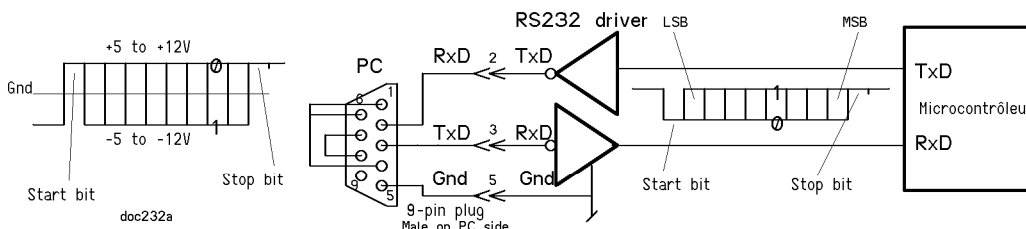


RS232 routines for a PIC

1. RS232 interface

RS232 is based on precise timings, with a start bit to synchronize the transmission of a byte. Signals are specified for -12V/+12V levels, but most PCs accept 0/+5V levels. The Didel document www.didel.com/doc/Doc232.pdf provides several electrical interfaces between a microcontroller and a RS232 plug.



Doc232a

Fig. 1 RS232 signals

2. Send/receive routines

Several cases have to be considered for the basic send and receive routines that transfer an 8-bit word, usually an Ascii code. On the Pic 16F84, a software routine has to be written, and if processor oscillator is a quartz or resonator, precise timings are easy. On a F84 with RC oscillator, and on the low cost 12C508 controllers, precise timings ask for additional solutions. The 16F87x and other controllers have a wired serial interface (the UART) and a bit rate generator. It makes the life easier and the program more efficient, specially when data in is expected. Interrupt is also possible, but we will not detail the interrupt handling, which is easy in simple cases, and becomes rather complex when real time kernel and fifo have to be implemented.

2.1. Send routine for 16F84

If the F84 (or any processor of the PIC family) has a 4 MHz quartz or resonator, a delay routine will take care of the timings. One could use the timer, but there are better usages for it.

For the SndSer routine we need a delay loop of 4 μ s repeated RateAdjust times. The bitrate period is $R9600 = 1000000/9600$ microseconds at 9600 bit/s (104,5 μ s). Hence, $RateAdjust = (R9600-9)/4$, 9 being the estimated number of instructions (of 1 μ s that will be executed between two waiting loops. By leaving the assembler doing the calculation, it will be easy to change the bit rate (or Baud rate, the incorrect widely used word). At 9600 bits/s, the routine takes 1,15 ms to be executed.

The SndSer routine takes the data to be sent in W and load DataSnd variable, who will play the role of shift register. The Carry is cleared to send the start bit, and then Carry is set to fill the end of the data to be transmitted with stop bits. Hence 11 cycles are required, counted by the CSnd variable.

```

Routine: SndSer.asi 8-bit serial transfer
in: W
mod: DataSnd, CSnd
SndSer:
  Move    W,DataSnd
  SerOff  ; Start bit
  Nop     ; More precise start bit duration
  Nop
  Move    #11,W
  Move    W,CSnd
S$:
  Move    #RateAdjust,W ; Calibrated wait
  L$: Add    #-1,W
  Skip,EQ
  Jump   L$
  SetC
  RRC    DataSnd ; prepare Stop bits
  Skip,CS
  SerOff
  Skip,CC
  SerOn
  DecSkip,EQ CSnd
  Jump   S$
  Ret
  
```

The SerOn SerOff instructions are macros. One should not mention in a general routine which bits should be activated. If TxD is wired on RA0 and RxD on RA1, one will declare

in the port definition part of the listing

```
PortA definitions
bTxD      = 0
bRxD      = 1
DirA      = 11110 ; Last two bits are input and output
PortSer   = 5      ; PortA address, 6 for PortB, 7 for PortC
```

Macros can now be defined:

```
.Macro SerOn
Set      PortSer: #bTxD
.Endmacro
.Macro SerOff
Clr      PortSer: #bTxD
.Endmacro
.Macro StopOn
Set      PortSer: #bTxD
.Endmacro
```

The macro StopOn will be used at initialization, otherwise the first characters to be sent may be wrong if the TxD bit is zero after reset. One more thing to define are the variables: DataSnd and CSnd.

A test program (www.didel.com/doc/Xser.asm) can easily be written around this routine. It sends characters * and U, the most appropriate to check if the timing is correct.

```
Program XSnd 30.12.00 Serial out
.Proc 16F84
; PIC at 4MHz
R2400= 1000000/2400
R9600= 1000000/9800
R38400 = 1000000/38400 ; more critical ti
RateAdjust = R9600/4-9

Variables Ports
PortA
bTxD = 0
bRxD = 1 ; not used here
DirA = 2'10010
PortSer = 5 ; PortA
.Ins XSndM.asi ; Serial macros as above

Variables Test program
.Loc 16'C
DataSnd: .Blk.16 1
CSnd: .Blk.16 1
.Loc 0

Start:
Move #DirA,W
Move W,TrisA
StopOn

Loop: Continuous send of * and U
Move #'*',W
Call SndSer
Move #'U',W
Call SndSer
Jump Loop
.Ins XSndR.asi ; Serial routine as above
.End
```

Correct operations and timings can be verified with a scope, or with a terminal. To be sure the timings are not critical, it is recommended to change the correction in RateAdjust constant by adding or subtracting 1 (4 μ s); it should work within this range.

If the 16F84 has a cheap RC oscillator, one can adjust the R9600 constant according to the measured speed of the processor. If the frequency is higher than 4MHz by 5%, one should increase the 9600 quotient by 5%.

On the 12C508, the OscCal register allows to adjust more precisely the frequency. A solution is to load a test program (10 instructions, leaving the first instructions with value 16'FF) and measure the frequency. The R9600 parameter can be adjusted and the final program loaded. A tricky solution, also suitable for the 16F84, is to measure the start bit duration of adequate initial characters transmitted by the PC.

One more point. If the electrical interface does not invert (1 diode and two resistors between the PIC and the PC), only the macros have to be changed, and it will work.

2.2. Send routine for 16F87x

Several registers of the 16C76 and 16F87x allow to program the asynchronous receiver and transmitter (USART). The Snd routine has fewer instructions, but a correct initialization of the control registers is required. Microchip documents all this, so we just give below the initialization routine and the new RecSer routine. TxD is on bit 6 and RxD on bit 7 of PortC.

```

Routine: IniSer Init serial port at 9600b/s
Move     #IniRcSta,W
Move     W,RcSta
Bank1
Move     #IniTxSta,W
Move     W,TxSta
Move     #IniSpBrg,W
Move     W,SpBrg
Bank0
Clr      PIR1
Ret

```

```

Routine: SndSer.asi Serial transfer for 16F87x
in:      W
mod:     -
SndSer:
Move     W,TxReg
Nop      ; nop required
A$:
TestSkip,BS PIR1:#TxIF
Jump     A$
Ret

```

The test program is quite similar to the Xser.asm program above. The SerOn macro is replaced by a Call IniSer, there is no need of XRecM.asi, and XrecR.asi is replaced by XSnd7R.asi (see later). The definitions and macros (bank switching) of the 16F870 are found in www.didel.com/doc/16F870.asi and www.didel.com/doc/16F870M.asi. One can extract from these files the required definitions and macros, but .Ins macros are quite convenient for this.

2.3. Receive routine for 16F84

The principle of the routine is to wait for the start bit, and the processor will not be able to do anything else, even interrupts, while a character is expected from the PC. This is acceptable for most applications. Macros are defined to avoid the mention of port bits in the RecSer routine. They make also the routine much more easy to understand.

```

.Macro   SkipIfRxOne
TestSkip,BS PortSer:#bRxD
.Endmacro
.Macro   SkipIfStartbit
TestSkip,BC PortSer:#bRxD
.Endmacro
.Macro   NoSkipIfStartbit
TestSkip,BS PortSer:#bRxD
.Endmacro
.Macro   SkipIfStopbit
TestSkip,BS PortSer:#bRxD
.Endmacro

```

Once the start bit edge is detected, the first waiting loop waits for one and a half period before sampling the first bit. After the last bit sampling, a delay of one more one period reach the stop bit part. This is not an absolute requirement, since when testing the start bit one test to be sure to be on a stop bit before waiting for the start bit. If the received charactes are coming at full speed, on have a maximum time equivalent to the second stop bit sent by the PC before calling again the RecSer routine. This leave about 100 instructions to handle the data, and it is an important constraint if you do not want to miss characters.

```

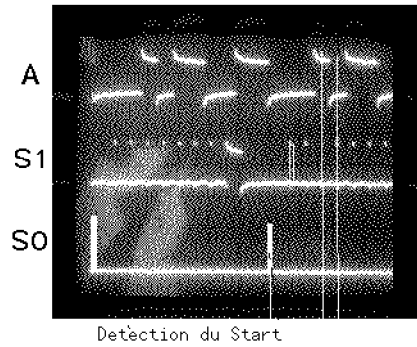
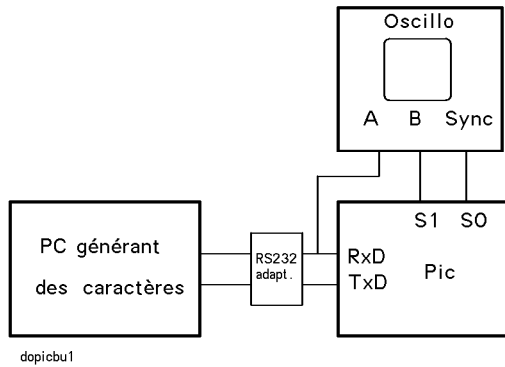
Routine: RecSer Serial receive for 16F84 at 9600 .. 2400 b/s
; One stop bit (>100 us) to handle data before checking for new data
out:     W = DataRec
mod:     CRec
RecSer:
; Wait for Start bit
A$:      SkipIfStopBit
Jump     A$
B$:      SkipIfStartBit
Jump     B$
; s0on   ; Scope syncro
; s0off
Lecture des data
Move     #8,W
Move     W,CRec
Move     #[3*RateAdjust]/2,W ; wait 1-1/2 period
L$:
W$:      Add     #-1,W
Skip,EQ
Jump     W$
; s1on   ; Sample time
SetC
SkipIfRxOne
ClrC
; s1off
RRC      DataRec ; LSB first
Move     #RateAdjust,W
DecSkip,EQ CRec
Jump     L$

```

```

;slon      ; stop bit check
VV$:      Add    #-1,W    ; wait end of last bit
          Skip,EQ
          Jump   VV$
;sl off
          Move   DataRec,W
          Ret
    
```

For testing the routine one can display the incoming character code on PortB, and as before change the RateAdjust value to verify the security margins. An Echo program will send back to the terminal the characters received. If it does not work, a scope is required. It is synchronized by S0, and a maintained key on a PC provides an adequate repetition rate.



Both SndSer and RecSer routines for 16F84 can be found in www.didel.com/doc/XSerR.asi.

2.4. Receive routine for 16F870

On PICs with an USART, the initialisation is as before, and the receive routine is given below. One has now the time of the arrival of a complete character (1.1 ms) for executing the instructions.

```

Routine: RecSer Serial receive at 9600 bit/s
          out: DataRec = W
RecSer:
R$:      TestSkip,BS PIR1:#RcIF
          Jump   R$
          Move   RcReg,W
          Move   W,DataRec
          Ret
    
```

Both SndSer and RecSer routines for 16F870 can be found in www.didel.com/doc/XSer7R.asi.