



Hostess 550™

Buffered Multiport Serial Controller

Hostess 550 buffered nonintelligent controllers offer the performance of intelligent controllers without the increased cost or complexity of an intelligent controller. On-board 16550 UARTs provide data buffering that reduces the number of system interrupts and increases system throughput. It's hard to find a more economical or simple way to enhance multiuser system performance. Using a single expansion slot, Hostess 550 controllers can connect four, eight or sixteen asynchronous serial devices such as terminals and printers. Like all Control products, Hostess 550 gives you the freedom of choice and the flexibility to grow. Upgrade modules allow growth from four to eight ports. To increase users beyond eight try our 16-port controller. And when you need more than 16 users, add up to four controllers in your PC. Hostess 550 controllers are available for ISA, EISA and Micro Channel compatible systems.

SOFTWARE SUPPORT

Because every multiuser environment is unique, Hostess 550 software is designed for reliable performance and maximum compatibility with the widest range of PCs and operating systems available. Hostess 550 controllers are compatible with DOS, UNIX and virtually all other major multiuser operating systems. (See our Software Compatibility Summary for a complete list of operating systems.) Software drivers with simple menu-driven routines make installation easy. All software drivers and updates are available at no charge.

OPTIONS & ACCESSORIES

Our controllers feature the largest selection of interfaces and connectors on the market. You can select from RS-232, RS-422, RS-485, and RS-232 Current Loop interfaces. And your connector options include: DB9, DB25 or RJ45.

Hostess 4- and 8-port controllers are available with RJ connectors located on the host controller. The RJ connector option is easy to use, quick to install, and saves you money by eliminating the need to purchase an interface box. Four port models are shipped with four RS-232 RJ45 connectors located on the controller. Eight port models come with eight RS-232 RJ11 connectors located on the controller.

MULTIPLE PROTECTION 30/5-YEAR

We back our products with an uncompromising 30-day satisfaction guarantee, a 5-year warranty*, toll-free technical support, and most importantly... a company that's easy to do business with. It all adds up to the best protection plan available. Try the Hostess 550 controller for 30 days. If you're not completely satisfied, we'll give you a full refund.

*30-day guarantee and 5-year warranty available in U.S. & Canada only. For information on European warranties, please contact Control Europe LTD.

FEATURES AND SPECIFICATIONS

HOSTESS 550

4-, 8- and 16-port models

Hostess 550 is ISA/EISA compatible

Hostess 550/MC is Micro Channel compatible

16550 UARTs - 16 byte transmit & receive FIFO

Each port individually software controllable including:

- 50 to 56,000 bps, standard baud rates
- 5, 6, 7, 8-bit characters - 1, 1.5, 2 stop bits even, odd or no parity

Field upgrade module - from 4-ports to 8-ports

Switch selectable block addressing and hardware interrupts

- Hostess 550 4- or 8-port IRQ's 2-5, 10 and 11
- Hostess 550 16-port IRQ's 2-5, 10-12
- Hostess 550/MC IRQ's 3, 5, 10 and 11

Configurable I/O addressing

CONTROLLER

	AIR TEMPERATURE	HUMIDITY
System On:	0 to 70 degrees C	8% to 80%
System Off:	-65 to 150 degrees C	20% to 80%
ALTITUDE:	0 to 10,000 feet	
	0 to 3048 meters	

HOSTESS 550 4-PORT 8-PORT 16-PORT

HEAT OUTPUT	23.5 BTU/HR	37.3 BTU/HR	25.0 BTU/HR
CURRENT CONSUMPTION			
+5 VDC	1.100A	1.600A	1.200A
+12 VDC	0.054A	0.112A	0.060A
-12 VDC	0.060A	0.130A	0.050A
CALCULATED MTBF-HR	197,394	161,917	73,000

HOSTESS 550/MC 4-PORT 8-PORT 16-PORT

HEAT OUTPUT	28.7 BTU/HR	38.1 BTU/HR	37.5 BTU/HR
CURRENT CONSUMPTION			
+5 VDC	1.410A	1.650A	1.250A
+12 VDC	0.054A	0.112A	0.050A
-12 VDC	0.060A	0.130A	0.345A
CALCULATED MTBF-HR	197,394	161,917	73,000

CERTIFICATION

FCC Class A Certified

VDE Class B Certified (16-port pending)

UL Recognized

INTERFACE OPTIONS

RS-232

Connectors

DB25 male or female interface
DB9 male or female interface
4-, 8- or 16-ports

Modem control

4- and 8-ports
16-ports

DTR, CTS, CD, DSR, RTS, RI
CTS, CD, RTS, DTR on ports 1-10, 13-16

RS-232/422

Connectors

DB25 male or female interface
4-, 8- or 16-ports

Modem control

4- and 8-ports

in RS-232 mode, DTR, CTS, CD, DSR, RTS, RI

16-ports

in RS-232 mode, CTS, CD, RTS, DTR on ports 1-10, 13-16

Transmit/receive

Port jumper selectable

Data Transmission

in RS-422 mode

between RS-232 and RS-422

up to 4000 feet (1219.20 meters)

in RS-422 mode

RS-232/CURRENT LOOP

Connectors

DB25 female - 4- or 8-port interface

Modem control

in RS-232 mode

Transmit/receive

in current loop mode

Port jumper selectable

between RS-232 and current loop

Current loop mode

active, interruptible transmitter,

passive receiver

RS-422/485

Connectors

DB9 female - 8-port interface

Port jumper selectable

between RS-485 and RS-422

Options

RS-422 tri-state and RS-485 echo

modes

RJ45 (Accepts RJ11 connectors)

Standard configuration

RS-232/422

Connectors

4-ports mounted on controller

8- and 16-ports located in external housing

Modem control

DTR, CTS, CD, DSR, RTS

Jack

8-position

RJ11

Standard configuration

RS-232

Connectors

8-ports mounted on controller

Modem control

DTR, CTS, CD

Jack

6-position



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Aren't All Serial Boards The Same?

This is a common question that can be answered in one word.....**NO!**

What Makes RocketPort Different and Why is it Important?

No Shared Memory

Most serial boards use shared or dual port memory. When you install these conventional boards you assign a memory area that will be used exclusively by the board. This can cause conflicts with other hardware and software products. And, if you need to use multiple boards, this can be almost impossible.

RocketPort is I/O mapped to avoid these types of memory conflicts which makes installation and configuration easy. And, if you need to use multiple boards...no problem for RocketPort!

Fully Integrated ASICs

Other serial boards use countless components to accomplish their tasks. Each of these many components and their mounting on the board gives you an increased risk of failure.

RocketPort is the only multiport serial board with fully integrated ASICs (Application Specific Integrated Circuits). These ASICs were designed by Control to serve the function of hundreds of components. Integration not only reduces the component count by 80%, but also reduces RocketPort's power consumption considerably. The result is the most reliable serial board available.

Larger Transmit and Receive FIFO's

Most serial boards have very small FIFO's or buffers used for transmitting and receiving data. With small buffers, the board has to stop each time the buffer fills and wait for the data to clear. This continual starting and stopping increases the load on the CPU and reduces the board's overall performance.

RocketPort uses transmit FIFOs 16 times larger, and receive FIFOs 64 times larger the multiport boards designed with 16550 UARTs. This virtually eliminates bottlenecks at the serial controller level while conserving CPU resources.

Overall Performance

The ASIC design and larger FIFOs, combined with a 36 MHz processor for each eight ports gives RocketPort the power to sustain throughput at speeds up to 460.8 Kbps at each port - whether servicing 4 or 32 ports. That's over ten times the throughput for a much lower price than most conventional multiport serial boards.

***Control - The Performance Leader in
Serial Port Connectivity***