



C Programming for the PIC Microcontroller



Demystify Coding with Embedded
Programming

—
Hubert Henry Ward

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Hubert Henry Ward
Lancashire, UK

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Printed on acid-free paper

Dedicated to my wife Ann

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About the Author

Hubert Henry Ward has over 24 years of experience in teaching students at the Higher National Certificate and the Higher Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Hubert has a 2.1 Honours Bachelor's Degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering. Hubert has also worked as a college lecturer and consultant in embedded programming. His work has established his expertise in the assembler language and C, MPLABX, and designing electronic circuit and PCBs using ECAD software. Hubert was also the UK technical expert in Mechatronics for 3 years, training the UK team and taking them to enter in the Skills Olympics in Seoul 2001, resulting in one of the best outcomes to date for the United Kingdom in Mechatronics.

About the Technical Reviewer

Leigh Orme is a graduate engineer at SSE plc in Greater Manchester, United Kingdom. He has an electrical and electronic engineering degree from Manchester Metropolitan University.

Introduction

This book looks at programming a PIC microcontroller in C. We'll study the following aspects of programming the PIC:

1. Looking at some of the background to the program language for micros
2. Creating a project in the Microchip IDE MPLABX
3. Configuring the PIC
4. Setting up the oscillator using the internal oscillator block
5. Setting up some digital inputs and outputs
6. Simulating a simple program using the simulator in MPLABX
7. Creating a simple delay and a variable delay
8. Using the ADC to accommodate an analogue input to the PIC
9. Using an LCD in both 4-bit and 8-bit mode to display data
10. How to make a header file to save writing the same instructions again in every project.
11. Using arrays and controlling how you step through an array

The Aim of the Book

The aim of this book is to introduce the reader to PIC microcontrollers and writing programs in ‘C’. There is some background information starting with what a PIC is and some aspects of programming languages. It will then move onto what an IDE is and how to use MPLABX, one of the most common industrial IDEs. MPLABX is an IDE that is freely available from the Microchip web site. The ‘C’ compiler is their free compiler that again can be downloaded from their web site. Note that I use MPLABX version 5.2 and the XC8 compiler version 2.05 or 1.35. These can be downloaded from the archive section of their web site.

Then the text moves on to the exciting world of writing programs for microcontrollers. It is based around the range of microcontrollers, termed PIC micros, available from Microchip. It will show you how to write programs without buying any devices or equipment as you can use the MPLABX simulators that come free with the MPLABX IDE. If you have access to an ECAD package, such as PROTEUS or Tina, that has the ability to run 8-bit or 16-bit and so on micros, then it will show you how to use that software to run your programs, again without buying any equipment.

This book is based around the PIC18F4525 as it has the advantage of being a 40 pin dual in line package. This means it is quite easy for the hobbyist to create a practical circuit on vero board or even a small PCB.

My other books cover using the PIC to control a variety of DC motors such as simple DC motors using PWM to control the speed of the DC motor, stepper motors, and servo motors. I also have a short book looking at communications for the 18F4525. Apart from those books, I am writing another range of books on how to use a 32-bit PIC, but this is a surface mount device which makes it rather more difficult to build practical circuits. However, the 32-bit PICs have some very useful additions.

The PIC18F4525 is a very useful PIC with 5 ports giving us the use of 36 I/O. It has 4 timers and 3 external interrupt sources. It has a two-CCP module with the ability to provide two separate PWM outputs, and it has full bridge drive capabilities. There are more functions available, and they all make the PIC18F4525 a very useful microcontroller.

The Objectives of the Book

After reading this book, you should be able to do the following:

- Write PIC programs in C
- Use the main features of the MPLABX IDE
- Interface the PIC to the real world
- Design and create useful programs based around the PIC18F4525
- Enjoy delving into the exciting world of embedded programming

I hope you enjoy reading this book and find it very useful. I firmly believe that programmers should not just put together blocks of code, which perform the functions they want, to create a program. To be a good programmer, with the versatility to alter their programs to cope with the wide variety of microcontrollers and their different oscillator choices, you need to know how the code works. In my many years of teaching this subject, I have often been told that to create a 1-second delay, you simply write the instruction delay (1000). Well, that only works for a certain oscillator frequency and timer setting. To be able to create a delay using any oscillator, you need to understand how your timer counts and at what frequency it counts. Armed with that sort of deeper understanding, you will be a better programmer.

INTRODUCTION

This book is aimed at giving you the full understanding of the fundamental aspects of the microcontroller and how it works. Then, with a deeper understanding of how the different control registers control the micro, you will become a programmer who will, with experience, fully control your device and not rely on bits of code, which you don't understand, doing the programming for you. It is essential that we have programmers who have this deep appreciation of their microcontrollers, and I hope that after reading this book, you are on your way to becoming one of those programmers.

The Prerequisites for the Book

There are none really, but if you understand 'C' programming, it would be useful. Also, if you understand the binary and hexadecimal number systems, it would be an advantage, but there is a section in the Appendix that will help you with that.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

This chapter covers some of the fundamentals of what a microprocessor-based system is and how a microcontroller is different. It then covers the historic development of the ‘C’ programming language for PIC controllers.

After reading this chapter, you should appreciate how the micro sees your instructions and understand the terms machine code, assembler, compiler, and linker.

Programmable Industrial Controllers

Programmable Industrial Controllers (PICs) is really just a trademark for the microcontrollers produced by Microchip, or so I have been led to believe. Some say it stands for Programmable Industrial Controllers, or Programmable Intelligent Controller, or Programmable Interface Controller. However, the term PIC is used by Microchip to cover an extremely wide range of microcontrollers produced by them. I will simply refer to the microcontroller as the PIC.

Each PIC will have all the components of a microprocessor-based system as shown in Figure 1-1, such as

- A microprocessor
- ROM, RAM
- An I/O chip
- The associated address, data, and control buses

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

However, all these parts are all on a single chip, not several as with older microprocessor-based systems. This means it is really a single-chip computer.

As well as all that, the PIC has much more circuitry on the single chip. This extra circuitry is used to make it into a control system with a micro at the heart of it. The extra circuit may include an ADC, opamp circuits for compare and capture, a PWM module, and a UART module. These extra circuits may not be on all PICs as PICs vary in their makeup for different applications.

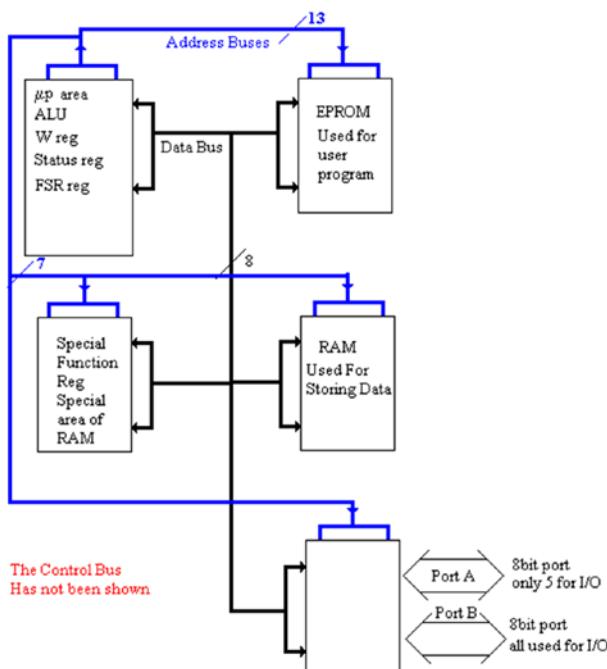


Figure 1-1. The Basic Microprocessor System

One more thing before we move on is that the PIC is a RISC chip as opposed to a CISC chip. RISC stands for reduced instruction set chip, whereas CISC stands for complex instruction set chip. Indeed, the instruction set for PIC micros ranges from 35 to 75 core instructions. However, the 18F4525 has an extended instruction set at your disposal. The Intel processor, which is a CISC chip, uses hundreds of instructions. So the PIC is pretty efficient.

Programming Languages

There is a wide variety of programming languages for microprocessor-based systems. However, all microprocessors only understand voltage levels, ideally 5V and 0V. These two voltage levels are how all microprocessors understand logic which has only two states which are “yes or no,” 5V or 0V, and now 3.3v and 0v as with the 32-bit PICs.

It is because of this that the binary number system is commonly used in microprocessor-based systems. This is because binary only has two discrete digits ‘1’ and ‘0’.

Consider the following binary number:

10101001

This really represents

5v0v5v0v5v0v0v5v

The 5v and 0v is really the only language that all microprocessors understand. However, we can easily use binary to represent the 5v and 0v as ‘1’ and ‘0’. So writing in binary is easier than writing 5v and 0v.

Machine Code

This then is the birth of “machine code,” the most basic programming language termed low level as it is at the level that the micro understands.

Now consider the following:

A9

This is a hexadecimal representation of the 8 binary bits 10101001. It is used to enable programmers to represent binary numbers in a less complicated manner to avoid mistakes, as its very easy to write a ‘0’ instead of a ‘1’. However, the early programmers actually wrote their

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

programs in the binary machine code to make them faster. There is a section in the Appendix that covers the binary and hexadecimal number systems which is something you need to understand. See Appendix 7.

Now consider the following:

LDA#

This is actually termed “mnemonics” which stands for an alphanumeric code used to represent the instruction.

The mnemonic LDA# represents the instruction

Load the Accumulator immediately with the number that follows:

‘LD’ for load, ‘A’ for accumulator, and ‘#’ for immediately.

It is fairly obvious that we, as humans, can learn to understand the mnemonics quicker than hexadecimal or the binary of the machine code. However, the microprocessor does not understand these mnemonics. Somehow the mnemonics has to be converted to the machine code.

Consider the following:

LDA# A9 10101001

The first column is the code or mnemonics; the next two columns are the conversion to the machine code via hexadecimal and then to binary. Every instruction in the micros instruction set has its hexadecimal or binary equivalent. With the EMMA systems, the students actually converted the mnemonics code to the machine code, but this is very time-consuming.

The act of converting the mnemonics to machine code is called “compiling,” and with the EMMA, we get the students to compile the mnemonics. In real programming, we use a program called a compiler to do this.

Assembler Language

Different micros use different mnemonics to represent the instructions in their instruction set. All these different mnemonics are now collectively termed assembler language. There are different ones for different systems such as TASAM for TINA with the EMMA's, MASAM for Microsoft used in DOS programs, and MPLAB assembler from Microchip.

When using assembler language, all instructions have two parts:

- The OPCODE. This is the part that describes the operation (i.e., LDA Load The Accumulator).
- The OPERAND. Where the micro gets the data to be used in the operation (i.e., '#').

This means that the data is what follows immediately next in the micros memory.

As this book is based on the C programming language, there is no real need for the reader to understand the assembly language, but it is important to realize that all program languages, even visual basic, have to be converted to the machine code before being loaded into the micro. This process is called compiling, and it usually involves converting the program instructions into assembler before going into machine code.

C Programming Language

C and now C++ are generic programming languages that many programmers now study. As this has meant that there are a lot of engineers who can program in this language, then Microchip, the manufacturers of PICs, have produced 'C' compilers that can be used to convert a 'C' program into the machine code for their PICs. Indeed, as the number of programmers who write in assembler have reduced and the number of 'C' programmers have increased, Microchip has stopped writing assembler

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

compilers for their more advanced PICs such as the 32-bit PICs. Also, I believe that Siemens is now moving toward programming their PLCs in 'C'.

The more modern languages such as Python and C# have their roots in 'C'.

Different Programming Languages

Table 1-1 shows some of the more common programming languages.

Table 1-1. Some Common Programming Languages

Example Language
Machine code (binary 1s and 0s)
Assembly Language
Cobol
Fortran
C, Pascal
Ada 83
C++,
C#
Python
Basic
Visual Basic

The IDE

The term IDE stands for integrated development environment. It is actually a collection of the different programs needed to write program instructions in our chosen language. Then convert them to the actual machine code that the micro understands, and also link together any bits of program we may want to use.

The programs we need in the IDE are

- A text editor to write the instructions for the program.
Note: The simple text editor “Notepad” could be used, but the text editor in MPLABX is by far a more advanced text editor.
- A compiler to change the instructions into a format the micro can understand.
- A linker to combine any files the programmer wants to use.
- A driver that will allow the programming tool used to load the program into the micro.
- A variety of simulation tools to allow the programmer to test aspects of the program.
- A variety of debug tools to allow the programmer to test the program live within the micro.

All these are in the IDE we choose; Microsoft has Visual Studio, Microchip has MPLABX, and Freescale uses CodeWarrior. Note that CODEBLOCK is an IDE for writing generic 'C' programs that will run on your PC. As this book is based on the PIC micro, it will concentrate on MPLABX. MPLABX has an improved text editor to give the text different color codes when we save the file as a .asm or .c for c program file such as light blue for keywords, light gray for comments, and so on.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

There are some other organization programs within MPLABX such as the ability to write to the configuration registers for the PIC. There is also the ability to simulate your programs within the IDE. All this makes MPLABX a useful tool for programming PICs.

There is also a program called MCC Microchip Code Configurator. This will actually produce a lot of the code you need, to use various aspects of the PIC, for you. However, I firmly believe that you should produce the code you use yourself so that you fully understand the code you use. I will not cover the use of the MCC. Also, Microchip has not written the MCC for all their PICs, and the 18F4525 is one they have missed so far.

Really when asked who the programmer is, you should be able to say that you are and not the MCC. When you take the time to study how to write your own code, you will find it is not as hard as you first thought. Also, you will get a better self-reward if you write it all yourself.

The only aspect of the programs that I let Microchip do for me is to write the code configuration bits that set up the PIC. This is only because it is so simple to do this and it covers all the #pragma statements.

Summary

This chapter has given you some background information about microcontrollers. It has introduced some of the terms and given you an explanation of what they mean such as

- PIC
- IDE

The next chapter will take you through creating a project in MPLABX the IDE from Microchip. It will also allow you to produce your first PIC program.

CHAPTER 2

Our First Program

After reading this chapter, you should be able to create a project and write a program that uses inputs from switches and turns on outputs. We are going to start off by writing a program that will make the PIC wait until a switch connected to bit 0 of PORTA goes high. It will then light an LED on bit 0 of PORTB. The PIC will then wait until a second switch, connected this time to bit 1 of PORTA, goes high. When this happens, the LED on bit 0 of PORTB will be turned off. Note that both switches will be single momentary switches, that is, they will stay high only when they are pressed; when they are released, their logic will go low.

The PORTS of the PIC

Before I go any further, I think I should explain that the PORTS are the actual physical connections that the PIC uses to connect to the outside world. Note that the micros have used the analogy of the real ports, such as the Port of London or the Port of Liverpool, which actually connect the country to the outside world taking goods in for the country and sending goods out of the country.

These PORTS connect internally to registers inside the PIC. The registers are merely a collection of individual cells which we call bits. In the 18f4525 there are 8 cells or bits connected together to form a register. This is because the 18f4525 is an 8-bit micro. These bits are numbered from right to left as bit 0, bit 1, bit 2, bit 3, bit 4, bit 5, bit 6, and bit 7. This is shown in Figure 2-1.



Figure 2-1. An 8-Bit Register

The bit 0 is sometimes referred to as the LSB or least significant bit, as this represents the units column or the ones column; whereas the bit7 is the MSB, most significant bit, as this represents the 128 column. Note that a 32-bit micro will have 32 bits in their registers and PORTS.

Good Programming Practice

All programs should be planned. The programmer should not just start writing code in the IDE. A good programmer should write an algorithm then construct a flowchart then write the program listing.

The Algorithm

This is really simply putting your thoughts, of how you are going to get the PIC to do what is asked of it, down on paper. The purpose is to focus your mind on how to complete the task. It will also allow you to choose the right PIC for the job. The algorithm should cover at least the following:

- You should explain the sequence of events you want to control.
- You should then identify all the input and output devices you will need.
- You should then create an allocation list for the control and identify any special inputs or outputs or controls you will need, such as analogue inputs, PWM outputs, and any timers.

The Flowchart

This is a diagram using standard symbols to show how the program will flow through the instructions and so complete the task.

Flowcharts are diagrams that show how any process flow through its constituent parts. They are very useful diagrams for designing computer programs. All flowcharts use five basic symbols; there are more, but the five most common symbols are shown in Figure 2-2.

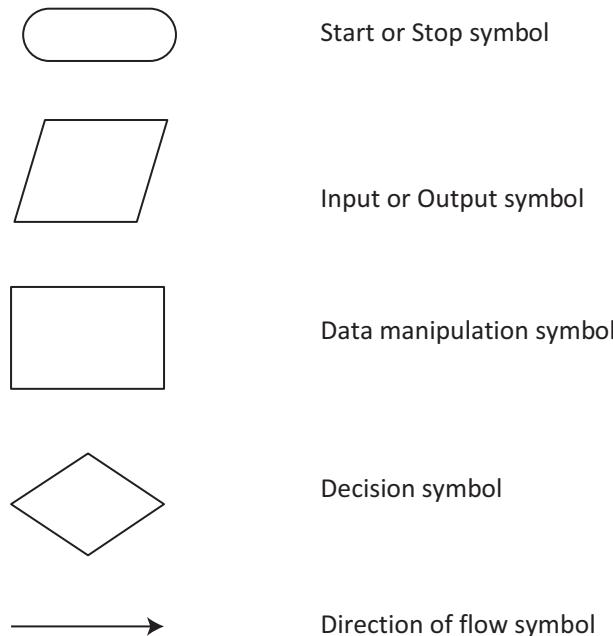


Figure 2-2. *The Main Flowchart Symbols*

The Program Listing

This is a list of the actual instructions written in your chosen language. If you have constructed your flowchart correctly, then each block in your flowchart will produce the correct lines of coding in your program listing.

Using MPLABX IDE

Before we go too far into the depths of MPLABX, I will discuss the use of MCC and MPLAB Harmony. Microchip has realized that there are many aspects of writing programs for the PIC that have to be carried out within every program. Therefore, they give you the facility to use their code-generating programs to write the code for you. MCC, MPLABX Code Configurator, is the program that does this for you. MPLAB Harmony does this for the 32-bit micros. Wow, isn't that great? Well yes and no. Using MCC creates a myriad of files and functions that are not easy to understand. If you write all the code for your program yourself, then you know where all the bits are and you understand how they work. Also this book teaches you how to use the datasheet to help write the instructions. You will learn how the PIC actually works and how it uses the simple logic '1's and '0's to control how it works. I firmly believe it is important for you, as the programmer, to understand what you are controlling and how your program instructions actually control it. If you use MCC straight off, then you risk losing this understanding and who the programmer is, you or Microchip. If you write all your own code, then you are the programmer.

MPLABX is the new IDE from Microchip. It is written in Java, and it has many improvements from the previous MPLAB. The book is written around using MPLABX version 5.2.

The text is based around using the PIC18f4525, but it can easily be adapted for any PIC micro. The 18F4525 PIC is a very versatile PIC in that it has

- 36 I/O
- 13 ADC channels
- 2 CCP modules as well as a UART and SPI

It has 48 kbytes of program memory as well as internal EEPROM.

All this makes this PIC a very versatile PIC to use. Also, the fact that it is available in a dual in-line 40pin device means that you can easily make a prototype board based around this PIC.

Creating the Project in MPLABX

It is noted that Microchip is forever bringing out new versions of their IDE. However, the basics do not really change, and if you learn how to use one version of the IDE, you will very quickly grasp how to move onto the new version. This book is based around version 5.2 which can be downloaded from the Microchip web site.

After installing the software and opening the program by clicking on the ICON , you will be presented with a screen that looks like that in Figure 2-3.

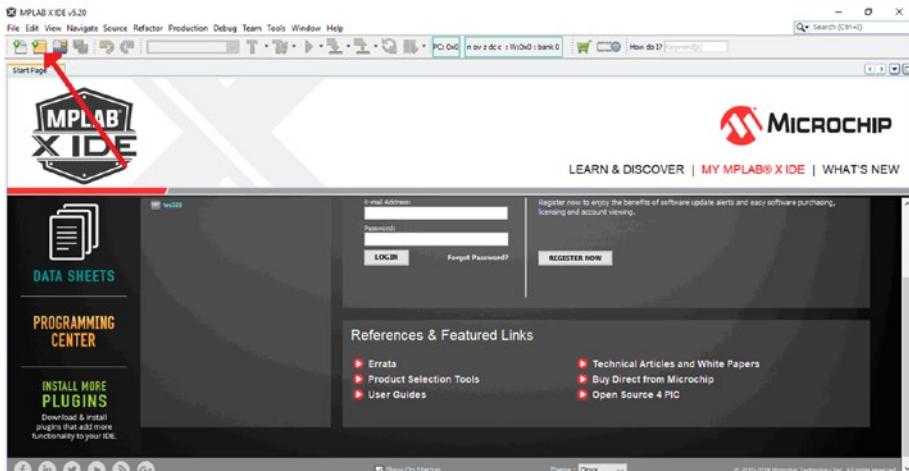


Figure 2-3. The Opening Screen for MPLABX

We need to create a project where all files for the task will be stored; these will include, among others, the asm or 'c' file that we will write and

CHAPTER 2 OUR FIRST PROGRAM

more importantly the hex file that the compiler in MPLABX will create. It is this hex file that will be loaded into the PIC to make the PIC run our program.

To create a new project, click the mouse on the second symbol, the orange square with the small green cross, in the menu bar, as shown in Figure 2-3. Alternatively, you could select file from the menu bar, and then select “New Project,” the top option from the dropdown menu that appears. The new project window will open as shown in Figure 2-4.

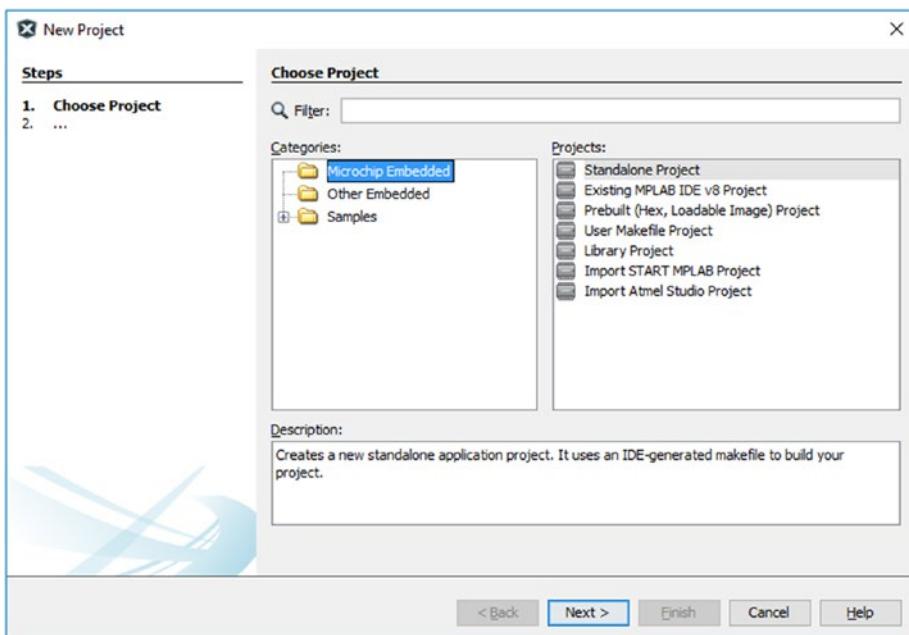


Figure 2-4. The New Project Window

Click the mouse on the selection “Microchip Embedded” “Standalone Project” if it is not the default selection. If the “Microchip Embedded” “Standalone Project” is not highlighted, select it first then select next. You will now be presented with a window that looks similar to that shown in Figure 2-5.

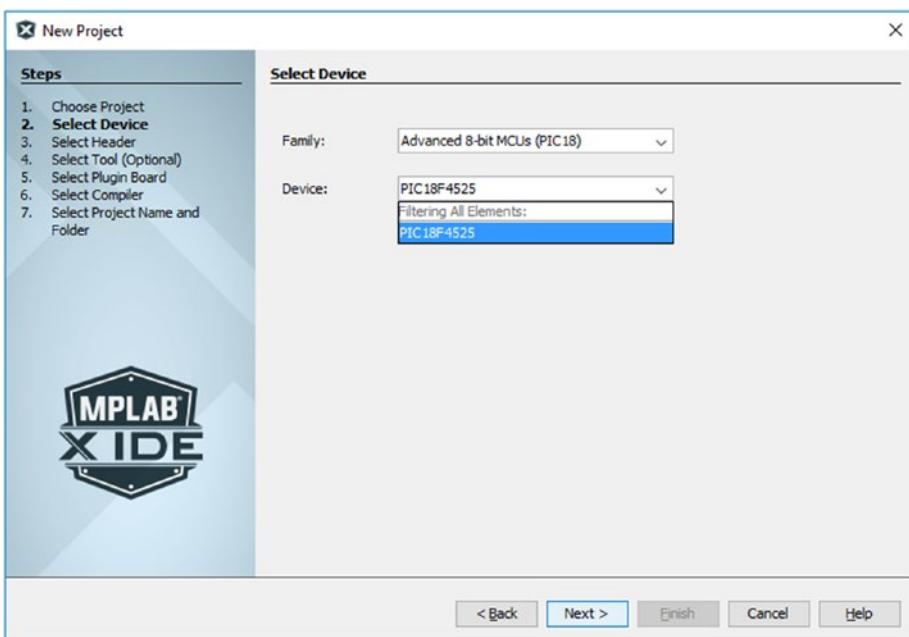


Figure 2-5. Select Device Window

We can now choose which PIC we will actually use. Alongside the “Family” window, click on the arrow, and select the Advanced 8-bit MCUs (PIC18) as shown earlier. Then alongside the “Device” window, click the arrow, and select the PIC18f4525 device as shown. Note that you could type the PIC number into the device box and the program will move the window down to the relevant PIC.

Once you are happy with your selection, click Next to move onto the next window as shown in Figure 2-6.

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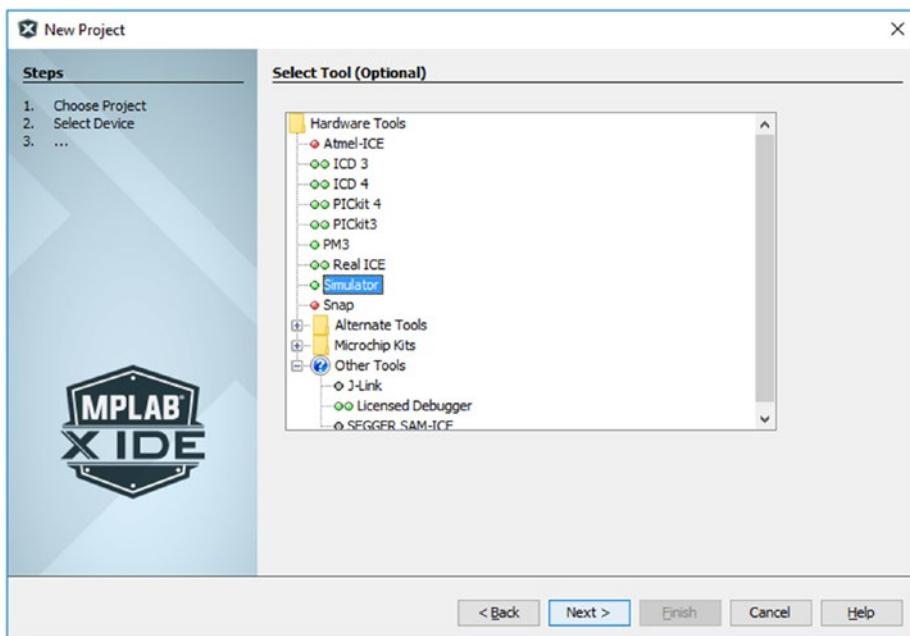


Figure 2-6. The Select Tool Window

From within this window, the programmer can select the type of tool they want to use to download the program to the PIC and also debug and run the program. Normally we would be using the ICD 3, but as this is the first use of this software, we will use the IDE's simulation tool to examine the program as it runs. Therefore, select the Simulator option as previously shown.

Click Next to confirm the selection and move on to the next screen. This is shown in Figure 2-7.

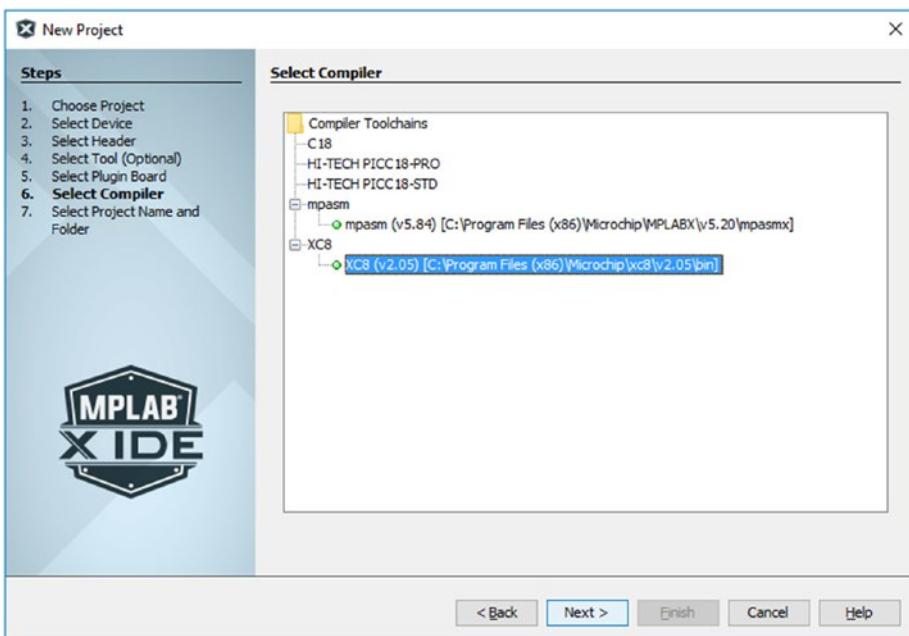


Figure 2-7. The Select Compiler Window

This window shows what compilers have been installed on your system. Assuming you have a suitable XC8 compiler, you should be able to select it as shown in Figure 2-7. Once you have selected it, click Next, and the window shown in Figure 2-8 is presented.

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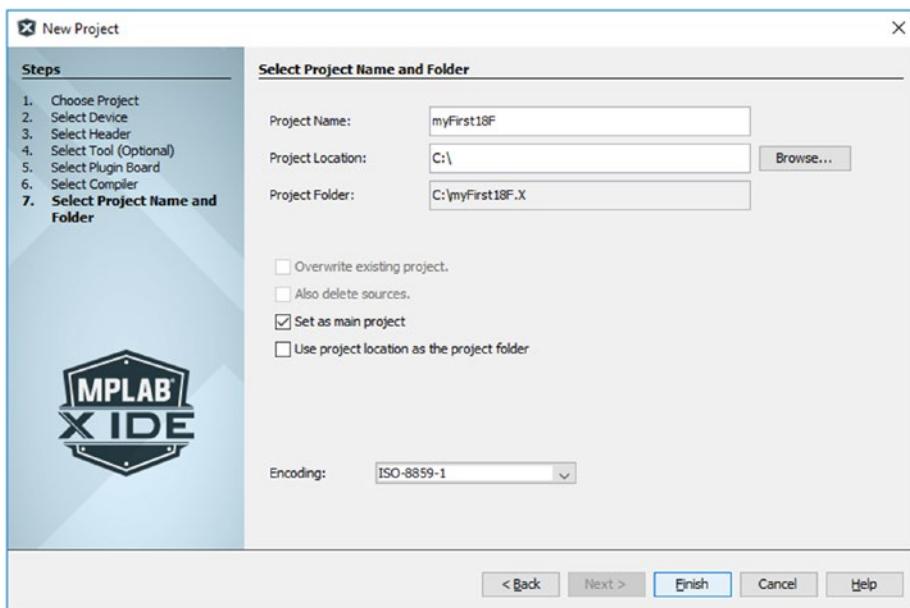


Figure 2-8. Naming the Project

This window is where you give a name for your project and decide where you want to save it. Make sure you know where you are saving your project, and give it the name “myFirst18F” as shown in Figure 2-8.

Note that I will use the method of using camelFont, to write any labels. This allows the programmer to write multiple words as one word. The first letter of the complete word is in lower case, but the first letter of all subsequent words is in capitals as in “myFirst18F”.

Now click Finish and the project will be created. You will now be presented with the main window as shown in Figure 2-9.



Figure 2-9. The Completed Project

We now need to add the text document that will contain all the ‘C’ instructions for the program. This will be the source file, and so we need to right click the mouse on the item source files in the project tree on the left-hand side. Now click the mouse on New, and then select **main.c** from the pop-out window that appears.

Having selected the **main.c** from the pop-out window, the following window shown in Figure 2-10 appears.

CHAPTER 2 OUR FIRST PROGRAM

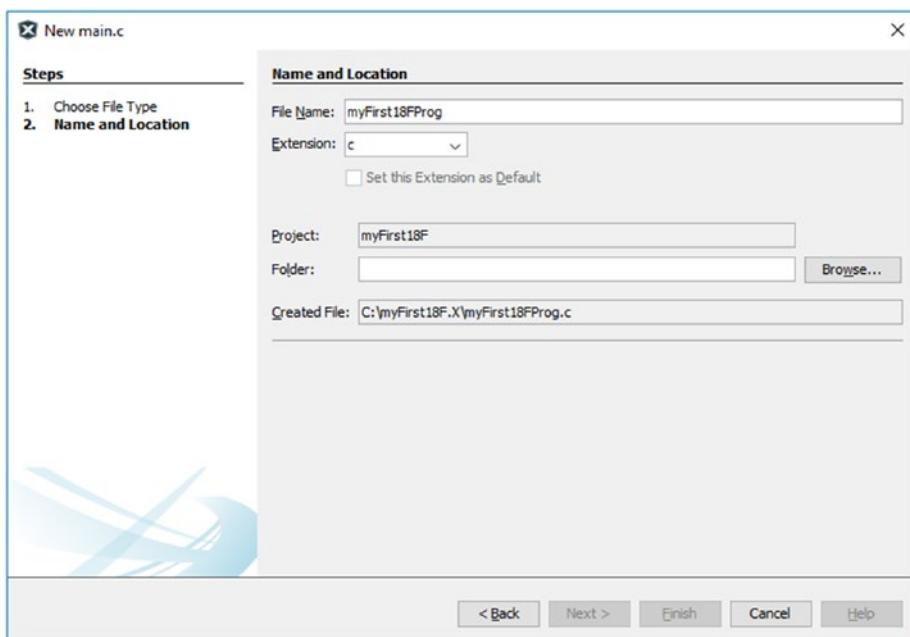


Figure 2-10. The New Empty File Window

Give the file the name myFirst18FProg and click on Finish. Note that the extension must be, as shown, 'c' to make it a 'C' program file.

Now the main editing window will appear as shown in Figure 2-11.

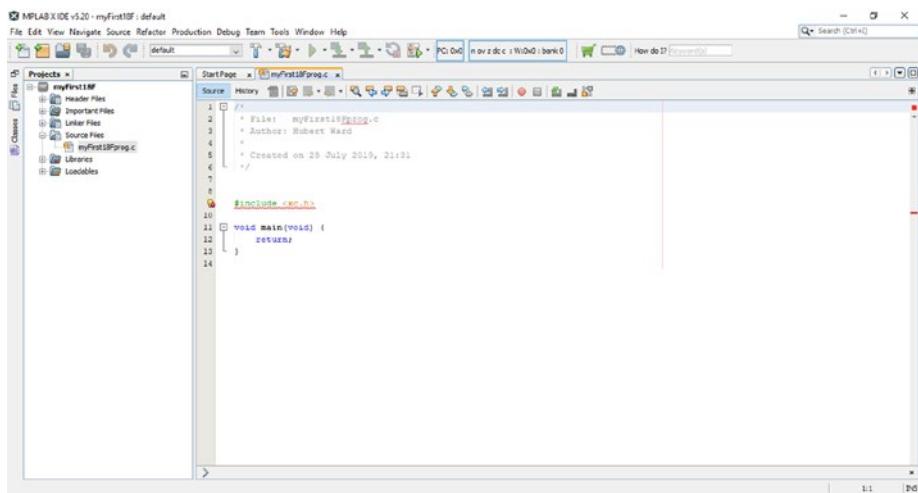


Figure 2-11. *The Editing Window*

It is in this screen that you will type all the instructions for your program.

The software has already inserted some comments from lines 1 to 6. This is because the software uses intelli-sense which is like predictive text on your phone. This software also automatically has added an “include” directive on line 9, and it has included the main loop between lines 11 and 13. More will be said about these later.

If the line numbers are not shown in the text editor and you would like to see them, as I do, then simply click on the word “View” from the main menu bar. Then tick the box to “Show Line Numbers” that appears on the fly-out menu, or un-tick it depending upon your preference. However, from experience I think it is useful to have line numbers showing as it helps with finding any errors in your coding.

We can change some of the fonts if you so wish by selecting the word “Options” from the drop-down menu that appears when you select the “Tools” choice on the main menu bar. You will get the window as shown in Figure 2-12.

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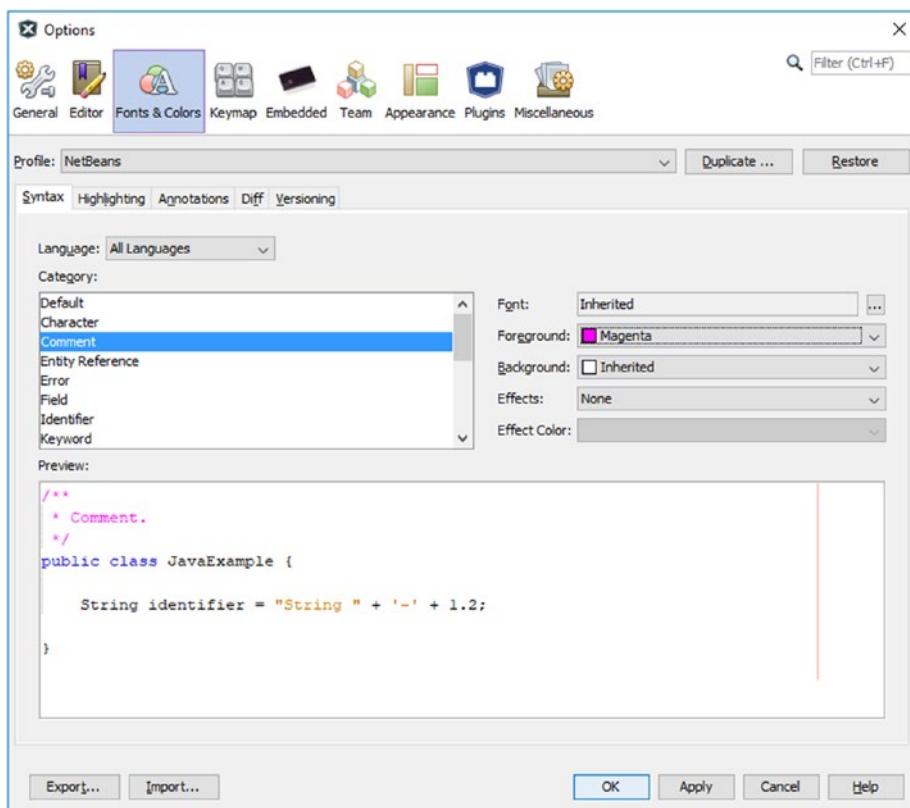


Figure 2-12. *Changing the Comments Font*

Once you are happy with your choice, click OK. I have selected the Fonts & Colors, then changed the color of the comments to magenta.

You have now created your first project in MPLABX. You should practice the process of creating a project so that you are comfortable with the process. It will take some time but it is definitely worth it. Don't just modify an old project.

The First Program Turning On and Off an Output

Now we are ready to get down to the real part of this process, writing the code for the program.

If you have never written a ‘C’ program, then there are some things you may need to read through at this point.

The Main Aspects of a ‘C’ Program

The ‘C’ programming language is a generic language in that it can be applied to many different environments such as DOS, Windows Applications, and now microcontrollers. The ‘C’ program for PICs has all the basic functions of a ‘C’ program, but there are also some specific instructions that are related to PICs, such as PORTAbits.RA0.

The main aspect of a ‘C’ program is that it runs inside a series of loops. There is a “main” loop from within which all the other loops, sometimes called functions, but I prefer to call them subroutines, are called from. The main loop must be there in the program as it is the “main” loop that the micro must go to at the very beginning of the program to get the first instruction of the program. The micro then carries out instructions in a sequential manner one after the other until it gets to the last instruction in the main loop. Unless this instruction forces the micro to go somewhere else, the micro will then go back to the first instruction in the loop then carry out all the instructions again in the same manner.

The Comments and PIC Configuration

The first program we will look at is a very common task, that of waiting for a switch to be pressed, or turned on, and then lighting a LED connected to an output. However, before we can start our program, we should make sure

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this program is our own. This is done by inserting some comments into the editing window. C programs use two main types of comments: single-line comments, which usually explain what the current instruction is doing, and multiple lines or a paragraph of comments, which give a more in-depth explanation.

The single comments are anything written on the current line following two forward slashes such as //.

Multiple-line comments are anything written between the following symbols /* */ as shown here, for example, /* Your Comments go Here*/

Having created your new ‘C’ file, the first thing you should do is insert some comments to tell everyone that this is your program and when you wrote it.

However, as this is a common starting point for programmers, the intelli-sense has put some comments in already. You may or may not wish to change them. However, to try and keep everything you see in your screens the same as they are in my screenshots, I suggest you delete everything that is currently in the text editing window so that you have an empty text window in the editor. You should now type in the following comments and commands so that your screen will be exactly the same as mine and my references will match up to your screens.

```
/* A basic program to turn on and off a led.
```

```
Written by Mr. H. H. Ward dated 28/07/2019 for the  
18f4525 PIC
```

```
No modifications to date*/
```

```
#include <xc.h>  
  
void main (void) {  
    return;  
}
```

Obviously, you should use your own name and the current date. Note also that as you write the text into the text editor, the intelli-sense will give the text the appropriate colors as there are different colors for different types of keywords.

These should be put into the top of your program file in the main editor window. This should take up the first nine lines, and the cursor should now be flashing at line ten ready for the next input.

Note that you can use these comments to keep track of any modifications that are being made and when they were made.

The next thing you need to do is tell the PIC how we intend to use some of its main variable attributes. This is because all PICs are very versatile in that among other things, they can be run from a wide variety of oscillators. Note that all instructions in the program and all other actions are synchronized to a clock signal. This clock signal can get its source from a wide variety of different oscillators from the simple low-frequency RC, resistor-capacitor, oscillator to the precise high-frequency crystal oscillator. These oscillator sources can be either external or internal to the PIC. The programmer needs to tell the PIC which oscillator they want to use. There are also other parameters the programmer needs to choose from. All this is achieved by writing the correct data to the config registers in the PIC as it is the data in these registers that configure how we are going to use the PIC. This can be achieved using a special window in the MPLABX IDE. To open this window, click on the word “Window” on the main menu bar then select “Target Memory Views” from the drop-down menu, then select Configuration Bits from the slide-out menu that appears. Once this is done, your main window will change to that as shown in Figure 2-13.

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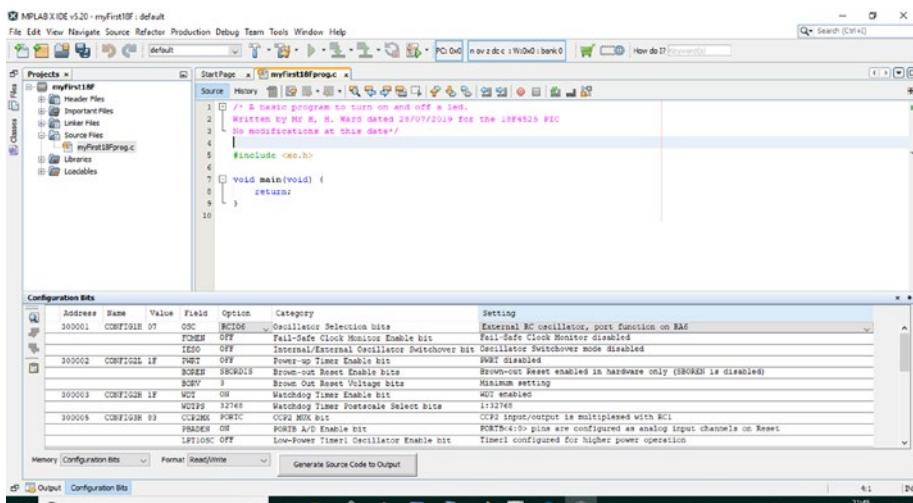


Figure 2-13. The Main Editing Window with the Configuration Bits Window Open

You may have to drag the window up to make it larger as shown.

I must apologize at this point, as I will not be showing you how to move the windows about inside the MPLABX IDE.

This configuration window allows you, as the programmer, to select some very important options for the PIC, the most important being the primary oscillator type and source used and if we want the watchdog timer or not.

There are three main options we need to change at this point. You should change the OSC to 'INTIO67' this is done by selecting the small arrow alongside the box next to the OSC option. The default setting is usually RCI06, the resistor-capacitor oscillator with bit 6 on PORTA left as a normal input-output bit. We need to change this. When you click on the small arrow, a small window will open. If you move the selection up to the next one, it will be the one we want, INTIO67, which means use the internal oscillator block as the primary source and leave bits 6 and 7 on PORTA as normal input-output bits. Therefore, click the mouse on the term INTIO67 to change the oscillator to this option.

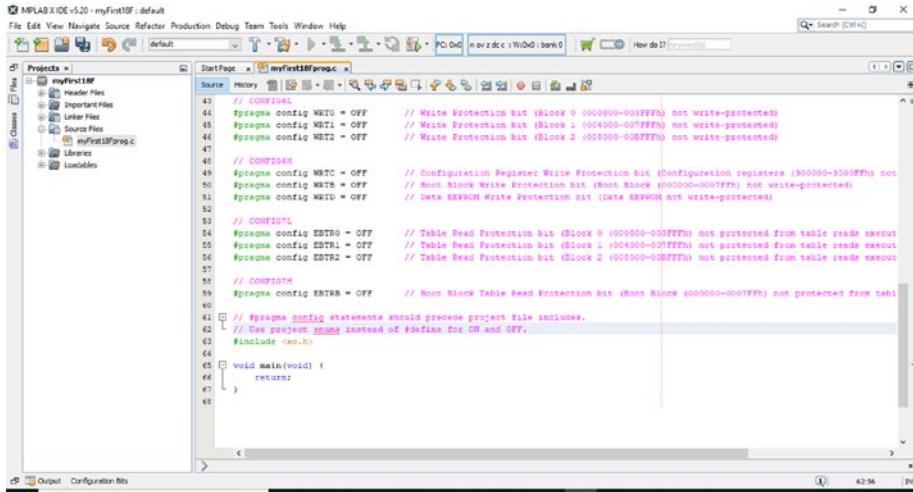
The other changes are simpler as we need to set the WDT to ‘OFF’. It is important to turn the WDT, watchdog timer, off as if nothing happens for a predefined period of time in a program then the WDT will stop the program. We don’t want this to happen, so we must turn the WDT off. This is done by clicking the mouse on the small arrow next to the WDT and clicking the mouse on the off option.

The final option I usually change is the LVP, “Low-Voltage Programming” option. I usually turn this off. This is turned off in the same way as the WDT was turned off

Once you have changed these settings, we can generate the source code, and then paste this code into our program. Click on “Generate Source Code to Output” tab shown at the bottom of the IDE. The source code should appear in the output window on the screen. Use the mouse to select all this code, then copy it all, and paste it into the “myFirst18FProg.c” c file you have in the open window. You should paste all the different configuration words and the comments as well into your ‘C’ file, but you don’t need to copy the “#include <xc.h> ” line as the intelli-sense has already put this in. We will learn the importance of that “#include <xc.h> ” line soon. I have pasted these source instructions into my open file window starting at line 5 and ending at line 62. This moves the “#include <xc.h> ” down to line 63. Yours may differ due to what comments you have put in.

Your screen should look like this as shown in Figure 2-14.

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The screenshot shows the MPLAB X IDE interface with the title bar "MPLAB X IDE v5.20 - myFirst18F: default". The main window displays a configuration listing for the file "myFirst18Fproj.c". The code contains several pragmas for write protection and configuration registers:

```
// CONFIG1L
43 #pragma config NWRT = OFF           // Write Protection bit (Block 0 (004000-003FFFh) not write-protected)
44 #pragma config NWRT1 = OFF          // Write Protection bit (Block 1 (004000-007FFFh) not write-protected)
45 #pragma config NWRT2 = OFF          // Write Protection bit (Block 2 (008000-00BFFFh) not write-protected)
46
47
48 // CONFIG1S
49 #pragma config NWRTC = OFF          // Configuration Register Write Protection bit (Configuration registers (800000-1000FFh) not
50 #pragma config ERTB = OFF           // Boot Block Write Protection bit (boot Block (000000-0007FFFh) not write-protected)
51 #pragma config NWRD = OFF           // Data EEPROM Write Protection bit (Data EEPROM not write-protected)
52
53
54 #pragma config ERT0 = OFF           // Table Read Protection bit (Block 0 (000000-0007FFFh) not protected from table reads except
55 #pragma config ERT1 = OFF           // Table Read Protection bit (Block 1 (004000-007FFFh) not protected from table reads except
56 #pragma config ERT2 = OFF           // Table Read Protection bit (Block 2 (008000-00BFFFh) not protected from table reads except
57
58 // CONFIG2
59 #pragma config ERTB0 = OFF          // Boot Block Table Read Protection bit (Boot Block (000000-0007FFFh) not protected from table
60
61
62 // #pragma config statements should precede project file includes.
63 // This project uses "main" instead of fmain for CM and OF.
64 #include <xc.h>
65
66 void main(void) {
67     return;
68 }
69
```

Figure 2-14. *The Configuration Listing*

The #include <xc.h> is important as we need to tell the compiler we want to use some labels to represent any addresses we will be using. The most important addresses we will use are the addresses of the SFRs, Special Function Registers. It is with these SFRs that the programmer can control every aspect of the PIC with the ‘1’s and ‘0’s that they write to these control registers.

The compiler really wants to use the address of the registers. However, we humans may want to use labels to give the register’s names instead of using the actual address number.

An example of using a label is PORTA. This is a SFR at the address 0XF80 in this PIC. The compiler only needs the hexadecimal number “F80”; note that the “0X” stands for hexadecimal. However, to make the program easier for us humans to read, we would want to use the label PORTA. To enable this to happen, we have to tell the compiler that this label, and the others’ labels, represent the correct address of the SFRs. There is a simple instruction that does this which is

EQU PORTA 0XF80.

This tells the compiler that the label PORTA actually means the number F80 in hexadecimal format.

To help us do this, and save a lot of work, someone has written the EQUs for all the labels for all the SFRs we could use. However, to use these equates, we need to tell the compiler to include them in our program. This is done by using the “#include <xc.h> ” line in our program. Remember there is a “Linker” program in the IDE. This links together our own program and all the header files we tell the Linker program in “include”; but we MUST tell the linker program to include them.

This is inserted now into our program file. Later we might need to use other include files. We will explain the importance of this “#include <xc.h> ” with an example later.

We are nearly ready to start writing our program. One very important thing to remember is that all ‘C’ and ‘C++’ programs use a collection of loops or functions or subroutines. This means we have to place all instructions inside these loops. The most important loop is the “main loop” as this is the first loop the micro goes to when the program is started. From this main loop, all the other loops, which I will call subroutines, which are used to carry out different aspects of the program, are called from.

The TRISA and TRISB

The program is going to use two ports to communicate with the outside world. We will use PORTA as an input port, to which the two switches will be connected to, and PORTB as an output port, to which all the LEDs will be connected to. However, the PIC has no idea which way we want to use the PORTS. Each port can be either an input or output port. Indeed, we can mix them up much more as each individual bit in the port can be either input or output and with the 18F4525, each PORT has 8 bits. We, as the programmers, need to tell the PIC how we want to use the PORTS and their bits. This requires setting some of the I/O pins to input and some

to output. Note that all PICs have at least two PORTS that can be used to allow the PIC to communicate to the outside world. The PORTS are identified as PORT A, B, C, and so on. Each PORT will have a number of individual bits that can be set to take data into the PIC, that is, be inputs, or to send data out of the PIC, that is, be outputs. An 8-bit PIC such as the 18F4525 has up to 8 bits on each PORT, whereas the 32-bit PICS have up to 32 bits per PORT. The PIC does not know which type you want the bits to be, either input or output.

You as the programmer must tell the PIC, by way of instructions in your program, which type you want the bits of each port to be. To enable you to do this, there are some SFRs, Special Function Registers, called TRIS which allow this to be done. There is a TRIS for each PORT, and each TRIS has the same number of bits as each PORT. The particular bit of each TRIS maps onto the same bit in the corresponding PORT as shown in Figure 2-15.

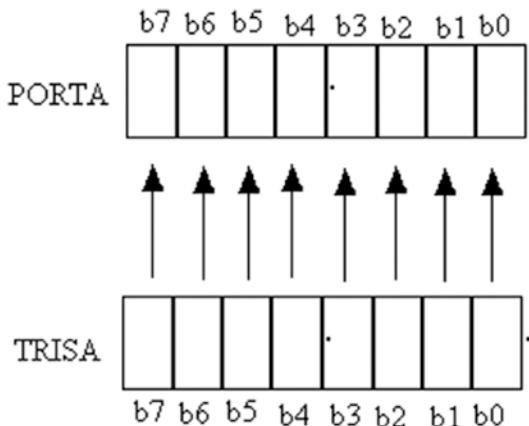


Figure 2-15. The Mapping of the TRIS onto the PORT

In this way the bits of the TRIS can control the corresponding bits of the PORT as to whether or not the bit in the PORT is an input or output. If the bit in the TRIS is a logic '1' then the bit in the PORT would be an input. If the bit in the TRIS is a logic '0' then the bit in the PORT would be an output.

A TRIS Example

IF TRISA was set to 00001111, then bits 7, 6, 5, and 4 of PORTA would be outputs and bits 3, 2, 1, and 0 would be inputs. This assumes that the PORT has only 8 bits as with an 8-bit micro, and going from left to right, they are number b7, b6, b5, b4, b3, b2, b1, and b0.

Exercise 2-1

What data would you have to write, to where, to set PORTC as Out, Out, In, Out, In, In, In, Out going from B7 down to B0 from left to right? Answers to all exercises are provided at the end of each chapter.

Setting the PORTS

In our first program, we will make all the bits on PORTA inputs and all the bits in PORTB as output.

The following instructions, with their respective comments, will do what is required.

```
TRISA = 0xFF;          //Make all bits in TRISA a logic '1' which
                      makes all bits on PORTA inputs
TRISB = 0x00;          //Make all bits in TRISB a logic '0' which
                      makes all bits on PORTB outputs
```

Note that the 0x in front of the data means we are using hexadecimal numbers. This is because we only need to use 2 digits, as 1 hexadecimal digit represents 4 binary bits. It does not matter if we use lowercase letters or capital letters for these numbers.

Note also that we use the semicolon, ';' after the data OXFF. This indicates the end of the current instruction. Note also the use of single-line comments to explain what the instruction does; please be aware that in the text editor in MPLABX, these comments would be on one line.

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The latter of the two instructions could have been written as follows:

TRISB = 0; This will make all the bits in TRISB a logic '0' which sets all the bits in PORTB to outputs. This is using the default radix, or number system, used in MPLABX, which is decimal. The instruction TRISB = 0; means the value stored in the TRISB would be zero which is 0b00000000 or 0X00.

One very important thing to note is that we are using capital letters in the word TRISA and TRISB; this is because this is how the labels have been defined in the include file we are using. Really the micro sees TRISA as the numeric value of 0XF92 which is where the SFR is in the PIC's memory.

NB: Note that '0X' in front of a number means that is a hexadecimal number, '0b' means it is a binary number, and no prefix means it is a decimal number. This is the same concept that MPLABX uses.

The include file has all the labels we will use for the SFRs, and they are all in capitals. For example, if we want to turn on all the LEDs, or any devices, connected to PORTB, we would have to write

PORTB = 0b11111111;

Note

portb = 0b11111111; would not work as the label for PORTB must be in capital letters.

Note that the '0b' stands for binary as we are stating the number in its binary format.

We could have written PORTB = 255, as this is decimal equivalent of 0b11111111 and decimal is the default radix for MPLABX .

The ADC (Analogue to Digital Converter)

Most PICs, including ours, will have an ADC, Analogue-to-Digital Converter. This will be assigned to one of the PORTS, and this means that the inputs to the bits on that PORT could be analogue or digital. We as programmers must tell the PIC which we want the inputs to be: analogue or digital. In this case we want all the bits to be digital as they are simply high or low switches. For our 18f4525 PIC, it is PORTA that is assigned to the ADC and some of PORTB, as this PIC has 13 analogue channels. This means that the bits on PORTA, and some of PORTB, could be analogue or digital. The default setting is that they are all analogue. Note that an analogue input would be one connected to a transducer such as pressure or temperature transducer and would be a varying voltage used to represent the signal being monitored. We want all the bits on PORTA to be digital, that is, simply on and off signals, which would be logic '1' or logic '0' inputs. Therefore, we need to tell the PIC we want the bits on PORTA to be digital. Table 2-1 shows us that we can program the PORT to be one of many variations from all bits being analogue to all bits being digital.

Table 2-1. The Settings for Bits 3, 2, 1, and 0 of the ADCON0 8-Bit Register

Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Not Used	Not Used	VCFG1	VCFG0	PCFG3	PCFG2	PCFG1	PCFG0
Bit 7		Not used read as 0					
Bit 6		Not used read as 0					
Bit 5		1 negative reference from AN2 0 negative reference from VSS					
Bit 4		1 negative reference from AN3 0 negative reference from VDD					

(continued)

Table 2-1. (*continued*)

B3	B2	B1	B0	AN1	AN1	AN	AN9	AN8	AN7	AN6	AN5	AN4	AN3	AN2	AN1	AN0
12	11	10														
0	0	0	0	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	0	0	1	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	0	1	0	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	0	1	1	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	1	0	0	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	1	0	1	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	1	1	0	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	1	1	1	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	0	0	0	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	0	0	1	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	0	1	0	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	0	1	1	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	1	0	0	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A
1	1	0	1	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A
1	1	1	0	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A
1	1	1	1	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D

The table refers to the bits in the ADCON1 register which is an 8-bit register that controls certain aspects of the ADC.

The principle behind the ADC is that there is just one ADC circuit inside the PIC which can be switched to any one of the 13 inputs that can have an analogue input connected to it. This is a method termed “multiplexing” where the 1 ADC serves 13 possible analogue inputs. The ADC will then create a binary number that represents the actual voltage

applied to the input. The ADC used in the PIC is a 10-bit ADC which gives the programmer a possible resolution of the following:

The resolution of the ADC is the smallest value that it can recognize. This can be calculated using the following expression.

$$\text{Resolution} = \frac{\text{Range}}{2^n}$$

$$\therefore \text{Resolution} = \frac{5}{2^{10}} = 4.883mV$$

That is if we used all 10 bits, and as this is an 8-bit micro, there is a problem with this, but we will look at that later.

The ADC is controlled by three registers; ADCON0, ADCON1, and ADCON2. The ADCON1 controls what voltage range is used and if the bit on the port is analogue or digital. The ADCON0 controls if the ADC is switched on and which bit or channel the ADC is connected to. The ADCON2 register controls the timing of the ADC; we will look at all these registers later.

We actually do not want to use the ADC, and we want all bits connected to PORTA to be digital; therefore, we should turn the ADC off and make all bits on PORTA and PORTB to be digital.

It is bit 0 of the ADCON0 register that turns the ADC on, that is, bit 0 = 1, or off, that is, bit 0 = 0. Therefore, make all bits of the ADCON0 register to logic 0. This will set b_0 to a logic '0' and so turn the ADC off.

It is bits 3, 2, 1, and 0 of ADCON1 register that determine if the bits on PORTA and PORTB are analogue or digital bits. This is shown in Table 2-1. If the bit in the ADCON1 register is a logic '0', then the input would be an analogue input. If the bit is a logic '1', then the input would be digital. This is a good example of how the actual bits are used to control the actions of the PIC.

As we need all the inputs to be digital, we need to make sure all these four bits, bits 3, 2, 1, and 0, in the ADCON1 register are set to logic '1'.

The following instructions will set the ADC up as we want.

```
ADCON0 = 0x00; //This turns the ADC off
ADCON1 = 0xF0; //This sets all the bits on PORTA and PORTB as
                digital
```

Note that these instructions have comments which are separated from end of the instruction, signified by the semicolon ‘;’, with the use of two forward slashes ‘//’. This signifies that everything written after these slashes on that current line are comments and are not compiled by the compiler software. The comments can be used to help describe what the instruction is doing.

The combination of the following four instructions will set the two ports as we want them:

```
TRISA = 0xFF;           //Make all bits in TRISA a logic '1' which
                       makes all bits on PORTA inputs
TRISB = 0x00;           //Make all bits in TRISB a logic '0' which
                       makes all bits on PORTB outputs
ADCON0 = 0x00;          //Makes all the bits in the ADCON0 logic '0'
                       This turns the ADC off
ADCON1 = 0xF0;          //This make bits 7,6,5 and 4 logic '0'
                       and bits 3,2,1and 0 logic '1'This sets
                       all the bits on PORTA and PORTB as digital
                       bits
```

Setting Up the Oscillator

We have used the configuration words to tell the PIC we want to use the internal oscillator block as the primary oscillator source, that is, INTIO67. However, we have not told the PIC what oscillator we want to use. It is the bits in the OSCCON , OSCillator CONtrol register, that controls the

internal oscillator block. There are eight possible oscillator frequencies we can use and it is bits b6, b5, and b4 which control the settings. We will set the oscillator to 8Mhz and make the frequency stable. To set the oscillator frequency to 8Mhz, we set the three bits, b6, b5, and b4, to a logic '1'. To make the frequency stable, we set bit 2 to a logic '1'.

We need to tell the PIC where it will get the signal for the system clock. There are three possible options as controlled by bits b1 and b0 of this register. This would give us three options, really four, but we only want three. However, as we have set the primary oscillator source in the configuration words to be the internal oscillator, then two options are the same. We can simply set these two bits to logic '0' as the primary source is the internal oscillator block.

Bit 7 of the OSCCON register is the IDLEN bit which is used for sleep mode. We will not use this mode till much later; therefore, set this bit to a logic '0'.

Bit 3 is actually a signal from the micro to the programmer so that this too can be set to a logic '0'.

This means that the eight bits in the OSCCON register can be set as follows:

```
OSCCON = 0b01110100;           //This sets the internal  
                                oscillator to 8MHz and makes  
                                it stable.
```

Tables 2-2 through 2-4 should help explain these settings

The device enters sleep when asked, and the system clock is from the primary oscillator. Sleep is a more advanced option, and it will be covered in my future books.

Table 2-2. Use of OSCCON0 Register

Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
IDLEN	IRCF2	IRCF1	IRCF0	IOSTS	IOFS	SCS1	SCSO
LOGIC 1	See Table 2-3		Logic 1	Logic 1	Logic 1	See Table 2-4	
Device enters sleep				Time-out for osc startup	Internal oscillator		
Logic 0 device does not enter sleep				Primary oscillator running	is stable		
				Logic 0 No time out primary oscillator not running	Logic 0 internal oscillator not stable		

Table 2-3. Bits 6, 5, and 4 of OSCON0 Register Setting the Oscillator Frequency

Bit 6 ICRF2	Bit 5 ICRF1	Bit 4 ICRFO	Oscillator frequency
0	0	0	31kHz ¹
0	0	1	125kHz
0	1	0	250kHz
0	1	1	500kHz
1	0	0	1Mhz
1	0	1	2MHz
1	1	0	4MHz
1	1	1	8MHz

¹The 31kHz can be sourced from main oscillator divided by 256 or directly from internal RC oscillator

Table 2-4. The Usage of Bit 1 and Bit 0 of OSCCON0 Register to Select Source of Oscillator Frequency Signal

Bit 1	Bit 0	Oscillator source
SCS1	SCSO	
0	0	Primary oscillator as defined in configuration words
0	1	Secondary timer block
1	0	Internal oscillator block
1	1	Internal oscillator block

The process of deciding what data is written to the ADCON0, ADCON1, and the OSCCON shown earlier is an example of how you should determine what data is written to all the SRFs. You should decide what function you want the particular SRF to perform and write out on paper how you can either set it, write a logic ‘1’, or clear it, write a logic ‘0’, to each bit of the SRF to achieve what you need. Then write out the instruction in your program. It is a process that needs lots of practice.

Exercise 2-2

Write down the 8-bit data that you think should be written to the OSCCON register to set the internal oscillator block to give a frequency of 500kHz, making the frequency stable and setting the internal oscillator block as the source for the system clock. The device does not enter sleep mode.

Waiting for an Input

Now that we have set the PORTS up, we need to make the PIC wait until the switch connected to bit 0 of PORTA goes to a logic ‘1’. This will happen if the switch is set up so that when it is pressed, the logic level goes high, that is, to 5V or logic ‘1’.

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There are a number of ways to do this, but it is basically testing the bit to see if it has gone high. The simplest way involves making the micro wait until the input goes high. Then when the input does go high, move on and do something.

You might think that you should keep on asking the question has the input gone high? The problem with this approach is that you must make the micro go back and ask the question again if the input has not gone high.

However, another way of looking at this test is to say that while the input is low or not high, do nothing. Indeed, this is the approach that we use in a ‘C’ program.

This can be done using a while command as shown here:

```
while (PORTAbits.RA0 == 0)
{
}
```

The concept of that while instruction is that while the test condition, written in BOLD only this one time to make it obvious what is meant by the test, expressed inside the normal brackets is true, carry out the instructions that are written between the curly brackets. In this case there are no instructions between the curly brackets, and so the micro does nothing.

We use the double = = sign to say it becomes equal to. This means the test is while PORTA bit 0 becomes equal to 0, the test is true, and so do what I say; in this case what is inside the curly brackets, which is nothing. In this way the instruction is saying that while the input on bit 0 of PORTA is at logic ‘0’, do nothing.

Note that you can signify the bit of a PORT as shown earlier, that is, RA0 means bit 0 of PORTA.

Note also the specific syntax in specifying the actual bit of the PORT. This has to be correct or else the compiler will throw up an error.

An alternative way of writing the same instruction is

```
while (PORTAbits.RA0 == 0) continue;      //Do nothing while the
                                         logic at b0 of PORTA
                                         is at logic '0'.
```

This does exactly the same. Note also we use the ';' to denote the end of the instruction, and the only thing we are asking the program to do is continue which makes the micro go back to the start of the instruction.

Another alternative would be

```
while (!PORTAbits.RA0) continue;
```

In this case the Not operator '!' is used. The test is while the bit is NOT a logic '1' do what I tell you to do.

One final alternative to make the PIC wait until something happens, such as the logic at the input bit goes high, is

```
while (!PORTAbits.RA0);
```

This works in a similar fashion to the first example.

There are no instructions between the closing normal bracket of the test and the end of the instruction, signified by the semi-colon ';

This then tells the micro to do nothing while the test inside the curly brackets is true. This is a very succinct way of getting the PIC to wait for something to happen. However, if you **unintentionally** put a semicolon after the closing bracket of the test statement, this could cause the program to get stuck here. Remember this when you are trying to debug a program that doesn't do what you want.

Using whatever format you like, the micro would stay in the while loop until the logic at bit 0 of PORTA went high. The micro would then move on to the next instruction of the program.

This would be to simply turn on the output at PORTB bit 0. This can be done using

```
PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;           //Turn on what is connected to b0  
                            of PORTB
```

Waiting to Turn the LED Off

We can now make the PIC wait for a stop switch to be pressed so that the micro can then turn the output on bit 0 of PORTB off. This can be done as follows:

```
while (PORTAbits.RA1 == 0);    //Do nothing while the logic  
                                at bit 1 of PORTA is at  
                                logic '0'.  
PORTBbits.RB0 = 0;            //Turn off what is connected  
                            to b0 of PORTB
```

Note that we must put all the instructions inside the main loop. The actual program instructions which start at 50 and end at line 58 of the program in Listing 2-1 should go inside the curly brackets of the editing window. To help you appreciate, this the screen should end up as shown in Figure 2-16.

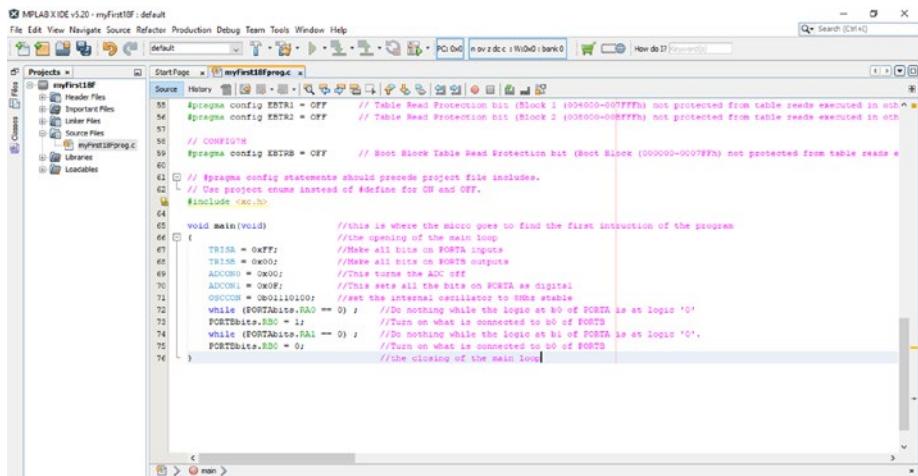


Figure 2-16. The Completed Editing Window

Once we have written all the instructions for the first program, the editor window should look like the one shown here in Listing 2-1.

Listing 2-1. The Completed LED Start Stop Program Instructions

1. /*A basic program to turn on and off a led.
2. Written by Mr H, H. Ward dated 28/07/2019 for the 18F4525 PIC
3. No modifications at this date*/
- 4.
5. // PIC18F4525 Configuration Bit Settings
6. // C' source line config statements.
7. // CONFIG1H
8. #pragma config OSC = INTI067 // Oscillator Selection
bits (Internal
oscillator block, port
function on RA6 and RA7)
9. #pragma config FCMEN = OFF // Fail-Safe Clock Monitor
Enable bit (Fail-Safe
Clock Monitor disabled)

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```
10. #pragma config IES0 = OFF           // Internal/External  
                                         Oscillator Switchover  
                                         bit (Oscillator  
                                         Switchover mode  
                                         disabled)  
  
11. // CONFIG2L  
12. #pragma config PWRT = OFF          // Power-up Timer Enable  
                                         bit (PWRT disabled)  
13. #pragma config BOREN = SBORDIS    // Brown-out Reset Enable  
                                         bits (Brown-out Reset  
                                         enabled in hardware only  
                                         (SBOREN is disabled))  
14. #pragma config BORV = 3            // Brown Out Reset Voltage  
                                         bits (Minimum setting)  
  
15. // CONFIG2H  
16. #pragma config WDT = OFF          // Watchdog Timer Enable  
                                         bit (WDT disabled  
                                         (control is placed on  
                                         the SWDTEN bit))  
17. #pragma config WDTPS = 32768      // Watchdog Timer Postscale  
                                         Select bits (1:32768)  
  
18. // CONFIG3H  
19. #pragma config CCP2MX = PORTC     // CCP2 MUX bit (CCP2  
                                         input/output is  
                                         multiplexed with RC1)  
20. #pragma config PBADEN = ON        // PORTB A/D Enable B<4:0>  
                                         pins are configured as  
                                         analog input channels on  
                                         Reset)
```

```
21. #pragma config LPT1OSC = OFF      // Low-Power Timer1  
                                         Oscillator Enable bit  
                                         (Timer1 configured for  
                                         higher power operation)  
  
22. #pragma config MCLRE = ON        // MCLR Pin Enable bit  
                                         (MCLR pin enabled; RE3  
                                         input pin disabled)  
  
23. // CONFIG4L  
24. #pragma config STVREN = ON        // Stack Full/Underflow  
                                         Reset Enable bit (Stack  
                                         full/underflow will  
                                         cause Reset)  
25.#pragma config LVP = ON           // Single-Supply ICSP  
                                         Enable bit (Single-  
                                         Supply ICSP enabled)  
26. #pragma config XINST = OFF        // Extended Instruction Set  
                                         Enable bit (Instruction  
                                         set extension and  
                                         Indexed Addressing mode  
                                         disabled (Legacy mode))  
  
27. // CONFIG5L  
28. #pragma config CP0 = OFF          // Code Protection bit  
                                         (Block 0 (000800-  
                                         003FFFh) not code-  
                                         protected)  
29. #pragma config CP1 = OFF          // Code Protection bit  
                                         (Block 1 (004000-  
                                         007FFFh) not code-  
                                         protected)
```

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```
30. #pragma config CP2 = OFF           // Code Protection bit  
                                         (Block 2 (008000-00BFFFh)  
                                         not code- protected)  
  
31. // CONFIG5H  
32. #pragma config CPB = OFF          // Boot Block Code  
                                         Protection bit (Boot  
                                         block (000000-0007FFh)  
                                         not code- protected)  
  
33. #pragma config CPD = OFF          // Data EEPROM Code  
                                         Protection bit (Data  
                                         EEPROM not code-  
                                         protected)  
  
34. // CONFIG6L  
35. #pragma config WRT0 = OFF          // Write Protection bit  
                                         (Block 0 (000800-  
                                         003FFFh) not write-  
                                         protected)  
  
36. #pragma config WRT1 = OFF          // Write Protection bit  
                                         (Block 1 (004000-  
                                         007FFFh) not write-  
                                         protected)  
  
37. #pragma config WRT2 = OFF          // Write Protection bit  
                                         (Block 2 (008000-00BFFFh)  
                                         not write- protected)  
  
38. // CONFIG6H  
39. #pragma config WRTC = OFF          // Configuration Register  
                                         Write Protection bit  
                                         (Configuration registers  
                                         (300000-3000FFh) not  
                                         write- protected)
```

```
40. #pragma config WRTB = OFF          // Boot Block Write Protection bit (Boot Block (000000-0007FFh) not write-protected)
41. #pragma config WRTD = OFF          // Data EEPROM Write Protection bit (Data EEPROM not write-protected)
42. // CONFIG7L
43. #pragma config EBTR0 = OFF          // Table Read Protection bit (Block 0 (000800-003FFFh) not protected from table reads executed in other blocks)
44. #pragma config EBTR1 = OFF          // Table Read Protection bit (Block 1 (004000-007FFFh) not protected from table reads executed in other blocks)
45. #pragma config EBTR2 = OFF          // Table Read Protection bit (Block 2 (008000-00BFFFh) not protected from table reads executed in other blocks)
46. // CONFIG7H
47. #pragma config EBTRB = OFF          // Boot Block Table Read Protection bit (Boot Block (000000-0007FFh) not protected from table reads executed in other blocks)
```

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```
48. #include <xc.h>           //the directive to include the
                                header file xc.h
49. void main()               //this is where the micro goes to
                                find the first instruction of the
                                program
50. {                         //the opening of the main loop
51.     TRISA = 0xFF;          //Make all bits on PORTA inputs
52.     TRISB = 0x00;          //Make all bits on PORTB outputs
53.     ADCON0 = 0x00;         //This turns the ADC off
54.     ADCON1 = 0x0F;         //This sets all the bits on PORTA
                                and PORTB as digital
55.     OSCCON = 0b01110100;   //set the internal oscillator to
                                8Mhz stable
56.     while (PORTAbits.RA0 == 0) continue; //Do nothing while
                                the logic at b0
                                of PORTA is at
                                logic '0' When it
                                goes to a logic
                                '1' move to next
                                instruction.
57.     PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;      //Turn on what is
                                connected to b0
                                of PORTB
58.     while (PORTAbits.RA1 == 0) continue ; //Do nothing while
                                the logic at b1
                                of PORTA is at
                                logic '0'. When
                                it goes to a
                                logic '1' move to
                                next instruction.
```

```

59. PORTBbits.RB0 = 0 ;           //Turn off what is
                                connected to bo
                                of PORTB
60. }                         //the closing of the main loop

```

Note that this is the only time I will show all the instructions including the configuration words and the include directive lines 1 to 49. However, every program will need these configuration words and that #include <xc.h> line, they must be in all the programs. Later, I will show you how to create a header file for these instructions.

There is one rather subtle problem in this program. The problem is when the micro gets to the last instruction in the loop, it will go back to the first instruction in that loop and start all over again. This means that it will set up the ports, the ADC, and the oscillator again even though we have already set them as required, and there is no need to this. To prevent this from happening again, we can insert an unconditional loop that keeps the micro using all the other instructions forever but only runs the first five setup instructions once.

This is done by using another while instruction. The format is shown in Listing 2-2.

Listing 2-2. The While (1) Loop Inserted

```

61. void main()           //this is where the micro goes to
62. find the first instruction of the program
63. {                   //the opening of the main loop
64. TRISA = 0xFF;       //Make all bits on PORTA inputs
65. TRISB = 0x00;       //Make all bits on PORTB outputs
66. ADCONO = 0x00;      //This turns the ADC off
67. ADCON1 = 0x0F;      //This sets all the bits on PORTA
68. as digital
69. OSCCON = 0b01110100; //set the internal oscillator to
                        8Mhz stable

```

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```
70. while (1)          //While the result of the test  
                    is true do what is inside the  
                    curly brackets. Note the result  
                    of the test will be a logic'1'  
                    if it were true and a logic'0'  
                    if it were untrue. The test is  
                    specified inside the normal  
                    brackets. This test is simply a  
                    logic'1' which will always be  
                    true as it is always a logic '1'  
                    This means the micro will always  
                    carry out the instruction inside  
                    the curly brackets. That is why  
                    it is called the forever loop. It  
                    will always be true and the micro  
                    will carryout the instructions  
                    written between the two curly  
                    brackets forever.  
71. {                //the opening curly bracket of the  
                    for ever loop  
72. while (PORTAbits.RA0 == 0) ; //Do nothing while the  
                    logic at b0 of PORTA is  
                    at logic '0'  
73. PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;      //Turn on what is connected to  
                    b0 of PORTB  
74. while (PORTAbits.RA1 == 0) ; //Do nothing while the  
75. logic at b1 of PORTA is at logic '0'.  
76. PORTBbits.RB0 = 0;      //Turn on what is connected to  
                    b0 of PORTB  
77. }                //the closing of the for ever  
                    loop  
78. }                //the closing of the main loop
```

The while (1) loop, between lines 70 and 80, will carry out the instructions given inside the curly brackets if there are more than one instructions as long as the test is true. For the test to be true, the logic result of the test must be a logic ‘1’. It is fairly obvious that the result of the test (1) is always going to be a logic ‘1’, and so the micro must always carry out the instructions written inside the curly brackets. That is, this is a forever loop, or, more correctly, an unconditional loop.

This means that the micro will carry out the first five instructions that are outside this while (1) loop, but from then on the micro will be stuck inside the while (1) loop, and so it will never carry out the first five instructions again. Great as this is exactly what we want.

Note also that in lines 72 and 74, the word continue has been removed as it is not needed. The instruction still does nothing, while the test is true as there are no instructions between the closing bracket, of the test statement, and the semicolon. Note that the semicolon denotes the end of the current instruction.

Exercise 2-3

What would happen if we had put a semicolon after the test bracket on line 70 of the listing? For example, we wrote the following:

while (1); at line 70.

You should be aware that the configuration commands and the #include <xc.h> have been omitted from the program listing shown above, but they are there as they must be included in your project. Your program will always need some configuration commands and include commands.

Comments

It is important to use comments in a good program, as they can explain what some of the instructions are doing and also give ownership to a program; after all it is your work so own it.

We can identify comments using the two forward slashes as `//`. Everything on that line after the two `//` is simply a comment, and the compiler program simply ignores them. In this way, we can identify single-line comments.

We can also identify a collection of lines such as a paragraph of comments, as anything that inserted between the following symbols, `/* */`, will be treated as comments.

In every program you write, you should state your ownership of it and the date when you wrote it. It is also useful to give a brief description of what it is doing and what PIC it was written for.

The following is a suggestion of what you should insert at the top of your c file. Note that the software may have automatically written some of these in for you, so modify them as you desire.

`/* A basic on off switch to turn on or off an LED.`

`Written for the 18f4525 PIC`

`Written by "Your name"`

`Dated "To days date" */`

Testing the Program

Obviously we will test most programs with the use of the prototype board or a suitable ECAD program, but in this instance, we will use the simulation debug tool to test the program.

To test the program, we need two switches; the ‘on’ switch connected to RA0 and the ‘off’ switch connected to RA1.

The MPLABX software allows us to define switches using the “Stimulus” option which we can find from the “Window” option on the main menu bar and the “Simulator” item from the drop-down menu as shown in Figure 2-17.

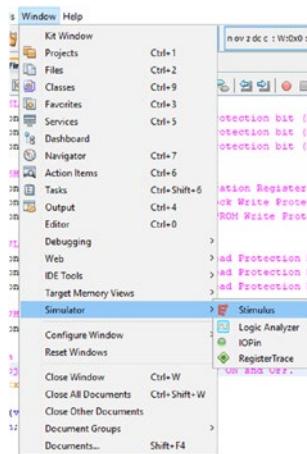


Figure 2-17. The Stimulus Window Option

When we select this option, the screen should look like that as shown in Figure 2-18.

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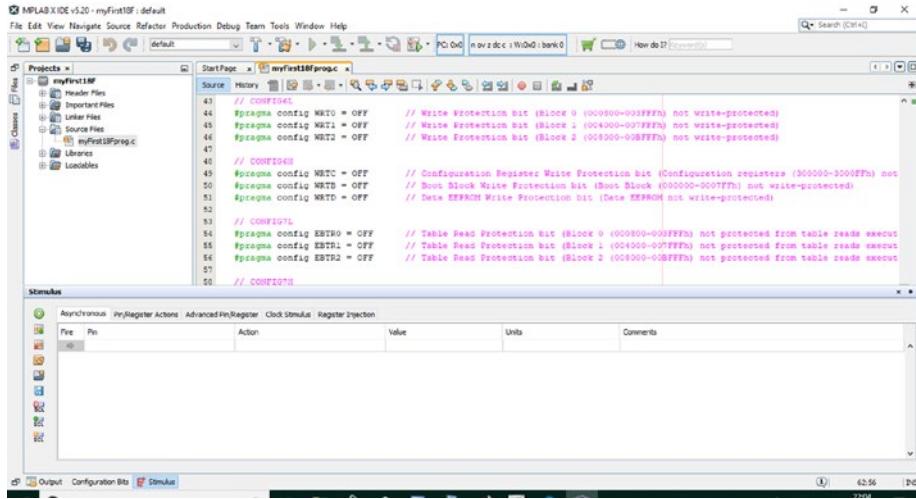


Figure 2-18. The Editing Screen with the Stimulus Window Open

We can add the two pins RA0 and RA1 and define what action takes place when the inputs are fired. To add RA0, simply click the mouse on the empty box under the word pin. You will be presented with what is shown in Figure 2-19.

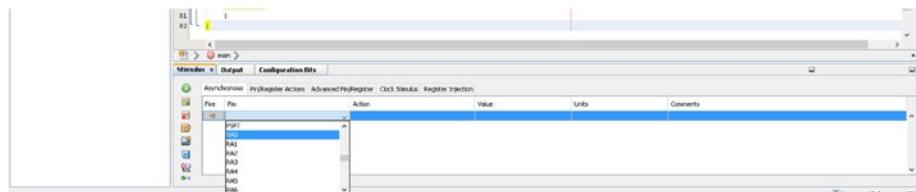


Figure 2-19. Selecting the PIN RA0

You can scroll the small window down to find the pin RA0. We must set the action to toggle.

We can now add another row using the second tool icon in the stimulus window as shown in Figure 2-20.

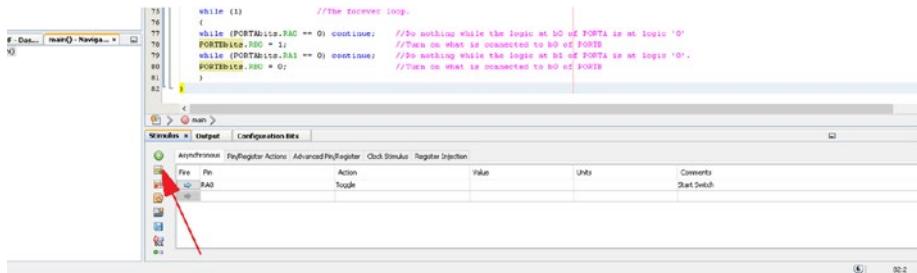


Figure 2-20. The Add Row Button

You should end up with what is shown in Figure 2-21.

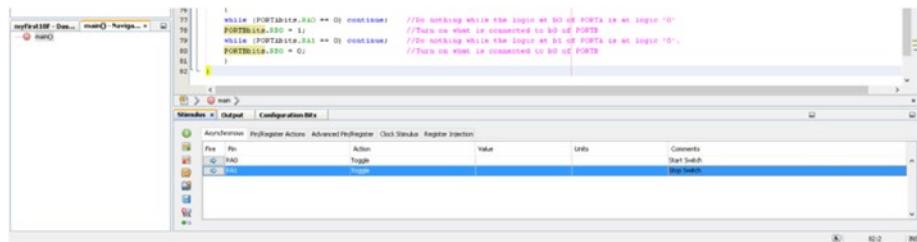


Figure 2-21. The Completed Stimulus Window

Note that there are two comments, one for each button that describes what the button does; you should type in a comment for the switch.

We can observe what happens by using the I/O pin option from the same simulator option from the drop-down menu from the Windows option in the main menu bar shown in Figure 2-17. Note that it might look a bit like 10Pin in the menu bar, but it is I O for Input/Output.

When using the I/O pin window, we can add which pins we want to look at. We should select RA0, RA1, and RB0. This is shown in Figure 2-22.

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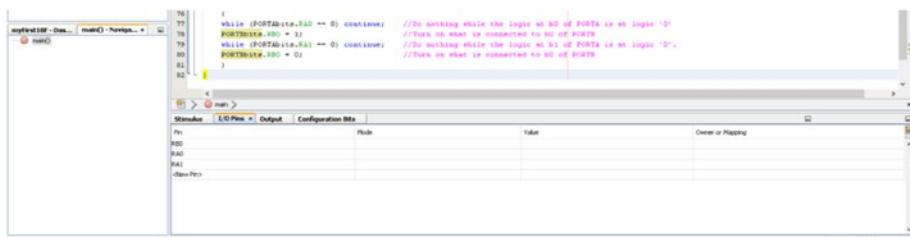


Figure 2-22. The Input Output PIN Selection Window

It would be useful if we could see the program window, the stimulus window, and the I/O Pin window all at the same time. You can drag and move the stimulus window to try an arrange them as shown in Figure 2-23.

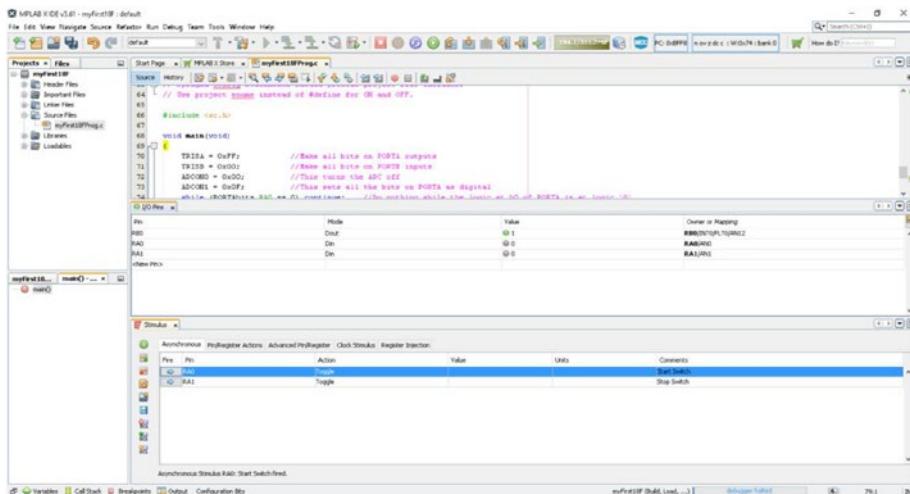


Figure 2-23. Showing All the Active Windows

We are now ready to run our program and see what happens.

Compiling and Running the Program

We have already selected the simulation as the programming tool, which was done in section “Creating the Project in MPLABX” as shown in

Figure 2-6. To run the program, we need to compile the program and run it. Compiling the program will test the syntax of the instructions and throw up errors, if there are any. It will also run the linker program that ensures any include files, such as the #include <xc.h>, which are compiled at the same time. The result will create a hex file that is used to program the actual PIC. However, in this case it will program MPLABX's simulator PIC.

We can, if you want, test the syntax of the program first by simply building the program. This is done by selecting the build option, which is a hammer symbol, from the main menu bar. This is shown in Figure 2-24.

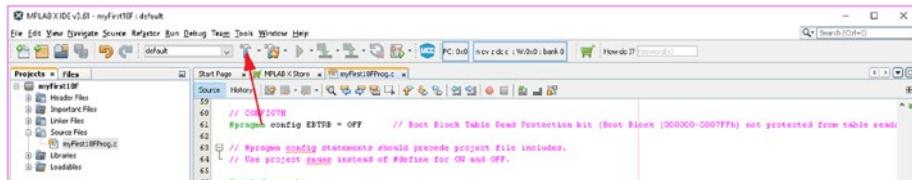


Figure 2-24. The Build the Project Icon

However, we could build and start the simulation in one operation. To carry out this process, you simply need to click the mouse on the Debug Main Project Icon in the menu bar as shown in Figure 2-25.

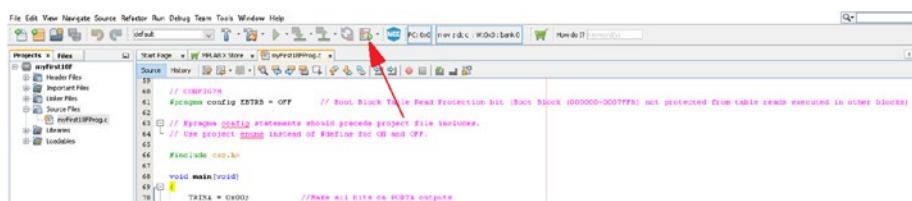


Figure 2-25. The Debug Main Project Icon

During compilation a new output window should appear at the bottom of the MPLABX window. This shows the progress of the compilation. When it is complete, it will indicate where any errors are if they are any. If the compilation is successful, it should show that the user program is running.

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We now need to simulate the switching action of the switches and then examine the reaction of the outputs. We can either add a watch table to examine the outputs or simply look at the I/O pins. Having successfully compiled the program, you should be able to test the operation of the program.

Click on the Debug Main Project icon as shown in Figure 2-25, and wait for the program to successfully compile. If there are errors, you should go back and check that you have typed everything exactly as shown above or in the complete program listing shown in the appendix. If an error does occur, the line would be shown in blue with an error message showing in the output window. If you click the mouse on that blue line, you should go directly to that line in the editing window where the error is. You must be very careful and make sure you have typed everything, apart from any comments, exactly as shown in the text, as shown in program Listing 2-2.

Assuming your program compiles correctly the output window should state that the program is running. You now need to fire the start, on, button and then the stop, off, button. Note that you are trying to simulate momentary switches that only close as long as you keep your finger on the button. To simulate this with the stimulus, you need to click the mouse on the fire button for that switch twice. The first click sends the logic high. The second click sends the logic back to zero. When you do this, you should see the I/O pins on RB0 and RA0 go green which means it has turned on. You now need to click the mouse on the RA0 pin again which will make the logic at that pin go to logic '0'. You should see the green light on the RA0 I/O pin go out but the green light on the RB0 stay green.

In this way you have simulated pressing the momentary start switch.

If you now carry out the same process on the stop switch, you should see the green light on RB0 go out and the green light on RA1 come on and then go out.

In this way you have simulated the stop switch being momentarily pressed.

If you now repeat the whole process, you should see the green lamps on the I/O come on and off correctly. This means you have successfully created and written your first C PIC program. Well done.

Testing the Program Practically

This program is probably one of the simplest programs you can write; I hope you have found it fairly simple. So really there is no need to build a practical circuit for this. It may be more exciting to build a practical circuit of a set of traffic lights which is a program we will write very soon.

However, I will use this program to introduce you to the process of using an ECAD package to test the program. The ECAD package I will use is PROTEUS with the 8-bit micro package added to it.

This text does not teach you how to use PROTEUS; that is a book of its own. However, it will show you how to download your program to the PIC in the software, and it will help explain how you can connect the switches to the PIC.

The PROTEUS schematics for this first program is shown here in Figure 2-26.

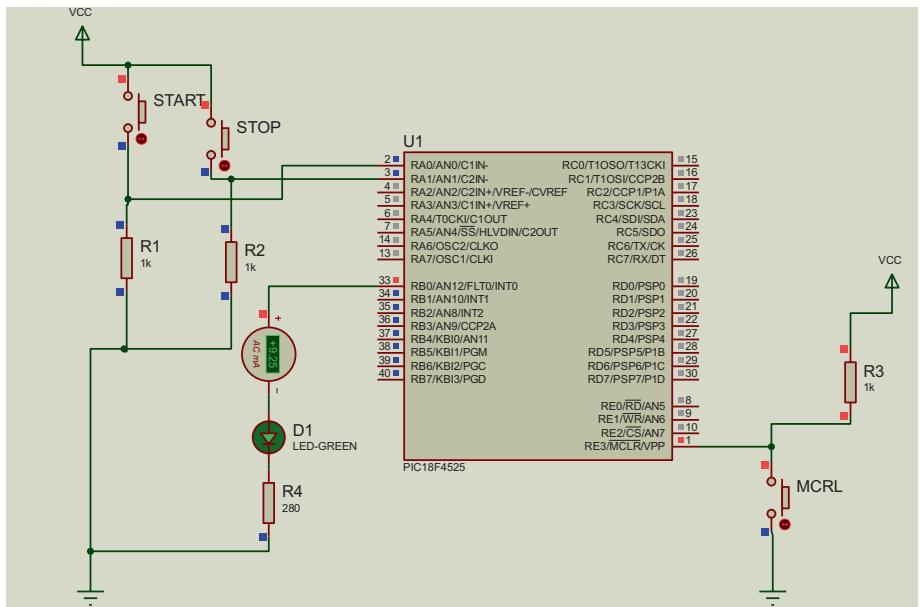


Figure 2-26. The Proteus Schematic for myFirst18fProg

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To download the program to the PIC in the schematic, you should click the mouse on the PIC to select it. Note that the simulation should not be running and the PIC will turn red when selected. Now click the right mouse button, on the PIC, and select edit properties from the drop-down menu that appears. You should now have the following window, shown in Figure 2-27, displayed.

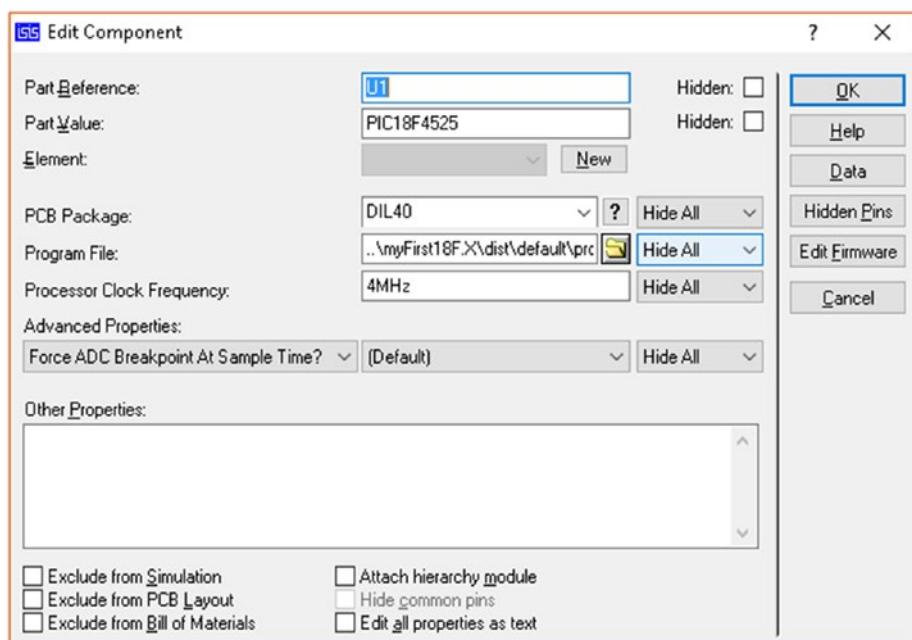


Figure 2-27. The Edit Properties Window for the PIC18f4525

You will see the directory symbol alongside the Program File box in the window. You need to open the directory window by clicking the mouse on the yellow directory symbol, and then you need to search for the hex file for the project. If you look at the output window after you have built the project in MPLABX, you will actually find the location of the hex file you are looking for. This is shown in Figure 2-28.



Figure 2-28. The Path for the Hex File to Download to PROTEUS

It should be the only hex file in that directory. You should click open to insert that location into the Program File Box in the properties window in PROTEUS. Once you have it in there, click the OK button, and you should return to the schematic window. You should now be able to run the simulation by clicking the play button. The program should work as expected.

If you have the correct software for PROTEUS, this should become a very useful method of running your program without buying a lot of equipment. You can simulate almost any PIC program you write using this software.

One very important aspect we can learn from the schematic is the use of the resistors R1, R2, R3, and R4. R1 and R2 are related to the two inputs. The input to the PIC is digital which means it will be a logic '1', that is, 5V or a logic '0', that is, 0V. This means there must be a path to either of those two voltages for the input. One path will become active when the button is pressed, and the other must be active when the button is not pressed. Note that you should never leave a bit on the port your program is using unconnected. This is termed floating. If you do leave it floating, it will inevitably float to the wrong logic level and may disrupt your program. With the RA0 input, the input goes to 0V logic '0' if the button is not pressed. This must be true as no current flows out of the PIC as it is an input, and so no current flows through R1. This means that the voltage at the top of R1, that is, at the input RA0, is the same as the voltage at the bottom of the resistor, as no current flows through it. As the voltage at the bottom of R1 is ground, then the input voltage to RA0 is also ground or 0V.

When the start button is pressed, the top of R1 which is connected to the input at RA0 is connected directly to VCC which is +5V. This means the voltage at RA0 goes to +5V which is the logic ‘1’.

Note the resistor R1 is there to limit the current through the switch to 5mA, and so protect the actual switch itself. This arrangement is termed pull up as closing the switch pulls the voltage up to VCC when the switch is closed.

When the start button is pressed, the top of R1 which is connected to the input at RA0 is connected directly to VCC which is +5V. This means the voltage at RA0 goes to +5V which is the logic ‘1’.

The same arrangement is used for RA1 and even the MCLR input. However, the switch at the MCLR input is termed pull down as it pulls the switch down to 0V when the switch is closed.

With the output, on RB0, the logic ‘1’ condition puts 5V out to the top the green LED. To actually turn on, the LED drops around 2.2V across it but only needs around 10mA of forward current to glow. This means that as 2.8 volts is left to be dropped across the resistor R3; then its value is set to 280Ω to limit the current to 10mA.

NB: As a precaution against sparks or high-frequency noise affecting the supply to the PIC, you should connect a 100nF capacitor between the VCC and ground, placing the capacitor very close to the VCC pin of the PIC. This is not shown in the PROTEUS simulation, but it is there.

Summary

I know there is a lot to take in, but becoming a real embedded programmer, who fully understands what they are doing, is a real challenge. There is a lot of text to read and maybe reread, but if you stick with it and complete all the tasks inside this book, I am sure you will find you are well equipped to enter this exciting, challenging, and rewarding career as an embedded programmer.

In this first task, you have studied the following:

- How to create a project in MPLABX.
- You have studied how to set up the ports correctly.
- How to set up the oscillator.
- You have studied how to use the datasheet to determine the settings for the control registers inside the PIC.
- You have studied how to use MPLABX's own simulator to test some aspects of your program.

So you have studied quite a lot, and that is why there is a lot to read and reread. Note that I say studied not learnt because to learn it, you will have to practice the procedure again and again. There will be different programs where you should create new projects, and this will help you learn that skill. I will not take you through the process again in the text of creating a project, but I will assume you have carried out that part again from scratch yourself, the whole process of creating the project and editing the program.

Exercise Answers

Exercise 2-1: Write 0b00101110 or 0x2E to TRISC

Exercise 2-2: The 8-bit number for the OSCCON is 00110111 or 0X37

Exercise 2-3: The program would stop at this line as the semicolon denotes the end of the instruction and we are basically, say, forever simply do nothing.

CHAPTER 3

Updating the Program

In this chapter, you will be creating two new programs. The first one will look at creating a simple delay to delay when the lamps turn on and off. The second will extend the delay by creating a variable delay subroutine. After reading this chapter, you should be able to save a new updated version of a program while keeping the old one. You should be able to use the IF instruction and understand the difference between the IF and the while instruction. You will be able to use the GOTO instruction and the “for do” loop instruction.

You will be able to write a program that uses a subroutine with local and global variables.

If This Then Do That

This first program can be used to show us how the programmer can use the IF This Then Do That Else Do something else concept in ‘C’. The two switches on PORTA.RA0, the start switch, RA1, and the stop switch, give the user two options. If the start switch is pressed, then turn the output on. If the stop switch is pressed, then turn the output off. It really gives a third option which is that if no switches are pressed, then go back and check again. While this may be obvious, there is a slight difference in the approach to this program and the first program that used the

CHAPTER 3 UPDATING THE PROGRAM

while statements. The program can be implemented using the IF Else statements. The text for the instructions follows:

```
Start:           if (PORTAbits.RA0 == 1) goto On;
                if (PORTAbits.RA1 == 1) goto Off;
                else goto Start;
On:             PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;
                goto Start;
Off:            PORTBbits.RB0 = 0;
```

Note that there is really no need to include the ‘then’ and the ‘else’ statements as the ‘C’ compiler knows that an ‘If’ keyword uses the ‘then’ and ‘else’ statements. However, there may be times when you should include the ‘else’ statement, but they are few and far between.

Saving the Old Program

The preceding text has been put into the program listing overwriting the existing part of the program that is in the forever loop. Listing 3-1 is what your second program should look like.

However, it is good practice when changing anything to keep both the old program and the modified program. This is because sometimes your changes don’t work and you want to go back to the old program before you made the changes. Therefore, you should click the “Save As” option and save the file as **mySecond18fprog.c**. which is a different name for the program.

Listing 3-1. The Modified Program

```
1. void main()           //this is where the micro goes to
                           find the first instruction of
                           the program
2. {                     //the opening of the main loop
3.   TRISA = 0xFF;       //Make all bits on PORTA inputs
4.   TRISB = 0x00;       //Make all bits on PORTB outputs
```

```

5.  ADCON0 = 0x00;           //This turns the ADC off
6.  ADCON1 = 0xF;            //This sets all the bits on PORTA
                            as digital
7.  OSCCON = 0b01110100;     //set the internal oscillator to
                            8Mhz stable
8.  while (1)                //the for ever loop
9.  {
10.    Start: if (PORTAbits.RA0 == 1) goto On;
                            //if RA0 goes to logic '1' goto
                            the label On
11.    if (PORTAbits.RA1 == 1) goto Off;
                            //if RA1 goes to logic '1' goto
                            the label Off
12.    else goto Start;
                            //if none of the switches are
                            pressed goto to the label Start
13.    On:   PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;
                            //turn the led on
14.    goto Start;           // goto to the label Start
15.    Off: PORTBbits.RB0 = 0; //turn the led off
16.    }                     //the closing of the for ever loop
17.  }                      //the closing of the main loop

```

You should be aware that the configuration commands and the #include <xc.h> have been omitted from the program listing shown earlier, but they are there as **they must be included in your project. Your program will always need some configuration commands and include commands.**

You will now have two ‘C’ program files in the source files folder for this project. Don’t worry if you didn’t use the Save As option. It does not really matter if you have just overwritten the first program and just saved it over the old one. However, if you have used the Save As option, you will

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have two source files, but the one you have just saved is not showing in your project tree under source files. You will need to swap the old source file in the project tree window to the new file you have just created, **before** you compile the program again. To do this right, click the mouse on the source file selection from within the project tree. The follow menu bar will fly out as shown in Figure 3-1.

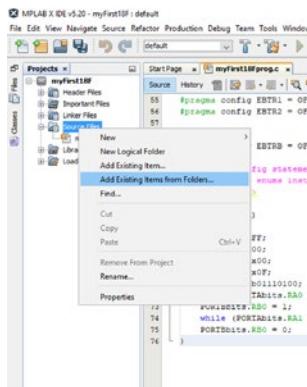


Figure 3-1. The Source Fly-Out Menu

Using that fly-out menu, select “Add Existing Item.” This will open the directory for this project, and you will need to open the ‘C’ file **mySecond18fProg** that you have just created. You will now have two ‘C’ files in the source directory in the project tree. You now need to remove the **myFirst18fProg.c**. To do this, simply right click the mouse on that file, and select the remove from project option from the pop-up menu. Note that the file will still be in your project folder on the hard drive; it just will not be used in the program. You now have just the **mySecond18fProg.c** in the source directory. Like everything new, there is a lot to learn, but after a few attempts, this process will be quite easy to do, and believe me you will most likely be very glad you have done it.

You can now rebuild the project by clicking on the debug main project icon and test the program out with the stimulus and I/O window.

Check it out and confirm it works as expected.

Labels and the Goto Instruction

The second program we have written, mySecond18fProg.c, uses the new keyword “goto”. Note that the ‘C’ programming language uses keywords, and the MPLABX IDE software identifies these keywords by writing them in blue. We will look at keywords more as we use them in later chapters of the book.

This new keyword, goto, forces the microprocessor to jump out of its normal sequential operation of the instructions and go to another part of the program. However, for the microprocessor to know where to go to, the complete instruction needs a label that corresponds to the section of program it should go to. In this way, labels and the goto keyword are linked together.

The label associated to the goto is written with the colon placed after it; look at the two labels, On: and Off:, in the program Listing 3-1 at lines 13 and 15. They both have the colon written after them. Therefore, the label tells the microprocessor where to go to with the goto keyword. Note that the full instruction should use the goto with the label as shown in lines 10, 11, 12, and 14 in Listing 3-1.

The goto keyword is a powerful tool, but care must be taken when using it.

Exercise 3-1

Explain why the instruction goto Start; is required on line 14, between the ON and the OFF instructions in Listing 3-1. All exercise answers are provided at the end of the chapter.

While vs. If Then

The main difference is that with the while instruction, the microprocessor will always carry out the associated instructions for as long as the test is true. Whereas with the if then else instruction, the microprocessor will examine the if then else condition and either carry out the instruction

written after the if() if the test is true or simply move on to the next instruction if the test is not true; it does not keep the micro trapped waiting for the test to become untrue. It is a subtle difference, but it is an important one.

Slowing the Micro Down

One of the main problems with writing code for microcontrollers is that they carry out instructions very fast. With an 8Mhz oscillator, the PIC can carry out 2 million instructions in 1 second, as the actual clock the micro uses runs at is a quarter of the oscillator. This is far too fast for us humans. This really means we need to create a delay. This is not as simple as writing delay(1000) to create a 1-second delay. You really need to appreciate how the micro creates a delay.

The concept of how we create a delay is quite simple. If you remember playing hide and seek, you should appreciate that the seeker delays their start of looking for those that hide by counting up to a number. Well it is the same with the micro. All micros have special timer registers that simply increment their value after each clock cycle. In this way they simply count clock cycles, and so they can be used to create delays. There are only two things that control the length of the delay, and they are

1. The number the timer has to count up to
2. The rate at which it counts

The 18F4525 has four timer registers that are used in this way. Timer0, timer1, timer2, and timer3. Each timer has a register that holds the current value of the timer and is incremented at the specified frequency, based on the micro's clock, for that timer. Each timer has a control register that is used to specify how the timer operates. Timer0 is the main timer for creating delays, whereas the other three timers have other uses, but they could also be used for delays if required.

TOCON Register

This is the control register for timer0 and it sets out how the timer is used. To appreciate how to set up the timer, we need to appreciate the following:

- Firstly, the clock, which produces the cycles that the timer counts, runs initially at a quarter of the oscillator.
- Timer0 can be set to be an 8-bit register which means it can only count up to 256 clock cycles, 0 to 255. When it tries to count the next clock cycle, after reaching 255, it goes back to 0; this is called “rolling over.” When timer0 first rolls over, a rollover bit will be set, and this can be used by the programmer if they wished to.
- Timer0 can be set to operate as a 16-bit timer which means it can count up to 65536, that is, 2^{16} .
- We can also apply pre-scalars to the timer which will actually slow the rate at which the timer counts by dividing the clock frequency further.

To help explain the process further, we will go through an example of creating a 1-second delay using the internal 8 MHz oscillator.

As the clock runs at a quarter of the crystal, the clock runs at 2MHz.

If we set the timer0 to be a 16-bit register, then the highest number it can count up to is 65536, that is, 2^{16} . This means that as the clock is running at 2Mhz, the timer increments or counts one every 500ns. Therefore, the length of the delay would be 65536 times 500ns which would be 32.768ms. Not long enough. We need to slow the timer down, which we can do by applying one of the pre-scalars. These are displayed in the datasheet along with the use of all the bits in the T0CON register as shown in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. T0CON Register (See Data Sheet)

Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0	
TMROON	T08BIT	TOCS	TOSE	PSA	TOPS2	TOPS1	TOPSO	
BIT 7		1 Enables Timer0 0 Disables Timer 0						
BIT 6		1 Sets Timer 0 as an 8-bit register 0 Sets Timer 0 as a 16-bit register, that is, two 8-bit registers together						
BIT 5		1 Transition on TOCK1 pin 0 Transition on internal clock cycle (CLK0)						
BIT 4		1 means increment on negative edge 0 means increment on positive edge						
BIT 3		1 Timer0 is not divided further by selected divide rate. 0 Timer0 is divided further by selected divide rate						
BIT 2 - BIT0		BIT 2	BIT 1	BIT 0	Selected Divide Down Rate			
		0	0	0	Divide Clock Down by 2			
		0	0	1	Divide Clock Down by 4			
		0	1	0	Divide Clock Down by 8			
		0	1	1	Divide Clock Down by 16			
		1	0	0	Divide Clock Down by 32			
		1	0	1	Divide Clock Down by 64			
		1	1	0	Divide Clock Down by 128			
		1	1	1	Divide Clock Down by 256			

This is an 8-bit register and

Bit 7 is used to either enable the timer or switch it off.

Bit 6 controls whether the timer0 is an 8-bit or a 16-bit register; note that to create a 16-bit register, the PIC simply connects two 8-bit registers together.

Bit 5 controls which clock it counts.

Bit 4 controls whether it counts on the positive edge or negative edge of the clock cycle.

Bit 3 controls whether or not the pre-scalar is applied or not. To divide the clock down, we need to apply the pre-scalar.

Bits 2, 1, and 0 are used to set the required divide rate. The 3 bits giving us 8 possible divide rates, that is, $2^3 = 8$.

To successfully create our 1-second delay, we will select the maximum divide rate which is divide by 256. This means that timer0 now counts at a rate of 7821.5 Hz, 2MHz divided by 256. This means that to create a 1-second delay, timer0 needs to count up to 7821.

I prefer to use the timer frequency to determine how long one tick takes. One tick is simply the periodic time of the timer frequency, normally symbolized by 'T'. From what we should know about frequency 'F' and periodic time 'T', we can determine the time using

$$F = \frac{1}{T}$$

$$\therefore T = \frac{1}{F} \therefore T = \frac{1}{7812.5} = 128\mu s$$

This means it takes 128 μs to count up to one. Therefore, the time to count up to 7821 is $7821 \times 128\mu s = 0.999936$ second. Near enough especially when you take into account the time taken to carry out the instructions. If you needed to be extremely accurate, you would have to take into account the time it takes to carry out these instructions, but for our purpose, this simple approach is good enough.

Therefore, to create a 1-second delay, we need to write the correct 8-bit word to the T0CON register. This needs only be done once so it can be done in the same part of the program as setting up the ports and oscillator. We would then write the instructions to make the timer start at 0, and then count up to 7812 before we do anything else. To illustrate this, we will simply modify the first program so that the LED will come on 1 second after pressing the start switch.

Adding a One-Second Delay

We need to set up the timer0 by writing the required 8-bit data to the T0CON register. The correct data is

- Bit 7 = logic 1 to enable the timer
- Bit 6 = logic 0 to make the register a 16-bit register so it counts up to 65536
- Bit 5 = logic 0 as we are using the internal oscillator
- Bit 4 = logic 0 to set it up for negative edge triggering
- Bit 3 = logic 0 so that we can apply the pre-scalar and so divide the clock down
- Bit 2 = Logic 1
- Bit 1 = logic 1
- Bit 0 = logic 1 so that we apply the maximum divide rate of 256

This means that the data we need to write to the T0CON register is Ob10000111 in binary or 0X87 for hexadecimal.

The instruction to do this is simply

T0CON = 0x87

Now all that is left to do is after waiting for the start switch to be pressed, we set timer0 back to 0, and then do nothing until timer0 has counted up to 7812. The instructions to perform this task are

```
TMRO = 0;
While (TMRO <7812);
```

The while instruction is a simple one-line instruction which tells the microprocessor to do nothing, as no instruction is given between the closing bracket and the semicolon, while the value in TMRO, timer 0 register, is less than 7812.

Exercise 3-2

As an exercise, determine what data must be written to the T0CON register to use the timer as an 8-bit register, and apply a divide by 32 rate. How long would each tick take, and what would the maximum delay be with this arrangement. The completed set of instructions with this delay written in is shown Listing 3-2.

Listing 3-2. One-Second Delay Included

```
1. void main(void)
2. {
3.     TRISA = 0xFF;           //This defines the start of the
4.     TRISB = 0x00;           //main loop
5.     ADCON0 = 0x00;          //Make all bits on PORTA inputs
6.     ADCON1 = 0x0F;          //Make all bits on PORTB outputs
7.     ADCON0 = 0x00;          //This turns the ADC off
8.     ADCON1 = 0x0F;          //This sets all the bits on PORTA
                           //as digital
9.     OSCCON = 0b01110100;    //set the internal oscillator to
                           //8Mhz stable
```

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```
8.  TOCON = 0X87;           //set TMRO to on and 16bit with max
                           divide rate Freq = 7812.5Hz
                           one tick takes 128us.

9.  while (1)              //The forever loop

10.   {                     //This defines the start of the
                           forever loop

11.   while (PORTAbits.RA0 == 0) ; //Do nothing while
                           the logic at b0
                           of PORTA is at
                           logic '0'

12.   TMRO =0;              //make sure TMRO
                           starts counting
                           from 0

13.   while (TMRO < 7812);  //Do nothing until
                           TMRO has counted
                           up to 7812. This
                           equates to a one
                           second delay

14.   PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;    //Turn on what is
                           connected to b0
                           of PORTB

                           while (PORTAbits.RA1 == 0) ; //Do nothing while
                           the logic at b1 of
                           PORTA is at logic
                           '0'.

15.   PORTBbits.RB0 = 0;    //Turn on what is
                           connected to b0
                           of PORTB

16. }

17.   }                     //This defines the end of the forever loop

18. }                     //This defines the end of the main loop
```

You should be able modify your first program to include the delay and T0CON instruction. You should then be able to simulate the program and confirm that it works as expected.

Delaying the Turn Off

In this modification, we are going to add a one-second delay so that the lamp turns off one second after the stop switch has been pressed. This could be done by simply adding the on- second delay instruction after the wait for the stop switch to be pressed. This is shown in Listing 3-3.

Listing 3-3. Adding the Second One-Second Delay

```

1. void main(void)                                //This defines the start of the main loop
2. {                                                 //Make all bits on PORTA inputs
3.   TRISA = 0xFF;                                 //Make all bits on PORTB outputs
4.   TRISB = 0x00;                                 //This turns the ADC off
5.   ADCON0 = 0x00;                               //This sets all the bits on
6.   ADCON1 = 0x0F;                               PORTA as digital
7.   OSCCON = 0b01110100;                         //set the internal oscillator to
                                                   //8Mhz stable
8.   TOCON = 0X87;                                //set TMRO to on and 16 bit with
                                                   //max divide rate Freq = 7812.5Hz
                                                   //one tick takes 128us.
9.   while (1)                                    //The Forever Loop
10.  {                                         //This defines the start of
11.    while (PORTAbits.RAO == 0) ;           //Do nothing while
                                                   //the logic at b0
                                                   //of PORTA is at
                                                   //logic '0'

```

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```
12.     TMRO =0;                                //make sure TMRO
                                                 starts counting
                                                 from 0
13.     while (TMRO < 7812);                  //Do nothing until
                                                 TMRO has counted
                                                 up to 7812. This
                                                 equates to a one
                                                 second delay
14.     PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;                      //Turn on what is
                                                 connected to b0
                                                 of PORTB
15.     while (PORTAbits.RA1 == 0) ;            //Do nothing while
                                                 the logic at b1
                                                 of PORTA is at
                                                 logic '0'.
16.     TMRO =0;                                //make sure TMRO
                                                 starts counting
                                                 from 0
17.     while (TMRO < 7812);                  //Do nothing until
                                                 TMRO has counted
                                                 up to 7812. This
                                                 equates to a one
                                                 second delay
18.     PORTBbits.RB0 = 0;                      //Turn on what is
                                                 connected to b0
                                                 of PORTB
19.     }                                     //This defines the end of the
                                                 forever loop
20.     }                                     //This defines the end of the main
                                                 loop
```

This would work fine but it is not the most efficient way of doing this.

Using Subroutines

Whenever you are going to use the same instructions in **EXACTLY** the same way more than once, then instead of writing them in multiple places in the code as we have done in program Listing 3-3, it is better to write these lines in the form of a subroutine, which is a small self-contained section of code that lives outside the main program. The main program has to “Call” the subroutine from within the main program every time the main program wants to use the subroutine. Note that in ‘C’ these subroutines are called “Functions” or “Methods,” but I prefer to call them subroutines.

Defining and Calling a Subroutine

We define the subroutine in the same way as we define the main loop.

```
void delay()          //give the subroutine a sensible
{                   name such as delay
    TMRO = 0;        //opening curly brackets of the
                      subroutine
    while (TMRO < 7182); //ensure timer 0 starts counting
                          //from zero
}                   //whilst the value in timer 0
                  //register is less than 7812 do
                  //nothing
                  //closing brackets of the
                  //subroutine
```

The delay Subroutine

At this point it would be useful to appreciate that, when we call a subroutine, we can pass information up to a subroutine and also receive information back from a subroutine. ‘C’ uses keywords to tell the program that a subroutine is going to send information back to the main program from a subroutine. The word “void” is a keyword that means this subroutine is not going to send any information back to the main program. Other keywords could be “int” or “char” which means the subroutine will send an integer, or a char, back to the main program.

The method by which we can show that the subroutine is requiring information to be sent up to the subroutine is by including it inside the normal bracket written after the name for the subroutine. An example of this will be given later.

The keyword “void” at the beginning of this subroutine means that it will not be sending anything back to the main program.

The next thing to do is give the subroutine an appropriate name. In this case it is called delay.

There are now two normal brackets, the opening followed by the closing bracket. These are left empty as this subroutine is not expecting any information to be sent up to it.

As this subroutine has more than a single-line instruction, there are the opening and closing curly brackets. The actual instructions of the subroutine are placed inside these curly brackets.

Calling the Subroutine from Within the Main Program

This is quite a simple process; all you have to do is write the name of the subroutine you want the program to call. This is shown here:

```
delay (); //this will call the subroutine "delay"
```

The normal brackets are required even if you are not sending any information to the subroutine, and so they **must** be there. Note that the semicolon indicates the end of the instruction.

The complete code for the first program with the two delays is shown in Listing 3-4.

Listing 3-4. First Program with Two Delays Using the Subroutine

```

1. void delay()           //the delay subroutine
2. {
3.     TMRO = 0;          //ensure timer 0 starts counting
4.     while (TMRO < 7182); //do nothing while the value of
5. }                      //timer 0 register is less than 7812
6. void main(void)        //the main program loop
7. {
8.     TRISA = 0xFF;      //Make all bits on PORTA inputs
9.     TRISB = 0x00;      //Make all bits on PORTB outputs
10.    ADCON0 = 0x00;     //This turns the ADC off
11.    ADCON1 = 0x0F;     //This sets all the bits
12.    OSCCON = 0b01110100; //set the internal oscillator
13.    TOCON = 0X87;      //set TMRO to on and 16 bit with
14.    while (1)          //the forever loop

```

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```
15.      {                                //the opening bracket of the
                                         forever loop
16.      while (PORTAbits.RA0 == 0) ;    //Do nothing while the
                                         logic at b0 of PORTA
                                         is at logic '0'
17.      delay();                      //call the delay
                                         subroutine
18.      PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;            //Turn on what is
                                         connected to b0 of
                                         PORTB
19.      while (PORTAbits.RA1 == 0) ;    //Do nothing while the
                                         logic at b1 of PORTA
                                         is logic '0'
20.      delay();                      //call the delay
                                         subroutine
21.      PORTBbits.RB0 = 0;            //Turn off what is
                                         connected to b0 of
                                         PORTB
22.      }                                //the closing bracket of the
                                         forever loop
23.      }                                //the closing bracket of the main
                                         loop
```

The Variable Delay and the For Do Loop

In this extension of the program, we are going to create a variable delay. Also, as the version of PROTEUS I have only models 8-bit micros, I will change the TMR0 to be an 8-bit register as my version of PROTEUS will not model 16-bit micros. This will also introduce a very powerful loop, the “For Do Loop.”

First of all, we need to change TMR0 to an 8-bit register. This is done by setting bit 6 of the T0CON register to a logic ‘1’. If we leave everything else as we set earlier, then the 8-bit value we need to write to the T0CON register is 0b11000111 or 0XC7. The instruction for this is

```
T0CON = 0XC7;
```

Now that we are using an 8-bit register, it means that the maximum value the TMR0 can count up to is 255. This means that the maximum delay this will give is $256 \times 128E^{-6} = 32.768\text{ms}$. The way we can increase this to make a one-second delay is to repeat this delay approximately 30 times. Doing this 30 times will produce a delay of 983.04ms, almost 1 second. If we consider the time that the micro takes to carry out the instructions, then this delay is close enough to one second.

To make the micro repeat this 32.768-ms delay 30 times, we will make use of the “for do loop.” The instructions to do this are written below:

```
for (n = 0; n < 30; n++)
{
    TMRO = 0;
    while (TMRO < 255);
}
```

There are actually three instructions written inside the normal brackets of the “for” keyword. They are

$n = 0$; This sets the value of the variable ‘n’ to 0.

$n < 30$; This asks the question is n less than 30, and as long as n is less than 30, do what is written inside the curly brackets. The two instructions inside the curly brackets make up the new 32.768ms delay.

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The last instruction inside the normal brackets is `n++`. This will simply increment the value of `n` by one every time the micro carries out the instructions inside the curly brackets.

To help explain what happens, we can look at the steps that the micro carries out.

1. `n` is loaded with a value of 0.
2. The micro asks the question is `n` less than 30, which of course it is now.
3. Then the 32.768ms delay is carried out.
4. Then the value of `n` is increased by 1.
5. Then the micro asks the question is `n` less than 30.
Note that '`n`' now equals 1.
6. If it is, then 3, 4, and 5 are carried out again.

There will be a time when `n` is not less than 30, that is, when it actually equals 30. At this point the micro will break out of the “for do loop,” and the subroutine is finished.

This will now produce a one-second delay or very close to a one-second delay.

This is good, but it is not a variable delay as it is always comparing `n` to 30. The modification to make this a variable delay is to change the subroutine as follows:

```
void delay(unsigned char m)
{
    for (n = 0; n <m; n++)
    {
        TMRO = 0;
        while (TMRO < 255);
    }
}
```

Note that there is the term ‘unsigned char m’ inside the normal bracket. Also, the question inside the “for do loop” is now is n less than m. This means that the subroutine is asking for an unsigned char, to be passed up to the subroutine. The subroutine then uses this value to load into the variable ‘m’. In this way if m was 30, we would have a 1-second delay. If m was 60, we would have a 2-second delay. Therefore, the length of the delay is set by the value given to the variable ‘m.’ However, as this is an 8-bit register, the maximum value we can give to the variable ‘m’ is 255. This is why the variable is defined as an unsigned char as this uses all 8 bits. An unsigned int, or integer, would use up 16 bits. See the section on data types in the Appendix.

One question you should be asking is what are ‘n’ and ‘m’? These are variables, and the following text should explain what they are.

Local and Global Variables and Data Types

When we declare a variable, we are really reserving a space in memory where we can store a value. If the variable is to represent a real quantity like pump1 speed, then you should give it a meaningful name such as pump1Speed to the variable.

Each variable will have a specific data type, and there are a wide range of data types to choose from. The most common ones are “char” “unsigned char” “int”, unsigned int and “float”, and so on. There is a full description of the data types in the Appendix. However, it would be useful at this point to compare the three common data types.

Type Char

This uses an 8-bit memory location to store a range of values. However, the most significant bit, the MSB, is not used to determine the number. The char uses what is termed “signed number representation.” This is where

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the MSB, that is, bit 7, is reserved to show if the number being stored is a positive or a negative number. If the MSB is a logic ‘0’ then the number is positive. If the MSB is a logic ‘1’, then the number is a negative number. Therefore, the value of a type “char” can go from

11111111 which is -127

to

01111111 which is +127.

The MSB is not used to be part of the actual number or value; it is only used to show if the number is positive or negative.

Type Unsigned char

The type “unsigned char” does not reserve the MSB to represent the ‘sign’ of the number as all numbers will be positive. This means that a type “unsigned char” can hold a value from

00000000 = 0

to

11111111 = 255

Type int

The last type “int” is a 16-bit number, but like the “char,” it reserves the MSB to represent if the number is positive or negative. Therefore, a type “int” can hold a value from

1111111111111111 = -32768 to 0111111111111111 = +32768

It is important to appreciate all the different data types and the difference between signed and unsigned number representation.

In our program, as my version of PROTEUS only uses 8-bit micros, I will restrict all my variables to 8-bit variables and use type “unsigned char” unless I need to store negative numbers.

That is why I have named the variable ‘m’ as an “unsigned char.”

Local Variables

If we leave the variable ‘m’ being declared as it is, inside the normal brackets of the subroutine, then it will be a local variable which means it is only valid for use inside that subroutine. If we try to use the variable inside any other subroutine or inside the main loop of the program, then the compiler will say it does not recognize the variable ‘m’.

Global Variables

The other variable ‘n’ will be declared as a global variable. This means that the variable ‘n’ can be used anywhere in the program, that is, inside the main loop and any subroutines that the program uses. The complete listing to show how to declare these variables is shown in Listing 3-5.

Listing 3-5. Using the Variable Delay Subroutine

1. //declare all global variables this is just one way of
breaking up the program listing into different sections.
2. unsigned char n; //reserve an 8 bit memory
location for the variable 'n'
This is a global variable
3. //define any subroutine this is just one way of
breaking up the program listing into different sections.

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```
4. void delay(unsigned char m)           //this subroutine expects
                                            a number to be passed
                                            up to it in the call to
                                            assign to the variable
                                            'm' this is a local
                                            variable
5. {                                     //opening curly bracket
                                            of the subroutine
6.   for (n = 0; n < m ; n++)          //sets n to 0, asks is
                                            n less than m. if
                                            it is carryout the
                                            instruction between the
                                            curly brackets.
7.   {                                     //opening curly bracket
                                            of the for do loop
8.     TMRO = 0;                         //set timer 0 register
                                            to 0
9.   while (TMRO < 255);                //do nothing while TMRO
                                            is less than 255 note
                                            an 8 bit register can
                                            only count up to 255
10. }                                    //closing curly bracket
                                            of the subroutine
11. }                                    //closing curly bracket
                                            of the for do loop
12. void main(void)                     //the start of the main
                                            loop
13. {                                     //opening curly bracket
                                            of the main loop
14.   TRISA = 0xFF;                     //Make all bits on PORTA
                                            inputs
```

```
15.     TRISB = 0x00;          //Make all bits on PORTB  
16.     ADCONO = 0x00;        //This turns the ADC off  
17.     ADCON1 = 0x0F;        //This sets all the bits  
18.     OSCCON = ob01110100;  on PORTA as digital  
19.     TOCON = 0XC7;         //set the internal  
                           oscillator to 8Mhz  
                           stable  
20.     while (1)           //set TMRO to on and 8bit  
                           with max divide rate  
                           Freq = 7812.5Hz one  
                           tick = 128us.  
21.     {                   //the start of the for  
                           ever loop  
22.     while (PORTAbits.RA0 == 0) ; //opening curly bracket  
                           of the for ever loop  
                           //Do nothing while  
                           the logic at b0 of  
                           PORTA is at logic  
                           '0'  
23.     delay(30);          //call the delay  
                           subroutine making m = 30  
24.     PORTBbits.RB0 = 1;   //Turn on what is connected  
                           to b0 of PORTB  
25.     while (PORTAbits.RA1 == 0) ; //Do nothing while  
                           the logic at b1 of  
                           PORTA is at logic  
                           '0'.  
26.     delay(15);          //call the delay  
                           subroutine making m = 15
```

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```
27.     PORTBbits.RB0 = 0;           //Turn off what is  
                                connected to b0  
                                of PORTB  
28.     }                         //closing bracket of  
                                forever loop  
29.     }                         //closing bracket  
                                of main loop  
30
```

NB: Note that as with all our programs, the #include <xc.h> and all the configuration words must be written above the code.

You should change the text in mySecond18fProg.c to that shown in Listing 3-5 and see how the program works. Note that the program should wait one second before the LED turns on and just half a second before the LED turns off. Can you see why?

This is because the delay for turning the LED on sets m to 30 and the delay for turning the LED off sets m to 15.

Exercise 3-3

To reinforce the concept of local variables as opposed to global variable, try writing the following just after the line for PORTBbits.RB0 = 0 as follows:

```
m = 10;
```

Now try and build the program. You should see an error occur which points to that line. This is because the compiler does not recognize the variable 'm' as it is not a global variable; it is only a local variable for use in the subroutine delay (unsigned char m).

What would happen and why if you wrote?

n = 10; instead of

```
m = 10;
```

Summary

This chapter has taken us from simply turning a lamp on and off to appreciating the complexities of creating a variable delay. It has introduced to the concept of creating and using subroutines.

This has now got us to the point where we are ready to create a project and program that control a simple set of traffic lights. This will be covered in the next chapter.

Exercise Answers

Exercise 3-1: If that goto was not there, then the micro would simply move to the Off instruction immediately after carrying out the On instruction. This means that the micro would turn on the LED connected to RB0, then immediately afterward, it would turn off the LED connected to RB0. This means you would not see the LED turn on. The goto instruction forces the micro to go back to the start after it has turned on the LED. You could comment this instruction out by placing the two forward slashes ‘//’ before the word goto, and see what happens when it is commented out.

Exercise 3-2: TOCON = 0b11000100 one tick = 16 microseconds max delay = $256 \times 16\text{u} = 4.096\text{msec}$.

Exercise 3-3: With $n = 10$; the program compiles correctly as n is a global variable.

CHAPTER 4

Applying What We've Learned

In this chapter we are going to apply what we have learnt in a simple program. It is probably the most common program that all new embedded programmers start with. It will take you through a structured approach to design programs.

After reading this chapter, you will be able to program a simple model of a set of traffic lights. You will be able to call subroutines from within the main program loop.

Controlling a Single Set of Traffic Lights

Hopefully it should not be too much of a problem to design a program that would control a set of three lights, Red, Amber, and Green, to mimic a single set of traffic lights.

The first thing we need is a sequence of events and they are

- The RED lamp should come on when the program starts.
- Then 5 seconds later, the AMBER lamp should come on as well.

- Then 2 seconds later, the RED and AMBER lamps should go out, and the GREEN lamp should come on.
- Then 5 seconds later, the GREEN lamp goes out, and the AMBER lamp comes back on by itself.
- Then two seconds later, the AMBER lamps goes out, the RED lamp comes on, and the whole sequence starts again.

The Algorithm

This task will require the following I/O:

- Three outputs for the three lamps of the traffic lights.
- It will use one timer to create a variable delay.
- We can use the internal oscillator block with the 8MHz internal oscillator.
- There is no need for the WDT, watchdog timer, as the watchdog timer is something that an industrial production line would need, not the sort of programs we will be writing.
- The main process of the program will be to set up the PIC and the ports, oscillator, and timer 0.

The program will continually go through the following sequence:

1. Light the RED lamp.
2. Call a 5-second delay.
3. Light the AMBER lamp.
4. Call a 2-second delay.

5. Turn off the RED and AMBER lamp, and turn on the GREEN lamp.
6. Call a 5-second delay.
7. Turn off the GREEN lamp, and turn on the AMBER lamp.
8. Call a 2-second delay.
9. Then turn off the AMBER lamp, and repeat the sequence again.

The flowchart for the program is shown in Figure 4-1.

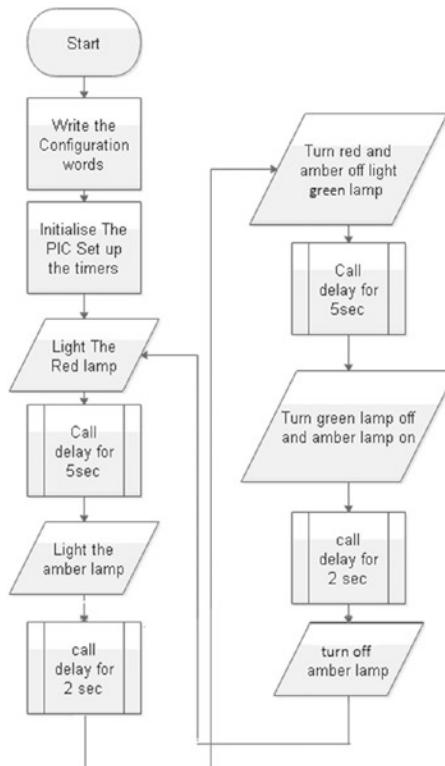


Figure 4-1. The Flowchart for the Single Traffic Light

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Flowcharts are an aid to designing programs as they split up the program into smaller sections that can be completed either with existing blocks of program or by different programmers.

They show how the program should flow from one part to the other. The connecting arrows should show the direction of flow from one block to the next. Each shape of the block has a special meaning.

When a flowchart extends across a page, then connecting symbols, which are circles with letters in them, can be used.

You should construct a flowchart for every program you design as if constructed fully, each block in the flowchart links into its own section of program listing and instructions.

However, to save space I will only show flowcharts for this program and the next one.

Listing 4-1 provides program listing.

Listing 4-1. The Complete Program for a Single Set of Traffic Lights

1. /*Definitions it is useful to allocate symbolic names to the actual bits on the I/O. The symbolic names should give some suggestion as to what the I/O is used for. Now wherever the compiler sees the symbolic name, it knows what I/O it really means. Doing this also makes it easier to change the allocation list if needed. Note that the line with the definition does not end with the semicolon. This is because it is not an instruction for the program, it is just a statement for the compiler software to be aware of.*/
2. #define redLamp1 PORTBbits.RB0 //defines the symbolic name redLamp1 to mean bit 0 of PORTB

```
3. #define amberLamp1 PORTBbits.RB1      //defines the
                                         symbolic name
                                         amberLamp1 to
                                         mean bit 1 of
                                         PORTB
4. #define greenLamp1 PORTBbits.RB2      //defines the
                                         symbolic name
                                         greenLamp1 to
                                         mean bit 2 of
                                         PORTB
5. //Global variables //These are variables for anywhere in
                     the program
6. unsigned char n;                  //This reserves a memory
                                         location for the 8 bit
                                         variable 'n' using all 8 bits
                                         for the number
7. //Subroutine
8. void delay(unsigned char t)      //This is the start of
                                         a subroutine called
                                         delay. It expects a
                                         value to be passed
                                         up to the subroutine
                                         which it copies into
                                         the local variable
                                         't'.
9. {                                //opening curly bracket of delay
                                         subroutine
10.    for (n = 0; n < t; n++) //sets up a for do loop
                                         which controls how many
                                         times the micro carries
                                         out the instructions
                                         inside the curly brackets.
```

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```
11.      {                      //opening curly bracket for the
                                for do loop
12.      TMRO = 0;              //set TMRO to 0. start value for
                                count
13.      while (TMRO < 255);   //while value of TMRO is less
                                than 255 do nothing. Lines 12
                                and 13 create a 32.77msec delay
14.      }                      //closing curly bracket for the
                                for do loop
15.      }                      //closing curly bracket for the
                                delay subroutine
16.      void main()           //start of the main loop
17.      {                      //opening curly bracket for main loop
18.      PORTA = 0;              //these few lines turn off all bits on
                                the PORTS
19.      PORTB = 0;
20.      PORTC = 0;
21.      PORTD = 0;
22.      PORTE = 0;
23.      TRISB = 0;              //This sets all bits on PORTB as outputs
24.      ADCONO = 0;             //turn ADC off
25.      ADCON1 = 0x0F;          //make all bits digital
26.      OSCCON = 0x74;          //set osc to 8Mhz with stable output
27.      TOCON = 0xC7;           //set TMRO to 8 bit reg with divide
                                by 256 rate so runs at 7812.5 Hz
                                one tick = 128uS
28.      while (1)               //start of the for ever loop so micro
                                only carries out lines 16 to 27
                                only once
29.      {                      //opening curly bracket of for ever
                                loop
30.      redLamp1 = 1;            //turns the redLamp1 on
```

```
31.      delay (153);      //calls the subroutine delay and pass  
                      the value 153 up to the subroutine.  
                      This creates a 5 second delay.  
32.      amberLamp1 = 1;    //turns the amberLamp1 on  
33.      delay (61);       //calls the subroutine delay  
                      and pass the value 61 up to  
                      the subroutine. This creates  
                      a 2 second delay.  
34.      redLamp1 = 0;     //turns the redLamp1 off  
35.      amberLamp1 = 0;    //turns the amberLamp1 off  
36.      greenLamp1 = 1;    //turns the greenLamp1 on  
37.      delay (153);      //calls the subroutine delay  
                      and pass the value 153 up to  
                      the subroutine. This creates  
                      a 5 second delay.  
38.      greenLamp1 = 0;    //turns the greenLamp1 off  
39.      amberLamp1 = 1;    //turns the amberLamp1 on  
40.      delay (61);       //calls the subroutine delay  
                      and pass the value 61 up to  
                      the subroutine. This creates  
                      a 2 second delay  
41.      amberLamp1 = 0;    //turns the amberLamp1 off.  
                      Micro now goes back up to  
                      line 28 and repeats the loop.  
42.    }                   //closing bracket of for ever  
                      loop  
43.  }                    //closing bracket of for main  
                      loop
```

The PROTEUS simulation is shown in Figure 4-2.

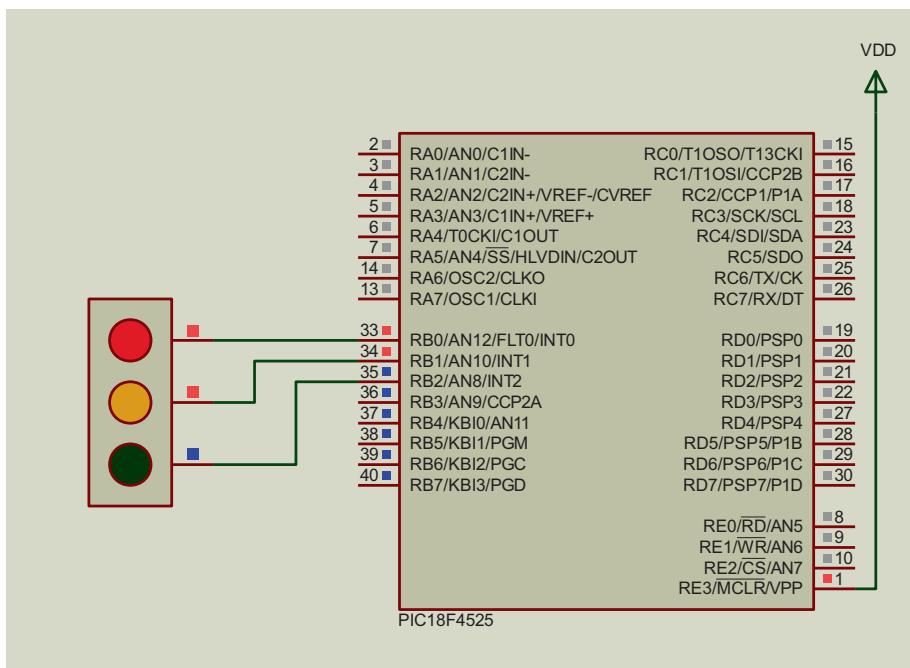


Figure 4-2. The Proteus Simulation of North–South Traffic Lights

The following sections provide analysis and instructions to explain how the program works.

The Configuration Words

I should point out that the same configuration words have to be placed in the 'c' file as always and so does the include <xc.h>. This must be included in all your projects.

The configuration words are very important as they define how the PIC sets up its main properties. The most important of which is the primary oscillator source. All the PICs you will come across can use a variety of different oscillator sources from the slow external RC, resistor-capacitor, oscillator to very high-frequency 19.08Mhz external crystal oscillator; note that newer PICs can run at much higher frequencies.

Most PICs also have an internal oscillator block of circuitry that can be used as the primary oscillator source. I prefer to use this internal oscillator block as it saves on the cost of a crystal and saves on available I/O, as there is no need to use RA6 and RA7 as inputs for the external oscillator circuit. However, you may want to do otherwise, so you should appreciate that these configuration words have to be used, and you should know how to set them up. An example of setting these configuration words is explained in Chapter 2.

The Analysis of the Program

The following is an analysis of the Listing 4-1. Each new instruction will be looked at to explain how they work and what they are trying to do.

Line 1

This is when the directive #define is explained. This directive allows the programmer to create a phrase that can represent a single program instruction or a series of instructions. They can be likened to macros in other programs. Note that these defines are not instructions for the program; they are directives for the compiler. Therefore, there is no need for the semicolon at the end of the definition.

In line 2 the directive is

```
#define redlamp PORTBbits.RB0
```

This tells the compiler software that wherever it sees the phrase redlamp, it really means the instruction PORTBbits.RB0. So when the compiler sees the instruction

```
redlamp = 1;
```

the compiler knows we mean make bit 0 of PORTB a logic ‘1’ and so turn on whatever is connected to it.

Note that MPLABX uses different colors to help identify the different types of keywords. The default color for the directive “#define” is light green, and the default color for the phrase, in this case “redlamp”, is light blue. These colors should become evident when using the IDE editor in MPLABX.

The same concept is used in lines 3 and 4 except that the phrases are linked to different bits on PORTB. The idea is to makes the program more readable. However, there is also another advantage in that if we wanted to change the allocation list and connect the lamps to PORTD, we need only make the changes here at the definitions rather than search for every occurrence of the I/O in the program. Much more efficient programming.

At line 5, I am simply using comments to split the program listing up into different sections. Here we are going to declare any variables the program will use. Note that when we declare a variable, we are simply reserving an area in memory where we can store data. The size of the area reserved depends upon the data type we are using. We give the variable a name so that we can refer to it in the program. These variables will be global in that they can be used anywhere in the program. This is opposed to local variables which can only be used in the subroutine that they are declared in.

In line 6 we simply reserve a global variable that is an 8-bit memory location referred to as ‘n.’ This is an unsigned char which means all 8 bits are used to represent the number from 0 to 255. There can be no negative numbers.

Line 7 simply splits the listing up into a section for any subroutines we want to create.

Line 8 declares a subroutine called “delay”. The word void means it does not pass any data back down to the main program. Inside the normal brackets, the subroutine declares a local variable of type unsigned char named “t”. This variable is only valid for use inside this subroutine.

Line 9 sets up the opening curly bracket for this subroutine.

Line 10 declares a for do loop. Inside the bracket it makes the variable $n = 0$; it then asks if $n < t$; if it is less than ‘t’, then the micro must carry out the instructions inside the curly brackets that follow. It will automatically increment ‘n’ after it has carried out the instructions inside the curly brackets. It will then ask the question, is $n < t$? When ‘n’ is not less than ‘t’, the micro will break out of the for do loop. Note that when the programmer calls this subroutine “delay,” it will have to pass a value that will be loaded into the local variable ‘t’. In this way this delay becomes a variable delay whose length of delay depends upon the value passed up to it which is then loaded into the variable ‘t’. However, you should appreciate that the largest value you can assign to the local variable ‘t’ is 255. This is because it is an 8-bit memory location.

Line 11 sets up the opening curly bracket for this for do loop.

Line 12 simply loads the value ‘0’ into the TMR0 register. This is so that the TMR0 starts to count from 0.

Line 13 states that while Timer0 is less than 255, do nothing. This creates a 33-ms delay with Timer0 counting at 7812.5Hz one tick = 128us, that is, $256 \times 128\text{us} = 32.77\text{ms}$.

Line 14 is the closing curly bracket of the for do loop.

Line 15 is the closing curly bracket of the for the delay subroutine.

Line 16 declares the main loop. This is where the micro goes to get the very first instruction of the program.

Line 17 sets up the opening curly bracket for the main loop.

Lines 18 to 22 simply make sure that all the ports are at logic ‘0’ on all their bits. This is to make sure nothing is turned on by accident.

Line 23 makes sure that all the bits in the SFR, Special Function Register, TRISB are at logic ‘0.’ This makes all bits in PORTB output.

This program only uses PORTB, so we are not bothered about the other TRIS SFRs.

Line 24 makes all the bits in SFR ADCON0 go to logic ‘0.’ This keeps the ADC connected to channel ‘0’ but more important is that it turns the ADC off as we are not using it.

Line 25 makes the bits in the ADCON1 SFR go to 0b00001111. It is bits 3, 2, 1, and 0 that have been set to logic ‘1’ that makes all the inputs digital and not analogue.

Line 26 sets the internal oscillator to 8Mhz and makes it stable.

Line 27 turns Timer0 on. It makes it an 8-bit timer with a maximum divide rate which means it counts at a rate of 7812.5Hz making one tick = 128μS.

Line 28 declares a forever loop as the test inside the while brackets will always be true as it is always a logic ‘1’. This means the micro will carry out the instructions inside the following curly brackets forever. This is to stop the micro from carrying out the instructions from line 17 to 26 again.

Line 29 sets up the opening curly bracket of the forever loop.

Line 30 turns on the redlamp.

Line 31 calls the delay subroutine and passes the number 153 to be loaded into the local variable ‘t’ in the subroutine. This creates a 5-second delay.

Line 32 turns on the amberlamp.

Line 33 calls a 2-second delay.

Line 34 turns off the redlamp.

Line 35 turns off the amberlamp.

Line 36 turns on the greenlamp.

Line 37 calls the 5-second delay.

Line 38 turns off the greenlamp.

Line 39 turns on the amberlamp.

Line 40 calls the 2-second delay.

Line 41 turns off the amberlamp. As this is the last instruction in this forever loop, the micro goes back to line 30, via lines 28 and 29, to start the process again.

Line 42 is the closing curly bracket of the forever loop.

Line 43 is the closing curly bracket of the for the main loop.

I hope this explains how the program works and what each instruction is doing. With respect to future program listings, I will analyze only the new instructions. In this way I hope you will be able to learn how all the instructions we use in these programs work.

Downloading the Program to a Prototype Board

It would be useful at this point to show you how to download your program to an actual PIC on a prototype board. There are a range of prototype boards you can use. One that I use for my programs is from Microchip, and it is the PIC Demo board. To connect to the board, I normally use the ICD3 can. These can be found on the Microchip web site. However, to use any programming tool, you must specify which hardware tool you want to use as shown in Figure 2-6, when you create your project in the first place. However, if you have already created your project, you can change the hardware tool by right clicking the project name in the project view tree. You should then see a fly-out window appear from which you can select the word Properties. After selecting Properties, you will be presented with a pop-up window as shown in Figure 4-3.

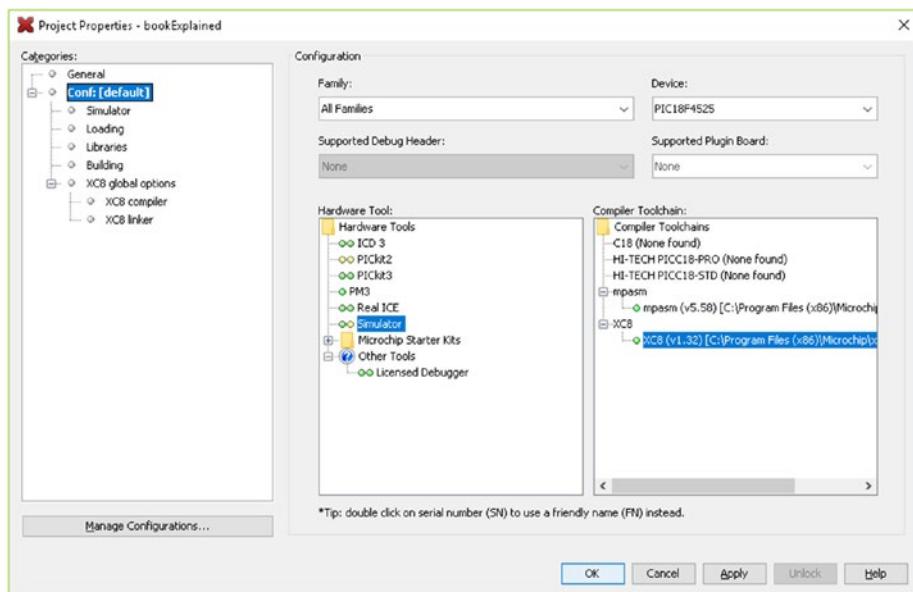


Figure 4-3. The Properties Window for an Existing Project

Having made sure you have selected your programming tool and connected to your prototype board, you can download the program to the PIC by clicking the green down arrow from the main menu bar as shown in Figure 4-4. Note that when we were using the simulator tool, these two arrows were not available to us before.

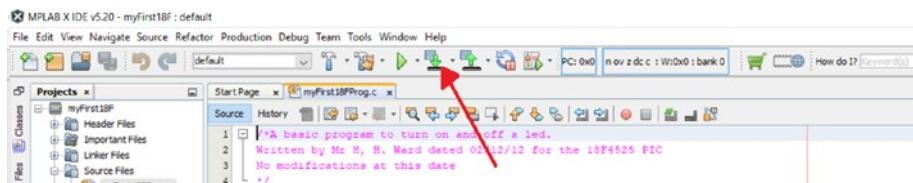


Figure 4-4. The Downloading to the PIC

The following picture should help show how to connect the ICD3 can to the PIC prototype board and the laptop. I use two types of prototype boards, one from Matrix Multimedia and one from Microchip. However,

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Matrix seems to have moved away from their versatile PIC programming board that I like, and so I will show you how to connect to the Microchip development board I use. You will have to decide which board you prefer.

You connect the ICD3 can to one of your USB ports on the laptop, and connect the ICD3 can to the programming board using the RJ11 cable and connector on the board. This principle is shown in Figure 4-5.

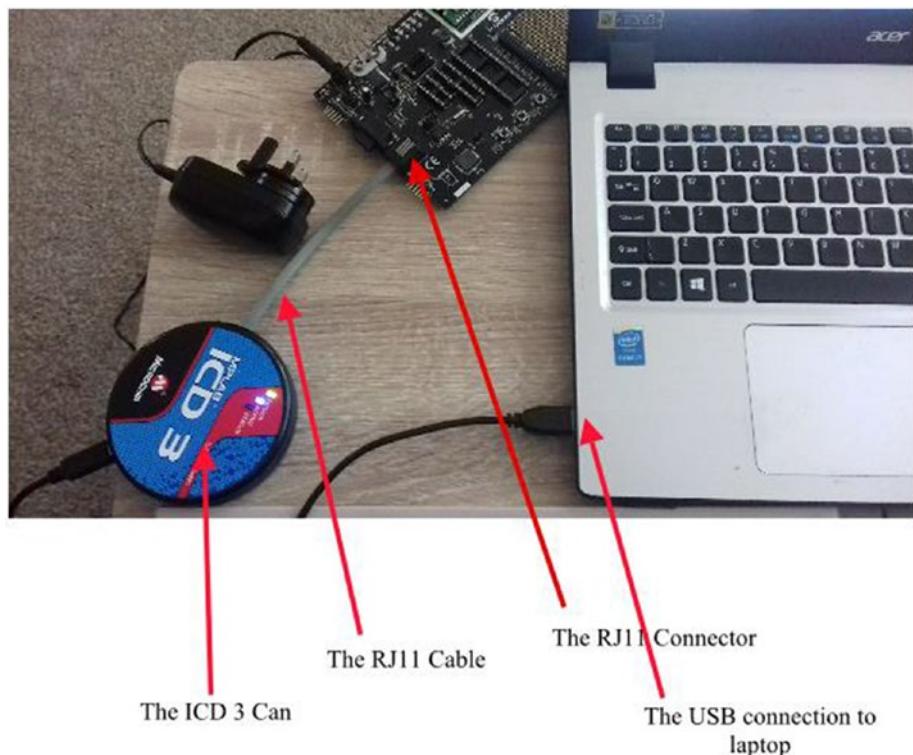


Figure 4-5. Downloading to a Prototype Board

From now on the programs in the book will be simulated with the use of the ECAD software PROTEUS. Those who use PROTEUS may be aware that you can write your PIC programs in PROTEUS as well as use their extensive debugging tools. This book will not go into that aspect of using PROTEUS as that is a book in itself.

Extending the Program to the Crossroads Traffic Lights

The natural extension to this program would be to write a program that models the full crossroads set of traffic lights, that is, both the North South and the East West set of lights. The timing sequence for this task is as follows (note that N/S lamps are numbered Red1, Amber1, and Green1, whereas E/W are numbered Red2, Amber2, and Green2):

1. The sequence starts with both red lamps on.
2. Five seconds later, Amber1 comes on as well.
3. Two seconds later, Red1 and Amber1 go out, and Green1 comes on.
4. Five seconds later, Green1 goes out, and Amber1 comes back on by itself.
5. Two seconds later, Amber1 goes out, and Red1 comes back on. Note that all this time, Red2 has been on.
6. One second later, Amber2 comes on as well.
7. Two seconds later, Red2 and Amber2 go out, and Green2 comes on.
8. Five seconds later, Green2 goes out, and Amber2 comes back on by itself.
9. Two seconds later, Amber2 goes out, and Red2 comes back on. Note that all this time, Red1 has been on.
10. The cycle now repeats.

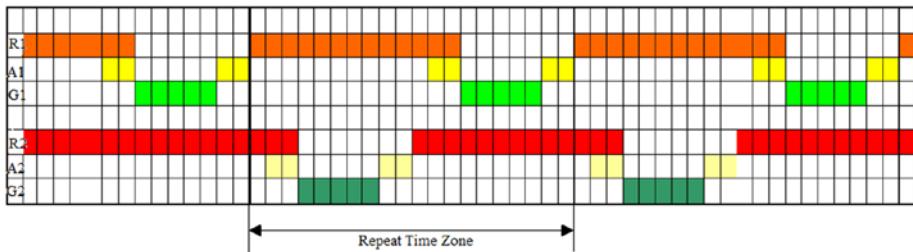


Figure 4-6. The Timing Diagram for the Crossroads Traffic Lights

The Algorithm

The diagram shown in Figure 4-6 was created from the sequence for the traffic lights. Each of the rectangles represents one second in time. Once the timing diagram had been created, it became clear that the 20-second period shown as repeat time zone was, as its name suggests, repeated every 20 seconds. This then means that the only sequence that needed to be programmed was the sequence listed between this repeat time zone periods.

The next step was to list all the important time steps and what we need to have happen at those times. The list is as shown below:

- Time 0. This is the start time in the sequence, and at this time, both Red1 and Red2 should come on.
- Time 1. This is one second later, and at this time, Amber2 should come on.
- Time 2. This is two seconds after time 1, and at this time, Amber2 and Red2 should go out, and Green2 should turn on.
- Time 3. This is five seconds after time 2, and at this time, Green2 turns off, and Amber2 comes back on again.

- Time4. This is 2 seconds after time3, and at this time Amber2 turns off, and Red2 turns back on again.
- Time5. This is 1 second after time4, and at this time, Amber1 is turned on
- Time 6. This is 2 seconds after time5, and this is when Red1, which has been lit all this time, is turned off and Amber1 turns off as well as Green1 is turned on.
- Time 7. This is 5 seconds after time6; at this time Green1 turns off, and Amber1 turns back on again.
- Time 8. This is 2 seconds after time7, and at this time, Amber1 turns off, and the cycle goes back to time0 and starts to repeat the whole sequence.

The program has to create these time steps and turn on and off the appropriate lights at those times.

The program needs 6 outputs to connect the 6 lamps t. Note that there will actually be 12 lamps, but the north and south work together and so does the east and west lamps.

There is no real need for an input, but we will include a start switch that starts the whole sequence.

The program will make use of a variable delay to create the various time steps.

The next step is to draw the flowchart shown in Figure 4-7.

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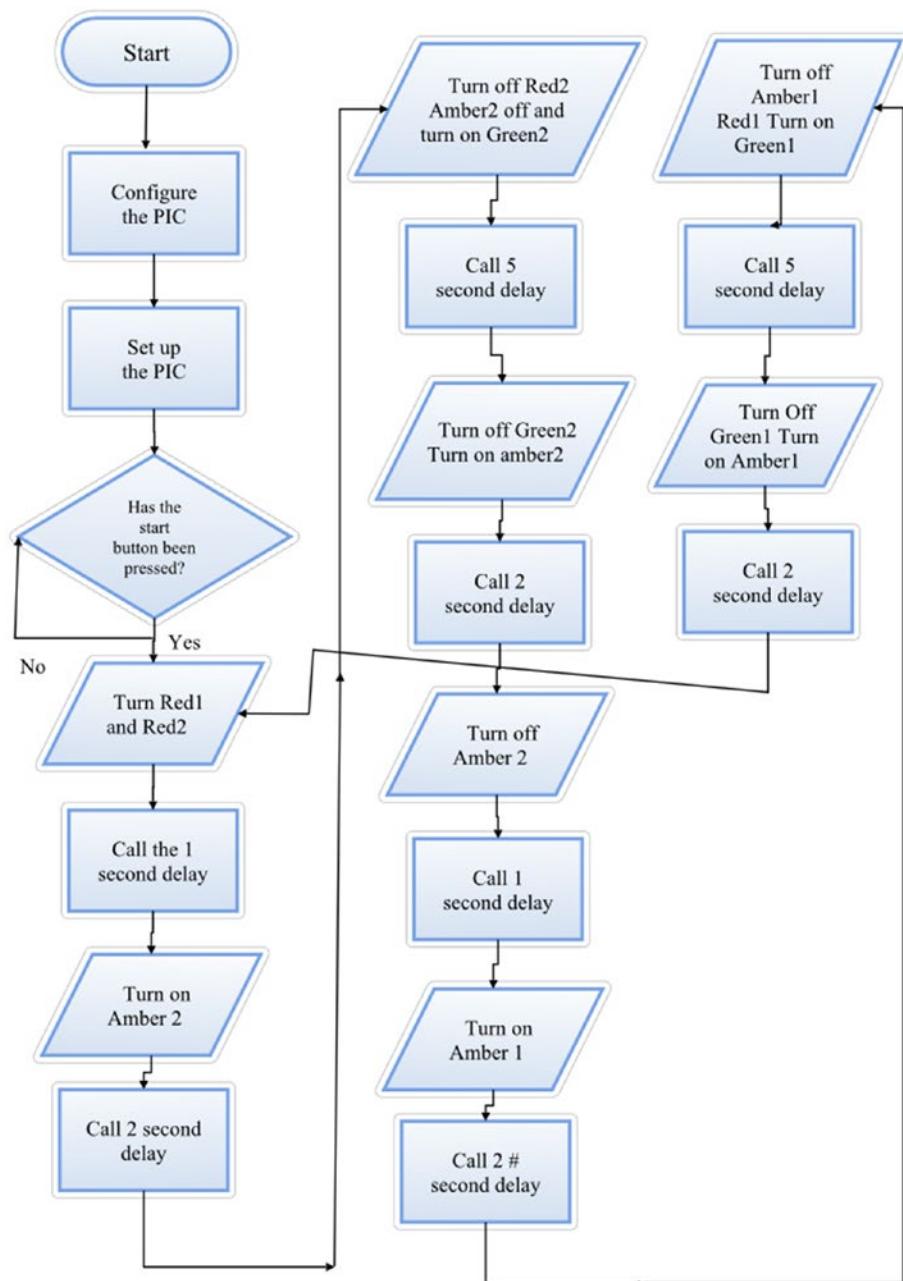


Figure 4-7. The Flowchart for the Crossroads Traffic Light Program

The program listing for the crossroads traffic light is shown in Listing 4-2.

Listing 4-2. The Crossroads Traffic Lights

```
1. #define red1      PORTBbits.RB0      //defines the  
                                         symbolic name  
                                         red1 to mean bit  
                                         0 of PORTB  
2. #define amber1    PORTBbits.RB1      //defines the  
                                         symbolic name  
                                         amber1 to mean  
                                         bit 1 of PORTB  
3. #define green1    PORTBbits.RB2      //defines the  
                                         symbolic name  
                                         green1 to mean  
                                         bit 2 of PORTB  
4. #define red2      PORTBbits.RB3      //defines the  
                                         symbolic name  
                                         red2 to mean bit  
                                         3 of PORTB  
5. #define amber2    PORTBbits.RB4      //defines the  
                                         symbolic name  
                                         amber2 to mean  
                                         bit 4 of PORTB  
6. #define green2    PORTBbits.RB5      //defines the  
                                         symbolic name  
                                         green2 to mean  
                                         bit 5 of PORTB  
7. #define startButton PORTAbits.RA0  //defines the  
                                         symbolic name  
                                         startButton to  
                                         mean bit 0 of  
                                         PORTA
```

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```
8. //Global variables           //These are variables for
                                anywhere in the program
9. unsigned char n;           //This reserves a memory
                                location for the 8 bit
                                variable 'n' using all 8
                                bits for the number
10. //Subroutine
11. void delay(unsigned char t) //This is the start
                                of a subroutine
                                called delay. It
                                expects a value to
                                be passed up to the
                                subroutine which
                                it copies into the
                                local variable 't'.
12. {
13.     for (n = 0; n < t; n++) //opening curly bracket of
                                delay subroutine
                                //sets up a for do loop which
                                controls how many times
                                the micro carries out the
                                instructions inside the
                                curly brackets.
14. {
15.     TMRO = 0;               //opening curly bracket for
                                the for do loop
                                //set TMRO to 0. start value
                                for count
16.     while (TMRO < 255);    //while value of TMRO is
                                less than 255 do nothing.
                                Lines 15 and 16 create a
                                32.77msec delay
17. }                         //closing curly bracket for
                                the for do loop
```

```
18.  }                                //closing curly bracket for  
19. void main()                         the delay subroutine  
20. {                                    //start of the main loop  
21. PORTA = 0;                          //opening curly bracket for  
22. PORTB = 0;                          main loop  
23. PORTC = 0;                          //these few lines turn off  
24. PORTD = 0;                          all bits on the PORTS  
25. PORTE = 0;  
26. TRISA = 0XF;                        //This makes the first four  
27. TRISB = 0;                          bits on PORTA input and the  
28. ADCON0 = 0;                          last four bits are output  
29. ADCON1 = 0XF;                        //This sets all bits on PORTB  
30. OSCCON = 0x74;                      as outputs  
31. T0CON = 0xC7;                       //turn ADC off  
32. while (!startButton);                //make all bits digital  
33. while (1)                           //set osc to 8Mhz with stable  
34. {                                  output  
                                         //set TMRO to 8 bit reg with  
                                         //divide by 256 rate so runs  
                                         //at 7812.5 Hz one tick =  
                                         //128uS  
                                         //wait for start Button to be  
                                         //pressed  
                                         //start of the for ever loop  
                                         //so micro only carries out  
                                         //lines 19 to 32 only once  
                                         //Opening curly bracket for  
                                         //while loop
```

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```
35. red1 = 1;                      //turn red1 on
36. red2 = 1;                      //turn red2 on
37. delay (30);                   //wait 1 second
38. amber2 = 1;                   //turn amber2 on
39. delay (61);                   //wait 2 seconds
40. red2 = 0;                      //turn red2 off
41. amber2 = 0;                   //turn amber2 off
42. green2 = 1;                   //turn green2 on
43. delay (153);                  //wait 5 seconds
44. green2 = 0;                   //turn green2 off
45. amber2 = 1;                   //turn amber2 off
46. delay(61);                   //wait 2 seconds
47. amber2 = 0;                   //turn amber2 off
48. red2 = 1;                      //turn red2 on
49. delay (30);                   //wait 1 second
50. amber1 = 1;                   //turn amber1 on
51. delay (61);                   //wait 2 seconds
52. red1 = 0;                      //turn red1 off
53. amber1 = 0;                   //turn amber1 off
54. green1 = 1;                   //turn green1 on
55. delay(153);                  //wait 5 seconds
56. green1 = 0;                   //turn green1 off
57. amber1 = 1;                   //turn amber1 on
58. delay(61);                   //wait 2 seconds
59. amber1 = 0;                   //turn amber1 off
60. }
61. }
```

The circuit for the simulation is shown in Figure 4-8.

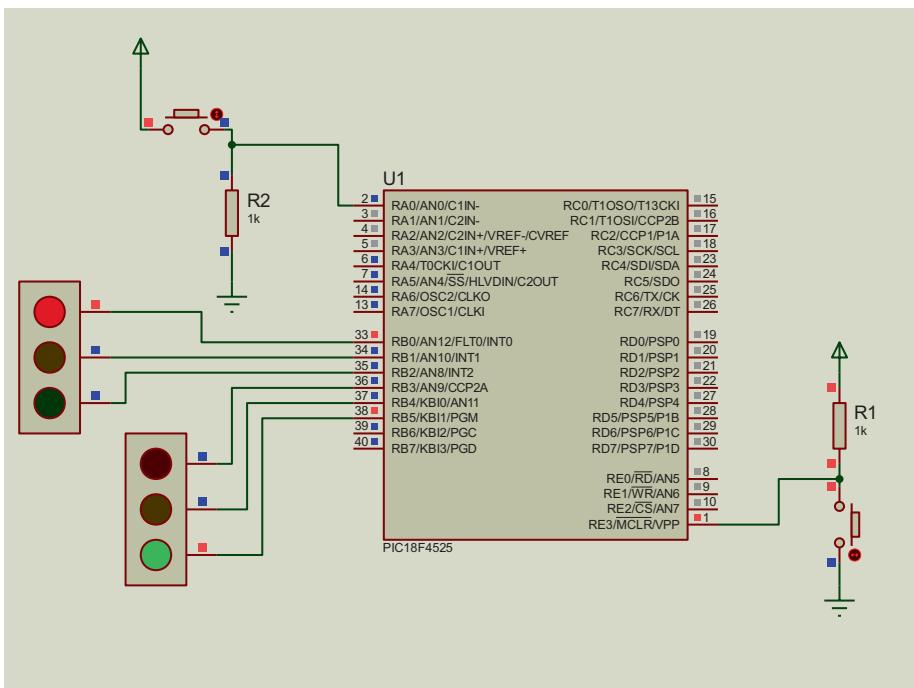


Figure 4-8. The Simulated Crossroads Circuit

The Program Analysis

With program Listing 4-2, there are only three new instructions. They are

Line 7 where we define the phrase startButton to mean the input at PORTAbits.RA0.

Line 26 where we declare that TRISA = 0X0F; this makes the first four bits in PORTA inputs and the remaining four bits are outputs.

Line 32 where we make the micro wait for the logic at PORTAbit0 to go to a logic ‘1.’ This means nothing will happen until the start button is pressed. Note that this instruction is before the forever loop because if it was inside the forever loop, the program would wait at this instruction, until someone pressed the start button, before it can repeat the sequence.

This completes the analysis for both the programs in this chapter. I hope you have been able to learn how to use each of the instructions and you understand what they do.

Summary

In this chapter we have reinforced the principles behind tuning on and off outputs and the concept of how to create and use a variable delay subroutine. We have seen how useful these subroutines are in saving repeating instructions. This then saves on program memory. In the next chapter, we learn about the ADC and how to use analogue inputs.

CHAPTER 5

Real-World Inputs

In this chapter we will look at using the PIC to measure real-world signals such as signals from pressure, temperature, and speed. It will cover using the three registers that control the ADC and receiving an analogue input and displaying it as a binary value.

After reading this chapter, you will be able to use analogue inputs.

Using Analogue Inputs

As well as digital inputs, which are usually just on or off, 5v or 0V, PICs can use analogue inputs. These are inputs that can ideally take up any voltage within the range of the PIC, normally any voltage between 0 and 5V. I say ideally because the voltage will increase in discrete steps according to the resolution of the ADC. There is one ADC in the PIC and it is a 10-bit ADC. If the range of voltage is the normal 0 to 5v, then knowing the resolution of the ADC can be calculated using;

$$\text{resolution} = \frac{\text{range}}{2^n} \quad \text{Equation 1 Resolution of An ADC where 'n' is the}$$

number of bits of the ADC

The resolution of the ADC is

$$\therefore \text{resolution} = \frac{\text{range}}{2^n} = \frac{5}{2^{10}} = \frac{5}{1024} = 4.883mV \quad \text{Equation 2 Resolution of}$$

10 bit ADC

What this means is that the ADC will see 0V, and then the next higher voltage will be 4.883mV, and the next would be 9.766mV, and so on. Therefore, the PIC cannot really see every possible voltage from 0 to 5V. However, the result will be close enough for us humans.

The fact that the PIC can use analogue inputs, indeed the PIC18f4525 has up to 13 analogue inputs available to it, means we as programmers must learn how to use them. There are three control registers that control how we use the ADC inputs. They are

- ADCON0
- ADCON1
- ADCON2

The ADCON0 Control Register

The main purpose of this control register is to allow the programmer to choose which analogue input, or channel, is connected to the ADC. Note that this is a form of multiplexing where many inputs feed into one device one at a time. The choice is controlled by the data in bits 5, 4, 3, and 2 of the ADCON0 register; see Table 5-1. Note that bits 7 and 6 are not used, so they are set to logic ‘0’.

Table 5-1. The ADCON0 Register (See Data Sheet)

Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Not Used	Not Used	CHS3	CHS2	CHS1	CHS0	GO/DONE	ADON
Bit 7		Not Used read as 0					
Bit 6		Not Used read as 0					

(continued)

Table 5-1. (continued)

Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Bits 5 to Bit 2	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	ADC Channel Selected		
	0	0	0	0	Channel 0 AN0		
	0	0	0	1	Channel 1 AN1		
	0	0	1	0	Channel 2 AN2		
	0	0	1	1	Channel 3 AN3		
	0	1	0	0	Channel 4 AN4		
	0	1	0	1	Channel 5 AN5		
	0	1	1	0	Channel 6 AN6		
	0	1	1	1	Channel 7 AN7		
	1	0	0	0	Channel 8 AN8		
	1	0	0	1	Channel 9 AN9		
	1	0	1	0	Channel 10 AN10		
	1	0	1	1	Channel 11 AN11		
	1	1	0	0	Channel 12 AN12		
	1	1	0	1	Not Used		
	1	1	1	0	Not Used		
	1	1	1	1	Not Used		
BIT 1		1 Start a conversion, and a conversion is now taking place 0 A conversion has finished					
BIT 0		1 Enable the ADC 0 Disable the ADC					

Bit 0 is the bit that actually turns the ADC on or not. A logic ‘1’ means the ADC is enabled, whereas a logic ‘0’ means it is disabled.

The last remaining bit, bit 1, is used to start the ADC conversion and tell the programmer when the conversion is finished or done. The programmer must set this bit to a logic 1 to start the ADC conversion. Then when the conversion is finished, the microprocessor sets this bit back to a logic ‘0’ automatically. This is a signal to tell the programmer the ADC conversion has finished.

The ADCON1 Register

This register mostly controls whether the 13 inputs are to be used as analogue or digital. It is the first four bits, b0, b1, b2, and b3, that do this. Table 5-2 clearly shows how this is achieved.

Table 5-2. *The ADCON1 Register (See Data Sheet)*

Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Not Used	Not Used	VCFG1	VCFG0	PCFG3	PCFG2	PCFG1	PCFG0
Bit 7		Not Used read as 0					
Bit 6		Not Used read as 0					
Bit 5		1 negative reference from AN2 0 negative reference from VSS					
Bit 4		1 positive reference from AN3 0 positive reference from VDD					

(continued)

Table 5-2. (continued)

B3	B2	B1	B0	AN1	AN1	AN	AN9	AN8	AN7	AN6	AN5	AN4	AN3	AN2	AN1	AN0
12	11	10														
0	0	0	0	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	0	0	1	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	0	1	0	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	0	1	1	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	1	0	0	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	1	0	1	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	1	1	0	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
0	1	1	1	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	0	0	0	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	0	0	1	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	0	1	0	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A
1	0	1	1	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A
1	1	0	0	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A
1	1	0	1	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A
1	1	1	0	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	A
1	1	1	1	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D

The ADC needs a reference voltage to help determine the level of the analogue input. Bits 4 controls where the PIC gets the positive reference. The default, and so normal setting, is to use the supply to the PIC, that is, VCC or VDD.

Bit 5 controls where the PIC gets the negative reference. The default, and so normal setting, is to use the supply to the PIC, that is, VSS or ground.

Bits 6 and 7 are not used.

The ADCON2 Register

The ADCON2 control register is used to firstly decide what format the result of the ADC is stored in (Table 5-3). This is because the ADC returns a 10-bit binary number as the result of a conversion. The problem is that this PIC is an 8-bit PIC which means it only has 8-bit registers. This means that the PIC uses two registers to store the result: ADRESH and ADRESL. Therefore 8 bits of the result can be stored in one register; the other 2 bits are stored in the other register.

Table 5-3. The ADCON2 Register (See Data Sheet)

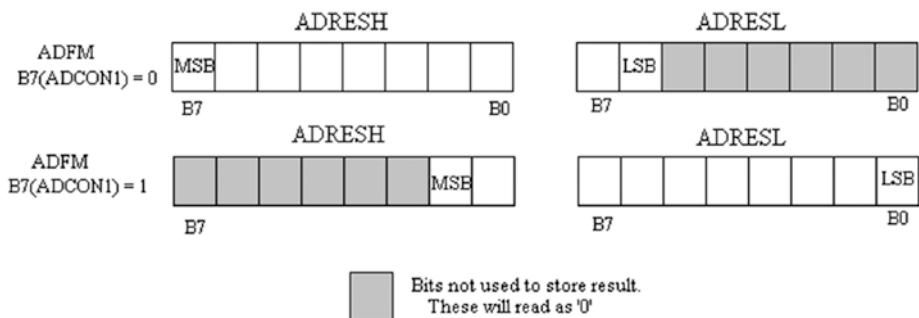
Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0	
ADFM	Not Used	ACQT2	ACQT1	ACQTO	ADCS2	ADCS1	ADCS0	
BIT 7		1 Right justify 2 bits in ADRESH (b1 b0) 8 bits in ADRESL 0 Left justify 8 bits in ADRESH 2 bits in ADRESL (b7 b6)						
BIT 6		Not used						
Bit 5 - Bit 3		BIT 5	BIT 4	BIT 3	Selected TADs			
		0	0	0	0 TAD			
		0	0	1	2 TAD			
		0	1	0	4 TAD			
		0	1	1	6 TAD			
		1	0	0	8 TAD			
		1	0	1	12 TAD			
		1	1	0	16 TAD			
		1	1	1	20 TAD			

(continued)

Table 5-3. (continued)

Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
BIT 2 - BIT0		BIT 2	BIT 1	BIT 0	AD Clock Select Bits		
		0	0	0	F0sc/2		
		0	0	1	F0sc/8		
		0	1	0	F0sc/32		
		0	1	1	FRC (RC Clock)		
		1	0	0	F0sc/4		
		1	0	1	F0sc/16		
		1	1	0	F0sc/64		
		1	1	1	FRC (RC Clock)		

The diagram shown in Figure 5-1 helps to explain what is meant by right and left justification.

**Figure 5-1.** The Storing of the 10-bit Result of the ADC Conversion

The top diagram where the ADFM or B7 is a logic '0' is termed left justification. Right justification is shown in the bottom diagram. I normally choose left justification.

CHAPTER 5 REAL-WORLD INPUTS

To understand the other use of the ADCON2 control register, you need to appreciate what has to happen when you turn the ADC on and try to get an ADC conversion result.

When you start a conversion, the PIC will connect the ADC to the particular input, or ADC channel, that is measuring the physical analogue input. Then, once the ADC is connected to the input, it will use the voltage at that input to charge up a capacitor in what is termed a sample and hold circuit. It will take a finite time for the capacitor to charge up to the voltage at that input. This charge up will depend upon the value of the capacitor in the sample and hold circuit and the resistance at the input. This will change depending upon the particular PIC you are using. For the 18F4525 the capacitor has a value of 25pF; see Section 19 in the data sheet. Using this value, an approximate acquisition time for the capacitor to charge up is $2.4\mu\text{s}$; see Section 19 in the data sheet.

This basically means you must get the PIC to wait this $2.4\mu\text{s}$ before the ADC starts its conversion; if it doesn't wait this time, then the result could be inaccurate. Microchip offer two ways of creating this delay. You could manually create a delay routine that you run every time before you start an ADC conversion. To use this method, bits 5, 4, and 3 of the ADCON2 register must be set to logic '0'. However, you as the programmer, must make sure you use this delay before starting a conversion and it is long enough. Note that to start a conversion, you simply have to set bit 1 of the ADCON2 register to a logic '1'.

Microchip offers an approach that creates this delay automatically every time you start a conversion. To use this method, you need to know the period 'T' of the frequency of the timing waveform controlling the ADC conversion process. Microchip calls this period the "TAD". Microchip offers a variety of options for choosing the frequency of the timing waveform. This is because Microchip offers the user a wide variety of oscillator sources for the PIC. Therefore bits 2, 1, and 0 offer the choice of using the RC oscillator as the timing source for the ADC or dividing the oscillator frequency by 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, or 64. The idea is to create a $2.4\text{-}\mu\text{s}$ delay.

The process is best explained with an example. However, to appreciate what we are trying to create, it would be useful to consider the timing waveform shown in Figure 5-2.

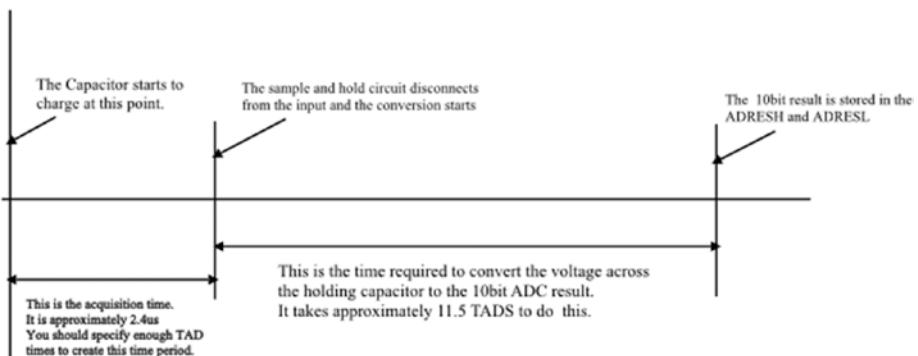


Figure 5-2. The Timing for the ADC Operation of the PIC

Figure 5-2 depicts what happens when the PIC goes through an ADC conversion. Firstly, the ADC is connected to the relevant analogue input. The voltage at that input is acquired. This means that the input is switched onto the sample and hold circuit inside the PIC and the capacitor in that circuit is charged up to the voltage at the input. This charge-up time is termed the acquisition time, and the PIC must wait long enough for the capacitor to fully charge up. The time that the PIC will wait is set by the chosen number of TAD periods that you, as the programmer, select. You must select enough TAD periods for the capacitor to fully charge up. This then means you must know how long each TAD period is. This is again chosen by you, the programmer.

The TAD period is set using the bits 0, 1, and 2 of the ADCON2 register. These bits are named ADCS0, ADCS1, and ADCS2. With these bits you, can chose the frequency at which the ADC system runs and so the TAD time for the system. Table 5-3 shows the possible selections you can choose. Note the TAD time is equal to the periodic time 'T' of the chosen frequency you select using bits 0, 1, and 2 of the ADCON2 register.

This then means that it is the combination of the number of TADs used to create the acquisition time and the actual TAD period you have chosen that controls how long the PIC waits while the capacitor is allowed to charge up. The one overriding consideration is that the TAD and the minimum number of TADs which is 2TAD must create a time that is equal to or greater than the acquisition time. This means that if the TAD time that you choose worked out to be 500ns and the acquisition time was $2.4\mu s$, then the system could possibly throw up an error as the minimum 2TAD time would $2 \times 500\text{ns} = 1\mu s$, not long enough. Of course, you would not choose the 2TAD; you would choose the 6TAD as 6TAD would make the PIC wait $3\mu s$ which is greater than the $2.4\mu s$ acquisition time for the PIC18F4525. However, you must be aware of the problem.

This is rather a lot to appreciate, and so to help you understand the process, I will go through two examples.

Creating the Required Acquisition Time

These two examples are to help you appreciate the importance of this acquisition time and how to use and create the TAD time.

The first example is fine as the chosen TAD time is within the specified parameters for the PIC. However, the second example is not recommended as the minimum 2TAD would not produce a long enough acquisition time. Indeed, the minimum divide rate for the 20-Mhz oscillator is divide by 32 as this would give a TAD time of $1.6\mu s$ making the minimum 2TAD $3.2\mu s$.

Table 19.1 in the data sheet does give you some suggestion as to the recommended TAD time. However, I must say that Microchip has to give the user the information for the PIC in the data sheet, but they do not make it very clear as to how to use that information.

Example 1

In this example we will be using the 8-Mhz oscillator, and then choosing a divide by 8 makes the frequency of the ADC operation 1Mhz. This in turn means that the period, known as TAD, is $1\mu\text{s}$, that is, $1/1\text{E}^6 = 1\text{E}^{-6} = 1\mu\text{s}$. Therefore, to create the required acquisition time of $2.4\mu\text{s}$, we would need a 2.4TAD time for the delay, that is, $2.4\text{E}^{-6}/1\text{E}^{-6} = 2.4$.

Using bits 5, 4, and 3 of the ADCON2 register, we have options of using 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, and 20 TAD time period. To obtain the required $2.4\mu\text{s}$, you should select the 4 TAD option, the closest to $2.4\mu\text{s}$ while still be greater than $2.4\mu\text{s}$. Note that this $2.4\mu\text{s}$ is the minimum, not the maximum time the PIC should allow for the acquisition time; however, you should make this delay time the shortest you can.

To select this option, we need to write

- b5 = 0
- b4 = 1
- b3 = 0 4TAD
- b2 = 0
- b1 = 0'
- b0 = 1 divide by 8

Example 2

In this example we will be using the 20-Mhz oscillator. Then choosing a divide by 4 makes the frequency of the ADC operation 5Mhz. This in turn means that the period, known as TAD, is 200ns. Therefore, to create the required acquisition time of $2.4\mu\text{s}$, we would need a 12 TAD time for the delay, that is, $2.4\text{E}^{-6}/2\text{E}^{-9} = 12$.

Using bits 5, 4, and 3 of the ADCON2 register, we have options of using 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, and 20 TAD time period. To obtain the required $2.4\mu s$, you should select the 16 TAD option. Note that 12 TAD would equal the $2.4\mu s$. However, this $2.4\mu s$ is the minimum, not the maximum, and it is safer to make the acquisition time slightly longer than is required. If it is too short, the result may not be accurate enough. To select this option, we need to write

- $b_5 = 1$
- $b_4 = 1$
- $b_3 = 0$ 16TAD
- $b_2 = 1$
- $b_1 = 0'$
- $b_0 = 0$ divide by 4

I feel I should also add that the preceding description of how to create and use the TAD time for the ADC is my own interpretation. Although I have found it to work well in all my programs that use the ADC; I cannot guarantee that my interpretation is 100% correct. However, I do think it is. This TAD time is one of the most confusing aspects of the PIC that you as a programmer need to calculate. My interpretation is the best one I have come across, and it makes total sense to me. You must make up your own mind.

Changing the ADC Input Channels

There is the possibility that you, as the programmer, will ask the ADC to switch to a different channel. This will take a finite amount of time, and even though this may only be few microseconds, you must wait until the ADC has changed channels before starting the ADC conversion. It is the data in the ADCON0 register that determines what channel the ADC is connected to; see Table 5-1.

A Basic Setup for the ADC

I believe it is better to use left justification, B7 = logic ‘0’ as this means that the two least significant bits are stored in ADRESL; see Figure 5-1. For all but the most accurate uses, the programmer can ignore these two bits as they only represent voltages from 0 to 20mV approximately, at 5mV/bit. Indeed, if you ignore these two bits, it really means that you are using an 8-bit ADC instead of a 10 bit. The resolution then reduces to around 19mV per bit.

Using these three control registers, ADCON0, ADCON1, and ADCON2, it is fairly easy to set the ADC up. As an example, suppose you had an analogue input connected to AN0 or bit 0 of PORTA. Assuming you were using VCC and 0V as the reference for the ADC. To set up the ADC, but not start a conversion yet, you would write the following data to the three control registers. The 10-bit result is stored across two 8-bit registers, ADRESH and ADRESL. We will use left justify for the ADC result, which means the 8 most significant bits go into ADRESH and the 2 least significant bits go into b7 and b6 of ADRESL. We set this by making B7 of ADCON2 a logic ‘0.’ We use the oscillator divide by 8 option and the 4TAD option.

Inside the initialization, we will set up the ADC using the following instructions:

```
ADCON0 = 0x01;      //Enable the ADC and select channel 0 and
                    //turn the ADC on.
ADCON1 = 0xE0;      //make all bits digital except RA0.
ADCON2 = 0x11;      // Select 4TAD and divide the oscillator by 8.
```

To start an ADC conversion, we must set bit 1 of the ADCON0 register, the GO bit, to a logic ‘1’. Then wait until the ADC has finished. This is indicated by bit 1 of the ADCON0 register going low to logic ‘0’. Note that this will happen automatically once the ADC conversion has finished.

The result will then be in the ADRESH and ADRESL.

A Basic Program for the ADC

Listing 5-1 is a program that has a variable voltage applied to AN0, that is, channel 0. The program will continually read the voltage at this input and display the binary value from the result of the ADC on eight LEDs connected to PORTB of the PIC.

The Algorithm

The PIC will use the ADC; therefore, this has to be turned on, and channel 0 must be selected as this is the input that the voltage is connected to.

The PIC will use eight LEDs connected to PORTB.

Therefore, PORTA must be set as inputs with at least RA0 set as analogue the rest could be set as digital.

PORTB must be set as output, and those used as possible analogue should be set as digital.

The program will constantly get the result of the ADC and display it on PORTB.

Listing 5-1. The Basic ADC Program

```

1. void main ()           //The start of the main loop
2. {                      //the opening curly bracket of
                           the main loop
3.   PORTA = 0;           //just make sure nothing connected
                           to will be turned on PORTA
4.   PORTB = 0;           //just make sure nothing connected
                           to will be turned on PORTB
5.   TRISA = 0x0f;        //Set b0 to b3 of TRISA to logic
                           '1' making them inputs, Set
                           rest to logic '0' making them
                           outputs

```

```

6.    TRISB = 0x00;           //Set all bits in TRISB to
                            logic'0' making all in PORTB
                            outputs.
7.    OSCCON = 0x74;          //set osc to 8Mhz with stable
                            output
8.    ADCON0 = 0x01;          //Turn the ADC on and select
                            channel 0.
9.    ADCON1 = 0xE;           //Make all bits digital except
                            RA0 which will be analogue.
10.   ADCON2 = 0b00010001;    //Select left justify
                            and 4TAD and divide
                            oscillator by 8
11.   while (1)              // Always do what is within the
                            following curly brackets.
12.   {                      //the opening curly bracket of
                            the forever loop
13.   ADCON0bits.GO_DONE = 1; //Start the ADC conversion
14.   while (ADCON0bits.GO_DONE ==1); //Do nothing until
                            the conversion
                            has finished
15.   PORTB = ADRESH;        //Write the contents of
                            ADRESH to PORTB so PORTB
                            displays the result of
                            the conversion.
16.   }                      //The closing curly brackets
                            of the forever loop
17.   }                      //The closing curly bracket
                            of the main loop

```

Note that the normal configuration words and the include directives have been included in the project but are not shown here.

The circuit created in PROTEUS is shown in Figure 5-3.

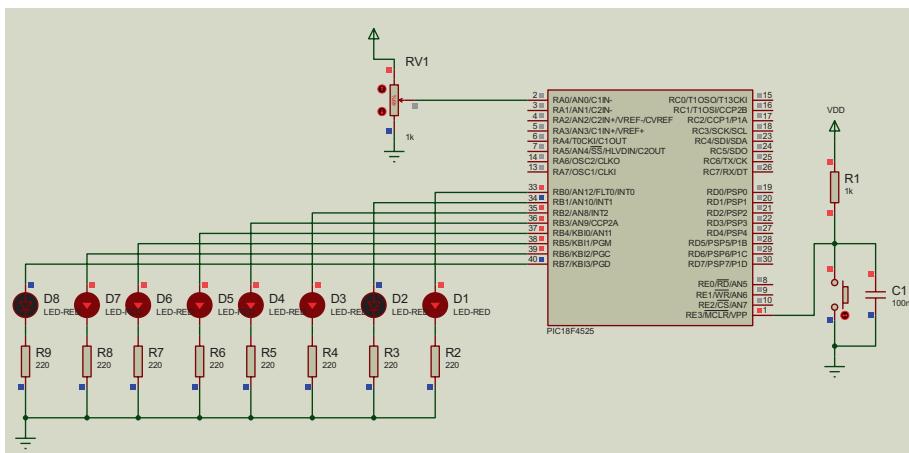


Figure 5-3. The Simulation Circuit for the Basic ADC

Analysis of the Program

Most of the instructions have already been analyzed with Listing 4-1.

Therefore, I will only look at the new instructions. These are as follows.

Line 9 Here the ADCON1 SFR is loaded with 0x0E. This is the binary number 0b00001110. It is the four bits 0, 1, 2, and 3 that determine if the inputs are digital or analogue. If you examine Table 5-1, you will see that this combination makes all inputs digital except bit 0 of PORTA. This is set to analogue.

Line 13 Here we set the bit 1 of the ADCON2 SFR to a logic ‘1’. This will tell the PIC to start an ADC conversation after the PIC has waited the specified number of TAD periods.

Line 14 Here we tell the PIC to do nothing, while bit 1 of the ADCON2 SFR is a logic ‘1’. This makes the program wait until the ADC conversion has finished. Note that when the ADC completes, the PIC will automatically reset bit 1 of the ADCON2 SFR back to a logic ‘0’ and load the result of the ADC into the ADRESH and ADRESL according to the justification we chose with bit 7 of the SFR ADCON2.

Line 15 All we do here is load the output PORT, PORTB, with a copy of the data that has been loaded into the ADRESH as a result of the ADC operation. As we have chosen left justification, this will be the 8 most significant bits of the ADC result.

I hope this analysis is sufficient for you to understand the program instructions. You should now feel confident in using the ADC inside the PIC.

Summary

In this chapter we have learnt how to set up the ADC, analogue to digital Converter. We have learnt how to use it to measure the analogue signal at one of the PICs inputs and display it on eight LEDs on PORTB.

In the next chapter, we will learn how to set up an LCD, liquid crystal display. Then use that LCD to display the value of an analogue voltage applied to an input on the PIC.

CHAPTER 6

Using the LCD

This chapter shows you how to set up the liquid crystal display (LCD) to show text and numbers on it. You'll then create your own characters to be displayed on the LCD. The chapter concludes by reviewing how to use arrays and pointers. At that point, the LCD should display 2 lines of 16 characters. But let's first review how most LCDs work and how the programmer can control them and so use them.

The LCD Controller

This description will be based around the LM016L LCD.

Most LCDs use either the Samsung KS0066U or Hitachi HD44780 driver which converts your binary digits into the required signals.

The LCD we will use has 2 lines of 16 characters.

The LCD has 8 data lines, but to enable programmers to save I/O, it can be set up to use all 8 data lines or just 4 data lines.

There are two modes of communicating with the LCD, instruction mode and data mode.

Instruction or Command Mode

This is used to initialize the LCD and then move the cursor positions such:

- Send cursor to line 2.
- Shift cursor to the right or left a number of characters.

- Move the cursor 1 bit to the right after each character or not.
- Send the cursor to the home position.
- Clear the screen.
- Blink or not blink the cursor.

Data Mode

The LCD is programmed to recognize characters using ASCII code for each character. Basically, the LCD has memory locations, which are nonvolatile; the memory keeps the data even when the power is removed, where the pixel information to draw any one of the ASCII characters are stored. The address of each of these pixel maps corresponds to the same address found in the ASCII character standard table shown in Table 6-1. In other words, the address of where the pixel map is stored corresponds to the ASCII for that character.

Table 6-1. The Main ASCII Character Set

High Nibble	0000	0010	0011	0100	0101	0110	0111
Low nibble	CG.Ram Location						
xxxx	1		0	@	P	\	p
0000							
xxxx	2	!	1	A	Q	a	q
0001							
xxxx	3	"	2	B	R	b	r
0010							
xxxx	4	#	3	C	S	c	s
0011							

(continued)

Table 6-1. (continued)

High Nibble	0000	0010	0011	0100	0101	0110	0111
Low nibble	CG.Ram Location						
xxxx	5	\$	4	D	T	d	t
0100							
xxxx	6	%	5	E	U	e	u
0101							
xxxx	7	&	6	F	V	f	v
0110							
xxxx	8	,	7	G	W	g	w
0111							
xxxx	1	<	8	H	X	h	x
1000							
xxxx	2	>	9	I	Y	i	y
1001							
xxxx	3	*	:	J	Z	j	z
1010							
xxxx	4	+	;	K	[k	{
1011							
xxxx	5	'	<	L		l	l
1100							
xxxx	6	-	=	M]	m	}
1101							
xxxx	7	.	>	N	^	n	
1110							
xxxx	8	/	?	O	_	o	
1111							

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Using the table, it can be seen that the 8-bit number that stands for the character '0' is 00110000. Note that the horizontal information along the top of the table is the four bits B7, B6, B5, and B4, that is, the high nibble, while the information along the vertical at the side of the table is the four bits, B3, B2, B1, and B0, the low nibble. For example, the ASCII for the character 'a' is 01100001.

To call up these characters from within the LCD's memory and so display them on the LCD, the programmer has to write the address of where the pixel map is stored in the LCD's memory. The address corresponds to the number in the ASCII character set. This means that to display the number '0', the programmer has to send the address number 00110000 to the LCD. The LCD control program then opens this address where it finds the pixel map for the character '0'. Also, to display the character 'a', they would send the information 01100001 to open up that location and find the pixel map for the letter 'a'.

This level of understanding will be put to good use when we look at creating special characters.

Each set of information, be it data or instructions, must be sent on either all 8 data lines or just 4 data lines. We will use just 4 lines. This means that the info must be sent in two nibbles, the high nibble first followed by the low nibble.

Note that a nibble stands for just 4 bits, whereas a byte stands for 8 bits, and a word stands for 16 bits.

We will connect the LCD to PORTB, but really any port would do except perhaps PORTA as this is used for the analogue inputs.

Data 4 on the LCD goes to b0 on PORTB of the PIC.

Data 5 on the LCD goes to b1 on PORTB of the PIC.

Data 6 on the LCD goes to b2 on PORTB of the PIC.

Data 7 on the LCD goes to b3 on PORTB of the PIC.

Data pins D0 to D3 are not connected as we will set the LCD to 4-bit operation.

The RS pin on the LCD is connected to b4 on PORTB. Note that it is the RS pin on the LCD that is used to distinguish between instructions to the LCD or data to be displayed on the LCD. The RS pin goes to logic '0' for instructions, and the RS pin goes to logic '1' for data to be displayed.

The 'E' pin is connected to b5 on PORTB. This pin should simply go high then low with no time in between. This action is to tell the driver inside the LCD that some new information has been sent to the LCD and it should deal with it.

A variable voltage can be connected to the VEE pin of the LCD to control the contrast of the LCD. However, I find that using two resistors to divide the voltage down to around 300mv works fine.

The R/W pin, which is the Read/Write pin, should be connected to 0v or ground as it is a logic '0' at this pin that tells the driver we want to write to the LCD.

The full pin connection is shown in Figure 6-1.

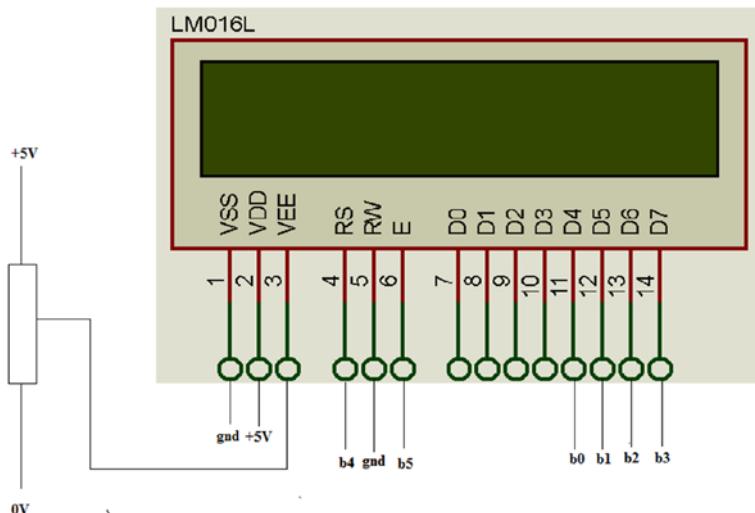


Figure 6-1. Connecting the LCD

Initializing the LCD

We must ensure that power has been applied to the LCD for at least 30ms before we send any information, data, or instruction to the LCD. This is to allow the circuitry of the LCD to settle down and be ready to receive instructions or data.

This can be done using a small LCD delay routine.

Then we can set up the LCD.

To do this we must send the following data in this order:

1. 0b00110011 // First data
2. 0b00110011 // Second data a repeat of the first data
3. 0b00110010 //LCD set up for 4 bit operation
4. 0b00101100 //LCD set up for 2 lines
5. 0b00000110 //Increment the position of the cursor after each character, i.e. move the cursor one place to the right.
6. 0b00001100 //Cursor does not blink
7. 0b00000001 //Clear the screen
8. 0b00000010 //Return cursor to home position.

This information has been derived from the LCD instruction set shown in Table [6-2](#).

Table 6-2. The LCD Instruction Set

Function	B7	B6	B5	B4	B3	B2	B1	B0	Execution Time
Clear Screen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.53ms
Description	Clear all display data. It also sends the cursor back to the start of the display. Sets the DDRAM address to 0								
Return Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	x	1.53ms
Description	This sends the cursor back to the start of the display. Sets the DDRAM address to 0. The 'x' means it does not care what logic is in that bit								
Entry Mode	0	0	0	0	0	1	I/D	SH	39µs
Description	This sets the cursor movement after entry (I/D); logic '0' in this bit means cursor is decremented; logic '1' means cursor is incremented In the SH bit logic '0' means don't shift the cursor; logic '1' means shift the cursor								
Display Control	0	0	0	0	1	D	C	B	39µs
Description	D bit logic '0' display is off logic '1' display is on C bit logic '0' cursor is off Logic '1' cursor is on B bit logic '0' cursor blink is off Logic '1' cursor blink is on								
Cursor/Display Shift	0	0	0	1	S/C	R/L	X	x	39µs
Description	S/C bit logic '0' means the cursor is shifted Logic '1' means the display is shifted R/L bit logic '0' means shift left; logic '1' means shift right								

(continued)

Table 6-2. (continued)

Function	B7	B6	B5	B4	B3	B2	B1	B0	Execution Time
Function Set	0	0	0	1	1	0	X	x	39μs
Description	Configuration data to set up the LCD (Send First)								
Set CGRAM Address	0	1	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1	A0	
Set DDRAM Address	1	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1	A0	
Write Data CGRAM or DDRAM	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1	D0	43μs
RS Pin Is a Logic '1'									

To make sure the LCD realizes that this information, being sent to it, is a set of instructions, we must make sure that the RS pin goes low. Note that this means that bit 4 of PORTB must go low.

When using the LCD in 4-bit operation, it is the high nibble that should be sent to the LCD first.

The first 4 bits of PORTB must have the information. This does present a problem in that the four bits, b0, 1, 2, and 3, of information must be sent at the same time as the other bits of PORTB, which includes b4 which is the RS pin. This RS pin must be set to a logic '0' if the information is an instruction or logic '1' if the information is data to be displayed. The process by which this is done is by performing a logic 'OR' operation, with the information waiting to go to the LCD and a variable. We will call this variable rsOR. This must be done before the information is sent to the LCD.

Following is an outline of the process:

1. Consider sending the information to display the character 'b'. The information is 01100010 (Table 6-1).
2. We firstly have to get just the high nibble, that is, '0110'; as we send the high nibble first, then the low nibble.
3. Note that we must save the information, 01100010, as well so that we can get the low nibble later.
4. We then have to make sure that b4 of the information being sent to PORTB is a logic 1. To achieve this, we can create another variable called rsOR. As the information is data to be displayed, we must make sure b4 of the variable rsOR is at logic '1'. Therefore, use the instruction rsOR = 0x10, that is, 0b00010000.
5. Once the data has been sent to the LCD, we must make sure the 'E' pin which is connected to b5 of PORTB goes high then low.

The following set of instructions should achieve this.

```

lcdInfo = 0b01100010;
//this loads lcdInfo with the information for the character 'b'.
lcdTempInfo = lcdInfo;
//This saves a copy of lcdInfo in lcdTempInfo
rsOr = 0x10;
//this makes sure bit4 of rsOr is logic '1'
lcdTempInfo = (lcdTempInfo << 4 | lcdTempInfo >>4);
//this will swap the nibbles around in lcdTempInfo ready
//to send to the LCD after this data in lcdTempInfo =
//0b00100110
lcdInfo = lcdTempInfo & 0xF;

```

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```
// this basically ignores the last four bits of the lcdTempInfo  
b4, b5, b6 and b7 will always be logic '0' and loads the result  
into lcdInfo after this the data in lcdInfo = 0b00000110  
lcdInfo = lcdInfo | rs0r;  
// This performs a logical OR with lcdInfo and rs0r. This  
allows us to determine if the info is an instruction or data  
after this data in lcdInfo = 0b00010110 i.e. bit 4 is a logic  
'1' the information is data to be displayed on the LCD  
lcdPort = lcdInfo;  
// this sends the info to the LCD  
eBit = 1;  
eBit = 0;  
// this is to tell the driver that new info has arrived and the  
lcd should deal with it.
```

This is quite a complex set of requirements to understand, but if you read through it a few times, it should help. Also, when you look through the program listing, you should start to understand the process.

Hopefully this goes someway toward explaining how the program can distinguish between sending instructions and data to the LCD.

If the LCD was being used in 8-bit mode, then the RS line and the E line would be connected to another PORT and the corresponding bits of that PORT would have to be set high and low appropriately. Also, there would be no need to split the information up into the high and low nibbles, and OR it as we do with the 4-bit operation.

The reason why we are using the LCD in 4-bit operation is just to save I/O pins. A complete program to use the LCD in 4-bit mode is described in Listing 6-1.

Listing 6-1. The Complete Program for 4bit LCD

1. //Use some comments to try and split the program listing
up into different sections.
2. //Create any definitions

3.	#define firstbyte	ob00110011	
4.	#define secondbyte	ob00110011	
5.	#define fourBitOp	ob00110010	//this sets the LCD up for 4 bit operation instead of 8 bit
6.	#define twoLines	ob00101100	//This sets the LCD to 2 lines mode
7.	#define incPosition	ob00000110	//This tells the LCD to increment the cursor position after any data is displayed
8.	#define cursorNoBlink	ob00001100	//this turns the cursor off so we don't see it flashing
9.	#define clearScreen	ob00000001	//this clears the screen of all display
10.	#define returnHome	ob00000010	//this sends the cursor back to start position on the display
11.	#define lineTwo	ob11000000	//this will send the cursor to the start of line 2 on the display
12.	#define doBlink	ob00001111	//this turns the cursor on and makes it blink
13.	#define shiftLeft	ob00010000	//this shifts the cursor one position to the left
14.	#define shiftRight	ob00010100	//this shifts the cursor one position to the right

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```
15. #define lcdPort PORTB //this sets which the  
                           LCD is connected to  
                           port  
16. #define eBit PORTBbits.RB5 //this sets the bit  
                           for the E pin on  
                           the LCD  
17. #define rspin PORTBbits.RB4 //this sets the bit  
                           for the RS pin on  
                           the LCD  
18. //some variables These comments are just to split the  
      listing up into its logical sections  
19. unsigned char lcdInfo, lcdTempInfo, rs0r;  
                           //this reserves 3 8 bit memory  
                           Locations 1 for each variable  
20. unsigned char n; //this reserves an 8 bit  
                           memory location for the  
                           variable 'n'  
21. char str[80]; //This sets up 80 memory  
                           locations one after  
                           the other in an array.  
                           This array is used for  
                           sending a string to the  
                           LCD  
22. char lcdInitialise [8] = //This sets up 8 memory  
                           locations in an array  
                           and loads each location  
                           with some initial data  
                           in each location  
23. { //The opening bracket of  
      the array
```

```
24. firstbyte, // note the data in each  
           location is one of the  
           set up instructions for  
           the LCD  
25. secondbyte, //just a repeat of the  
           first byte  
26. fourBitOp, //puts the lcd into 4bit  
           mode not 8 bit  
27. twoLines, //set the lcd up for  
           using two lines of 16  
           characters  
28. incPosition, //sets the lcd up for  
           moving the cursor one  
           place to the right  
           every time a character  
           is displayed  
29. cursorNoBlink, //sets the lcd up to not  
           show the cursor on the  
           screen  
30. clearScreen, //clears all characters  
           from the lcd display  
31. returnHome, //sends the cursor to the  
           beginning of line 1  
32. }; //This is the closing  
           bracket of the array.  
           Note the semi colon  
           is needed as this is  
           the end of a program  
           instruction  
33. //the subroutine  
34. void sendInfo () // a subroutine to send  
           Info to the lcd.
```

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```
35. {                                //opening curly bracket
                                         of the sendInfo
                                         subroutine
36. lcdTempInfo = (lcdTempInfo << 4 | lcdTempInfo >>4); //this will swap the
                                                               nibbles around in
                                                               lcdTempInfo ready to
                                                               send to the LCD
37. lcdInfo = lcdTempInfo & 0x0F; // this basically ignores
                                         the last four bits of
                                         the lcdTempInfo b4, b5,
                                         b6 and b7 will always
                                         be logic '0'and loads
                                         the result into lcdInfo
38. lcdInfo = lcdInfo | rs0r; // This performs a logical
                                         OR with lcdInfo and
                                         rs0r. this allows us to
                                         determine if the info is
                                         an instruction or data
39. lcdPort = lcdInfo; // this sends the info to
                                         the LCD
40. eBit = 1; // this is to tell the
                                         driver that new info
                                         has arrived at the lcd
41. eBit = 0;
42. TMRO = 0;
43. while (TMRO < 16); //this is a 2mS delay at
                                         7812.5Hz long enough
                                         for the lcd to process
                                         any information see
                                         Table 6-2
```

```
44.  }                                //closing curly bracket  
                                         of the sendInfo  
                                         subroutine  
45. void lcdOut ()                   //this subroutine gets  
                                         the data ready to go to  
                                         the sendInfo  
46. {                                //opening curly bracket  
                                         of the lcdOut  
                                         subroutine  
47. lcdTempInfo = lcdInfo;           // store the information  
                                         in a temporary location  
48. sendInfo ();                    //this calls the  
                                         subroutine sendInfo to  
                                         send the high nibble  
                                         first  
49. sendInfo ();                    //this calls the  
                                         subroutine sendInfo  
                                         again to send the low  
                                         nibble next  
50. }                                //closing curly bracket  
                                         of the lcdOut  
                                         subroutine  
51. void setUpTheLCD ()             //This is a subroutine to  
                                         set up the lcd  
52. {                                //opening curly bracket  
                                         of the setUpTheLCD  
                                         subroutine  
53. TMRO = 0; while (TMRO <255);    //a 32ms delay this is  
                                         the time required by  
                                         the driver circuit to  
                                         settle down
```

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```
54. n = 0;                                //load the variable 'n'  
                                         with the starting value  
                                         of 0  
55. rsOr = 0X00;                            // this ensures bit 4  
                                         or the RS pin will be  
                                         logic '0' as these are  
                                         instructions  
56. while (n < 8)                          //while the value in  
                                         the variable 'n' is  
                                         less than 8 do what  
                                         is inside the curly  
                                         brackets.  
57. {                                     //the opening bracket for  
                                         the while instruction  
58. lcdInfo = lcdInitialise [n];          //load the variable  
                                         "lcdInfo" with what is  
                                         in location 'n' in the  
                                         lcdInitialise array.  
                                         As 'n' starts out at 0  
                                         this will be the first  
                                         location in the array.  
                                         See lines 22 to 32  
                                         above.  
59. lcdOut ();                            //call the subroutine  
                                         lcdOut see lines 45 to  
                                         50  
60. n++;                                 //add one to the value  
                                         of 'n' the micro will  
                                         now go back to line 56.  
                                         Note the value of 'n'  
                                         will eventually get to  
                                         8. When this happens
```

and the micro goes to line 56 the micro will jump to line 62 after executing line 56 as the condition in the brackets is untrue.

```
61.  } //closing curly bracket of the while
62. rs0r = 0x10; //this ensures bit 4 of the rs0r is a logic '1' for data
63. } //closing curly bracket of setUp subroutine
64. void line2 () // a subroutine to send the cursor of the lcd to the start of line 2
65. { //opening curly bracket of Line2 subroutine
66. rs0r = 0X00; // this ensures bit 4 or the RS pin will be logic '0' as these are instructions
67. lcdInfo = lineTwo; //loads the variable "lcdInfo" with the instruction to send the cursor to line two
68. lcdOut (); //call the subroutine lcdOut
69. rs0r = 0x10; //this ensures bit 4 of the rs0r is a logic '1' for data
```

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```
70. } //closing curly bracket  
      of Line2 subroutine  
71. void clearTheScreen () //a subroutine to  
                           clearTheScreen  
72. { //opening curly bracket  
      for clearTheScreen  
      Subroutine  
73. rsOr = 0X00; // this ensures bit 4  
                  or the RS pin will be  
                  logic '0' as these are  
                  instructions  
74. lcdInfo = clearScreen; //load the variable  
                           "lcdInfo" with the  
                           instruction to clear  
                           the lcd display  
75. lcdOut (); //call the subroutine  
                  "lcdOut"  
76. lcdInfo = returnHome; //load the variable  
                           "lcdInfo" with the  
                           instruction to return  
                           the cursor to the  
                           beginning of line 1 on  
                           the lcd display  
77. lcdOut (); //call the subroutine  
                  "lcdOut"  
78. rsOr = 0x10; //this ensures bit 4 of  
                  the rsOr is a logic '1'  
                  for data  
79. } //closing curly bracket  
      of clearScreen  
      subroutine
```

```
80. void writeString (const char *words)      //this is a
                                                subroutine that
                                                will display a
                                                whole string of
                                                characters on
                                                the display.
81. {
82.     while (*words)                      //opening curly bracket
                                                for writeString
                                                Subroutine
                                                // while the *words
                                                pointer is not pointing
                                                to the NULL char do
                                                what is inside the
                                                curly brackets
83. {
84.     lcdInfo = *words;                  //opening curly bracket
                                                for the while
                                                //load what the *words
                                                pointer is pointing
                                                to into the variable
                                                lcdInfo
85.     lcdOut ();                      // call the subroutine to
                                                pass the data to the
                                                LCD
86.     *words++;                      // increment the contents
                                                of the pointer so that
                                                it is pointing to the
                                                next char in the array
87. }
88. }                                    //closing curly bracket
                                                for the while
                                                //closing curly bracket
                                                for the writeString
                                                subroutine
```

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```
89. void main ()  
90. {  
91. PORTA = 0; //this is the opening  
92. PORTB = 0; brackets of the main  
93. PORTC = 0; loop  
94. PORTD = 0; //this makes sure the  
95. TRISA = 0xff; PORTS don't turn  
96. TRISB = 0x00; anything on  
97. TRISC = 0x00; //set all bits on PORTA  
98. TRISD = 0x00; to inputs  
99. ADCON0 = 0b00000001; //set all bits on PORTB  
100.      ADCON1 = 0b00001011; to outputs  
101.      ADCON2 = 0b00010001; //set all bits on PORTC  
102.      OSCTUNE = 0x00; to outputs  
103.      //bit 0 = '1' means adc  
104.      //on bits 5,4,3&2 = '0'  
105.      //means channel 0 AN0 is  
106.      //selected  
107.      //bits A0 to A3 are  
108.      //analogue rest are  
109.      //digital  
110.      //select left justify  
111.      //4TAD Clock = FOSC/8 i.e  
112.      //1MHz TOSC = 1mS 2.4u/1m  
113.      //= 2.4 4x1m = 4ms  
114.      //don't use any of the  
115.      //fine tuning aspects for  
116.      //the oscillator
```

```
103.     OSCCON = 0x74;           //this sets the internal
                                oscillator to 8MHz
                                stable
104.     TOCON = 0xC7;           //this turns timer 0
                                on, makes it an 8 bit
                                timer with the maximum
                                divide rate
105.     setUpTheLCD ();        //call the subroutine to
                                set up the LCD
106.     while (1)              //this is the forever
                                loop to ensure lines 91
                                to 105 are only carried
                                out once.
107.     {                      //opening curly bracket
                                for the forever loop
108.     writeString ("Hello World"); // this sends the
                                string "Hello World"
                                to the LCD
109.     line2 ();              //call the subroutine
                                line2 to move the
                                cursor to the beginning
                                of line two on the LCD
110.     lcdInfo = 0b00110101;    //this is the ascii
                                character for the
                                number 5
111.     lcdOut ();             //call the subroutine to
                                send the number out to
                                the LCD
112.     lcdInfo = 0b00110111;    //this is the ascii
                                character for the
                                number 7
```

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```
113.     lcdOut ();           //call the subroutine to  
                      send the number out to  
                      the LCD  
114.     lcdInfo = 0b00111001; //this is the ascii  
                           character for the  
                           number 9  
115.     lcdOut ();           //call the subroutine to  
                      send the number out to  
                      the LCD  
116.     while (1);          //this is another forever  
                           loop used to make the  
                           program halt at this  
                           point as the PIC will  
                           for ever do nothing  
117.     }                   //closing brackets for  
                           the first forever loop  
118.     }                   //this is the closing  
                           brackets of the main  
                           loop
```

Note that the config and include sections of the project are not shown here, but they must be included in the project.

This program listing will introduce a number of different techniques for programming the PICs, all of which make the programming easier to understand and more efficient. However, before we look at those new techniques, we will see how the program performs what is required of it.

The main loop starts at line 89 and ends at line 118. You should understand that the line numbers in the preceding text do not correspond exactly to the line numbers in MPLABX as the configuration and include commands are not shown above. Note how MPLABX links all the lines inside this boundary with a straight line. Line 89 starts with a box, in the editing window of the IDE, inside which is the small '-' minus symbol.

This gives the programmer the ability to close all these groups of lines and shrink them away, thus taking up less room on the editing window. The ‘-’ minus sign is then replaced with ‘+’ plus sign which allows you to expand upon all the lines in the boundary. It is a useful tool if you are confident the lines don’t need any editing. This is only visible in the MPLABX editing window, not in the text shown above.

The first few lines up to and including line 105 simply set up the PIC as we want. The define declaration has been explained in program Listing 4-1.

The Subroutine **LcdOut ()**

This is between lines 45 and 50 .

Line 47 loads the variable lcdTempInfo with the contents of lcdInfo.

Line 48 calls the subroutine sendInfo () for the first time which will send the high nibble of the information along with the correct value in b4, to the LCD.

Line 49 calls the subroutine sendInfo () for the second time which will send the low nibble of the information along with the correct value in b4, to the LCD.

The Subroutine **sendInfo ()**

This is between lines 34 and 44.

Line 36 swaps the 2 nibbles in the variable lcdTempInfo over as we need to send the high nibble first.

Line 37 reloads the variable lcdInfo with the result of the logical AND operation of lcdTempInfo and the binary value 0b00001111. This ensures that b7, b6, b5, and b4 of the result are logic ‘0’s The other four bits are the same as b3, b2, b1, and b0 of lcdTempInfo.

Line 38 performs the logical ‘OR’ operation of the variables lcdInfo and rsOR. In this instance, because b4 of lcdInfo and b4 of rsOR are both logic ‘0’ then nothing changes as this is an instruction. However, if b4 of

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rsOR had been changed to a logic ‘1’ then the result would be that b4 of the variable lcdInfo would now go to a logic ‘1’ indicating that the information about to be sent to the LCD was data to be displayed.

Line 39 sends the contents of lcdInfo to PORTB which is the port that the LCD is connected to.

Line 40 sends the ‘E’ to a logic ‘1’.

Line 41 sends the ‘E’ to a logic ‘0’. The purpose of these two lines are to tell the LCD that it must do something with the information at its data pins.

Lines 41 and 42 create a 2-ms delay. This is to ensure that the LCD can process the data at its input before we present any new information to the LCD; see Table 6-2.

As this is the last instruction in this subroutine, the micro then goes back to the lcdOut subroutine as this is where this subroutine was called from.

The micro will now carry out the instruction on line 49 which calls the subroutine sendInfo () a second time and the above sequence repeats. However, as the bits in lcdTempInfo are again swapped, it will be the low nibble of the information that is sent to the LCD.

In this way all 8 bits of the information can be sent to the LCD in two 4-bit nibbles.

The microprocessor will now return to the lcdOut subroutine, but as it will have now completed all its instructions, it will now return back to the main loop via the lcdSetUp() subroutine.

This process is involved, and it uses what is termed “Nested Subroutines.” You should be aware that there is a limit as to how many subroutines can be nested together in this way. This is restricted by what is termed “The Stack.” So be careful when nesting subroutines like this.

One other important thing to remember about nested subroutines is that if a subroutine is to call another subroutine, the other subroutine must be written into the editing window before the subroutine that calls it. This is why the sendinfo subroutine is written before the lcdout subroutine as the lcdout subroutine will call the sendinfo subroutine.

Now we are back in the main loop, and the next line, line 108, calls another subroutine called writeString (“Hello World”).

Note that this time, the brackets associated with this call are not empty. This is because this subroutine is expecting parameters to be sent down to it. This subroutine is one that has not been written by me but one that is termed “open source,” and it is freely available for programmers to use. It basically creates a variable length array which the micro goes through one at a time to get information which on line 84 I have loaded into my variable lcdInfo.

Then on line 85, I call the subroutine lcdOut which sends the contents of lcdInfo to the LCD.

Note that the lettering inside the normal bracket of the subroutine call on line 108 is orange when viewed in MPLABX. This is because MPLABX uses colors to help distinguish different types of data. What actually happens with the orange text is that the ASCII character number for each character starting with ‘H’ in this case, is sent to the array. This is all done in the background by the compiler software. Note that to use this open source subroutine, you must include the stdio.h header file. This is done with the #include <stdio.h> in the program.

Note that on line 106, I create the forever loop as I don’t want the micro to carry out all the above instructions again. Inside this loop, I send the characters 5, 7, and 9 out to the LCD; this is just to try and show you how numbers are sent to the LCD. Note that the ASCII for 5 is 0b00110101. The high nibble 0011 or 3 in hexadecimal. This puts us in the third column of the ASCII character table shown in Table 6-1. This is the column where the ASCII for the numbers 0 to 9 are listed and a few more. The numbers start at 0000 to 1001 which is the binary for 0 to 9. Therefore, to display a number 0 to 9, you simply set the high nibble to 0011 or 0X3 and use the low nibble to express what number you want to display, that is, 0000 to 1001 or 0X0 to 0X9.

I know the above description is very wordy, but it is quite difficult to explain in words how a program works. I hope I have gone somewhat toward explaining how the program and the instructions control and use the LCD. It is very important to be able to use the LCD. Of course, you could simply use the instructions without reading the explanation, but I feel it is important to understand how the instructions work.

The New Aspects to PIC Programming in This LCD Program

There are some new aspects of PIC programming that I have introduced in this example, and I want to try and explain what they do.

Arrays

This is a method by which you can create a list of variables and store them in locations one after the other. Then use them sequentially one at a time or randomly. It is very important to appreciate that the memory locations are set up one after the other in order. The array can store a variable using all the common data types, that is, unsigned char, integer, float, etc. To create an array, you simply declare it using the data type you want to use, then give it a sensible name followed by the '[6]' square bracket. Inside the square bracket, you state how many memory locations you want to place in your array. When the compiler program compiles the program, it will place the start of the array in a memory location and then create the total number of memory locations immediately after the start location, one after the other. There are two arrays used in the LCD program above, and line 21 is where the first one is created `char str[80]`. This creates an array, named 'str' of 80 memory locations long in which data type char, 8 bits long using B7 to indicate the sign, positive or negative, of the number are stored.

At line 22 I have declared the second array. It is of data type unsigned char, and it has 8 locations. This is where I will store the 8 instructions to set up the LCD in the order that I want to use them. Note that by declaring the array as follows, unsigned char lcdInitialise [8] = , I have stated, by using the '=' sign, that I will define what should be stored in those 8 memory locations at the same time as declaring the array. That is why there is the ';' semicolon at the end of the defining curly bracket; the whole sequence of text is a program instruction. Try removing the ';' semicolon, and see what happens.

There is a comma after each statement of what is stored in this array. This is because this is a list, not a set of instructions; therefore, don't use the semicolon.

You can access the data in this array in two ways, one using a pointer, which is explained in the next section of the book, or one by calling the array in a similar way to calling a subroutine, but the array is not a subroutine, as follows:

`lcdInfo = lcdInitialise [4]` will pull up the contents of location 4 in the array and place a copy of it in `lcdInfo`. Note that the number of the first location in the array is always '0', so location [4] is the fifth item in the array.

Using Pointers

Pointers can be used to point to locations inside an array. To create a pointer, it is best to create an array then create the pointer with the same name and type as the array. This is best explained by going through some example instructions as shown in the following.

`Unsigned char dataStore [10]; // This creates an array of 10 locations one after the other, each being 8-bit memory locations.`

`Unsigned char *dataPointer;` this creates a memory location that can be loaded with the particular address of a location in the `dataStore` array.

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The array and pointer have now been created. The next step is to load the pointer with the address of the first memory location in the array. This is done with the following instruction:

```
dataPointer = dataStore; //This will load the dataPointer with  
                        the address of where the first  
                        memory location of the dataStore  
                        array is in memory. This means that  
                        the dataPointer is now pointing to  
                        the first location in the dataStore  
                        array.
```

Now we can load some variables with the contents of the array using the following instructions:

```
Data0 = *dataPointer; //This loads the variable Data0 with  
                      the contents of the memory location  
                      that dataPointer is pointing to.  
                      In this case it is pointing to the  
                      first location in the dataStore  
                      array  
  
dataPointer++; //This increments the contents of  
                  the dataPointer which means it now  
                  points to the next location in the  
                  dataStore array.  
  
Data1 = *dataPointer; // This loads Data1 with the contents  
                      of the next memory location in the  
                      dataStore array.  
  
dataPointer++; //This increments the contents of  
                  the dataPointer which means it now  
                  points to the next location in the  
                  dataStore array.
```

Connecting the LCD in 8-Bit Mode

If the programmer has sufficient I/O, then they can use the LCD in 8-bit mode. This would have the main advantage of saving an extra visit to memory to get the full information to display on the LCD and save having to call the sendInfo subroutine twice.

The main differences are explained in Listing 6-2.

Listing 6-2. Using the LCD in 8-Bit Mode

```
1. //some definitions for some instructions
2. #define firstbyte    0b00110011      //define the binary
                                         for first byte
3. #define secondbyte   0b00110011      //define the binary
                                         for second byte
4. #define lines2bits8  0b00111100      //define the binary
                                         for lines2bits8
5. #define eightBit0p   0b00111000      //define the binary
                                         for eightBit0p
6. #define twoLines     0b00101100      //define the binary
                                         for twoLines
7. #define incPosition  0b000000110     //define the binary
                                         for incPosition
8. #define cursorNoBlink 0b000001100    //define the binary
                                         for cursorNoBlink
9. #define clearScreen  0b000000001    //define the binary
                                         for clearScreen
10. #define returnHome   0b000000010     //define the binary
                                         for returnHome
11. #define lineTwo      0b110000000    //define the binary
                                         for lineTwo
12. #define doBlink      0b00001111     //define the binary
                                         for doBlink
```

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```
13. #define shiftLeft      ob00010000 //define the binary
                                         for shiftLeft
14. #define shiftRight     ob00010100 //define the binary
                                         for
15.
16. #define lcdPort        PORTB //define which PORT
                                         LCD is connected to
17. #define eBit            PORTAbits.RA0 //define which bit
                                         the LCD eBit is
                                         connected to
18. #define RSpin           PORTAbits.RA1 //define which bit
                                         the LCD RSpin is
                                         connected to
19. //some variables set up memory locations for the
   following variables
20. unsigned char lcdInfo, lcdTempInfo, rsLine;
21. unsigned char n;
22. char lcdInitialis [7] =      //set up an array with 7
                                         memory locations and load
                                         the memory locations
                                         with the following LCD
                                         instructions
23. {
24. firstbyte,
25. secondbyte,
26. lines2bits8, //opening curly bracket of
                                         array setup
                                         //the first instruction
                                         //the second instruction
                                         which is a copy of the
                                         first
                                         //the instruction to use
                                         2 lines of characters
                                         and set up for 8 bit
                                         operation not 4 bit
```

```
27. incPosition,           //Instruction to make the
                           cursor move one place
                           to right after each
                           data has been displayed
                           on LCD
28. doBlink,              //instruction to make
                           cursor blink in current
                           position
29. clearScreen,          //instruction to clear
                           all data from LCD
                           display
30. returnHome,            //instruction to send
                           back to first position
                           on line 1 of LCD
31. };                   //end of array brackets. Note the
                           semi colon is needed as the whole
                           sequence is a program instruction.
32. //some subroutine these one line comments helps split the
   program up
33. void lcdOut ()         //start of lcdOut
                           subroutine
34. {                      //opening curly bracket
                           of lcdOut subroutine
35. lcdPort = lcdInfo;     //send info to LCD
36. eBit = 1;               //set eBit to logic '1'
37. eBit = 0;               //set eBit to logic '0'

                           These two make the
                           LCD aware that new
                           information has come to
                           its input pins.
```

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```
38. TMRO = 0; while (TMRO < 15); //this is a 1.92mS
   delay at 7812.5Hz
39. }
//closing curly bracket
of lcdOut subroutine
40. void setUpTheLCD () //start of subroutine to
   set up the LCD
41. {
//opening curly bracket
of setUp subroutine
42. TMRO = 0; //set TMRO back to 0
43. while (TMRO < 255); //wait until TMRO has
   reached 255 an initial
   32.6ms delay before
   sending any info to lcd
44. RSpin = 0; //set RSpin to logic
   '0' to tell LCD
   information coming is
   an instruction
45. n = 0; //set the variable 'n' to
   0 ready next loop
46. while (n < 7) //set up while loop for
   sending instructions to
   LCD
47. {
//opening curly bracket
for LCD loop
48. lcdInfo = lcdInitialis [n]; //load variable lcdInfo
   with first instruction
   in array lcdInitialis
49. lcdOut (); //call subroutine lcdOut
   to send instruction to
   LCD
```

```
50.    n ++;           //add 1 to value of 'n'  
51. }                ready to get next  
52. RSpin = 1;        instruction if n is less  
                      than 7  
53. }                //closing curly bracket for  
54. void line2 ()    LCD loop  
55. {                //set RSpin back to logic  
56. RSpin = 0;        '1' as next information to  
                      go to LCD will most likely  
                      be data to be displayed  
57. lcdInfo = lineTwo; //closing curly bracket for  
58. lcdOut ();        LCD loop  
59. RSpin = 1;        //start of subroutine to  
                      send cursor to start of  
                      line 2 on LCD  
60. }                //opening curly bracket for  
                      line2 loop  
                      //set RSpin to logic '0'  
                      to tell LCD information  
                      coming is an instruction  
                      //Load variable lcdInfo  
                      with instruction to go to  
                      lineTwo  
                      //call lcdOut subroutine to  
                      send instruction to LCD  
                      //set RSpin back to logic  
                      '1' as next information to  
                      go to LCD will most likely  
                      be data to be displayed  
                      //closing curly bracket for  
                      line2 loop
```

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```
61. void writeString  
      (const char *words)          //this is subroutine that  
                                will display a whole  
                                string of characters on  
                                the display.  
62. {  
63.   while (*words)           //opening curly bracket  
                                for writeString loop  
                                // while the *words  
                                pointer is not pointing  
                                to the NULL char do  
                                what is inside the  
                                curly brackets  
64. {  
65.   lcdInfo = *words;        //load what the *words  
                                pointer is pointing  
                                to into the variable  
                                lcdInfo  
66.   lcdOut ();             //call the subroutine to  
                                pass the Info to the LCD  
67.   *words++;               //increment the contents  
                                of the pointer so that  
                                it is pointing to the  
                                next char in the array  
68. }  
69. }  
70. void clearTheScreen ()    //closing bracket of the  
                                while loop  
                                //closing curly bracket  
                                for writeString loop  
                                //This is a subroutine  
                                that clears all data  
                                from the display and  
                                sends the cursor back  
                                to start of screen
```

```
71.  { //opening curly bracket
    for clearTheScreen loop
72.  RSpin = 0; //set RSpin to logic
               '0' to tell LCD
               information coming is
               an instruction
73.  lcdInfo = clearScreen; //Copy the data for
                           clearScreen instruction
                           into lcdInfo
74.  lcdOut (); //call the lcdOut
                  subroutine to send
                  instruction to LCD
75.  lcdInfo = returnHome; //Copy the data for
                           returnHome instruction
                           into lcdInfo
76.  lcdOut (); //call the lcdOut
                  subroutine to send
                  instruction to LCD
77.  RSpin = 1; //set RSpin back to logic
                 '1' as next information
                 to go to LCD will most
                 likely be data to be
                 displayed
78.  } //closing curly bracket
       for clearTheScreen loop
79.  void main () //The main program loop
80.  { //opening curly bracket
       for main loop
81.  PORTA = 0; //Turn all outputs off
82.  PORTB = 0;
83.  PORTC = 0;
84.  PORTD = 0;
```

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```
85. TRISA = 0x00;           //make all of PORTA
                                outputs
86. TRISB = 0x00;           //make all of PORTB
                                outputs
87. TRISC = 0x00;           //make all of PORTC
                                outputs
88. TRISD = 0x00;           //make all of PORTD
                                outputs
89. ADCONO = 0x00;          //turns off the adc
90. ADCON1 = 0x0F;           //sets all bits to
                                digital mode
91. OSCTUNE = 0b10000000;    //this just sets the 8MHz
                                as source for 31.25kHz
92. OSCCON = 0b01110000;     //this selects the
                                internal 8MHz frequency
                                uses the primary osc as
                                clock source
93. T0CON = 0b11000111;      //this enables TMRO, sets
                                it as 8 bit and max
                                divide giving a clock
                                tick of 128us
94. setUpTheLCD ();          //This calls the
                                subroutine to
                                setUpTheLCD
95. clearTheScreen ();        //This calls the
                                subroutine to
                                clearTheScreen
96. while (1)                 //This is the forever
                                loop so that lines 81
                                to 96 are only carried
                                out once
```

```
97.    {                                //This is the opening
                                         curly bracket for the
                                         forever loop
98.    writeString ("Working 8Bit LCD");   //This calls the
                                         writeString
                                         subroutine with
                                         the phrase
                                         Working 8Bit LCD
99.    line2 ();                         //This calls the
                                         subroutine to move the
                                         cursor to the start of
                                         line 2 on the LCD
100.   lcdInfo = 0x33;                   //This loads the variable
                                         lcdInfo with the ASCII
                                         for the number 3.
101.   lcdOut ();                      //This calls the
                                         subroutine to send the
                                         data in lcdInfo to the
                                         LCD
102.   while (1);                     //This for ever loop just
                                         makes the program halt
                                         at this point and there
                                         are no instructions in
                                         this loop. Note this is a
                                         one line instruction and
                                         there are no instructions
                                         before the end of
                                         instruction terminator
                                         the semi-colon.
```

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```

103. } //closing bracket of
          the first while (1)
          loop
104. } //closing bracket of
          the main loop

```

With the 8-bit operating mode of the LCD, there is no need to swap the nibbles of the data or instruction before sending it to the LCD. This approach uses two more I/O as well as the eight outputs for the data to the LCD. The two extra I/O are for the RSPIN and the EPIN of the LCD. Overall the approach may be simpler but you do need the extra I/O pins.

The circuit layout for the 8-bit LCD is shown in Figure 6-2.

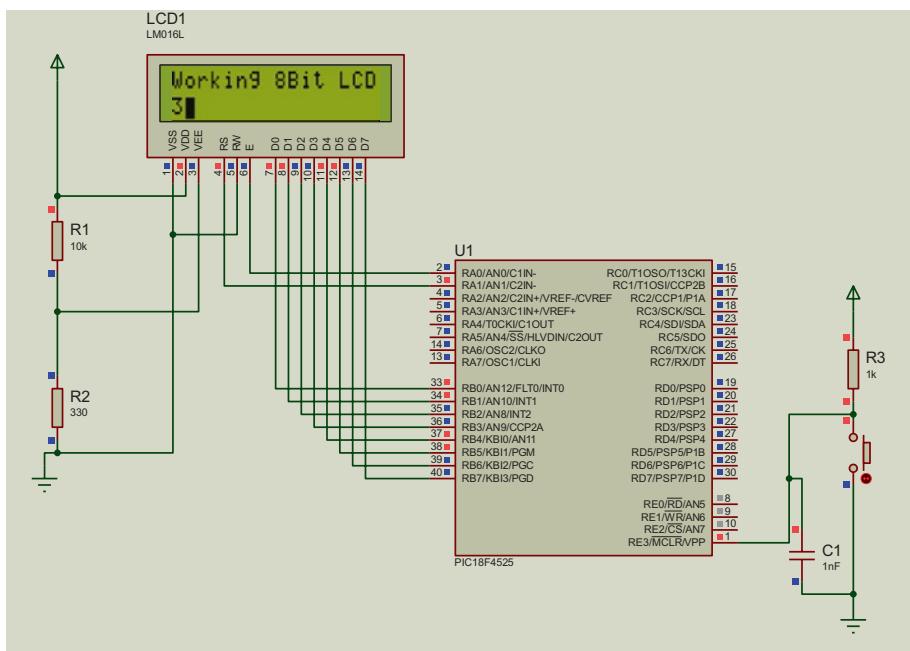


Figure 6-2. The 8-Bit LCD Circuit Note RA0 Is Connected to the EPIN and RA1 the RSPIN

The Volt Meter Program

In this extension of the previous program, we are going to combine the ADC with the use of the LCD. We are going to use the ADC to measure a variable voltage across a resistor and display the voltage on the LCD. This program will use the sprintf function that is freely available for us to use. It is a function that has been written as open source so that we can use it to display a floating point-type variable on any type of display.

The Algorithm

The program will make use of the ADC to convert an analogue input on PORTA RA0 to a digital value.

- It will convert this value to represent a voltage from 0v to 5v.
- It will then use the 4-bit LCD program and the sprintf function to display the voltage measured on the LCD screen.
- It will constantly measure the voltage at the input.
- It will need one input PORTA RA0.
- It will need eight outputs to connect to the LCD. This will be via PORTB.

The program is shown in Listing 6-3.

Listing 6-3. The Volt Meter Program

1. //some definitions
2. #define firstbyte 0b00110011
3. #define secondbyte 0b00110011

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4. #define fourBitOp 0b00110010 //this sets the LCD up for 4 bit operation instead of 8 bit
5. #define twoLines 0b00101100 //This sets the LCD to 2 lines mode
6. #define incPosition 0b00000110 //This tells the LCD to increment the cursor position after any data is displayed
7. #define cursorNoBlink 0b00001100 //this turns the cursor off so we don't see it flashing
8. #define clearScreen 0b00000001 //this clears the screen of all display
9. #define returnHome 0b00000010 //this sends the cursor back to start position on the display
10. #define lineTwo 0b11000000 //this will send the cursor to the start of line 2 on the display
11. #define doBlink 0b00001111 //this turns the cursor on and makes it blink.

```
12. #define shiftLeft      0b00010000 //this shifts  
                                the cursor one  
                                position to the  
                                left  
13. #define shiftRight     0b00010100 //this shifts  
                                the cursor one  
                                position to the  
                                right  
14. #define lcdPort       PORTB //this sets which  
                                port the LCD is  
                                connected to  
15. #define eBit           PORTBbits.RB5 //this sets  
                                the bit for  
                                the E pin on  
                                the LCD  
16. #define rspin          PORTBbits.RB4 //this sets  
                                the bit for  
                                the RS pin  
                                on the LCD  
17. //some variables  
18. unsigned char lcdData, lcdTempData, rsLine;  
19. unsigned char n;  
20. char str[80];  
21. float sysVoltage;  
22. //the subroutine  
23. void initialiseThePic ()  
24. {  
25.   PORTA = 0;  
26.   PORTB = 0;  
27.   PORTC = 0;  
28.   PORTD = 0;
```

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```
29. TRISA = 0xff;
30. TRISB = 0x00;
31. TRISC = 0x00;
32. TRISD = 0x00;
33. ADCONO = ob00000001;           //bit 0 = '1' means adc on
                                   bits 5,4,3&2 = '0' means
                                   channel 0 AN0 is selected
34. ADCON1 = ob00001011;           //bits A0 to A3 are analogue
                                   rest are digital
35. ADCON2 = ob00010001;           //select left justify 4TAD
                                   Clock = FOSC/8 i.e 1MHz
                                   TAD = 1uS
36. OSCTUNE = 0x00;
37. OSCCON = 0x74;                //this sets the internal
                                   oscillator to 8MHz stable
38. TOCON = 0XC7;                 //this turns timer 0 on,
                                   makes it an 8 bit timer
                                   with the maximum divide
                                   rate
39. }
40. char lcdInitialise [8] =      //This creates a array 8
                                   locations long and loads
                                   each location with the
                                   following data
41. {
42. firstbyte,
43. secondbyte,
44. fourBitOp,
45. twoLines,
46. incPosition,
47. cursorNoBlink,
```

```
48.    clearScreen,  
49.    returnHome,  
50.    };  
51.    void sendData ()  
52.    {  
53.        lcdTempData = (lcdTempData << 4 | lcdTempData >>4);  
54.        lcdData = lcdTempData & 0x0F;           // this basically  
55.                                         ignores the last  
56.                                         four bits of the  
57.                                         lcdTempData  
58.        lcdData = lcdData | rsLine;          // this allows us  
59.                                         to determine if  
60.                                         the info is an  
61.                                         instruction or data  
62.                                         // this sends the info  
63.                                         to the LCD  
64.                                         //These next two  
65.                                         instructions are to  
66.                                         tell the LCD new  
67.                                         data has arrived and  
68.                                         it should deal with  
69.                                         it.  
70.        eBit = 1;  
71.        TMRO = 0; while (TMRO < 20);         //this is a 2.56mS  
72.                                         delay at 7812.5Hz  
73.    }  
74.    void lcdOut ()  
75.    {  
76.        lcdTempData = lcdData;           // store the information in a  
77.                                         temporary location
```

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```
64. sendData (); //this sends the  
                high nibble of the  
                information to the  
                LCD  
65. sendData (); //this sends the  
                low nibble of the  
                information to the  
                LCD  
66. }  
67. void setUpTheLCD ()  
68. {  
69. TMRO = 0; while (TMRO <255); //a 32ms delay  
70. n = 0; //This makes the  
           variable 'n' = 0  
           ready for the while  
           loop at line 72  
71. rsLine = 0x00; // this ensures bit 4  
                   or the RS pin will be  
                   logic '0' as these  
                   are instructions  
72. while (n < 8) //whilst 'n' is less  
                   than 8 do what is  
                   inside the curly  
                   brackets.  
73. {  
74. lcdData = lcdInitialise [n]; //Load the variable lcdData  
                                with particular contents  
                                of the memory location in  
                                the array lcdInitialise  
                                the pointer is currently  
                                pointing to.
```

```
75. lcdOut (); //send that information to  
76. n++;  
77. }  
78. rsLine = 0x10; //this ensures bit 4 of the  
79. } rsLine is a logic '1' for  
80. void line2 () data  
81. {  
82. rsLine = 0x00; // this ensures bit 4 or the  
83. lcdData = lineTwo; RS pin will be logic '0' as  
84. lcdOut (); these are instructions  
85. rsLine = 0x10;; //this ensures bit 4 of the  
86. } rsLine is a logic '1' for  
87. void clearTheScreen () data  
88. {  
89. rsLine = 0x00; // this ensures bit 4 or the  
90. lcdData = clearScreen; RS pin will be logic '0' as  
91. lcdOut (); //this loads the variable  
//This creates the subroutine  
//This sends the instruction  
//to the LCD
```

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```
92. lcdData = returnHome;           //this loads the variable  
                                  lcdData with the  
                                  instruction to return  
                                  the cursor to the home  
                                  position.  
93. lcdOut ();                   //This sends the instruction  
                                  to the LCD  
94. rsLine = 0x10;                //this ensures bit 4 of the  
                                  rsLine is a logic '1' for  
                                  data  
95. }  
96. void gohome ()               //This creates the  
                                  subroutine gohome  
97. {  
98. rsLine = 0x00;                // this ensures bit 4 or the  
                                  RS pin will be logic '0'  
                                  as these are instructions  
99. lcdData = returnHome;         //this loads the variable  
                                  lcdData with the  
                                  instruction to return  
                                  the cursor to the home  
                                  position.  
100. lcdOut ();                 //This sends the instruction  
                                  to the LCD  
101. rsLine = 0x10;                //this ensures bit 4 of the  
                                  rsLine is a logic '1' for  
                                  data  
102. }  
103. void writeString (const char *words)  
104. {
```

```
105. while (*words)          // while the *words pointer  
     is not pointing to the NULL  
     char do what is inside the  
     curly brackets  
106. {  
107. lcdData = *words;      //load what the *words pointer  
                           is pointing to into the  
                           variable lcdData  
108. lcdOut ();           // call the subroutine to pass  
                           the data to the LCD  
109. *words++;            // increment the contents of  
                           the pointer so that it is  
                           pointing to the next char in  
                           the array  
110. }  
111. }  
112. void systemVoltage () //This creates a subroutine to  
                           use the ADC to measure the  
                           voltage  
113. {  
114. ADCONobits.GODONE = 1; //This starts an ADC process  
115. while (ADCONobits.GODONE); //This waits till the ADC  
                           has finished  
116. sysVoltage = (ADRESH*0.01953+ (ADRESL >>6)*0.0049);  
                           //This converts the binary  
                           value from the ADC to the  
                           actual voltage.  
117. }  
118. void displayVoltage(float dp) //This creates a  
                           subroutine to  
                           display the voltage  
                           on the LCD
```

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```
119. {
120.     sprintf(str, "% .2f", dp); //This use the function
                                   sprintf to display the
                                   floating point value using
                                   2 decimal points
121.     writeString(str);      //This calls the writeString
                               subroutine to send the value
                               to the LCD
122.     writeString(" Volts"); //This calls the writeString
                               subroutine to send the word
                               Volts to the LCD
123. }
124. //The main program
125. void main ()
126. {
127.     initialiseThePic ();      //This calls the
                               subroutine to initialise
                               the PIC
128.     setUpTheLCD ();        //This calls the
                               subroutine to set up the
                               LCD
129.     while (1)                This is a for ever loop
130.     {
131.         writeString ("The Voltage is"); // this sends the
                                         string "the voltage
                                         is" to the LCD
132.         line2 ();           // call the subroutine line2
                               to move the cursor to the
                               beginning of line two on
                               the LCD
```

```

133. systemVoltage ();           //This calls the subroutine
                                 systemVoltage to go and
                                 measure the voltage
134. displayVoltage (sysVoltage); //This calls the subroutine
                                 displayVoltage to display
                                 the voltage on the LCD
135. gohome ();                //This calls the subroutine
                                 gohome to send the cursor
                                 on the LCD back to the home
                                 position.

136. }
137. }

```

The New Aspects of the Program

The following sections highlight some of the new aspects of the program via three new subroutines.

The gohome Subroutine

```

1. void gohome ()           //This creates the
                           subroutine gohome
2. {
3.   rsLine = 0x00;          // this ensures bit 4 or the
                           RS pin will be logic '0' as
                           these are instructions
4.   lcdData = returnHome;  //this loads the variable
                           lcdData with the
                           instruction to return
                           the cursor to the home
                           position.

```

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```
5.     lcdOut ();          //This sends the instruction  
                      to the LCD  
6.     rsLine = 0x10;       //this ensures bit 4 of the  
                      rsLine is a logic '1' for  
                      data
```

The sysVoltage Subroutine

```
1.     void systemVoltage () // This subroutine starts a  
                      conversion and stores the  
                      result into a variable called  
                      sysVoltage. Note sysVoltage must  
                      be of type float as it will be a  
                      decimal number  
2.     {                  //opening curly brackets of the  
                      systemVoltage subroutine  
3.     ADCONobits.GODONE = 1; //This starts the ADC conversion by  
                      setting bit 1 of ADCONO  
4.     while (ADCONobits.GODONE); //This waits for bit 1 of  
                      the ADCONO register to go  
                      to logic'0' This happens  
                      automatically when the  
                      conversion ends  
5.     sysVoltage = (ADRESH*0.01953 + (ADRESL >>6)*0.0049);  
                      //this line is explained  
                      below.  
6.     }                  //closing curly brackets of the  
                      systemVoltage subroutine
```

Line 5 is used to convert the 10-bit result of the ADC conversion into an actual voltage reading. Firstly, you should remember that the 10 bit is split into an 8-bit number and a 2-bit number. Using left justification, the 8

bit is stored in the ADRESH register, and the other 2 bits are stored in bit 7 and bit 6 of the ADRESL register; see Figure 5-1. The 8 bits in the ADRESH have a resolution of 19.53mV, whereas the 2 bits in the ADRESL register have a resolution of 4.9mV; that is why both binary values have been multiplied as shown. However, before the 2 bits in the ADRESL register can be multiplied, they must be shifted 6 places to the right to move bit6 to bit0 and bit7 to bit1; that is why there is the symbol “>>6”. In this way, you can use all 10 bits of the ADC instead of just the 8 bits in the ADRESH. This makes the result much more accurate.

It should be pointed out that the variable sysVoltage must be declared as a float in the variable declarations.

The displayVoltage Subroutine

```
1. void displayVoltage(float dp)           //This subroutine uses  
                                         the sprintf function to  
                                         display the contents of  
                                         a float onto the LCD  
                                         display  
2. {                                         //opening curly brackets of the displayVoltage  
                                         subroutine  
3. sprintf(str, "%.2f", dp);           //This calls the sprintf  
                                         function with the float  
                                         that has been passed down  
                                         to the subroutine  
4. writeString(str);                  //This sends the result of  
                                         the sprintf function, str,  
                                         to the display by calling  
                                         the writeString subroutine
```

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```
5.     writeString(" Volts");           //This calls the writeString
                                         subroutine to display the
                                         word Volts with a space
                                         before it
6.   }                                //closing curly brackets of the
                                         displayVoltage subroutine
```

NB: To use the sprintf function, we must include the library that this function is written in. This is in the stdio.h header file. This means we must have the following include instruction as shown here:

```
#include < stdio.h>
```

This is added with the other include files and all the configuration words as is with all projects.

Changing the Main Part of the Program

I have created a subroutine called initialiseThePic. This is just another way of making sure we only run these instructions once as we only call this subroutine once. However, you must make sure the calling of this subroutine is the first thing your program does.

```
1.   while (1)                  //the forever loop
2.   {                           //opening curly brackets of the while (1)
3.     writeString ("the voltage is");    // this sends the
                                         string "the voltage
                                         is" to the LCD
4.     line2 ();                 // call the subroutine line2
                                         to move the cursor to the
                                         beginning of line two on the
                                         LCD
```

```

5.     systemVoltage ();           //This calls the subroutine
                                     systemVoltage where the adc
                                     is started and the result
                                     is store in the variable
                                     sysVoltage
6.     displayVoltage (sysVoltage); //This calls the subroutine
                                     displayVoltage and passes
                                     the variable sysVoltage to it
7.     gohome ();                 //This calls the subroutine to
                                     send the LCD cursor back to
                                     the beginning of the display
8.   }                           //closing curly brackets of the while (1)

```

Figure 6-3 is the PROTEUS circuit with the PIC measuring and displaying the voltage.

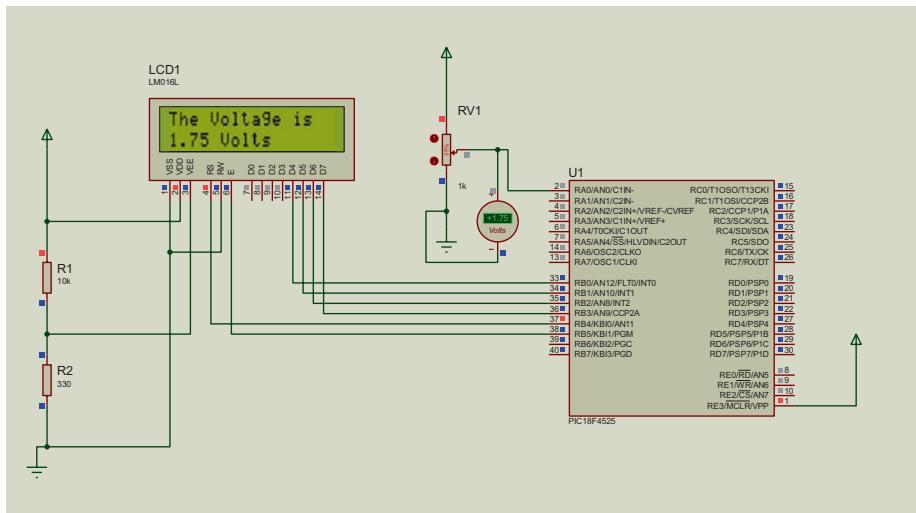


Figure 6-3. The Proteus Simulation

Creating Special Characters on the LCD

This program works on the concept that the LCD displays the different characters by turning on and off different pixels in a grid of pixels. The size of the pixel grid depends on the resolution of the LCD display. The resolution of the LCD in this exercise can be either 5 by 8 or 5 by 16 depending on whether or not we use 2 rows of 16 characters or 1 row of 16 characters on the LCD display. For our programs, we will use 2 rows of 16 characters; therefore, the resolution of each character is a 5 by 8 grid. The empty grid is shown in Figure 6-4.

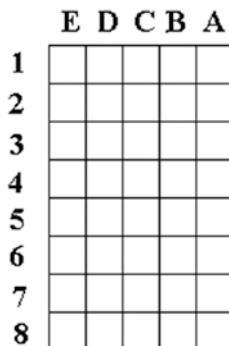


Figure 6-4. The Empty 5-by-8 Grid

Each of the memory locations holds an array of 8 bytes, one for each row in the LCD display grid. Note that a byte is made up of 8 single bits, b7, b6, b5, b4, b3, b2, b1, and b0 going from left to right. The first five bits of each byte controls the five pixels in each row of the grid. B0 maps on to A, B1 maps on to B, B2 maps on to C, B3 maps onto D, and B4 maps onto E.

To enable programmers to design their own characters, the LCD has 16 empty memory areas known as CGRAM. The actual addresses of this memory area are 00000000 to 00001111.

The programmer can write their own 8 bytes to be stored in these memory areas. However, to do this, the programmer must send an

instruction to the LCD to tell it that we want to write data to be stored in this area. The 8-bit binary code for this instruction is 0b01000000 or 0X40. This is an instruction that the next information that follows is to be written into the first area of the CGRAM. There must now follow 8 bytes of data, and the first five bits of each byte defines which pixel will be turned on or off; a logic ‘1’ means turn on the pixel, and logic ‘0’ means turn the pixel off. There must be 8 bytes as with a resolution of 5 by 8, there will be 8 bytes in each memory area. When the eighth byte has been sent, the LCD will automatically open up the next area of the CGRAM. The LCD will now expect another 8 bytes of data until it has been told you have finished writing to the CGRAM.

To tell the LCD you have finished writing to the CGRAM, you must send the following instruction: 0b10000000 or 0X80. Note that the codes 0X40 and 0X80 are instructions and the LCD has to be put into that mode, whereas the following 8 bytes after the 0X40 instruction are data and the LCD must be put into that mode.

To try and help appreciate how the 8 bytes can define the pixel map for one special character, the following 8 bytes can be used to define the special character shown in Figure 6-5.

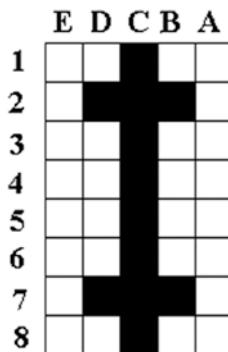


Figure 6-5. The Pixel Map for a Special Character to Display on the LCD

The bytes are shown in Table 6-3.

Table 6-3. The 8 Bytes for Pixel Map Shown in Figure 6-5

ROW	B7	B6	B5	B4	B3	B2	B1	B0
	E	D	C	B	A			
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

I hope this example goes someway to explaining how you can create some special characters to display on the LCD. To complete the explanation, I will write a program to display a series of special characters on the LCD.

The program is shown in Listing 6-4.

Listing 6-4. The Special Characters Program

1. /*This is a basic program to control the LCD using the PIC 18F4525
2. Written by H H Ward dated 31/10/15.
3. It is for use with the matrix multimedia prototype board
4. using 4 bit operation on PORTB
5. Extended to include creating special characters 27/03/16*/
6. //some definitions

7. #define firstbyte 0b00110011 // The first instruction to be sent to the LCD
8. #define secondbyte 0b00110011 // The second instruction to be sent to the LCD
9. #define fourBitOp 0b00110010 // Instruction to put the LCD into 4 bit data mode
10. #define twoLines 0b00101100 //Instruction to set the LCD into 2 lines of characters
11. #define incPosition 0b00000110 //Instruction to make LCD to automatically move the cursor one position after displaying a character
12. #define cursorNoBlink 0b00001100 //Instruction to make not show the cursor on the LCD
13. #define clearScreen 0b00000001 //Instruction to make clear the contents of the display
14. #define returnHome 0b00000010 //Instruction to make cursor to move to the start of the display
15. #define lineTwo 0b11000000 //Instruction to make cursor go to start of line 2 on the display.

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```
16. #define doBlink    ob00001111           //Instruction to make  
                                         display the cursor  
                                         as a Blinking  
                                         rectangle on the  
                                         display.  
17. #define shiftLeft     ob00010000        //Instruction to send  
                                         the cursor one  
                                         place to the left.  
18. #define shiftRight    ob00010100        //Instruction to  
                                         send the cursor one  
                                         place to the right  
19. #define lcdPort      PORTB             //tells the compiler  
                                         the LCD is  
                                         connected to portB  
20. #define eBit          PORTBbits.RB5   //tells the compiler  
                                         the ebit is on bit5  
                                         of portb  
21. #define startButton   PORTAbits.RA0   //tells the compiler  
                                         the waitbutton is  
                                         on bit0 of porta  
22. //some variables this idea is to use comments to split  
     the program up into different sections.  
23. unsigned char lcdData, lcdTempData, rsLine; //declare some  
                                         variables  
                                         as unsigned  
                                         char  
24. unsigned char n;                         //declare some variables  
                                         as unsigned char  
25. //the subroutine
```

```
26. char lcdInitialis [8] = //This sets up an array
                           of 8 memory locations
                           and loads each location
                           with one of the
                           instructions to set up
                           the LCD
27. {
                           //the opening bracket of the
                           array
28. firstbyte,
29. secondbyte,
30. fourBitOp,
31. twoLines,
32. incPosition,
33. cursorNoBlink,
34. clearScreen,
35. returnHome,
36. }; //the closing bracket of
                           the array
37. void sendData () // a subroutine to send data
                           to the LCD
38. {
                           //the opening bracket of the
                           subroutine
39. lcdTempData = (lcdTempData <<4 | lcdTempData >>4);
                           //this swaps the two nibbles around.
40. lcdData = lcdTempData & 0x0F; //this loads the variable
                           lcdData with the swapped
                           around data in lcdTempData
                           but only with the first 4
                           bits.
```

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```
41. lcdData = lcdData | rsLine;           //this performs a logical  
                                         OR with lcdData and rsLine  
                                         this is the control what  
                                         bit 4 of the lcdData is  
                                         //send info to LCD  
42. lcdPort = lcdData;                  //this sets the eBit to a  
                                         logic '1'  
43. eBit = 1;                          //this sets the eBit to a  
                                         logic '0' done to tell  
                                         the LCD it has some  
                                         new data  
44. eBit = 0;  
  
45. TMRO = 0; while (TMRO < 20);       //this is a 2.56mS delay  
                                         at 7812.5Hz  
46. }                                  //closing bracket if the  
                                         sendData subroutine  
47. void lcdOut ()                     // a subroutine to  
                                         manipulate the data in  
                                         variable lcdOut  
48. {                                  //the opening bracket of  
                                         the subroutine  
49. lcdTempData = lcdData;            //saves a copy of  
                                         lcdData in lcdTempData  
50. sendData ();                      //calls the subroutine  
                                         send Data for first  
                                         time  
51. sendData ();                      //calls the  
                                         subroutine send Data  
                                         for second time  
52. }                                  //the closing bracket of  
                                         the subroutine  
53. void setUpTheLCD ()              //sets up the subroutine  
                                         to set Up the LCD
```

```
54.    { //the opening bracket of  
      // the subroutine  
55.    rsLine = 0x00; // this loads the  
                      variable rsLine with  
                      0. This is done to  
                      make sure bit 4 is  
                      a logic '0' to tell  
                      the LCD the next  
                      information is an  
                      instruction.  
56.    n = 0; //this loads 0 into  
              // the variable 'n'  
              // done to make sure  
              // the following while  
              // instruction starts  
              // with n = 0  
57.    while (n < 8) //sets up the while loop  
                  // which is carried out 8  
                  // times  
58.    { //opening bracket of the  
          // while loop  
59.    lcdData = lcdInitialis [n]; //this loads variable  
                                  // lcdData with data  
                                  // from the lcdInitialis  
                                  // array. This will be  
                                  // the data in the first  
                                  // location in the array  
                                  // if n = 0 but it is  
                                  // controlled by the  
                                  // value of n  
60.    lcdOut (); //this calls the  
                  // subroutine lcdOut
```

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```
61.    n++;
62. }
63. rsLine = 0x10;
64. }
65. void line2 ()
66. {
67. rsLine = 0x00;
68. lcdData = lineTwo;
```

//this adds 1 to the value of n to make sure we use the next location in the array lcdInitials unless n = 8

//this is the closing brackets of the while loop

//this loads the variable rsLine with 0x10. This makes sure but 4 is now a logic '1' ready to tell the LCD the next information will be data to be displayed.

//this is the closing bracket of the setUpTheLcd subroutine.

// a subroutine named line2. This is a routine to send the cursor to the beginning of line2 on the LCD

//the opening bracket of the subroutine

//load rsLine with 0 to make sure we tell the LCD the next information is an instruction.

//loads the variable lcdData with the instruction to move cursor to beginning of line 2

```
69. lcdOut (); //call the subroutine lcdOut  
70. rsLine = 0x10; to send the instruction to  
71. } the LCD  
72. void writeString //load rsLine with 0b00010000  
    (const char *words) to make sure we bit 4 is a  
73. { logic '1' this will tell the  
74. while (*words) LCD the next information is  
    //the opening bracket of the data to be display  
    //the while instruction that subroutine  
    //states that while we are not at the end of the array  
    //pointed to be the pointer *words then do what is  
    //between the curly brackets.  
75. { //the opening bracket of the while statement  
76. lcdData = *words; //load the variable lcdData with the contents of the array  
    //memory location the pointer 8words is pointing to.  
77. lcdOut (); //call the subroutine lcdOut to send the instruction to the LCD
```

CHAPTER 6 USING THE LCD

```
78. *words++;
   //increment the pointer
   *words to ensure it is now
   pointing to the next memory
   location in the array
   words.

79. }
   //the closing bracket of the
   while statement

80. }
   //the closing bracket of the
   subroutine

81. char firstCharacter [8] =
   //this sets up an array of
   8 locations and loads each
   location with the data to
   create the pixel map for
   the character shown above
   in Figure 6-5

82. {
   //the following 8 bytes are
   the data for the character
   in Figure 6-5

83. 0b00000100,
84. 0b00001110,
85. 0b00000100,
86. 0b00000100,
87. 0b00000100,
88. 0b00000100,
89. 0b00001110,
90. 0b00000100,
91. };
92. char secondCharacter [8] =
   //this sets up an array of
   8 locations and loads each
   location with the data to
   create the pixel map for
   the next character
```

```
93.  {
94.  ob00010101,
95.  ob00010101,
96.  ob00010101,
97.  ob00010101,
98.  ob00010101,
99.  ob00010101,
100. ob00010001,
101. ob00010001,
102. };
103. char thirdCharacter [8] =           //this sets up an array
                                            of 8 locations and
                                            loads each location
                                            with the data to create
                                            the pixel map for the
                                            next character

104. {
105. ob00000001,
106. ob00000001,
107. ob00000001,
108. ob00000011,
109. ob00000011,
110. ob00000011,
111. ob00000011,
112. ob00000011,
113. };
114. char fourthCharacter [8] =          //this sets up an array
                                            of 8 locations and
                                            loads each location
                                            with the data to create
                                            the pixel map for the
                                            next character
```

CHAPTER 6 USING THE LCD

```
115. {
116.     0b00010001,
117.     0b00010001,
118.     0b00000100,
119.     0b00000100,
120.     0b00011011,
121.     0b00011011,
122.     0b00011111,
123.     0b00001110,
124. };
125. void clearTheScreen ()           //a subroutine to get the
                                         LCD to clear the screen
126. {
127.     rsLine = 0x00;                //instruction mode
128.     lcdData = clearScreen;      //load the variable lcdData
                                         with the instruction to
                                         clear the screen
129.     lcdOut ();                  //send the instruction to
                                         the LCD
130.     lcdData = returnHome;       //instruction to send the
                                         cursor to the beginning
                                         of the screen
131.     lcdOut ();                  //data mode
132.     rsLine = 0x10;
133. }
134. void writeToGram ()            //this is a subroutine to
                                         write code to the CGram
                                         locations in the LCD
135. {
```

```
136. rsLine = 0x00;           // ready for instruction.  
137. lcdData = 0x40;         //tells the LCD to open the  
                           first address in CGRAM  
                           area ready for us to write  
                           data into them  
138. lcdOut ();             //calls the subroutine to  
                           send info to LCD  
139. rsLine = 0x10;           // ready for data as we  
                           have finished sending  
                           instructions.  
140. n = 0;                  //load n with 0 ready for  
                           the following while loop  
141. while (n < 8)           //do the following whilst n  
                           is less than 8  
142. {  
143. lcdData = firstCharacter [n];    //loads lcdData with  
                           the data from the  
                           array identified by  
                           the variable 'n'  
144. lcdOut ();             //calls the subroutine to start sending the  
                           information to the LCD  
145. n++;                   //increment the variable n so it is looking  
                           at the next location in the array.  
146. }  
147. n = 0;                  //loads n with zero ready to send the  
                           next character to the LCD  
148. while (n < 8)  
149. {  
150. lcdData = secondCharacter [n];  
151. lcdOut ();  
152. n++;  
153. }
```

CHAPTER 6 USING THE LCD

```
154. n = 0;                                //loads n with zero ready to send  
                                              the next character to the LCD  
155. while (n < 8)  
156. {  
157. lcdData = thirdCharacter [n];  
158. lcdOut ();  
159. n ++;  
160. }  
161. n = 0;                                //loads n with zero ready to send  
                                              the next character to the LCD  
162. while (n < 8)  
163. {  
164. lcdData = fourthCharacter [n];  
165. lcdOut ();  
166. n ++;  
167. }  
168. rsLine = 0x00;                          //get ready for instruction  
169. lcdData = 0x80;                          //command to go to DDRAM address  
170. lcdOut ();  
171. rsLine = 0x10;                          //ready for data  
172. }  
173. void main ()                         //the start of the main loop  
174. {  
175. PORTA = 0;                            //the following 4 instructions loads 0  
                                              into the 4 ports just to make sure they  
                                              are not turning anything on  
176. PORTB = 0;  
177. PORTC = 0;  
178. PORTD = 0;  
179. TRISA = 0xff;                         // loads logic '1' to all bits in TRISA  
                                              thus making all porta inputs
```

```
180. TRISB = 0x00;      // loads logic '0' to all bits in TRISB  
                      // thus making all portb outputs  
181. TRISC = 0x00;      // loads logic '0' to all bits in TRISC  
                      // thus making all portc outputs  
182. TRISD = 0x00;      // loads logic '0' to all bits in TRISD  
                      // thus making all portd outputs  
183. ADCON0 = 0x00;     //turns off the adc  
184. ADCON1 = 0x0F;     //sets all bits to digital mode  
185. OSCTUNE = 0b10000000;          //this just sets the 8MHz as  
                                         source for 31.25kHz  
186. OSCCON = 0b01110100;          //this selects the internal  
                                         8MHz frequency stable uses  
                                         the primary osc as clock  
                                         source  
187. TOCON = 0b11000111;          //this enables TMRO, sets  
                                         it as 8 bit and max divide  
                                         giving T812.5Hz therefore  
                                         128usec per tic  
188. TMRO = 0;                //this load 0 into the TMRO  
                                         register to ensure we start  
                                         counting from 0  
189. while (TMRO < 255);        //whilst TMRO is less than  
                                         255 do nothing. This is an  
                                         initial 32.6ms delay before  
                                         sending any info to lcd  
190. setUpTheLCD ();           //call the setUpTheLCD  
                                         subroutine.  
191. clearTheScreen ();         //call the subroutine to  
                                         clear the screen and send  
                                         cursor back to start of the  
                                         display.
```

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```
192. writeToGram ();           //call the subroutine to  
                             write the data for the  
                             special characters to the  
                             Gram of the LCD  
  
193. while (!startButton);    //make the program wait until  
                             the start button on porta  
                             has been pressed and so  
                             gone to a logic '1'  
  
194. while (1)                //set up the forever loop so  
                             that the PIC does not do  
                             the previous instructions  
                             again.  
  
195. {                      //opening bracket of the  
                             forever loop  
  
196. writeString ("Special Chars"); //calls the subroutine  
                                         writeString and sends  
                                         the string Special  
                                         Chars to be displayed  
                                         on the LCD  
  
197. lcdData = 0x31;          //this loads the variable  
                             lcdData with value 0x31  
                             this is the ASCII for the  
                             number 1.  
  
198. lcdOut ();              //sends the data to the LCD  
  
199. lcdData = 0x32;          //this loads the variable  
                             lcdData with value 0x32  
                             this is the ASCII for the  
                             number 2.  
  
200. lcdOut ();
```

```
201. lcdData = 0x33; //this loads the variable  
                      lcdData with value 0x33  
                      this is the ASCII for the  
                      number 3.  
  
202. lcdOut (); //calls the subroutine to move  
                  the cursor to beginning of  
                  line 2 on the LCD display  
  
203. line2 ();  
  
204. lcdOut ();  
205. lcdData = 0x00; //this loads the variable  
                      lcdData with the value 0  
                      this is the address of the  
                      first area in the CGram of  
                      the LCD.  
  
206. lcdOut ();  
207. lcdData = 0x01; //this loads the variable  
                      lcdData with the value 1  
                      this is the address of the  
                      second area in the CGram of  
                      the LCD.  
  
208. lcdOut ();  
209. lcdData = 0x02; //this loads the variable  
                      lcdData with the value 2  
                      this is the address of the  
                      third area in the CGram of  
                      the LCD.  
  
210. lcdOut ();  
211. lcdData = 0x03; //this loads the variable  
                      lcdData with the value 3  
                      this is the address of the  
                      fourth area in the CGram of  
                      the LCD.
```

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```
212. lcdOut ();
213. lcdData = 0x20; //this loads the variable
                      lcdData with the ASCII for
                      the space see Table 6-1

214. lcdOut ();
215. lcdData = 0x48; //this loads the variable
                      lcdData with the ASCII for
                      capital H see Table 6-1

216. lcdOut ();
217. lcdData = 0x2E; //this loads the variable
                      lcdData with the ASCII
                      for the full stop, see
                      Table 6-1.

218. lcdOut ();
219. lcdData = 0x57; //this loads the variable
                      lcdData with the ASCII for
                      capital W

220. lcdOut ();
221. lcdData = 0x2E; //this loads the variable
                      lcdData with the ASCII for
                      the full stop.

222. lcdOut ();
223. rsLine = 0x00; //sets the variable rsLine to
                      0 ready to tell the LCD the
                      next info is an instruction

224. lcdData = returnHome; //loads the variable lcdData
                           with the instruction to
                           return the cursor back to
                           the beginning of the LCD

225. lcdOut ();
```

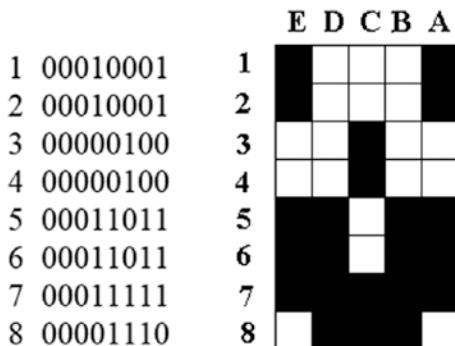
```
226. rsLine = 0x10;           //sets the variable rsLine  
                           to 1 ready to tell the LCD  
                           the next info is data to be  
                           displayed  
227. }                   //the closing brackets of the forever loop  
228. }                   //the closing brackets of the main loop
```

This program should help reinforce the principle that when we send information to the LCD, we are actually sending a number which represents the address of an area in the LCD's ram. Note that there are two areas of the LCD's ram that of the CGRAM where the user can store bytes that define the bytes of any special characters that the user wants to display. The other area of ram, the DDRAM, is where the manufacturers have stored the bytes for all the ASCII characters.

If you examine line 205 in Listing 6-4, you will see that we are loading the variable lcdData with the value 00000000 or 0x00. This is the address of the first area in the CGRAM where we have written the 8 bytes that define the pixel map for our first special character. Then in line 213, we load the value of 0010000 or 0x20. This is the address in the DDRAM where the manufacturer has stored the 8 bytes that define the pixel map for space or empty character. Again, it should be noted that the address in the DDRAM corresponds to the actual ASCII character the memory area stores the pixel map data.

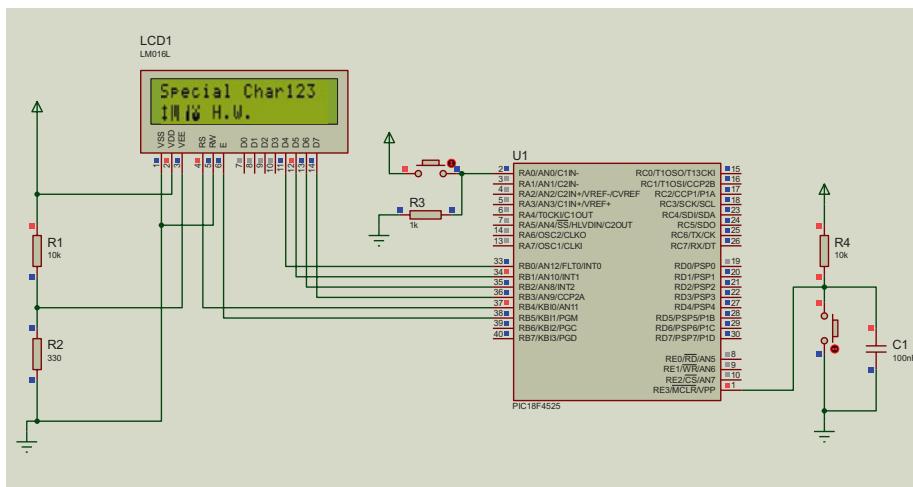
This is a very wordy description of how the LCD works and how we construct the 'C' commands to control the LCD. I think it is important that you understand how you construct your instructions and how you use them. By increasing your understanding, you will become a better programmer.

The array defined from lines 114 to 124 defines the map for the special character shown in Figure 6-6.

**Figure 6-6.** The Character Map for My Face

It should be noted that it is only the first 5 bits; b4, b3, b2, b1, and b0 and a logic '1' will turn the corresponding pixel on, whereas a logic '0' will turn it off. This concept is reinforced in Figure 6-6.

The simulation of this program is shown in Figure 6-7.

**Figure 6-7.** The Special Characters Simulation

Summary

In this chapter we have studied how to set up the LCD and how to use the LCD to display the ASCII characters. We have also learnt how to display special characters that we can design ourselves.

We have also learnt how to use the ADC and use the sprint function to display the results of the ADC on the display.

The next chapter looks at the very useful concept of creating and using header files.

CHAPTER 7

Creating a Header File

This chapter covers how to create a header file. It then uses a header file in a program to control the LCD in 4-bit mode.

Header Files

These can be used to reduce the size of a program listing and split a program up into different sections for different members of a team to work on. These header files will all be brought together using the #include statement in the main program.

One of the most useful applications of header files is when a lot of programs are going to use a peripheral device in **exactly** the same way in all the programs. One of the main peripheral devices we will use in our programs is the LCD screen. The approach would be to put the instructions for the LCD into a header file with the extension .h. Then include the header file in all the programs you want to use it in. You should realize that in all the programs; so far we have already used a header file; this is the xc.h file we have included in all our programs so far.

Creating a Header File

To create a header file, we simply copy the instructions we want and place in a new file with the .h extension. You should give the header file a useful

CHAPTER 7 CREATING A HEADER FILE

name that explains what it is to be used for. The following will explain how to create a header file using the instructions from the volt meter program we have just created.

Make sure the project window with the project tree is visible as shown in Figure 7-1.

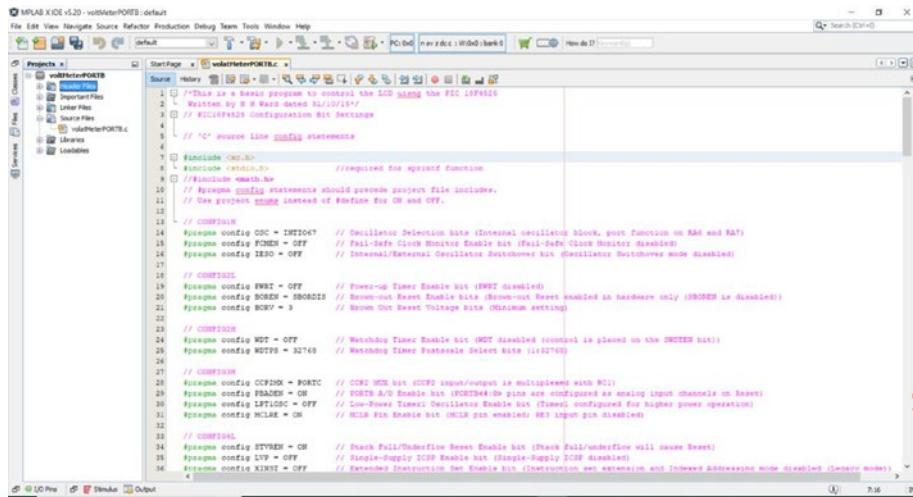


Figure 7-1. The Main Screen with the Project Tree Visible

If the project tree is not visible, then click on the “Window” option in the main menu, and select the project option from the drop-down menu that appears. You may have to move the window around the screen. This is something you will have to practice as it is not my intention to explain how to use every aspect of MPLABX; that is a book in itself.

With the project tree visible, right click on the Header File section as shown in Figure 7-1. Then select new, and then select the “New xc8_header.h” option. The window, as shown in Figure 7-2, should appear.

Give the file a suitable name that goes someway to describing what the header file is for and give it the extension .h; you must give it the correct extension. I have given it the name “LCD4bitOnPortb” as shown in Figure 7-2.

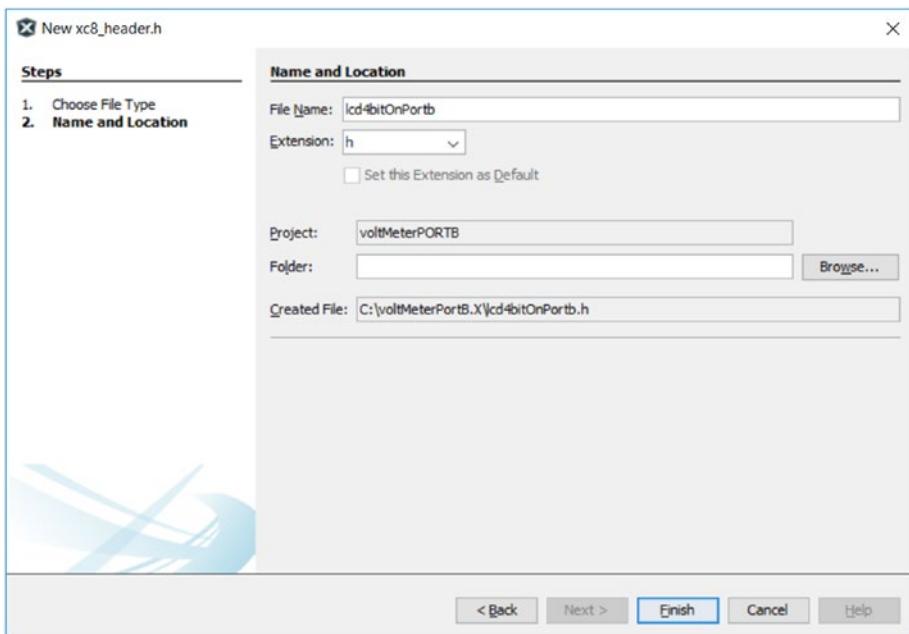


Figure 7-2. The New Empty File Window for the Header File

When you are happy with the file name, simply click finish, and you will be presented with the file ready for you to insert the instructions you want to put it in it. However, Microchip will have inserted a lot of text. I tend to delete all this so that I have an empty file. This is shown in Figure 7-3.

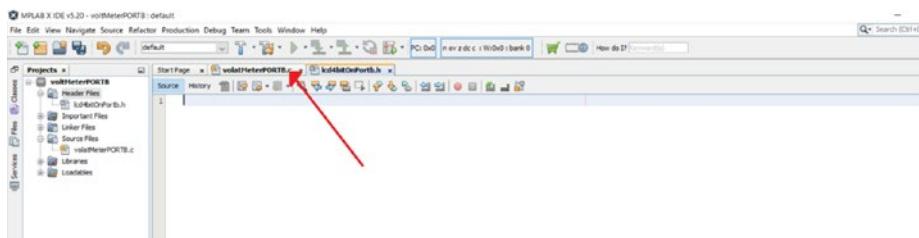
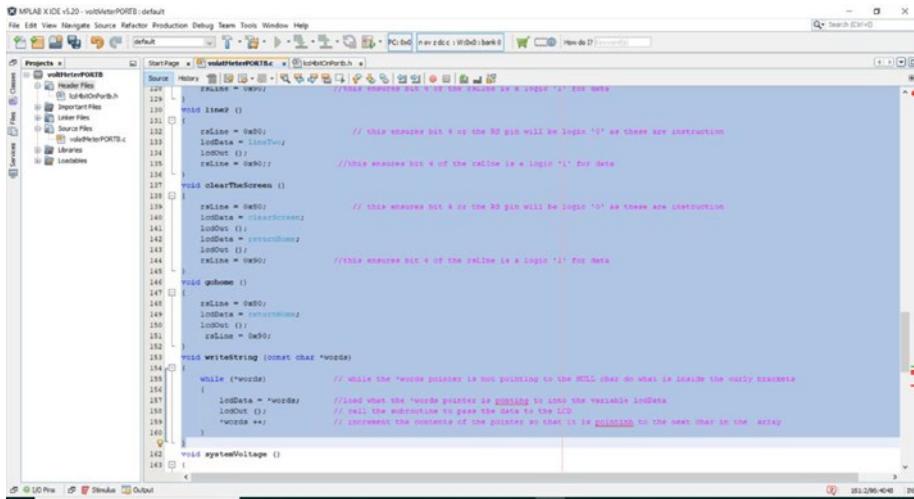


Figure 7-3. The Header File Editing Window

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Now select the tab that will open the program ‘c’ file, which contains the instructions you want to use. This is what the red arrow is pointing to. This ‘c’ file should now be visible in the editing window. Now, using the mouse, select all the instructions that you will use to set up and control the LCD. You should also select all the definitions and all subroutines used for the LCD. These instructions will become the contents of the header file. This is shown in Figure 7-4.



```
1 // MPLAB X IDE v5.20 - voltmetervPORTB - default
2 File Edit View Navigate Source Refactor Production Debug Team Tools Window Help
3 Start Page voltmetervPORTB.c voltmetervPORTB.h Project Properties Import File New Source File voltmetervPORTB.c Libraries Locations
4
5 void line0()
6 {
7     rsLine = 0x80; // this ensures bit 4 of the rsline is a logic '0' as these are instruction
8     lcdData = lcdTemp;
9     lcdNmt = 0;
10    lcdData = reverseData;
11    lcdNmt = 0;
12    rsLine = 0x80; //this ensures bit 4 of the rsline is a logic '1' for data
13 }
14
15 void clearTheScreen()
16 {
17     rsLine = 0x80; // this ensures bit 4 or the RS pin will be logic '0' as these are instruction
18     lcdData = clearScreen;
19     lcdNmt = 0;
20     lcdData = reverseData;
21     lcdNmt = 0;
22     rsLine = 0x80; //this ensures bit 4 of the rsline is a logic '1' for data
23 }
24
25 void column()
26 {
27     rsLine = 0x80;
28     lcdData = reverseData;
29     lcdNmt = 0;
30     rsLine = 0x80;
31 }
32
33 void writeString (const char *word)
34 {
35     while (*word) // while the *word pointer is not pointing to the NULL char do what is inside the curly brackets
36     {
37         lcdData = *word; //load what the *word pointer is pointing to into the variable lcdData
38         lcdNmt = 0; //call the subroutine to pass the data to the LCD
39         *word++; // increment the contents of the pointer so that it is pointing to the next char in the .array
40     }
41 }
42
43 void systemVoltage()
44 {
45 }
```

Figure 7-4. Selecting the Instructions to Copy into the Header File

Note that the first instruction that should be selected is the start of the definitions used for the instructions to set up the LCD. This is shown in Figure 7-5.

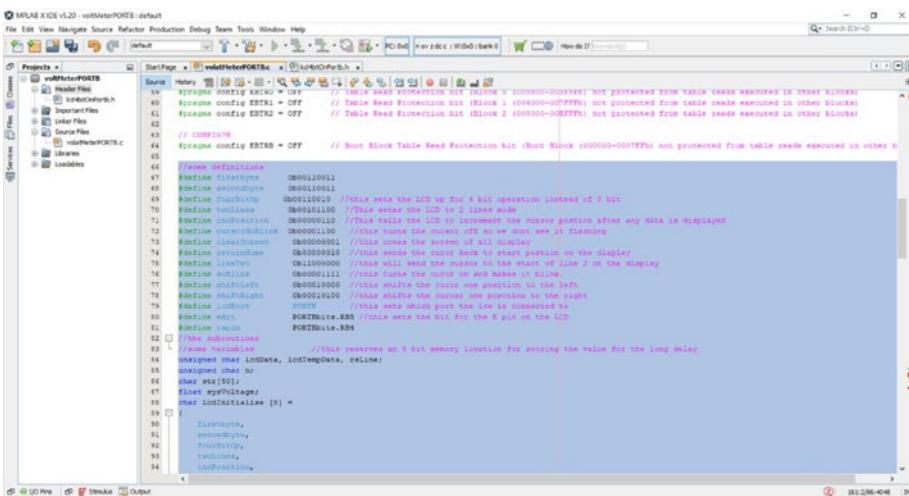


Figure 7-5. The Start of the Selection of the Instructions for the Header File

Now that you have selected all the required instructions, cut all of them out of your program file. Then reopen the new header file, and paste the instructions into this file. You will need to save the contents of the new header file.

Including the Header File into Your Program

Now that you have cut all the LCD instructions from the 'c' program file, we need to tell this 'c' file where it can find the newly created header file. There are two ways of doing this; one involves a local header file and the other involves a global header file.

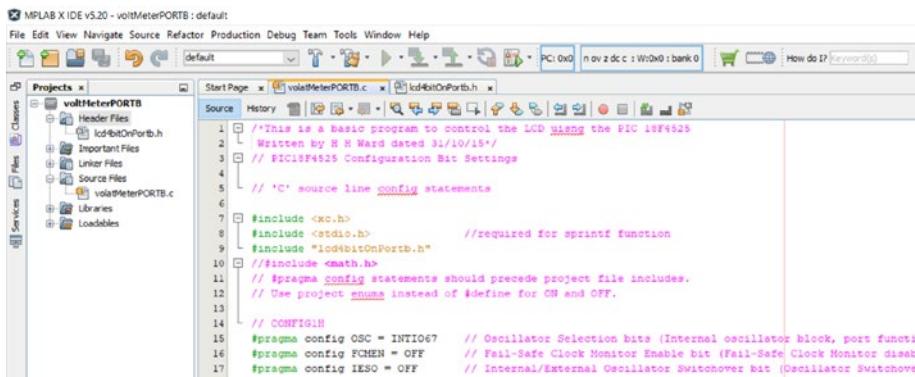
A local header file is like the one we have just created. It is one that is saved inside the project we want to use it in, as with the current situation. To include this type of header file, all we need to do is add the following #include instruction to the compiler.

#include "LCD4bitOnPortb.h" You must write the quotation marks as shown.

CHAPTER 7 CREATING A HEADER FILE

Note that as you type the phrase “#include”, the MPLABX software should recognize what you are doing and give you some suggestions of the file you may want to include, especially when you type the opening quotation mark. Your header file should be one of them.

I try to place all my include commands together; therefore, I will add this alongside the #include <xc.h> already in the ‘c’ file. Therefore, my ‘c’ file should look like that shown in Figure 7-6.



The screenshot shows the MPLAB X IDE interface. The title bar reads "MPLAB X IDE v5.20 - voltMeterPORTB : default". The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Navigate, Source, Refactor, Production, Debug, Team, Tools, Window, Help. The toolbar has icons for Open, Save, Build, Run, etc. The status bar shows "PCI: 0x00" and "n ov z dc c :W0x0 : bank 0". The main window has tabs for Projects, Files, Services, and a Source editor tab. The Source editor contains the following code:

```
1 //This is a basic program to control the LCD using the PIC 18F4525
2 //Written by H N Ward dated 31/10/15*
3 // PIC18F4525 Configuration Bit Settings
4
5 // 'C' source line config statements
6
7 #include <xc.h>
8 #include <stdio.h> //required for sprintf function
9 #include "lcd4bitOnPortb.h"
10 // #include <math.h>
11 // #pragma config statements should precede project file includes.
12 // Use project enums instead of #define for ON and OFF.
13
14 // CONFIG
15 #pragma config OSC = INTIO67 // Oscillator Selection bits (Internal oscillator block, port function)
16 #pragma config FCMEN = OFF // Fail-Safe Clock Monitor Enable bit (Fail-Safe Clock Monitor disabled)
17 #pragma config IESO = OFF // Internal/External Oscillator Switchover bit (Oscillator Switchover disabled)
```

Figure 7-6. The Include Command for the New Header File

I hope this clearly shows you how to create and include a local header file. If you now compile the project, it should compile without errors.

If your compilation throws up some errors, then go through the steps again carefully, and make sure you cut all the instructions for the LCD.

The Global Header File

The more general way of using header files is to make them global. However, this will involve saving all the header files you create in the main include directory that the compiler software, which you are using, goes to find all the include files. If you do save them in the correct directory, then

the header files will be available to all other projects you write. The path to where you should save your header files may be

C:\Program Files(x86)\Microchip\xc8\v1.32\include

or

C:\Program Files(x86)\Microchip\xc8\v2.10\pic\include

This may vary slightly, but you should be able to find the correct include directory.

If you save the header file this way, then to include them into your project you would have to write:

```
#include <LCD4bitOnPortb.h> Note the use of the  
greater and less than symbols.
```

If you successfully save the file in the global location, you should be able to delete it from the local project directory. Having done so, it should still compile safely as the compiler program will successfully find the header file you want to include.

Having done this, you will now have a header file that should be globally available for all your projects.

Creating a Header File for Your Configuration Instructions

The configuration words are instructions that allow us to set up the PIC in general terms. The main instruction is deciding where the PIC will get its primary oscillator source. There are a variety of options including a high-speed oscillator, HS, a lower-speed oscillator, XC, and RC oscillator and the internal oscillator block. Also, it can program the PIC to turn off the WDT and the LVP among many other aspects. In all the projects in this book, we will use the internal oscillator block and turn the WDT and the LVP off.

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As long as you will do this for all your projects, you can create a header file for this configuration. Note: Give it a useful name that explains what it does, and save it in the global include directory.

I have done this for the rest of the projects I will use in this book. Open a new empty file under the Header Files in the project tree as before.

The window shown in Figure 7-7 should open.

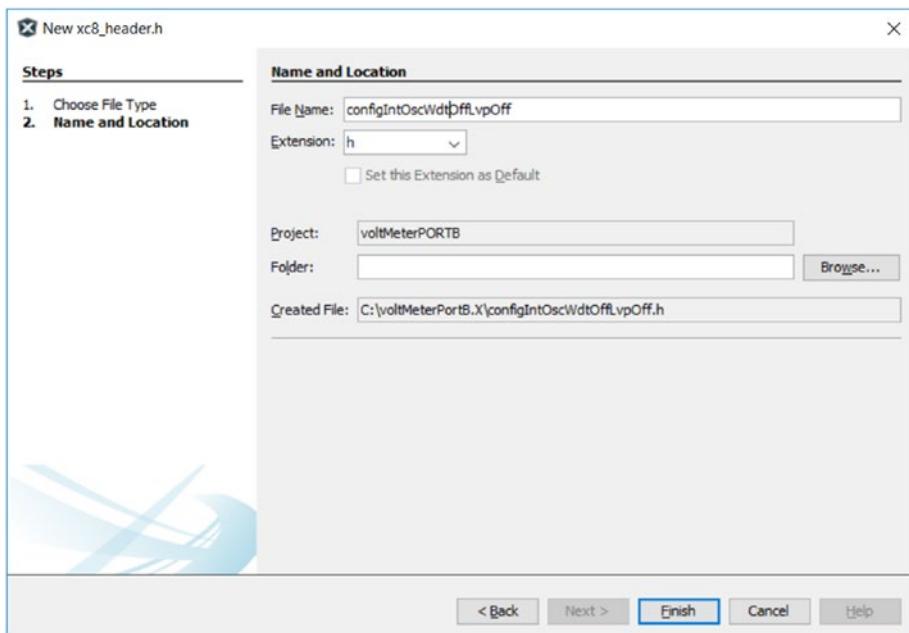


Figure 7-7. The New Empty File Window

Note I have chosen a very descriptive name for this header file conFigIntOscWdtOffLvpOff.h. Once you are happy with it, you should close the window by clicking finish. The editing window will open with the header file waiting to be written to. Simply paste in all the configuration instructions into the file, and save the file.

You should have now created a local header file for your configuration commands. If you save it in the global include directory, you will have a

global header file for use in all the projects you want to configure the PIC in that same precise manner.

To include this global header file, we simply have to add the command:

```
#include <conFigInt0scWdt0ffLvp0ff.h>
```

The main ‘c’ program file is now much reduced, but you will have configured the PIC as you require.

Summary

In this chapter we have studied header files. We have learnt what they are and how to create a global header file that can be used in all your projects.

In the next chapter, we will study a series of specific C programming commands. Then we will learn how to use one of the powerful debugging tools within MPLABX so that we can analyze what those programming commands do.

CHAPTER 8

Understanding Some Useful Code

This chapter involves some detailed analysis of the instructions. It will involve describing what the instruction should do and so predict the result of the instruction. It will then explain how you can single step through the program while watching the variables to see if the result is what we predicted. This chapter will also look at one of the very powerful debug facilities of the MPLABX IDE.

We will examine some of the main operations in ‘C’ code. The following is a list of the coding we will look at:

- Pointers; what they are and how to initialize them and how to use them
- The logical AND function, both individual bits and whole bytes. What is the difference and what they can be used for
- The simple increment and decrement
- The greater than and the less than
- A range of comparison instructions

After reading this chapter, you should have a good understanding of the above instructions and some possible application of the instruction. You will

also know how to use the debug tools in MPLABX to step through a program one instruction at a time and use a watch window to see what happens.

The Trace Table

A good debugging method is used to create a trace table of what would be the result of the instructions in a program on all the SFRs and variables the program used. Then you would step through the instructions and monitor the SFRs and variables to check that the instructions worked as you thought. This chapter will give you a good insight to this powerful debugging technique.

The Process

Listing 8-1 is the program used to discuss each instruction. We'll then go through each instruction's method of using the debug tools in MPLABX to check that our concepts are correct.

Listing 8-1. Sample Program

```
1.     unsigned char number1 = 0x0f, t, m, a, n, b;
                                //this creates 6 8 bit
                                memory locations but
                                loads number1 with
                                15 or 0b00001111
2.     int y = 2;                //this creates a 16
                                bit memory location;
                                2 8 bits one after
                                the other, called y
                                and loads it with
                                the value 2
```

3. int number2 = 0xffff, z; //this creates 2 more 16 bit locations and loads number2 with all logic '1's
4. float u = 2.55; //this creates a variable 'u' that can store decimal numbers and loads it with 2.55
5. unsigned int number3 = 0xffff; //this creates a 16 bit number, 'number3' where all 16 bits are used for the value and loads it all logic '1's = 65535
6. unsigned char list [5]; //this creates an array of 5 8 bit memory locations one after the other
7. unsigned char *listpointer; //this creates a 16 bit memory location that can be used to store the address of a location in an array. This is 16bits as it holds an address which is 16 bits long

CHAPTER 8 UNDERSTANDING SOME USEFUL CODE

```
8.     void main() //This is the main loop
          in the program
9.     {
          //the opening bracket
          for the main loop
10.    number1++;
          //this adds 1 to the
          value in number1
11.    number1 = number1 + 2; //this makes number1
          = itself but with 2
          added to it
12.    number2 = number1 - 2; //this will load number
          2 with what was in
          number 1 but takes 2
          off it
13.    number2 = 0b1111111111110000; //this will change
          the value stored in
          number2 to -16
14.    m = 0; //this loads m with 0
15.    a = 0; //this loads a with 0
16.    y = 5; //this loads y with 5
17.    z = ++y; // 'y' is incremented
          first then z = what y
          has become
18.    z = y++; // z equal what y was
          then y is incremented
19.    z = (unsigned char) u; // z changes to an
          unsigned char to show
          all 8 bits which equal
          251 in decimal. This
          is called "Casting"
20.    y = 7; //y is now set to 7
```

```
21.     y = ~y;           //this will simply invert  
                      all the bits in the  
                      variable 'y'  
22.     y = 7;            //this makes y = 7  
23.     z = y<<1;        // z is back as an  
                      integer and its value  
                      is what was in y but  
                      shifted left one bit Y  
                      is unchanged  
24.     z = y>>1;        // z is what was in y but  
                      shifted right one bit  
                      but Y is unchanged Note  
                      with the shift right  
                      instruction the LSB is  
                      simply lost. With the  
                      shift left instruction  
                      the MSB is lost.  
25.     a = 0b00010011;    //this makes a = 19  
26.     y=(a>0) ? a : -1; // This a test. Is 'a'  
                      greater than 0. If the  
                      test is true then 'y'  
                      will = 'a'. If the  
                      test is Untrue then  
                      'y' will = -1  
27.     y=(a==0) ? a : -1; // This a test. Is 'a'  
                      equal to 0. If the  
                      test is true then 'y'  
                      will = 'a'. If the  
                      test is Untrue then  
                      'y' will = -1
```

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```
28.     y=(a>0) ? z : -1;           // This a test. Is 'a'  
                                greater than 0. If the  
                                test is true then  
                                'y' will = 'z'. If the  
                                test is Untrue then  
                                'y' will = -1  
29.     listpointer = list;        //this loads the pointer  
                                listpointer with the  
                                address of the first  
                                location in the list  
                                array  
30.     *listpointer =2;          //this will load the  
                                first location in the  
                                list array with the  
                                value 2  
31.     listpointer ++;         //this will increment the  
                                value in *listpointer.  
                                This means it will be  
                                pointing to the next  
                                location in the array  
                                list  
32.     *listpointer = 5;         //this will load the  
                                second location in the  
                                array list with 5  
33.     listpointer = list;       //this loads the pointer  
                                listpointer with the  
                                address of the first  
                                location in the array  
                                list
```

```
34.     a = a & 0xF0;           //this will force the  
                           first 4 bits of a to  
                           logic '0' and the last  
                           four bits will only be  
                           a logic '1' if the last  
                           four bits in 'a' are  
                           already a logic '1'  
35.           // this is termed bit  
               masking or bit testing,  
               testing to see if a  
               bit in a variable is a  
               logic '1'  
36.     t = 5;                //this loads the  
                           variable t with the  
                           value '5'  
37.     if ( t && 7 == t)m = 5; //this tests to see if  
                           the value of 't' is  
                           the same as 7. If it  
                           is then m = 5 if it is  
                           not then m = 9. This  
                           is anding the byte  
38.     else m = 9;           //this is the else  
                           statement for the if  
                           then else instruction.  
                           Note you don't always  
                           need to write the else  
                           keyword but in this  
                           case we do need the  
                           else  
39.     n = 0b00001000;      //this loads the value 8  
                           into the variable 'n'  
40.     if (n & 0b00001000)m = 5;
```

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```
41.     else m = 3;          //this is a test to  
                                see if bit 3 of the  
                                variable 'n' is at a  
                                logic '1' if it is  
                                then m = 5, if its Not  
                                m = 3. This is bit  
                                anding  
42.     if (n & 0b00000001)t = 4;  
43.     else t = 2;          //this is a test to  
                                see if bit 0 of the  
                                variable 'n' is at a  
                                logic '1' if it is then  
                                t = 4, if its not t = 2  
44.     n = 10;             //This loads the  
                                variable 'n' with 10  
45.     for (a = 0, a < 5, a++) //this creates a for do  
                                loop that goes through  
                                it 5 times  
46.     {                  //opening bracket for  
                                the for do loop  
47.     *listpointer = n;    //this loads the  
                                current location that  
                                the listpointer is  
                                pointing to with the  
                                value that is in 'n'  
48.     listpointer++;      //this increments the  
                                pointer listpointer so  
                                that it is pointing to  
                                the next location in  
                                the array  
49.     n = n + 2;          //this increases the  
                                value of n by 2
```

```
50.      }          //the closing bracket of  
           the for do loop  
51.      while (1); //this is a for ever  
                   loop that forces the  
                   micro to stop at this  
                   instruction as it will  
                   do nothing forever  
52.      }          //the closing bracket of  
           the main loop
```

Lines 1–6

I am hoping that the comments for lines 1–6 do describe what the instructions will do. Just note that with some of the variables, we are loading them with an initial value as in line 1 “number1 = 0x0f”; this creates an 8 bit memory location and loads it with the initial value of 0x0f which is 15 in decimal.

Line 7 **unsigned char *listpointer;**

In line 7 we are creating a pointer which is a variable that points to something. In this case we will make it point to a memory location in an array. This means that the 16-bit number in the pointer will be the actual address of one of the memory locations in the array. We will see this work later in the program. Note that the ‘*’ is there to tell the compiler this is not a simple variable; it is a pointer.

Lines 8 and 9 are fairly straightforward, and the comments describe what they are.

Line 10 number1++;

This will simply increase the value of number1 by 1. As number1 was loaded initially with 15, after this instruction, it will be 16.

Line 11 number1 = number1 + 2;

If you want to increase the value of a variable by more than 1, it can be done this way. Therefore, this instruction will add 2 to the variable number1. After this instruction, the value stored in number1 will be 18.

Line 12 number2 = number1 - 2;

This will change the value stored in number2, which was 32767, with 16. This is 2 less than the value stored in number1. Note also that the value on number1 will be unchanged.

I have not shown the instruction number2 --; as this will simply subtract 1 from the current value in number2.

Line 13 number2 = 0b1111111111110000;

This changes the value that is in number2 from 16 to -16. This works because the MSB bit15 of number2 is not part of the value. It tells the compiler that the number is either positive, when bit 15 is a logic '0', or negative when bit 15 is a logic '1'. In this case, bit 15 is a logic '1' so the number is a negative number. However, to determine what the value is, the compiler must carry out a 2s compliment on the 16 bits in the instruction. In this way the binary value 0b1111111111110000 means -16. See the Appendix for an explanation of what 2s compliment is.

Lines 14 through 16 are fairly straightforward, and the comments describe what they are.

Line 17 z = ++y;

This increments the value of 'y' by 1, making it 6, and then copies this value into 'z.' Therefore, after this instruction, both 'y' and 'z' will be 6.

Line 18 z = y++;

This instruction makes 'z' the same value that is stored in 'y' and then increments the value of 'y.' Therefore, after this instruction, 'z' will again be 6, but 'y' will be 7.

Line 19 z = (unsigned char) u;

This instruction changes the data type of the variable 'z.' This is called casting. Note that the change in type only lasts for this instruction. The data type for the variable 'u' is a float, and the value is 2.55. However, this is stored in 'z' as an unsigned char. This means the numbers after the decimal point will be lost. Therefore, after this instruction, the value in 'z' will be 2, not 2.55

Line 20 is a fairly straightforward, and the comments describe what it is.

Line 21 y = ~y;

This instruction will simply invert all the bits in the variable. This means the bits that were logic '1' become logic '0' and what were logic '0' become logic '1.'

Therefore, before this instruction the bits in 'y' were

0000000000000111

After this instruction, they will be

11111111111111000. Note that this will become -8 when the 2s compliment has finished. Note that 'y' is an int or integer which means the MSB is not part of the number.

Line 22 is a fairly straightforward, and the comments describe what it is. After this instruction, the value in 'y' will be 7.

Line 23 z = y<<1;

This moves a copy of what is in 'y' into 'z', but before the value is copied, the bits are shifted one bit to the right. The value in 'y' is in binary.

000000000000000111

Before this is copied into 'z' the bits are shifted one place to the right. Therefore, the bits in 'z' will be

0000000000001110 which is 14. Note that shifting bits 1 bit to the left simply multiplies by 2. Moving the bits 1 bit to the right simply divides by 2.

Note that the value in 'y' is unchanged. The number of places the bits are shifted is specified by the value after the `>>`, in this case 1, but it could be 2, 3, 4, and so on.

Line 24 z = y>>1;

This does a similar action as with line 23 but shifts the bits one place to the left before copying the value into 'z'.

The bits in 'z' will now be

00000000000000011 which is 3.

Note that the value in 'y' will be unchanged at 7.

Line 25 is fairly straightforward and the comments describe what it is. After this instruction, the value in 'a' will be 19.

Line 26 $y=(a>0) ? a : -1;$

This is the first type of instruction with a bracket. When brackets are used, we are using a test, and the result of the test will either be true, a logic '1', or untrue a logic '0'. The expression inside the bracket is defining the test as "is 'a' greater than 0." In line 25 we set the value as 'a' to 19, and so it is greater than 0. This means the test is true, and so 'y' will become a copy of 'a'. Therefore, in this case the test is true, and after this instruction, 'y' will be 19 the same as 'a'.

If the test was found to be untrue, then 'y' would take on the other value stated in this instruction which in this case is -1.

Line 27 $y=(a==0) ? a : -1;$

The test in this instruction is "is a equal to 0." Well the value stored in 'a' is still 19 which means the test is untrue, and so after this instruction, the value in 'y' will be -1. Note that the value in 'a' will be unchanged.

Line 28 $y=(a>0) ? z : -1;$

The test is the same as that in line 26. The result is again true, but this time the variable 'y' will take on the value of that stored in 'z' and not 'a'. This means after this instruction, the value of 'y' will be 3 as this is what is stored in 'z' from before in the program.

Line 29 listpointer = list;

This is the first instruction that uses the pointer listpointer. Note that I have given the pointer this name as the array that I will be using this to point to has been given the name list; see line 6 where I created the array list having 5 memory locations each 8-bit-long as they are to store unsigned chars.

This instruction loads the memory location listpointer with the first address of the array list. This means the listpointer is pointing to the first location in that array. Note that the variables window will most likely show the address of the first location in the array in hexadecimal format, for example, 0X13. This is the same as 19 in decimal or 0000000000010011 in binary. This is why you need to appreciate decimal, binary, and hexadecimal. These numbers systems are explained in the Appendix.

Line 30 *listpointer =2;

This will load the memory location that the listpointer is pointing to with the value of 2. As with line 29, we made the listpointer point to the first location in the list array; then after this instruction, the value of the first location in the list array will have be 2. Remember that the first location in the array is location ‘0’.

Line 31 listpointer ++;

This simply increases the value stored in the listpointer by 1. As the values in the pointer are the addresses inside the array list, then after this instruction, the listpointer will be pointing to the next location in the array list.

Line 32 *listpointer = 5;

This will load the current memory location that the listpointer is pointing to with the value 5. Therefore, after this instruction, the first location in the array list will have the value 2 and the second will have the value 5.

Line 33 listpointer = list;

This simply is a repeat of the instruction at line 29. After this instruction the contents of the listpointer will be the address of the first location in the array list.

This is to get the listpointer pointing to the first address in the array list ready for the for do loop at line 44.

Line 34 a = a & 0xF0;

This is the first of a type of instruction termed bit masking or bit testing. This is actually bit masking where the idea is to mask out the first 4 bits, termed the low nibble. This works on the principle of the logic AND function where a '1' AND a '1' result in a logic '1'. However, a '1' AND a '0' produces a logic '0'.

This instruction uses the single '&' symbol which means this is a bit AND. With this type of instruction each, individual bit of the stated variable is ANDED with the data expressed in the instruction.

The data in the instruction is

0XF0 which in binary is 11110000

The data in the variable that the AND is ANDED with is

'a' which has the binary value of 00010011 which is
19. See line 25.

This means the first 4 bits in the variable 'a' will be masked out and result in 4 logic '0's as they will be ANDED with a logic '0.' The next four bits, the high nibble, bits 4, 5, 6, and 7, will be a copy of the four high bits in the variable 'a.'

Line 35 is just an extra set of comments.

Line36 simple loads t with the value of 5.

Line 37 if (t && 7 == t)m = 5;

This instruction combines the test with a bit instruction. However, the double ‘&&’ sign means the ANDing is done on all 8 bits of the variable and data. This means the test “is the result of the full byte AND of the variable ‘t’ with the value 7 the same as the value in ‘t’”. If the test is true, then value of the variable ‘m’ will go to 5.

Line 38 else m = 9;

This else is connected to the if instruction in line 37. We know what will happen if the results of the test are true. This else instruction tells us what will happen if the test is untrue. If the test is untrue, then the value of the variable ‘m’ will go to 9.

As ‘t’ was loaded with 5 at line 36, then the test will be untrue, and so after this instruction, the value of ‘m’ will change to 9, because of the else statement on line 38.

An application of this type of instruction could be with entry to a room via a keypad. The result of a 4-digit number entered in via a keypad could be stored in the variable ‘t’. It could then be matched to a pre-stored 4-digit code using this type of instruction, and the door could be opened if the result is true or not if the result was untrue.

Line 39 n = 0b00001000;

This is loading the variable ‘n’ with the number 8. It is really setting bit 4 to a logic ‘1’. This is ready for the next bit test in lines 40 and 41.

Line 40 if ($n \& 0b00001000$) $m = 5$;**Line 41 else $m = 3$;**

This is an individual bit test to see if bit 4 of the variable ‘n’ is a logic ‘1’. If it is, the test is true, and the value of m is set to 5. If bit 4 of the variable ‘n’ is not a logic ‘1’ the test will be untrue, and the variable ‘m’ will be set to 3. Note that the value of the variable ‘n’ will remain unchanged. We know that the test will be true, and so after this instruction, the value of m will be 5.

Line 42 if ($n \& 0b00000001$) $t = 4$;**Line 43 else $t = 2$;**

This is the same type of test as described in lines 40 and 41 except that the bit that is being tested in line 42 is bit 0 of the variable ‘n’. We know from before that bit 0 of the variable ‘n’ is a logic ‘0’, not a logic ‘1’. This means that the test will be untrue. Therefore, after this instruction, the value of the variable ‘t’ will be 2, not the 4 that it would have been if the result of the test was true.

Line 44 $n = 10$;

This simply loads the variable ‘n’ with the value 10 ready for the next instructions.

Line 45 for ($a = 0, a < 5, a++;$)

This sets up a for do loop that is carried out 5 times. The loop is described between the opening bracket at 45 and 50. The instructions inside the bracket, note that this is not a normal test bracket, firstly load the variable ‘a’ with the value 0. Then it carries out the test is ‘a’ less than 5, which it

is. As the test is true, the micro will then carry out the instructions listed inside the curly brackets. Then the value of ‘a’ is incremented. The loop starts again until $a = 5$ and the test $a < 5$ becomes untrue. When it is untrue, the micro moves outside the loop.

Line 46 is simply the opening curly bracket of the for do loop.

Line 47 `*listpointer = n;`

This loads the memory location that the listpointer is pointing to with the value stored in the variable ‘n’ which at this time is 10.

You should remember that in line 33, we made the pointer listpointer point to the first location in the array list. This then means after this instruction, the data in the first location of the array list will be 10.

Line 48 `listpointer ++;`

With this instruction we simply increase the value stored in listpointer by 1. This means that the pointer listpointer will now be pointing to the second memory location in the array list.

Line 49 `n = n +2;`

Now we simply add 2 to the value that is stored in the variable ‘n.’ Therefore, after this instruction, the values stored in the variable ‘n’ will be 12.

The micro will now go through the instructions of the for do loop another 4 times. In this way we can load the 5 memory locations in the array list with the data from Table 8-1.

Table 8-1. The Contents of the Array List After the For Do Loop Has Finished

Location in List Array	Identifier for the Location	Value in The Location
1st	0	10
2nd	1	12
3rd	2	14
4th	3	16
5th	4	18

This is quite a succinct way of filling the memory locations in an array with data. Note that arrays can have a large number of memory locations.

Line 50 is the closing bracket of the for do loop.

Line 51 while (1);

This sets up a forever loop as the result of the test described in the bracket will always be true a logic ‘1’. This simply halts the program at this instruction as the micro will forever do nothing.

Line 52 is the closing bracket of the main loop.

Debugging the Program

The best way to show how to use the debug tools in MPLABX is to go through the instructions of the program would and show them in a video. I have produced such a video that can be used to show the process. However, what I will do in this chapter is show some screenshots to show you the main points of the process.

Compiling the Completed Program

After writing the complete program, the first thing to do is to build and run the program. To do this, click the mouse on the Debug Main Project icon in the main menu bar shown in Figure 8-1.

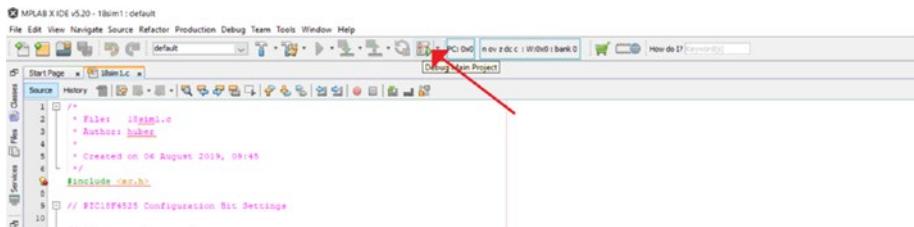


Figure 8-1. The Debug Main Project Icon

This will build the program which tests the syntax of the program for errors, and assuming there are no errors, the program will be loaded into the PIC. If you have chosen the simulator as the tool as shown in Figure 2-6, then the simulated PIC will be loaded with the program. If you have downloaded the program to a practical PIC using the ICD3 or ICD4 can, the process will be the same. In this example, I have used the MPLABX simulator PIC

While the program compiles and the program is loaded to the PIC, the output window should be visible during this process. Once the program loads successfully, the screen should look something like what is shown in Figure 8-2.

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The screenshot shows the MPLAB X IDE interface with the output window open. The code in the source editor is:

```

Source History 18in1c.c
1 //this will load the first location in the list array with the value '1'
2 listpointer += 2;
3 listpointer = $2;
4 listpointer += 2;
5 listpointer = $1;
6 listpointer += 2;
7 listpointer = $0;
8 a = a & 0xF7F7;
9 //this will force the first 8 bits of a to logic '0' and the last four bits will only be a logic '1' if the last four bits in 'a' are already a logic
10 // 1's
11 t = $2;
12 if (t <= 5 == tjm == 5)
13 else n = 9;
14 n = 0B000010000J;
15 if (n & 0B0000100001m == 5)
16 else n = 2;
17 if (n & 0B00001000001m == 5)
18 else n = 10;
19 *listpointer = n;
20 listpointer += 2;

```

The output window below shows the simulation status:

```

Simulator > 18in1c (Build,Load,...) > Debugger Console >
Launching
Initializing simulator
Done program running

```

Figure 8-2. The Completed Output Window

The output window should be visible on the screen. You will see a small 'x' next to a small dot in the right-hand corner of the output window. If you click the mouse on the small dot, the window will now be fastened inside the editing area of the screen as shown in Figure 8-3.

The screenshot shows the MPLAB X IDE interface with the output window moved into the main editing area. The code in the source editor is identical to Figure 8-2. The output window content is the same as well.

Figure 8-3. The Output Window Now Moved into the Editing Area

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There will now be a small minimize icon in the right-hand corner of the output window. If you click on this, the output window will drop into the low menu bar at the bottom of the screen. The program is still running in the background. You should minimize the output window.

If you select the small 'x' instead of the small dot, the output window will disappear, but you can get it back by either hitting the control key and the number 4, Ctrl4, together, or by selecting the word window from the main menu bar and selecting the word output from the drop-down menu bar that appears. I prefer to have the output window minimized to the bottom menu bar, as shown in Figure 8-4.

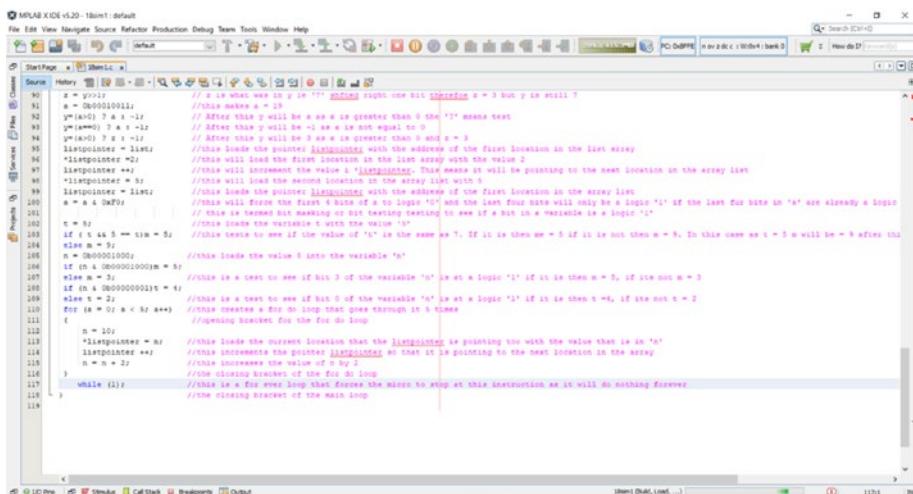


Figure 8-4. The Output Window Minimized

Once you have placed the output window out of the way, we now need to select the variables that we want to look at as the program progresses. To do this select the word windows from the main menu bar, then select the word debugging from the drop-down menu, and select variables from the fly-out menu that appears as shown in Figure 8-5.

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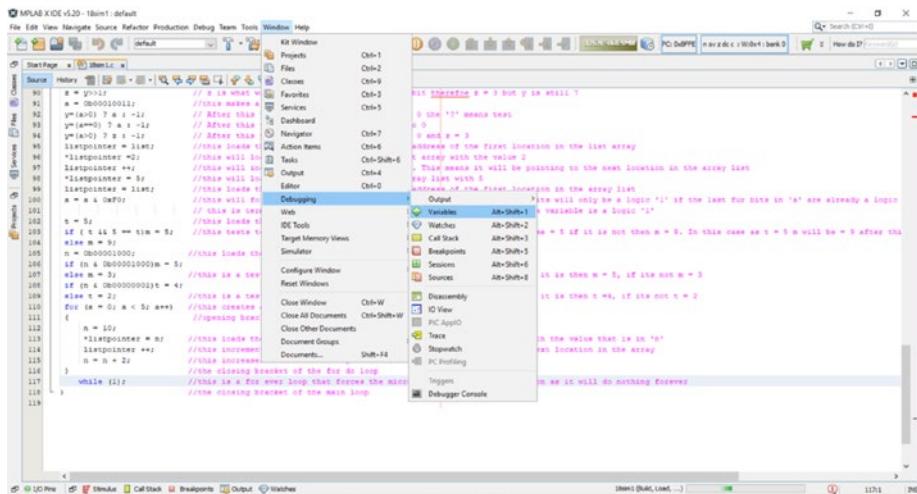


Figure 8-5. The Variables Fly-Out Menu

You could have selected the Watches window from the fly-out menu as there is not much difference between the two options; it is down to experience and personnel choice. Having selected the variables, the screen should look something like this shown in Figure 8-6.

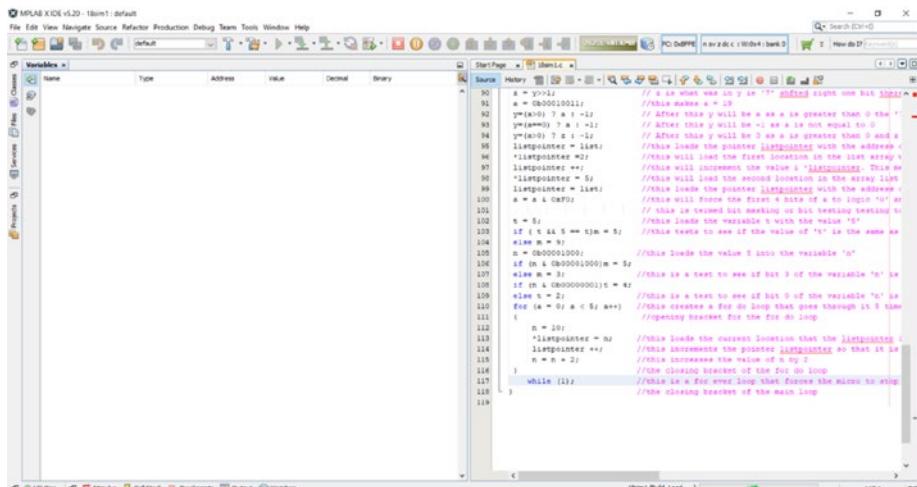


Figure 8-6. The Variables Window

You may have to change the size of the window by selecting the boarders, and when the mouse changes to a double arrow, move the window accordingly.

Now we need to select what variables we want to look at. Really it should be all the variables we have created in the program. In other programs, you may want to be more selective. To select the variables, you want to simply click the mouse on the small blue diamond shape with the plus sign on it on the side menu in the variables window. An empty row should appear, and the small diamond that was grayed out should now be blue. Click the mouse on this now visible diamond, and the new watch window will appear. You should then click the mouse on the variable named 'a' then while holding the control key, select the names of all the other variables you want to look at. They should be highlighted blue as shown in Figure 8-7.

Note that the unsigned char number3 will not be visible in the new watch window. This is because this variable is not actually used in the program even though we have defined it and loaded it with 0xFFFF which 65535.

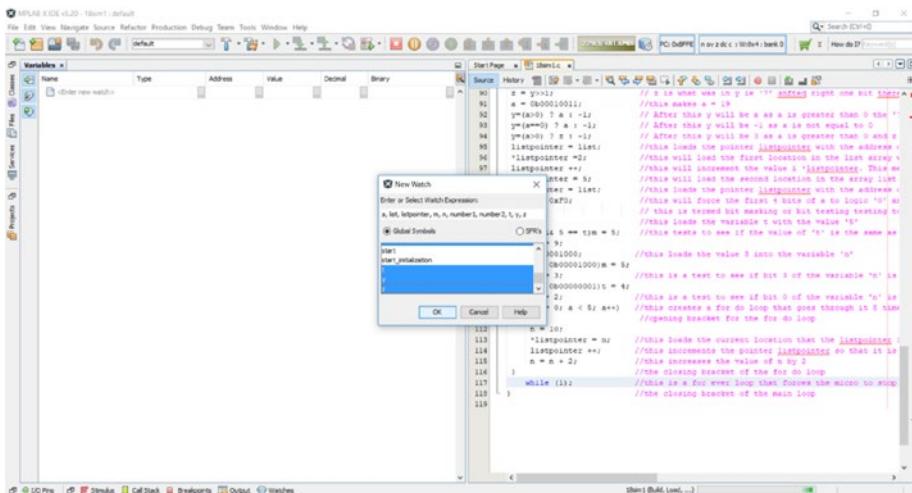


Figure 8-7. The New Watch Window

Once you have selected all the variables you want to watch, simply click OK, and the variables will appear inside the variables window.

You can decide what type of information you want to display in the variable window by clicking the right-hand button on the mouse on any of the titled boxes at the top of the variable list. The fly-out menu will now be visible as shown in Figure 8-8. You should tick or un-tick the type of information you want displayed.

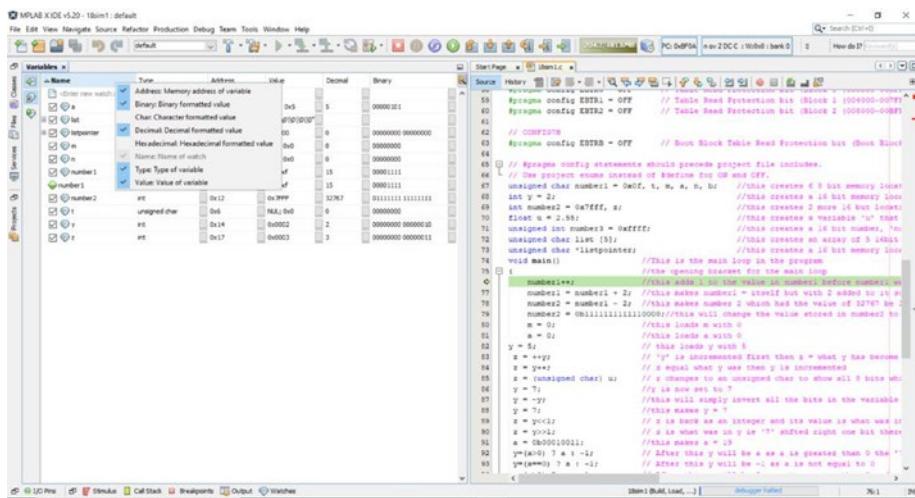


Figure 8-8. The Variable Type Fly-Out menu

You now need to pause and reset the program so that it will start at the first instruction. To do this click the mouse on the orange pause symbol on the menu bar. When this happens the blue circle with the two white arrows becomes visible. If you now click the mouse on this button, the program will reset, and the screen should now look like the one shown in Figure 8-9.

CHAPTER 8 UNDERSTANDING SOME USEFUL CODE

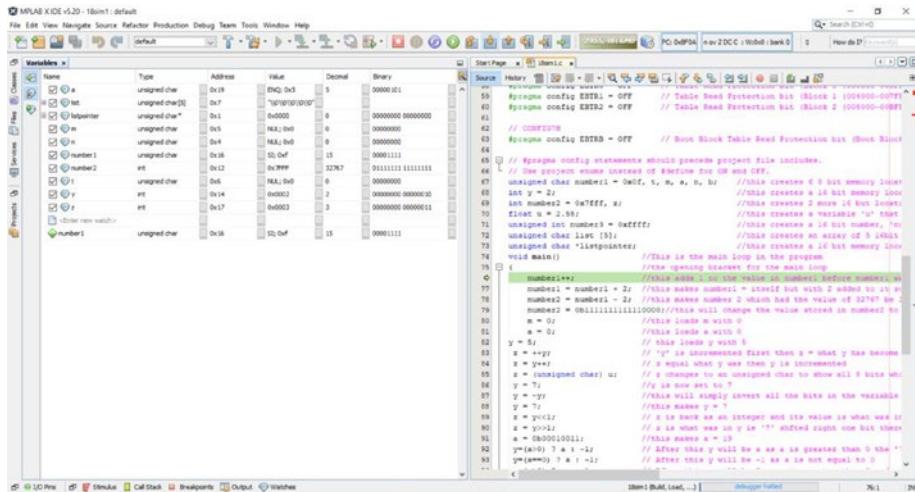


Figure 8-9. The Program Reset

There should be the green highlighted instruction as shown in Figure 8-9. This should be the first instruction in the program. The IDE is now waiting for you to either run the program by pressing the green circle with the white arrow inside it, something we don't want to do this time, or get the program to single step through the instructions one at a time. This is what we want to do so that we can examine the variables as they change according to the instructions of the program. To do this we must click the mouse on the blue square with the curved orange arrow pointing down. The program will now step through the instructions of the program one at a time each time you press this button, but it will not step into the instructions of a function or subroutine.

Note that there is a blue square with a straight orange arrow pointing vertically down. This is to allow you to step into a function or subroutine if you want to.

Well I know it is not ideal trying to describe this process in a textbook, but I hope I have described it well enough for you to use this powerful

debug option in MPLABX. You should now step through each of the instructions and see if the results of the instructions agree with the analysis of the instructions in section.

You will need to take your time and maybe need to reread the description.

Summary

I hope you have found this chapter useful and you have been able to step through the program. Understanding what the instructions actually do and how they work is very important to the programmer. Also being able to use the debugging tools of the IDE is essential to solving problems in a program. Both aspects will help you become a better programmer.

In this final chapter, we have studied some specific C programming instructions. We have also studied how to use one of the debugging tools within MPLABX to study the outcome of those instructions to confirm that they do what we expected them to do.

APPENDIX

Additional Resources

Useful Definitions

Bit operators

Operator	Description
&	AND each bit
	OR each bit (inclusive OR)
^	EXOR each bit (exclusive OR)
<<n	Shift left n places
>>n	Shift right n places
~	One's compliment (invert each bit)

For example, if 'x' = 1111 1111, then:

Operation	Result
x & 0XOF	0000 1111
x 0XOF	1111 1111
x^0XOF	1111 0000
x = x<<2	1111 1100
x = x>>4	0000 1111
x = ~x	0000 0000

Mathematical and Logic Operators

Operator Description

+	Leaves the variable as it was
-	Creates the negative of the variable
++	Increments the variable by 1
--	Decrement the variable by 1
*	Multiplies the two variables $y = a * b$
/	Divides $y = a / b$
%	Used to get the remainder of a division of two variables $m = a \% b$
<	Less than if ($y < a$) means y is less than a
<=	Less than or equal to if ($y <= a$) means y is less than or equal to a
>	Greater than if ($y > a$) means y is greater than a
>=	Greater than or equal to if ($y >= a$) means y is greater than or equal to a
=	Makes the variable equal to $y = 3$ After this y takes on the value of 3
!	Not if (!PORTBbits.RB0) not bit0 of portb which means if bit0 of portb is logic 0
&&	Whole register AND
	Whole register OR
?	This is a test operator $y = (a > 0) ? a : -1$ This test to see if ' a ' is greater than 0. If it is, then y becomes equal to ' a '; if it's not, then $y = -1$

Keywords

Keyword What It Does

<code>typedef</code>	Allows the programmer to define any phrase to represent an existing type
<code>#ifndef</code>	This checks to see if a label you want to use has not been defined in any include files you want to use If it has, it does not allow you to define it now. If it hasn't, you are allowed to define it now
<code>#define</code>	You can define what your label means here
<code>#endif</code>	This denotes the end of your definition after the <code>#ifndef</code> code
<code>sizeof</code>	Returns the size in number of bytes of a variable

Global variables are variables that once declared can be read from or written to anywhere from within the program.

Data Types

Type	Size	Minimum Value	Maximum Value
Char	8 bits	-128	127
unsigned char	8 bits	0	255
int	16 bits	-32,768	32,767
unsigned int	16 bits	0	65,535
short	16 bits	-32,768	32,767
unsigned short	16 bits	0	65,535
short long	24 bits	-8,388,608	8,388,607
unsigned short long	24 bits	0	16,777,215

APPENDIX ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Type	Size	Minimum Value	Maximum Value
long	32 bits	-2,147,483,648	2,147,483,647
unsigned long	32 bits	0	4,294,967,295
Float	32 bits		

Floating point numbers

Type	Size	Min Exponent	Max Exponent	Min Normalized	Max Normalized
float	32	-126	128	2^{-126}	2^{128}
Double	32	-126	128	2^{-126}	2^{128}

Functions

Functions are similar to subroutines in that they are small sections of program code that are used to perform a specific function. They can be set up to return a particular type of variable, or they can be set up to return no variable.

Example

```
Char getvalue ()
```

This function will return a char value at the end of its instructions.

```
unsigned int age ()  
{  
}
```

This function will return an unsigned int value at the end of its instructions.

```
void motoron ()  
{  
}
```

This function will not return a value when it ends.

Functions, just like subroutines, have to be called from the main program. In 'C' this is done by stating the name of the function as follows:

```
getvalue ();  
age ();  
motoron ();
```

These will call the specified function.

Parameters

Some functions may require parameters that can be used within the function. This is true for both void and non-void functions. If a function needs a parameter that it will use within the function, it needs to be expressed when the function is declared. The following is an example of such a function:

```
void delay250 (char x)  
{  
    while (x>0)  
    {  
        TMR4 = 0;  
        while (TMR4<35211);  
        x--;  
    }  
}
```

To call this function, use

```
delay250 (4);
```

This will assign the value 4 to the char ‘x’ and so this will create a total of a 1-second delay.

Loops

All ‘C’ programs are a collection of loops. The loops will be carried out either once as in subroutines or for as long as their test condition is true. The most common loops are while loops. For example:

```
While (a == 1)
{
    Do what is inside the curly brackets.
}
```

The test condition is that ‘a’ becomes equal to 1. While this test is true, that is, a is 1, then do what is inside the curly brackets.

Numbering Systems Within Microprocessor-Based Systems

As will become evident in the study to come, microprocessor-based systems use the binary number system. This is because the binary number system can only have one of two digits, either a ‘0’ or a ‘1’. These states have been called logic ‘0’ or logic ‘1’ as in electronic devices. Note also that all the logic operations such as AND, OR, NAND, NOR, NOT, and EXOR all work using binary format. The binary format can be used to mimic the logic states of “TRUE” or “FALSE” precisely; and best of all, they can be represented by voltage, that is, 0V for logic ‘0’ and +5V for logic ‘1’.

Therefore, it is essential that the modern engineer gains a full understanding of the binary number system. This appendix is aimed at teaching the reader all they need to know about binary numbers.

Binary Numbers

These are a series of ‘0s’ and ‘1s’ that represent numbers. With respect to microprocessor-based systems, the numbers they are representing are themselves representing codes for instructions and data used within microprocessor-based programs. We, as humans, cannot easily interpret binary numbers as we use the decimal number system. The decimal number system uses the base number 10 which means all the columns we put our digits in to form numbers are based on powers of 10. For example, the thousand column is based on 10^3 , and the hundreds column is based on 10^2 . The tens is on 10^1 and the units is 10^0 . Try putting 10^0 in on your calculator using the x^y button, and you will find it equals 1; in fact, any number raised to the power 0 will equal 1.

Converting Decimal to Binary

Probably the first step to understanding binary numbers is in creating them, that is, converting decimal to binary. There are numerous ways of doing this, but I feel that the most straightforward is to repeatedly divide the decimal number by 2, the base number of binary. This is shown here:

Example 1

Convert 66 to binary.

The remainders		
2	66	0
2	33	1
2	16	0
2	8	0
2	4	0
2	2	0
	1	

The MSB 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 The LSB

NB you must use the last '1' from the divide 2 by 2 or 2 by 3

Simply keep on dividing the number by 2, putting the answer underneath as shown, with the remainder to the side. You should note that all the remainders are either **0** or **1**. These digits actually make up the binary number. Note also the last division always results in an answer '**1**'; we stop there, no more dividing.

To create the binary number, we take the top of the remainders, as shown, and put it into the least significant bit, or column, for the binary number. The other remainder digits follow on thus making up the complete 7-digit number.

Converting from Binary to Decimal

It would be useful to determine if the binary number shown does actually relate to 66 in decimal. This is done by converting back into decimal the binary number 1 0 0 0 0 1 0. To do this, we must realize that numbers are displayed in columns. The columns are based on the base number of the system used. With binary numbers, the base number is 2; therefore, the columns are based on powers of 2. This is shown in the following table:

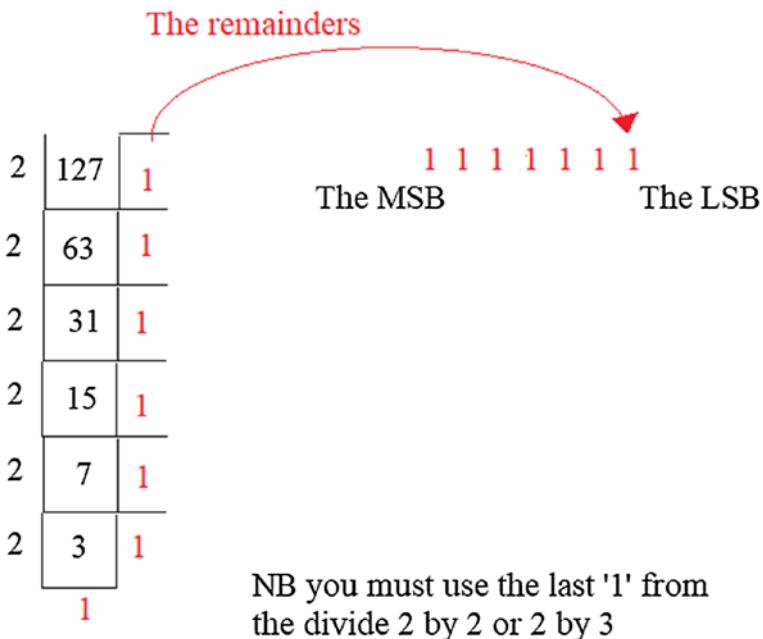
Base No.	2^7	2^6	2^5	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
Decimal	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
Equivalent								
Binary Number		1	0	0	0	0	1	0

To complete the conversion, we simply sum all the decimal equivalents where there is a 1 in the binary column.

In this case the sum is $64+2 = 66$

Example 2

Convert 127 to binary and check the result.



Base No.	2^7	2^6	2^5	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
Decimal Equivalent	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
Binary Number	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

To complete the conversion, we simply sum all the decimal equivalents where there is a 1 in the binary column.

In this case the sum is: $64+32+16+8+4+2+1 = 127$

Exercise 1

Convert the following numbers to binary, and check your results by converting back to decimal. **Show all workings out.**

99

255

137

Adding and Subtracting Binary Numbers

Adding and subtracting numbers are perhaps the most basic operations we can carry out on numbers. Binary numbers follow the same rules as decimal, but there are only 2 allowable digits. Also, computers don't actually subtract numbers as the following will show.

Exercise 2

Add the following decimal numbers in 8-bit binary notation. Note: Check your answers.

$23+21$, $35+123$, $125+75$

Worked example

Remember binary numbers have only two digits: '0' or '1'

Add 23 to 21 in 8-bit binary.

APPENDIX ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Method:

Convert to 8-bit binary, and add; remember the following four rules:

$$0+0 = 0$$

$$0+1 = 1$$

$$1+0 = 1$$

$$1+1 = 0 \text{ with } 1 \text{ to carry}$$

23 in 8 bit binary is

0 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 **note we must state all 8 bits as it is 8 bit binary.**

By the same process 21 in binary is 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1

Therefore the sum is

$$\begin{array}{r} 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 1 \\ +\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

To check your answer, put the result into the lookup table, then add the decimal equivalent.

Power	2^7	2^6	2^5	2^4	2^3	2^2	2^1	2^0
Decimal Equivalent	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
Binary Number	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0

Sum is $32 + 8 + 4 = 44$.

Subtracting Binary Numbers

Exercise 3

Microprocessor-based systems actually subtract numbers using a method which is addition. This involves using the 2s compliment of a number, and it is best explained by the following example.

Subtract the following decimal numbers using 8-bit binary 2s compliment; check your answers:

128 - 28, 79 - 78, 55 - 5, 251 - 151

Worked example

Convert the two numbers to binary using the method shown previously.

128 in 8-bit binary is 10000000. **NOTE that we MUST use ALL 8 bits.**

28 in 8-bit binary is 00011100.

Take the 2s compliment of 00011100 as this is the number that we are subtracting from 128.

Only create the 2s compliment of the subterand, the number we are subtracting with.

NOTE: We must use a full 8-bit number putting extra 0 in where needed.

To take the 2s compliment, firstly take the compliment, and then add binary 1 to the compliment: the compliment of the binary number is found by simply flipping all the bits, that is, a '0' becomes a '1' and a '1' becomes a '0'.

APPENDIX ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Compliment of } 00011100 \quad \text{is } 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 1 \\ \text{add binary } 1 \qquad \qquad + \qquad \qquad 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1 \\ \hline \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Now add the 2s compliment to the first binary number as shown:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0 \\ + \ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0 \\ \hline \\ \text{result is} \qquad \qquad \qquad 0\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

NOTE: THE LAST CARRY INTO THE NINTH DIGIT IS DISCARDED AS THERE CAN ONLY BE THE SPECIFIED NUMBER OF DIGITS, 8 IN THIS CASE. Don't forget we added 1 so we should give it back.

The binary result converts to 100 in decimal. This is the correct result.

Check your answers in the usual way.

Note that computers subtract in this method because we can only create an adder circuit in logic.

The Hexadecimal Number System

Microprocessor-based system can only recognize data that is in binary format. In its most basic form, this means that all data inputted at the keyboard should be in binary format. This is quite a formidable concept. Just think every letter of every word must be inputted as a binary number. It takes at least 4 binary digits to represent a letter, and so typing words into a computer would be very difficult indeed. Thankfully, word-processing programs take ASCII characters to represent the letters you press at the keyboard.

With the type of programs we will be writing into microcomputers, we will actually be typing in 2 characters to represent the codes for the instructions or data of the programs we will write. If we were to type these in as binary numbers, it would take 8 binary bits to make each code. This would be very time-consuming and difficult to make sure we get right. To make things easier, we will use the hexadecimal numbering system. This system has 16 unique digits which are

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

After this we cannot use 10 as this uses two digits: a 1 and a 0. Therefore, we must use 6 more unique digits. To do this, we use the first 6 letters of the alphabet. Therefore, the full 16 digits are

0 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F

Remember we are going to use the hexadecimal number to represent binary digits and this revolves round the idea that 1 hexadecimal digit represents 4 binary digits as the 4 binary bits in decimal go from 0 to 15, that is, 16 numbers. Therefore, every 8-bit binary number can be represented by 2 hexadecimal digits. This makes typing in the code for programs much quicker and more secure than using the full binary numbers that computers use. Note that to accommodate the user typing inputs as hexadecimal digits, there is a program in micro's ROM to convert the hexadecimal to binary for us. However, we will look at converting binary to hexadecimal.

Exercise 4

Convert the following 8-bit binary numbers to hexadecimal:

10011110, 10101010, 11111111, 11110000, 00001111,
and 11001101

APPENDIX ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Worked example

Method: Split the 8 bits into two 4-bit numbers.

Convert each 4 bit into the decimal equivalent, then look up the hexadecimal for the decimal equivalent in the lookup table: **NOTE: Treat each four binary bits as a separate binary number.**

Convert	1 0 0 1		1 1 1 0
Dec	9		14
Hex	9		E

Answer 10011110 in Hex is 9E

In this way 8-bit binary numbers can be converted into 2 hexadecimal digits.

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