

ACCEVL.MAK is a small VB 3.0 (Standard) project that demonstrates how to use the Access Jet engine supplied with VB as a "poor man's" expression evaluator.

The trick is simple: pass the expression as part of a SQL select statement and let the Access engine return the result as a column. However, Access does not allow a select statement that does not have a FROM clause, so a syntax such as "select 1+1" does not work. But, if you select from a table with only one row, such as "select 1+1 from DummyTable", you do get good results.

The best part is that you can call integral Access functions such as log(), cos() and abs(), or even string functions. This is admittedly a bit klunky, but the price is right.