H8-4

OVERVIEW

The H8-4 Multi Port Serial I/O Card is a copy of the original H8-4 card by the Heath Company. The IC identifiers and circuit board traces are pin compatible with the original card and debugging can be performed using the original Heathkit H8-4 schematic. The H8-4 Multi Port Serial I/O Card is a card with 4 serial ports for communicating with external peripherals such as terminals, modems and printers. Each port can be assigned a unique I/O port using the onboard Address Selection jumpers. In addition you may assign an interrupt number to each port using the Interrupt Select jumpers located at the bottom of the board.

NEW FEATURES

The card will work with the newer 16550 UART as well as the older 8250. Just plug either chip into the 40pin socket and that's all you need to do. Timing is taken from the onboard 1.8432MHz oscillator. This is a bit cleaner than the original implementation which used a crystal with a few capacitors and resistors for timing. This card does not have the 20ma option as the original did. If you need that feature for use with a Teletype terminal then please continue to use the original H8-4 from the Heath Company.

IMPORTANT NOTE

One important difference between this card and the one from the Heath Company is that the connectors are flipped. On this card pin 1 for the connectors are on the left side, not the right side as was the case with the original H8-4 from Heath. I've tried to make this obvious by labeling the connector pins with a '1' and '15' in a large font on the silkscreen. In addition if you are using the Heath supplied ribbon cable to connect your equipment I've added 'BLK' and 'YEL' above the connector pins to match the cable.

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