

**CHIPS Newsletter Vol 6**

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CHIPS newsletter

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Topics

HI-TECH V9.71a**CHIPINO****Simple-C****Volume 3****EEVBLOG****Conclusion**

This newsletter will be quick and to the point. I've been so deep with other projects, I've lost track of time. I've decided to put myself on a schedule just like I did when writing for Nuts & Volts. The first of every month a new newsletter will be due so I can hopefully keep you interested in reading what new things I've found to pass on. So here we go.

HI-TECH V9.71a

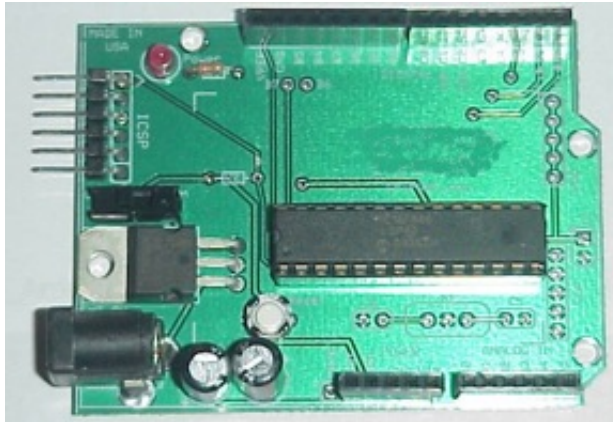
If you didn't know yet, Microchip bought out the HI-TECH company and now controls the compiler I use in my Embedded C books. They also just recently released a new version of the HI-TECH compiler for PIC10F,12F and 16F parts. It's version 9.71a. This new version seems to work well so I recommend updating to it.

You can download it from www.htsoft.com.

CHIPINO

In the last newsletter I asked for feedback on development boards but didn't get

many responses. I ended up voting myself for the new board from CHIPAXE which they now officially are calling CHIPINO. It's connector compatible with the Arduino but runs on a 28 pin PIC. It also relies on a PIC programmer rather than a bootloader which I agree is a better path. This allows the user to not only program but also debug in-circuit. With the improvements I recommended, it will also allow you to use the features of the PICKit 2 such as UART tool and Logic tool I've talked about in previous newsletters. This module is so easy to work with, I've decided to use it as the platform for many future books. I'll write more about the hardware details in the near future. It's a interesting product.



CHIPINO from CHIPAXE.com

Simple-C

This one topic is the main reason my newsletters have been slow. Creating Simple-C has been a big time consuming task but is finally going really well. It will be featured in Volume 3 of my embedded C book series along with future mini-books. It truly makes creating C programs as easy as writing in PICBASIC.

Right now one of the future plans for Simple-C is to team it up with the CHIPINO for a complete starter package. I hope to talk more about this in future newsletters and published articles. The CHIPAXE team and I are working closely together to make this happen soon.

Volume 3

Volume 3 will be delayed until the end of the year. I just ran into too many issues early on. The book will also move up to the 28 pin 16F886 from the 16F690 to introduce new hardware options. I am reading all Volume 1 and Volume 2 feedback to make sure I address as many requests as possible for Volume 3. I really appreciate reader feedback. Without my reader feedback I would be writing into a vacuum.

EEVBLOG

eevblog.com is a great site to visit for electronic hobbyists. The blogger is Dave Jones from Australia and he is a very interesting guy to listen to. I love his review of the PICkit 3. It's so funny and truthful at the same time. I'd love to do a video blog like this but I believe it takes too much time and I can't even get a newsletter out quick enough.

MakerFaire

I've been approved to setup at the Maker Faire at The Henry Ford in Dearborn Michigan July 31st and August 1. If you are there stop by my booth. I hope to introduce beginners to how easy it is to get started programming microcontrollers.

Conclusion

Short and sweet. I've got to get back to Simple-C testing.

Please send me any feedback, questions and comments on anything discussed here or any ideas you have for future topics to chuck@elproducts.com. I do read them all and try to answer all your questions though if you want me to fix your code or write you a custom version, I probably won't have the time.

See you in the next release which is scheduled for August 1st.

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