

UART hardware vs. Software Bit-Banged, serial ports

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When no UART hardware is available, the function of a UART can be programmed using a pair of digital I/O pins. (The level-shifting of course must be done with hardware. Using software to replace UART hardware is called creating a *bit-banged* serial port. The phrase "bit-banged" is colloquial, but fairly well recognized.

There are libraries for bit-banged serial I/O for the Arduino, the Raspberry Pi, and most other platforms. However, these **libraries usually take over several internal chip resources (timers, etc) that cannot then be used for other purposes.** Although it is often considered to be something of a hack, bit banging does allow the same device to use different protocols with minimal or no hardware changes required. Also, most platforms only have one or a few UARTs. Some have none. By using bit-banging one can have more serial interfaces than there are UARTs.

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There are some drawbacks to bit banging. The software emulation process <u>consumes more processing power</u> than does supporting dedicated hardware. The microcontroller spends much of its time reading or sending samples to and from the port, at the expense of other tasks. The signal produced usually has more jitter (timing uncertainty), especially if the processor is also executing other tasks while communicating. However, **if the bit-banging software is interrupt-driven by the signal, this may be of minor importance.** –Paraphrased from Wikipedia

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SUMMARY SLIDE

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Configurable link set-up parameters with RS-232

Full Duplex vs. Half Duplex

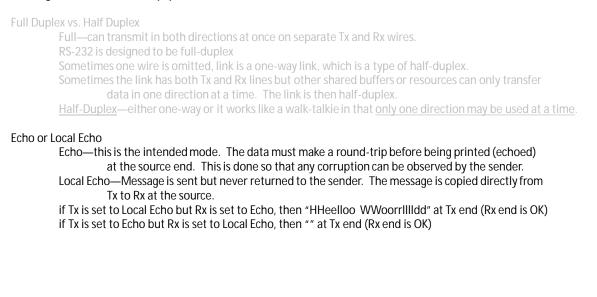
Full—can transmit in both directions at once on separate Tx and Rx wires.

RS-232 is designed to be full-duplex

Sometimes one wire is omitted, link is a one-way link, which is a type of half-duplex.

Sometimes the link has both Tx and Rx lines but other shared buffers or resources can only transfer data in one direction at a time. The link is then half-duplex.

Half-Duplex—either one-way or it works like a walk-talkie in that only one direction may be used at a time.



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Configurable link set-up parameters with RS-232 Full Duplex vs. Half Duplex Full—can transmit in both directions at once on separate Tx and Rx wires. RS-232 is designed to be full-duplex Sometimes one wire is omitted, link is a one-way link, which is a type of half-duplex. Sometimes the link has both Tx and Rx lines but other shared buffers or resources can only transfer data in one direction at a time. The link is then half-duplex. Half-Duplex—either one-way or it works like a walk-talkie in that only one direction may be used at a time. Echo—this is the intended mode. The data must make a round-trip before being printed (echoed) at the source end. This is done so that any corruption can be observed by the sender. Local Echo—Message is sent but never returned to the sender. The message is copied directly from Tx to Rx at the source. if Tx is set to Local Echo but Rx is set to Echo, then "HHeelloo WWoorrIllIdd" at Tx end (Rx end is OK) if Tx is set to Echo but Rx is set to Local Echo, then "" at Tx end (Rx end is OK) Local Editing Message goes into a buffer until the "return" key is struck or buffer is full. If buffer is full, then send oldest character in buffer. If return is struck, then the buffer is streamed out until empty. There is also provision to edit that which is still in the buffer. Usually the provision is the "backspace" key only.

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Configurable link set-up parameters with RS-232	← More parameters! A continuation of the previous slide.
DTE or DCE Does this device act like a terminal (DTE) or a modem (DCE))? Essentially configures the data direction.
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Baud rate

Baud rate for RS-232 is actually the clock rate that sends individual bits.

(DDB thinks this is an abuse of the word "baud," which should refer to information rate. Call it Tx clock rate.) Standard rates are 30, 60, 75, 110, 150, 300, 330, 512, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200, 38400, 56000 There are some higher rates occasionally used. 115200, 128000, etc up to 9216000 but these are outside the standard. Actually, practically any rate can be found since many applications of RS-232 deviate from the standard.

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Bits per word

5, 7, or 8 bits per word are allowed. (Almost always 8 bits/word in modern applications.)

Parity Even or odd or none.

ASCII is a 7-bit/word code. When sending ASCII, fill the 8th bit with parity or logic-0 (none). If "even" is selected, fill the 8th bit such that there is an even number of "1" bits in the entire 8-bit word.

Stop bits 1, 1.5, or 2 bits long. Longer stop bits speed acquisition of synchronism. If 1 bit, must wait for idle time.

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Conventional notation for the above 3: bits/parity/stop, e.g. 8/n/1 is common, aka 8N1 (*communation word*.)

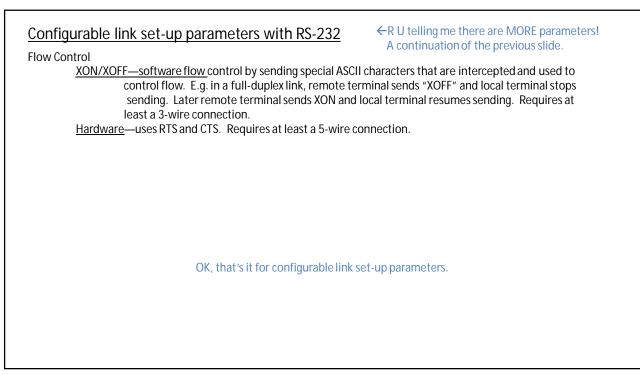
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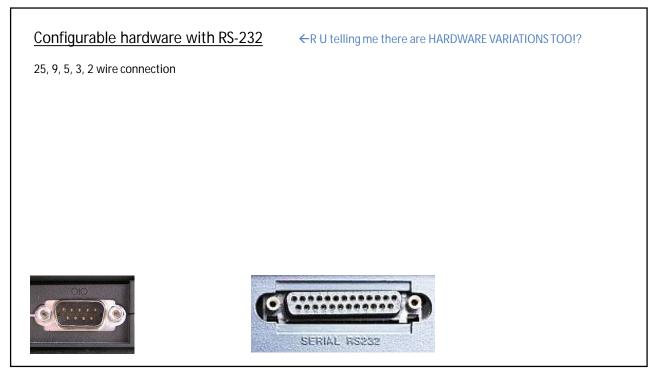
← R U telling me there are MORE parameters!? A continuation of the previous slide.

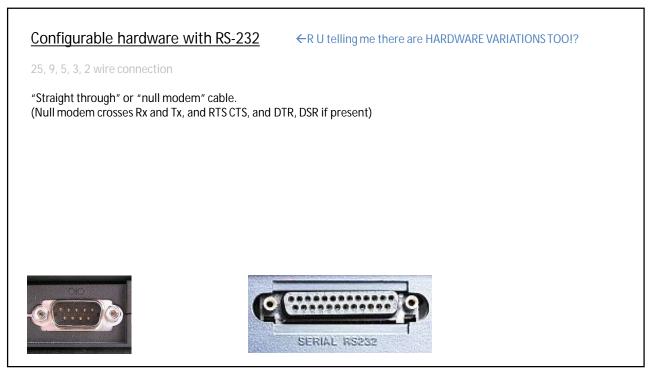
Flow Control

<u>XON/XOFF—software flow</u> control by sending special ASCII characters that are intercepted and used to control flow. E.g. in a full-duplex link, remote terminal sends "XOFF" and local terminal stops sending. Later remote terminal sends XON and local terminal resumes sending. Requires at least a 3-wire connection.

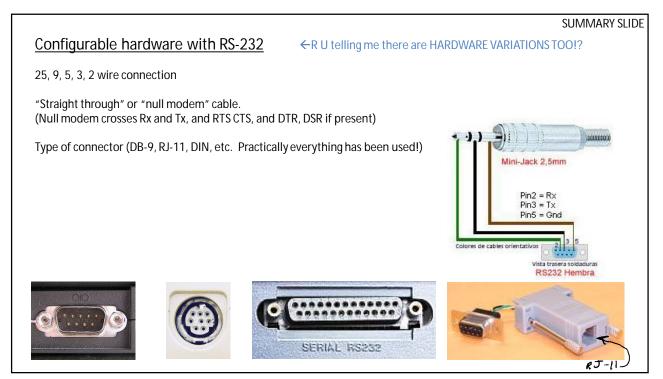
Hardware—uses RTS and CTS. Requires at least a 5-wire connection.

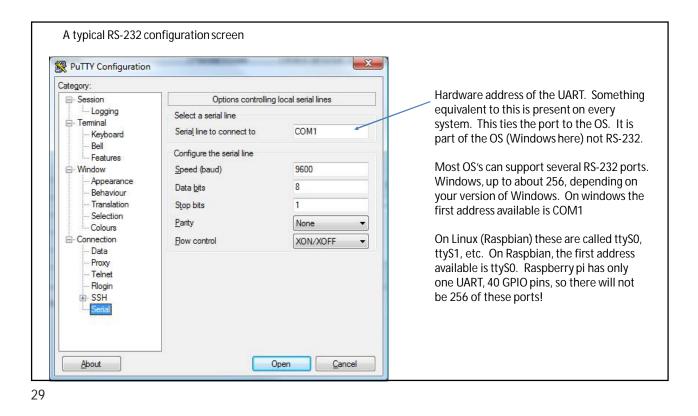


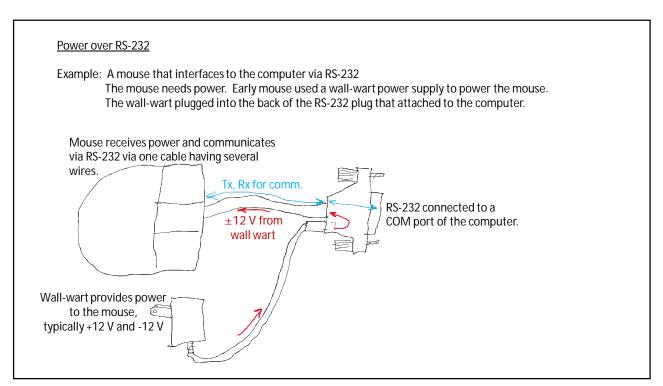


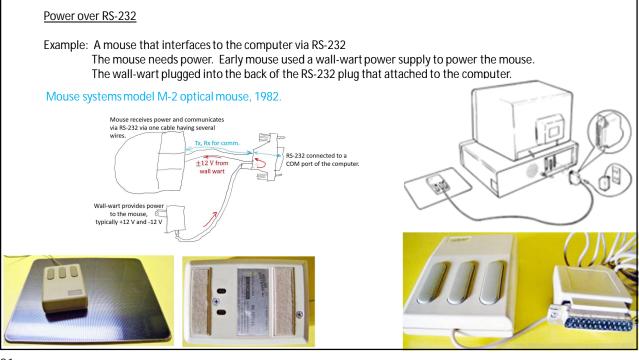


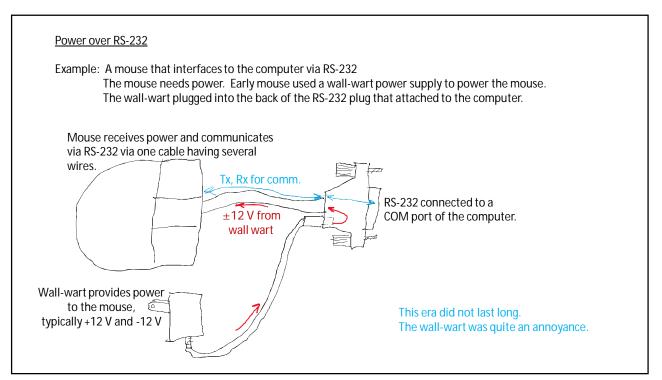














Example: A mouse that interfaces to the computer via RS-232

The mouse needs power. Have the mouse driver in the computer toggle the DTR line periodically between MARK and SPACE. If the computer is acting as a DTE (terminal) device with ± 12 V signaling this creates a square wave that is sent to the mouse. Rectify and filter it to ± 12 V and -12 V to power the mouse.

Mouse receives power and communicates via RS-232 via one cable having several

