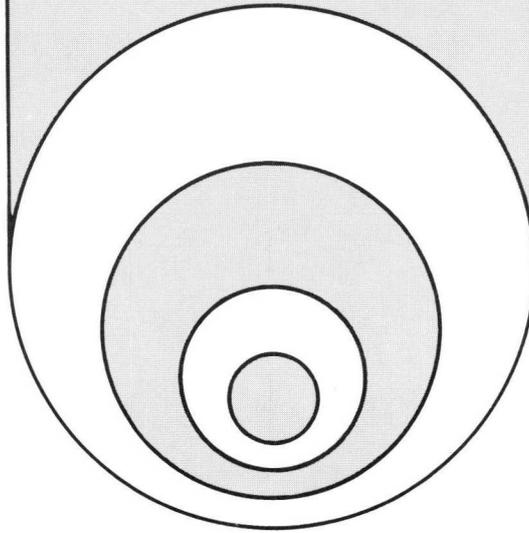


signetics

MICROPROCESSOR



SERIAL INPUT/OUTPUT.....AS50

2650 MICROPROCESSOR APPLICATION MEMO

INTRODUCTION

The Sense/Flag capability of the Signetics 2650 microprocessor can be used for serial I/O interfaces. The Sense input pin is directly connected to a bit in the microprocessor's Program Status Word. A high level on the Sense pin appears as a binary one while a low level appears as a binary zero. The Sense bit in the PSW can be stored or tested by the program. The Flag bit in the PSW is a simple latch that drives the Flag output pin. A program can set the Flag bit to a binary one, which causes a high level, one TTL load on the flag output pin. Setting the Flag bit to binary zero causes a low level on the Flag output pin.

APPLICATIONS

The most common use for the Sense/Flag capability would be in interfacing to a keyboard based terminal where the data is received or transmitted as bit serial. All bit manipulation and timings such as 8-bit serial-to-parallel conversion can be done by software running on the 2650. The software works by storing or setting the two bits in the Program Status Word which reflect or control the levels at the pins of the chip. External hardware is required simply to interface with line levels. No clock synchronization or address decoding hardware is necessary, since the Sense and Flag pins are independent of the normal I/O bus structure.

Two examples of device interfaces and software are given below; for a 1200 baud RS232-type CRT terminal and for a 110 baud Teletype. Figure 1 shows the RS232 interface. Half of the Signetics 8T15 dual line driver is used to transmit to the terminal from the Flag pin, while half of a

Signetics 8T16 dual line receiver is used to receive from the device into the Sense pin. The interface to a Teletype model 33 is shown in Figure II. A TTL open collector gate is used to provide the 20 milli-amp loop to the TTY

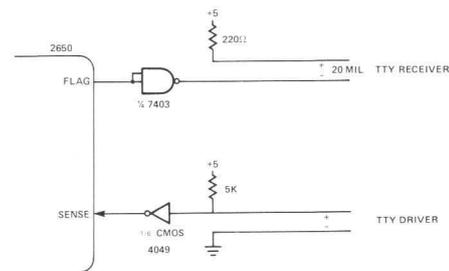


FIGURE II
TTY MODEL 33 INTERFACE FULL DUPLEX

receiver. For receiving from the TTY a CMOS gate is used to provide the necessary noise immunity.

SOFTWARE

All definitions of baud rate, character formats, and line characteristics are done in the software. For these examples, communication is asynchronous bit-serial over a full duplex line. Figure III shows the format of a 8-bit character (seven bits plus parity) headed by a start bit and followed by stop bits. The line levels are:

- low = start bit or binary zero
- high = stop bit or binary one



FIGURE III

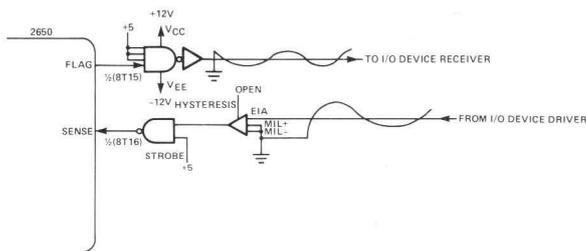
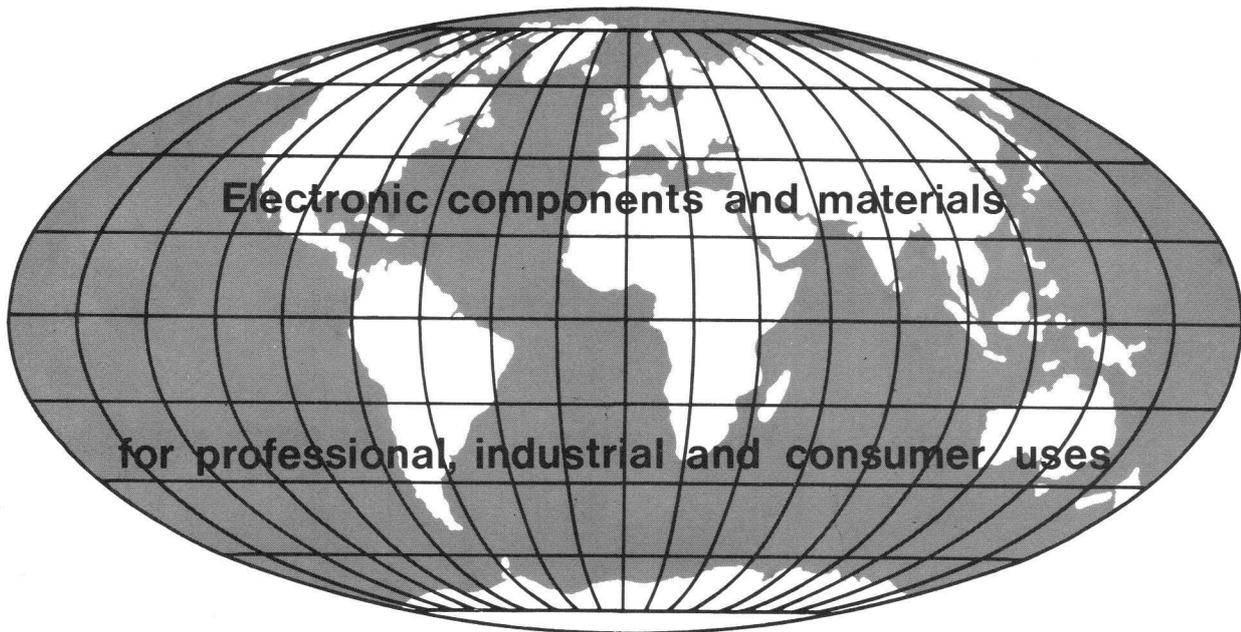


FIGURE I
RS-232 INTERFACE



from a world-wide Group of Companies

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