



## Mastering the I2C Bus

By Vincent Himpe

Elektor Electronics Publishing, United Kingdom, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 232 x 170 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Mastering the I<sup>2</sup>C Bus is the first book in the brand new LabWorX collection. It takes you on an exploratory journey of the I<sup>2</sup>C Bus and its applications. Besides the Bus protocol plenty of attention is given to the practical applications and designing a solid system. The most common I<sup>2</sup>C compatible chip classes are covered in detail. Two experimentation boards are available that allow for rapid prototype development. These boards are completed by a USB to I<sup>2</sup>C probe and a software framework to control I<sup>2</sup>C devices from your computer. All samples programs can be downloaded from the LabWorX support page. About LabWorX LabWorX is a collection of books, each handling a particular topic in the field of electronics. Each volume condenses all the information, applications and notes collected during hands-on work with the covered technology, all into one book. Besides the basics of the technology, in-depth examples and applications are given as well as troubleshooting tips on how to proceed if the initial implementation fails. The books provide a centralised repository of knowledge, each handling...

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I<sup>2</sup>C (Inter-Integrated Circuit), pronounced I-squared-C, is a synchronous, multi-master, multi-slave, packet switched, single-ended, serial communication bus invented in 1982 by Philips Semiconductor (now NXP Semiconductors). It is widely used for attaching lower-speed peripheral ICs to processors and microcontrollers in short-distance, intra-board communication. Alternatively, I<sup>2</sup>C is spelled I<sup>2</sup>C (pronounced I-two-C) or IIC (pronounced I-I-C). Even though multiple masters may be present on the I<sup>2</sup>C bus the arbitration is handled in such a way that there is no corruption of data on bus in case when more than 2 masters try to transmit data at the same time. Since the transmission, synchronization and arbitration is done using only 2 wires on the bus, the communication protocol might be a bit uneasy to understand for beginners .. but its actually easy to understand “ just stick with me ðŸ™. A general I<sup>2</sup>C/TWI bus topology with multiple masters and multiple slaves connected to the bus at the same time is shown below: Let us go through I<sup>2</sup>C The I<sup>2</sup>C-bus is a multi-master bus. This means that more than one device capable of controlling the bus can be connected to it. As masters are usually micro-controllers, let’s consider the case of a data transfer between two microcontrollers connected to the I<sup>2</sup>C-bus (Figure 3). This highlights the master-slave and receiver-transmitter relationships to be found on the I<sup>2</sup>C-bus. Generation of clock signals on the I<sup>2</sup>C-bus is always the responsibility of master devices; each master generates its own clock signals when transferring data on the bus. Bus clock signals from a master can only be altered when they are stretched by a slow-slave device holding-down the clock line, or by another master when arbitration occurs. The I<sup>2</sup>C bus is a very popular and powerful bus used for communication between a master (or multiple masters) and a single or multiple slave devices. Figure 1 illustrates how many different peripherals may share a bus which is connected to a processor through only 2 wires, which is one of the largest benefits that the I<sup>2</sup>C bus can give when compared to other interfaces. This application note is aimed at helping users understand how the I<sup>2</sup>C bus works. Figure 1 shows a typical I<sup>2</sup>C bus for an embedded system, where multiple slave devices are used. The microcontroller represents the I<sup>2</sup>C master, and