

November 26, 2002
Kuper Controls
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I/O CONNECTORS ON THE KUPERDAT REV.A BOARD

STEP & DIRECTION signals are brought out on 16 pin header H1. Six axes are available. Step signals are square waves for efficient cable penetration. The polarity of each step signal can be individually programmed to accommodate drivers with "problem" direction input characteristics. Although faster rates are possible, cable considerations will normally limit the maximum practical step rate to 500 kHz on each axis.

QUADRATURE OUTPUTS are available as an alternative to step & direction outputs. Each of the six output pairs on H1 can be individually selected as either step & direction outputs or single-ended quadrature outputs. Maximum quadrature rate is 500,000 edges per second.

DIFFERENTIAL ENCODERS INPUTS are brought in through 50 pin headers JP2 (encoders 0 to 4) and JP3 (encoders 5 to 9). Maximum native encoder pulse input rate is 500,000 edges per second, when using well-made cables.

Both headers supply +5 volts and ground to power the encoders. An on-board DC-DC converter supplies +5 volts to the EVCC pins. This power source is separate from the computer supply, so that noise or short-circuits in the encoder circuitry will not crash the computer. The total current draw on all EVCC pins combined should not exceed 2.5 amps.

The pinout scheme is selected to be compatible with US Digital "PC4-PH10" differential line driver adapters. These small adapters fits directly on to the pins of standard S2-xxxx and S1-xxxx encoders, without substantially enlarging the form factor of the encoders. For use with short cable runs such as inside equipment, 50 pin ribbon cables can be split into groups of 10 wires, and terminated with standard 10 pin insulation displacement connectors. These 10 pin headers will directly connect to the PC4-PH10 adapters.

For use outside equipment, 10 wire, twisted pair, shielded cables should be used. 6 wires are for the differential pairs, 2 wires are for EVCC (+5 volts), and 2 for ground. The shield should not be used to carry the ground signal. Also, the shield should not be connected to any logic ground. A well-made cable of this type, when used with an encoder with line driver outputs, will transmit differential encoder signals of up to 500 kHz through cable lengths of up to 300 feet. Much longer encoder cable runs are possible at reduced frequencies.

The index marks can be used in the traditional way as "once-per-turn" encoder index marks, or as external homing marks on the encoded axes. The use of the index input is optional, but highly recommended.

HOME AND LIMIT SIGNALS are brought in through 34 pin header JP7. VLIM is a noise-isolated source of +5 volts to supply amplified sensors, such as those available from Omron.

The home sensor inputs record the position of the axis each time a signal transition occurs. **All axes should have a "black-or-white" homing flag, such that the signal is low for all travel on one side of the homing edge, and high for all travel on the opposite side.** The home position is the location where the logic signal changes from one polarity to the other. This allows the software to always know the direction towards home, even when a motor has stalled. A narrow homing slot can also be used, but this will require the system to spend time searching back and forth for home if position is lost. The main advantage of a black-or-white scheme over a slot scheme is that the black-or-white scheme does not require limit sensors in most cases, since the direction towards home is always known. A slot homing sensor requires limit switches since a back and forth, trial and error search for a narrow home slot is likely to drive an axis against a limit.

The home flag transition should be located in the normal range of axis motion, so that it is triggered frequently. This allows the system to maintain an accurate home position without the axis ever having to be specifically homed or home-checked. The axis is effectively re-homed each time it passes the flag transition point.

It is preferable that the limit switches pull the signal to ground when a limit is encountered. However, the active limit switch polarity can be selected by the operator in software.

The limit lines should be carried inside a shielded cable. The limit GND line should be carried as a separate line inside the shield -- the shield should never be used as a ground signal line, or attached to any logic ground input.

SYNCRHONIZATION INPUTS are available on 16 pin header H5. Inputs are provided for NTSC and PAL video, all standard film cameras, and SMPTE longitudinal or vertical-interval time code. The video inputs can be either composite video or sync only. The film shutter pulse input is optically isolated. No external signal conditioning is required on any input, provided that the shutter pulse input signal is 40 volts or less.

SYNCHRONIZATION OUTPUTS are available on 16 pin header H5. Three outputs can be user-programmed to fire at a specific point within each visual frame, or in selected visual frames. These signals can be used to operate electronic flashes, capping shutters, to simulate a camera shutter pulse, to synchronize to a motion control system, etc.

TIMECODE OUTPUT is available on 16 pin header H5. Output levels and either NTSC or EBU rise times can be specified in software. The time code transmission rate can be genlocked to the KuperDat motion control rate, or to an external camera or sync source connected to KuperDat.

VIDEO FRAME NUMBER INSERT. Either frame number or time code can be inserted into the video signal attached to H5. The processed video is available on the "video out" pin on header H5.

RS232 AND RS485 SIGNALS are brought out on 40 pin header H7. H7 is actually a stack of four, 10 pin connectors. For use inside equipment, a 40 pin ribbon cable can be split into four groups of ten wires, and terminated with IDC DB9 connectors -- the 10th wire in each group will have to be stripped away and clipped off. It is recommended that male connectors be used for the two, RS232 channels, and female connectors be used for the two, RS485 channels.

"Normal sequence" Baud rates up to 921,600 are available on all serial ports. Cable electrical characteristics will normally limit RS232 connections to 115200 baud maximum with all but the shortest cables. RS485 channel 0 can be programmed both for "normal sequence" and also for "even sequence" baud rates such as 250 kilobaud, to as high as 1 megabaud.

The RS232 connectors on KuperDat are pre-wired for Null Modem. They can be connected directly to PC serial ports with a straight through, pin-to-pin, DB9 cable. A null modem cable or adapter should not be used.

The two, RS485 channels are fully optically isolated. Cables up to 3000 feet can be used, provided that the cables are well made and fully shielded.

RS485 channel 0 can also be used to operate a DMX-512 lighting network, including DMX-512 devices such as motorized lights. Both 8 and 16 bit DMX devices are supported. If connected to a DMX-512 network, the two "DMXGND" pins should be used instead of the normal "485GND" pins. The DMXGND pins allow for minor ground float as commonly found in DMX-512 systems.

The data transmission on any of the serial outputs can be rigorously hardware synchronized to the motion control or camera rate for the best possible conformity of logged data to image. For instance, the first bit in a serial data packet can be synchronized to the start of shutter open in a film camera, or to a specific scan line in a video signal.

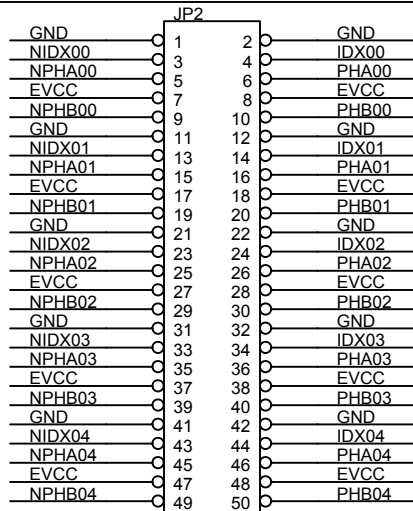
ANALOG INPUTS are brought in through 26 pin connector H6. The ADREF+ pins supply a precision 5.000 volt reference voltage to each of the eight inputs, and the AGND pins supply a noise-isolated common reference.

For use inside equipment, a 26 pin ribbon cable can be split into 8 groups of 3 wires each and connected to potentiometers of approximately 5,000 to 10,000 Ohms. ADREF+ and AGND connect to the two outside potentiometer pins, and INPUTx connects to the inside pin. No external voltage reference is required. Shielded cables must be used if the signals are used externally, and AGND should not be connected to the shield.

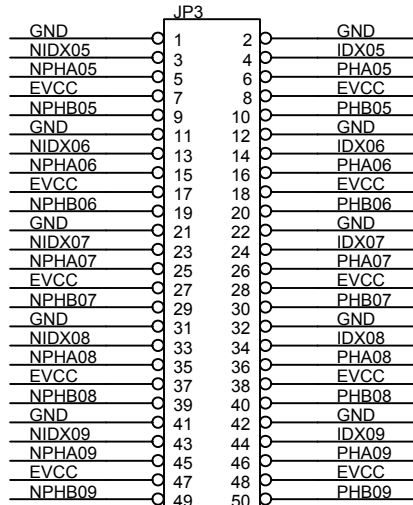
Input7 can also be jumpered to monitor the input power supply voltage supplied to the system, useful in battery powered applications. The connection between Input7 and the power supply voltage is made through on-board conditioning circuitry -- never connect an external power supply directly to Input7. Contact Kuper Controls for information on how to use Input7 for power supply monitoring.

USB communications are available through the USB2 peripheral connector. If a chassis mounted USB connector is required, USB signals are also brought out through the 4 pin, inline header USB1.

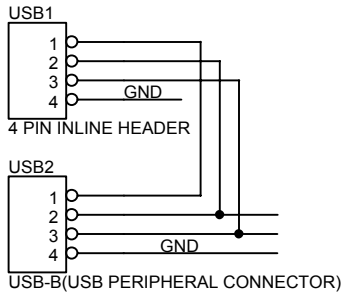
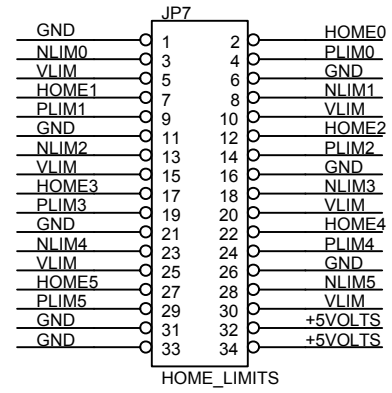
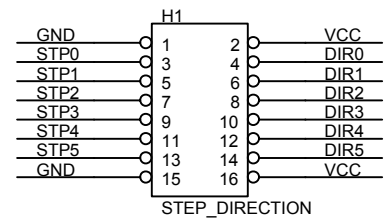
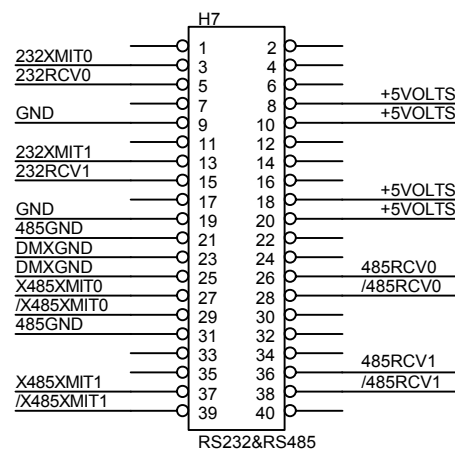
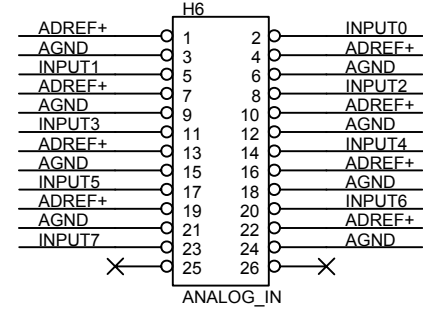
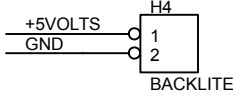
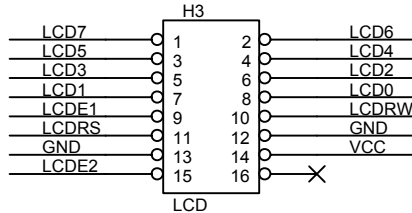
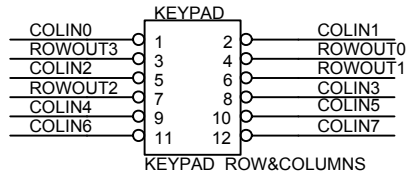
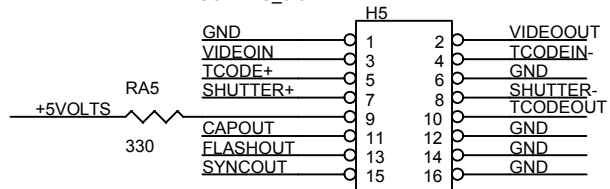
KEYPAD AND LCD connectors H2 and H3 are designed to interface via ribbon cables to a standard keypad and a standard 40 character by 4 line, low power LCD display. Two-pin connector H4 is located in-line with H3, and is a source of +5 volts for LCD's with back lights. In many applications, the user-interface display will be a TFT screen attached to the CPU card. The LCD interface is provided for low-power, embedded applications such as data-logging where a TFT and its high power consumption are not required.



ENCODERS_0-4



ENCODERS_5-9



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