identify the device. This function forces the programmer to program the target PIC, which may correct the code on the target PIC.

**Append Hex to Firmware:** This feature is an advanced peripheral feature of the application that allows custom user code to be added to the programmer firmware. It is used for PIC-to-PIC parallel processing and is further described in section 5.2.1.

**Download Firmware:** This function allows firmware to be downloaded onto the programmer PIC18F2550. The firmware may be the default firmware or a custom

firmware modified with custom user code. It evokes the bootloader to allow the PIC18F2550 to program itself. This feature will corrupt the programmer firmware if used improperly and is therefore recommended for advanced users only.

**Configuration:** This feature allows the user to view the configuration settings for the target PIC device and change them if the user wishes. It does not provide any information about the function of each configuration bit. It is not recommended for most users to change the configuration settings through this function – all configuration settings should be specified in the code. Modifying the configuration settings in this fashion should be done by advanced users only.

**View Program Memory and EEPROM Memory:** The Program Memory and EEPROM memory are shown in their respective tabs below the menu bar. Once a HEX code is loaded, the contents of the HEX code can be viewed through these tabs. There is an Enable checkbox on each of these panels that is used for enabling writing the HEX code to the PIC. If unchecked, the code will not be downloaded to the target PIC upon pressing the **Write** button. Only one of the two checkboxes can be unchecked at any time. The user may also modify the HEX code in these tabs, although this is not recommended for most users. The HEX code may be viewed in HEX format or ASCII format.

## **4.5 Sample Code**

The **PICusb** package contains 12 sample projects, located in the **Samples** folder where the application is installed. There are two sets of sample codes – one for PIC18F4620 and the other for PIC16F877. Some PIC18 samples may use the internal oscillator block. All the PIC16 samples are assumed to run with a 10MHz crystal oscillator. The samples are described below.

### **PIC16 Samples:**

**DS1307 RTC** This project demonstrates the code necessary to interface with the DS1307 real-time clock IC (not included) on the Microcontroller board board, using the I<sup>2</sup>C module of the main PIC device. Also, it demonstrates RS232 usage; the program first resets the RTC's seconds to zero, and then repeatedly reads the time and transmits over RS232 to a PC. The baud rate is 9600, with 8-bit data and no parity.

**Keypad\_LCD** This project demonstrates the basics of interfacing with the Keypad and LCD modules of the Microcontroller board; anything that is typed on the keypad is immediately displayed on the LCD.

**PortTest** This project is a simple test program, which can be used to quickly verify that MPLAB, PICusb and the programmer module of the board each function correctly. If this program executes correctly, then each of the Debug LED's should flash sequentially when the

board is placed in RUN mode. Note that RA4 on PIC16 devices will not turn on unless pulled up by either a debug switch or an external resistor, since it is an open-drain output.

- RS232** This project demonstrates two-way RS232 communications; it sends a welcome message to the computer, and then repeatedly echoes any data received back to the computer. As with **DS1307 RTC**, the baud rate used is 9600, with 8-bit data and no parity.
- PIC16LCD** This is a simple project that displays a message on the LCD.
- Input Test** This is a project designed to test the input switches on the debugging module. It sets all pins to input so the user can use the DIP switches to control the LEDs on the debugging module.
- ADC** This is a project that demonstrates the analog to digital conversion ability of the PIC16. It takes in a voltage input and control the flashing speed of a LED according to that voltage.
- Extended I/O** This is a project designed to test the I2C bus connection between the PIC16 and PIC18. It allows PIC16 to toggle RB6 on PIC18 through the I2C bus.
- Parallel Processing** This is a project designed to demonstrate the parallel processing ability of the Microcontroller board. The PIC16 can be loaded with any code while PIC18 will toggle RB6.
- PIC18 Samples:**
- A2D** This project tests the Analog to Digital converter module on the PIC18F4620. This sample uses the internal oscillator of the PIC18F4620 and the Phase Locked Loop feature (PLL), which runs at 32MHz.
- PWM** This project tests the PWM module of the PIC18F4620. It generates a 20kHz signal with 50% duty cycle. The signal is output through the CCP2 pin (RC1).
- PIC18LCD** This project is the same as the PIC16LCD project, except that it implements an efficient tabling method only possible in PIC18.
- Port Test PIC18** This project is the same as the PortTest project for PIC16.
- PIC18LCD\_Keypad** This project is the same as the Keypad\_LCD project.

**USART**                      This project is the same as the RS232 project.

## 5. Advanced Programming Topics

### 5.1 Overview

The programmer module is fully functional out of the box, and can be used to program PIC devices of families PIC16F and PIC18F. However, since the module itself is built around a PIC18F2550, it is capable of much more than programming the main PIC device. To take advantage of this untapped potential, several extra features have been implemented to give the user full control over the device. Note that to take advantage of the following features, the parallel processing firmware must be loaded on the PIC18F2550.

**Bootloader** A USB-enabled bootloader has been programmed into the device's firmware, allowing the user to re-load the programmer with their own HEX code.

**Mode Detect** The programming firmware can detect whether the programmer switch is set to PRG or to RUN, via pin RC7. For more details, see Section 5.2.1.

**I<sup>2</sup>C Bus** An I<sup>2</sup>C bus connecting the PIC18F2550 to the main PIC device may be enabled by shorting **JP14** and **JP15**. This allows communication between the two devices, opening up the possibility of parallel processing.

**PIC18 Bus** A secondary I/O bus socket has been provided, giving access to the unused pins on the PIC18F2550. The pin-outs for this socket are shown to the right. Since this is an advanced feature of the board, no cable is provided.

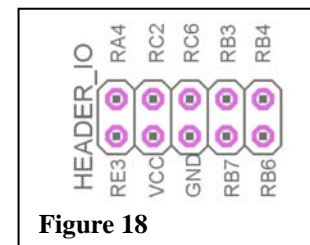


Figure 18

### 5.2 Coding Firmware Modifications

There are two options for modifying the programmer module's firmware:

1. Append user code to the programmer firmware to modify the run-mode behaviour
2. Use another HVP programmer to re-image the entire PIC18F2550 chip

#### 5.2.1 Modifying Run-Mode

Using this option, users can append their own code to the original programmer firmware, which will only be run when the board is in **RUN** mode.

It is strongly recommended that the user code is written in Assembly, since the user would have full control over the location and length of the user code. The user code will be inserted into the firmware between location 0x7D70 and 0x7FEF. This means that the user code can be no longer than 640 bytes or 320 instruction words.

To insert user code into the existing programmer firmware, follow these steps:

1. Open PICusb and go to Tools -> Append Hex to Firmware.

2. An “Open File” dialog pops up. Select the user code HEX file you would like to insert and click “Open”.
3. A “Save File” dialog pops up. Choose a file name and the directory for the new combined Hex file and click “Save”.

### **5.2.1.1 Writing the User Code**

When appending custom user code to the programmer firmware, the user code must be less than 640 bytes or 320 instructions long. The user code must not contain any configuration words. The structure of the user code should be as follows:

```
#include <p18f2550.inc>
```

```
org    0x7D70                ;begin the user code at address 0x7D70
```

```
UserCode
```

```
... ..
```

```
end
```

The programmer firmware is built to periodically check pin RC7. When it is cleared, the firmware automatically jumps to program memory location 0x7D70 to execute the user code. To return to programming mode when the programming switch is set, pin RC7 must be checked periodically. This can be done with the following code:

```
UserCode
```

```
    bsf    TRISC, 7          ;set RC7 to input
```

```
UserLoop
```

```
    ... ..
```

```
    btfss  PORTC, 7          ;test RC7
```

```
    goto   UserLoop
```

```
    reset
```

```
    ;goto   0x2000            ;Alternatively, the code may branch to 0x2000, where  
                                ;the programmer firmware begins
```

### **5.2.1.2 Exporting the User Code**

Once compiled, the user must export the custom code into the correct format in order to append to the firmware. This is done in MPLAB by the following steps:

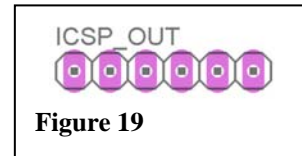
1. Go to File->Export...
2. A dialog opens with the title “Export Hex File”. Uncheck Configuration Bits, EEPROM Memory and User ID.
3. Make sure the Program Memory check box is checked.
4. Set the program memory to start at 0x7D70 and end at address 0x7FEF. Note: the end address must not exceed 0x7FEF or PICusb will reject the hex file.
5. Under the File Format tab, make sure the format selected is INHX32.
6. Click OK, and save the exported hex file.

### 5.2.1.3 Loading Modified Firmware onto the PIC18F2550

1. In the PICusb software, select Tools->Download Firmware.
2. A dialog opens. Select the modified (appended) hex file and click “Open”.
3. PICusb will automatically download the new firmware into the PIC18F2550 and then reset.

### 5.2.2 Re-Imaging the PIC18F2550

It is possible to use the bootloader to load custom user code onto the PIC18F2550, but the vectors would have to be remapped to begin at 0x2000 (where the programmer firmware begins). Instead, if the user wishes to erase the entire programmer code including the bootloader, a second high voltage programmer (such as another Microcontroller board) may be used. The Microcontroller board was designed such that the PIC18F2550 can be programmed without taking it out of its socket. The second row of the PIC18F2550 I/O header, shown on Figure 17, contains all the pins required to program the PIC18F2550. A second header near the programming switch called ICSP\_OUT (shown in Figure 19) is the output from the programmer. This header will allow the programmer to program any external PIC. To use this header to program other boards, the basic firmware (without parallel processing) must be loaded onto the PIC18F2550, and the programming switch must be set to “RUN” mode. This disconnects the header from the main PIC on the Microcontroller board. Furthermore, the same ICSP\_OUT header can be used as an input to program the main PIC on the Microcontroller board as long as the programming switch is set to PRG. The Pin-out of this header from left to write is as follows:



1.  $V_{pp}/MCLR$
2.  $V_{DD}$
3.  $V_{SS}$  (GND)
4. ICSPDAT/PGD
5. ICSPCLK/PGC
6. NC

If the user has another high voltage programmer at hand, and wishes to use both PICs as parallel processors, he/she could program the PIC18F2550 using its I/O header and the other PIC using the ICSP\_OUT header. This feature demonstrates the versatility of the PIC Microcontroller board but is highly advanced and not recommended for most users.

### 5.2.3 User Code Considerations

Since the firmware requires a specific set of configuration words (already set), no configuration information should be included in user-compiled code. It may be assumed that the firmware uses the following configuration settings:

#pragma config	FOSC	=	HSPLL_HS	//HS osc using PLL
#pragma config	PLLDIV	=	5	//20mhz osc
#pragma config	USBDIV	=	2	//USB clk from PLL
#pragma config	CPUDIV	=	OSC1_PLL2	//CPU=PLL/2
#pragma config	IESO	=	OFF	//Ext osc only
#pragma config	FCMEN	=	OFF	//No fallback to int-osc

---

#pragma config	PWRT	= ON	//Enable power-up timer
#pragma config	BOR	= OFF	//BOR disabled in hardware
#pragma config	BORV	= 3	//BOR on 2.05V (min setting)
#pragma config	VREGEN	= ON	//USB internal vreg
#pragma config	WDT	= OFF	
#pragma config	MCLRE	= OFF	//enable RE3, MCLR disabled
#pragma config	LPT1OSC	= OFF	//TMR1 low-power mode disabled
#pragma config	PBADEN	= OFF	//PortB A/D off on reset
#pragma config	CCP2MX	= ON	//CCP2 on RC1
#pragma config	STVREN	= ON	//Reset on stack overflow
#pragma config	LVP	= OFF	
#pragma config	XINST	= OFF	//Disable extended instruction set
#pragma config	DEBUG	= OFF	//ICD off
#pragma config	CPB	= ON	//Code Protect Boot
#pragma config	CP0	= OFF	
#pragma config	CP1	= OFF	
#pragma config	CP2	= OFF	
#pragma config	CPD	= OFF	//EEPROM not protected
#pragma config	WRTB	= ON	//Writeprotect 000 to 7FF
#pragma config	WRT0	= OFF	//No other write protect
#pragma config	WRT1	= OFF	
#pragma config	WRT2	= OFF	
#pragma config	WRTC	= OFF	//Config not protected
#pragma config	WRTD	= OFF	//EEPROM not protected
#pragma config	EBTRB	= OFF	//Table reads not protected
#pragma config	EBTR0	= OFF	
#pragma config	EBTR1	= OFF	
#pragma config	EBTR2	= OFF	

---

The user code should not modify the state of any I/O pins other than the ones on the I/O header. Also, PORTC<7> is used for PRG/RUN mode detection, as described in Section 5.2.1. As such, it must ALWAYS be set as an input.

Pins RB1 and RB0 are used for an optional PIC-to-PIC I<sup>2</sup>C bus, which can be enabled (connected) by shorting jumpers JP14 and JP15 in the programmer module. 10K pull-up resistors on these lines are already provided on the board. The specifics of I<sup>2</sup>C communication between the programmer and the main PIC are left to the user.

### 5.3 Restoring to Original State

In case the firmware on the PIC18F2550 becomes corrupted by the user code, the programmer can be restored to its original state. The PICusb software package includes two HEX files containing the original firmware of the Microcontroller board programmer.

These are located in the **Programmer Firmware** folder of the installation directory:

- **btldr.hex** – HEX file containing the original bootloader
- **btldr\_pgmr.hex** – HEX file containing the original bootloader and programmer firmware. This is the basic firmware without support for parallel processing.
- **btldr\_pgmr\_I2C.hex** – This file contains the bootloader, programmer firmware, as well as the default user code containing the I<sup>2</sup>C functions for extended I/O capabilities. This part can be replaced by another user code using PICusb (see Section 5.2.1.1)



- **btldr\_pgmr\_reg\_watcher.hex** – This file contains the bootloader, programmer firmware, as well as the register watcher code containing the I<sup>2</sup>C functions for PIC16 pin monitoring ability.

The firmware can be restored by activating the bootloader. This is done by turning off the power switch and holding the BOOTLOAD pushbutton switch while turning the power switch back on. The programmer is in bootloader mode if the BUSY LED flashes at just below 1Hz. The PICusb application will automatically detect that the Microcontroller board is in bootloader mode. At this time, the original firmware may be downloaded with the Download Firmware function.

If the bootloader is corrupt, another high voltage programmer is needed to restore the PIC18F2550 to its original state. The PIC18F2550 can be programmed in circuit through its I/O header as described in section 5.2.2 or taken out of its socket and put on another Microcontroller board.

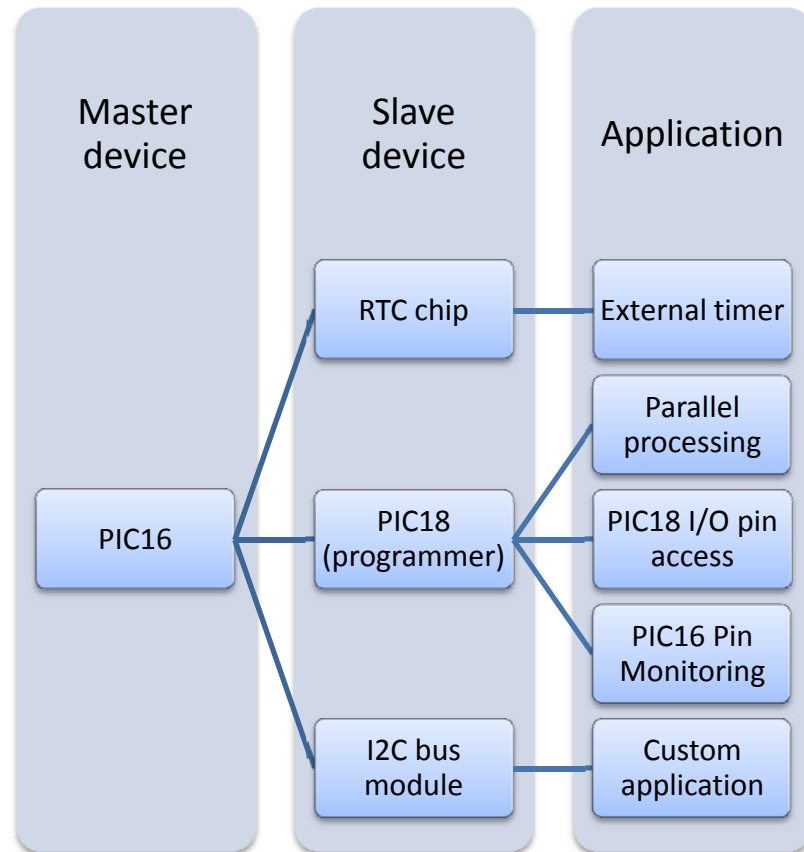
## 6. I<sup>2</sup>C PIC to PIC Communication

### 6.1 I<sup>2</sup>C Overview

The I<sup>2</sup>C is a widely used serial bus specification that allows communication between one or more master devices with one or more slave devices. The master is the device that selects the receiver by transmitting the address of the slave device and initiates all transactions (read or write) between itself and the slave. The I<sup>2</sup>C implementation on the Microcontroller board includes one master – the main PIC – and three slave devices – the RTC chip, the PIC18F2550, and the I<sup>2</sup>C female header pins at the top right corner of the board which can connect to an external I<sup>2</sup>C slave device.

### 6.2 Using the I<sup>2</sup>C

The hierarchical chart below shows the possible applications of the I<sup>2</sup>C bus, as it is implemented on the Microcontroller board.



As shown above, there are four ways in which the I<sup>2</sup>C bus on the Microcontroller board can be used. First, one can use access the RTC module for timing purposes through the I<sup>2</sup>C bus. Second, one can set up PIC-to-PIC communication for parallel processing. This is for advanced users only, as it requires that both the master and the slave be programmed. Third, one can enable PIC-to-PIC I<sup>2</sup>C communication to enable the usage

of PIC18F2550 I/O pins by the master PIC during runtime. This effectively adds 7 to the main PIC I/O pin count. Finally, an I<sup>2</sup>C capable slave device can be connected to the I<sup>2</sup>C header pins at the top right corner of the board, to communicate with the PIC master device.

### **6.2.1 PIC-RTC Communication**

For information on how to use the RTC from the main PIC, please refer to section 3.8.

### **6.2.2 PIC-to-PIC Communication for Parallel Processing**

To implement parallel processing, the user must write the necessary code not just for the master PIC device, but also for the PIC18F2550 as the slave device. From the master PIC's standpoint, programming is greatly simplified by the `i2c_common.asm` file developed for RTC communication and the extended I/O pin usage protocol. This file is a collection of macros that execute instructions on the hardware level for the I<sup>2</sup>C – for instance, start transaction, write, check acknowledge, read, send acknowledge, and stop transaction. From the PIC18F2550's standpoint, the programming is more involved as the user must develop the code from scratch. The slave code polls or waits for an interrupt signaling the start of an event (always initiated by the master device), figures out what type of event it is based on the value of an I<sup>2</sup>C status register, handles it, and then loops back to the beginning. Microchip's AN735 and AN734 documents are excellent resources for programming and understanding the I<sup>2</sup>C protocol, as is Chapter 7 of the AER201 course text, where more detailed information can be found on the I<sup>2</sup>C.

### **6.2.3 PIC-to-PIC Extending I/O Set Programming**

The I<sup>2</sup>C can be used to enable use of the PIC18F2550's I/O pins from the main PIC as if they were its own pins. These pins can be controlled using macros available in an include file, which are designed to look and behave similar to regular I/O control operations in the PIC instruction set. This effectively adds 7 additional I/O pins for the master PIC, but the only downside is the roughly 250  $\mu$ s operation time for write operations and 500  $\mu$ s for read operations, compared 400 ns for regular operations. Follow the four basic steps below to use the extended I/O pin set:

1. Add `i2c_common.asm` and `p2p_macros.inc` to the project (Separate include files are included for PIC18F4620)
2. Add `#include <p2p_macros.inc>` in the code
3. Add `call i2c_common_setup` in the code
4. Call the macros as needed

The firmware called `btldr_pgmr_I2C.hex` is set-up to handle the I/O instructions. This firmware must be loaded into the programmer before the extended I/O set can be used. Below is the list of macros available in the macros include file. The function and usage of these macros do not require explanation as they behave almost identically to their counterparts in the PIC instruction set, except there are no input parameters.

Write to PIC18 pins/ports	Write to PIC18 TRIS	Read from PIC18 pins/ports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bcf_PORTA_4</li> <li>• bcf_PORTB_3</li> <li>• bcf_PORTB_4</li> <li>• bcf_PORTB_6</li> <li>• bcf_PORTB_7</li> <li>• bcf_PORTC_2</li> <li>• bcf_PORTC_6</li> <li>• bsf_PORTA_4</li> <li>• bsf_PORTB_3</li> <li>• bsf_PORTB_4</li> <li>• bsf_PORTB_6</li> <li>• bsf_PORTB_7</li> <li>• bsf_PORTC_2</li> <li>• bsf_PORTC_6</li> <li>• clrf_PORTA</li> <li>• clrf_PORTB</li> <li>• clrf_PORTC</li> <li>• setf_PORTA</li> <li>• setf_PORTB</li> <li>• setf_PORTC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bcf_TRISA_4</li> <li>• bcf_TRISB_3</li> <li>• bcf_TRISB_4</li> <li>• bcf_TRISB_6</li> <li>• bcf_TRISB_7</li> <li>• bcf_TRISC_2</li> <li>• bcf_TRISC_6</li> <li>• bsf_TRISA_4</li> <li>• bsf_TRISB_3</li> <li>• bsf_TRISB_4</li> <li>• bsf_TRISB_6</li> <li>• bsf_TRISB_7</li> <li>• bsf_TRISC_2</li> <li>• bsf_TRISC_6</li> <li>• clrf_TRISA</li> <li>• clrf_TRISB</li> <li>• clrf_TRISC</li> <li>• setf_TRISA</li> <li>• setf_TRISB</li> <li>• setf_TRISC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• btfsc_PORTA_4</li> <li>• btfsc_PORTB_3</li> <li>• btfsc_PORTB_4</li> <li>• btfsc_PORTB_6</li> <li>• btfsc_PORTB_7</li> <li>• btfsc_PORTC_2</li> <li>• btfsc_PORTC_6</li> <li>• btfss_PORTA_4</li> <li>• btfss_PORTB_3</li> <li>• btfss_PORTB_4</li> <li>• btfss_PORTB_6</li> <li>• btfss_PORTB_7</li> <li>• btfss_PORTC_2</li> <li>• btfss_PORTC_6</li> <li>• movf_PORTA_W</li> <li>• movf_PORTB_W</li> <li>• movf_PORTC_W</li> </ul>

#### 6.2.4 PIC16-PIC18 Communication for PIC16 Register Watching

This application of the I2C can be thought of as an example of how one can use PIC to PIC communication. It is a finished product which can be used without any actual programming on the user's part. The design is simple:

- 1) PIC16: The user calls one of a number of macros to update the contents of a port or register during the running of their PIC16 code.
- 2) PIC18: The data is sent to the PIC18 through I2C, which is sent to the USB.
- 3) PC: The application (available through the website) displays this information.

There are four easy steps to set up this functionality.

1. Add *i2c\_common.inc* and *Register\_Watcher\_macros.inc* to the PIC16 project
2. Add `#include <Register_Watcher_macros.inc>` in the code
3. Add *i2c\_common\_setup* in the code
4. Call the macros as needed
5. Make sure the programmer PIC18 has the firmware with register watching

Below is a table listing the macros contained in *p2p\_macros.inc* which must be called by the user's code.

Macro	Description
watch_PORTA	Sends the value of PORTA to the PORTA field in the application
watch_PORTB	Sends the value of PORTB to the PORTB field in the application
watch_PORTC	Sends the value of PORTC to the PORTC field in the application
watch_PORTD	Sends the value of PORTD to the PORTD field in the application
watch_PORTE	Sends the value of PORTE to the PORTE field in the application
watch_TRISA	Sends the value of TRISA to the TRISA field in the application

watch_TRISB	Sends the value of TRISB to the TRISB field in the application
watch_TRISC	Sends the value of TRISC to the TRISC field in the application
watch_TRISD	Sends the value of TRISD to the TRISD field in the application
watch_TRISE	Sends the value of TRISE to the TRISE field in the application
watch_register_0	These macros have an input parameter representing the address of the file register the user wants to monitor. This address is displayed along with the value of the register on the PC application. One can monitor up to 8 registers (registers 0 to 7).  Example: watch_register_0 0x05 - The PC application displays 00000101 and the value of PORTA beside it (0x05 is the address of PORTA).
watch_register_1	
watch_register_2	
watch_register_3	
watch_register_4	
watch_register_5	
watch_register_6	
watch_register_7	

There are two things to keep in mind. First, the USB sends a packet every 10 ms, so this is the time-resolution for data updates on the PC application. Secondly, calling one of these macros is a one-time update of the value of the register. For registers with regularly changing values, it is necessary to call the macro repeatedly either in a loop or at crucial junctures in the code. Even so, most of the processing in one's code takes place in a matter of microseconds since one operation on the PIC16 takes 400  $\mu$ s – thus, one cannot actually see and monitor the contents of file registers that change this quickly.

One solution is to use breakpoints. Using the I2C, it is easy to implement a breakpoint subroutine that stops the PIC16's operation and waits for the user to press the programmer module's bootloader switch before continuing. Presented below is the implementation:

breakpoint

```
<call whatever watching macros you want here, for e.g. watch_PORTA>
bsf_TRISA_0 ; sets the pin the bootloader switch is connected to, to input
btfsc_PORTA_0 ; waits for the user to press the switch and pull RA0 low
goto $-1 ; if RA0 is not low, keep looping
<put a bit of a delay here> ; so that the PIC is not at the next breakpoint
                                by the time you release the switch
return ; continue with the program
```

The user should call this subroutine at key junctures in the code to stop execution, transmit register values, read them from the PC, and then push the bootloader switch when ready to continue operation.

### 6.2.5 PIC- I<sup>2</sup>C Bus Communication

Implementing communication between the PIC as the master and an external slave device is for advanced users only. The user would have to program both the master and slave codes, in addition to ensuring that the hardware for the bus connection is set-up properly.

## 6.3 Important Note About i2c\_common.asm and Its Macros

The RTC and PIC-to-PIC macros call subroutines in `i2c_common.asm` and will need to access SFRs on the main PIC. Therefore it will require switching memory banks. Invoking these functions will not guarantee that the user will remain in the same bank after the macros are invoked. It is strongly advised to re-select the memory bank after calling the macros or use the *banksel* directive in MPLAB®. The `i2c_common.asm` and the macros are for PIC16F877 and will not work directly with PIC18F4620. However, these files can be ported to PIC18 code with minimal modification.

The I<sup>2</sup>C communication code does take up some of the user's resources. Since the macros call subroutines, one stack level will be taken. The I<sup>2</sup>C code will be stored in program memory and will take about 200 to 300 memory slots of the available 8192 slots on the PIC16 without any macro calls. This includes both the real time clock I<sup>2</sup>C algorithm as well as the PIC-to-PIC algorithm. Keep in mind that macros are simply directives in MPLAB and macro code can be thought of as “copied and pasted” into the user's code whenever invoked. This will result in the user code being much longer than anticipated especially if these macros are invoked linearly (or not in loops) over and over again.

The RTC code will take up 8 general registers in the PIC16 data memory (0x71 to 0x78 in bank0) to store data used during operation. These registers are defined as a cblock in `i2c_common.asm` and the corresponding names are for convenience sake. The actual code uses the actual register address. The main registers that are relevant to the user are 0x75 (DOUT), 0x77 (dig10), and 0x78 (dig1) where data from the RTC are stored. It is important to not overwrite the data in these registers to ensure proper operation.

Likewise, the PIC-to-PIC communication code uses register 0x70, which should not be accessed or modified by the user.

Sample code is provided to the students which use *i2c\_common.asm* and *rtc\_macros.inc* as well as *p2p\_macros.inc*.