

Serial

Getting Started with Your PCMCIA Serial Hardware and Software for Windows 2000

Worldwide Technical Support and Product Information

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FCC/Canada Radio Frequency Interference Compliance*

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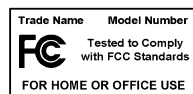
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has rules to protect wireless communications from interference. The FCC places digital electronics into two classes. These classes are known as Class A (for use in industrial-commercial locations only) or Class B (for use in residential or commercial locations). Depending on where it is operated, this product could be subject to restrictions in the FCC rules. (In Canada, the Department of Communications (DOC), of Industry Canada, regulates wireless interference in much the same way.)

Digital electronics emit weak signals during normal operation that can affect radio, television, or other wireless products. By examining the product you purchased, you can determine the FCC Class and therefore which of the two FCC/DOC Warnings apply in the following sections. (Some products may not be labeled at all for FCC; if so, the reader should then assume these are Class A devices.)

FCC Class A products only display a simple warning statement of one paragraph in length regarding interference and undesired operation. Most of our products are FCC Class A. The FCC rules have restrictions regarding the locations where FCC Class A products can be operated.

FCC Class B products display either a FCC ID code, starting with the letters **EXN**, or the FCC Class B compliance mark that appears as shown here on the right.

Consult the FCC web site <http://www.fcc.gov> for more information.



FCC/DOC Warnings

This equipment generates and uses radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in strict accordance with the instructions in this manual and the CE Mark Declaration of Conformity**, may cause interference to radio and television reception. Classification requirements are the same for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Canadian Department of Communications (DOC).

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by National Instruments could void the user's authority to operate the equipment under the FCC Rules.

Class A

Federal Communications Commission

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

Canadian Department of Communications

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Cet appareil numérique de la classe A respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

Class B

Federal Communications Commission

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- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.

- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Canadian Department of Communications

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

European Union - Compliance to EEC Directives

Readers in the EU/EEC/EEA must refer to the Manufacturer's Declaration of Conformity (DoC) for information** pertaining to the CE Mark compliance scheme. The Manufacturer includes a DoC for most every hardware product except for those bought for OEMs, if also available from an original manufacturer that also markets in the EU, or where compliance is not required as for electrically benign apparatus or cables.

* Certain exemptions may apply in the USA, see FCC Rules §15.103 **Exempted devices**, and §15.105(c). Also available in sections of CFR 47.

** The CE Mark Declaration of Conformity will contain important supplementary information and instructions for the user or installer.

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About This Manual

This manual contains instructions to help you install and configure the National Instruments serial hardware and the NI-Serial software for Windows 2000. This manual includes information about the PCMCIA-232, PCMCIA-232/2, PCMCIA-232/4, PCMCIA-485, and PCMCIA-485/2.

This manual assumes that you are already familiar with Windows 2000.

Conventions

The following conventions appear in this manual:

»

The » symbol leads you through nested menu items and dialog box options to a final action. The sequence **File»Page Setup»Options** directs you to pull down the **File** menu, select the **Page Setup** item, and select **Options** from the last dialog box.



This icon denotes a note, which alerts you to important information.

bold

Bold text denotes items that you must select or click on in the software, such as menu items and dialog box options. Bold text also denotes parameter names.

DTR

Signal names with an overscore, such as DTR, indicate that the signal is active low.

italic

Italic text denotes variables, emphasis, a cross reference, or an introduction to a key concept. This font also denotes text that is a placeholder for a word or value that you must supply.

`monospace`

Text in this font denotes text or characters that you should enter from the keyboard, sections of code, programming examples, and syntax examples. This font is also used for the proper names of disk drives, paths, directories, programs, subprograms, subroutines, device names, functions, operations, variables, filenames and extensions, and code excerpts.

`monospace bold`

Bold text in this font denotes the messages and responses that the computer automatically prints to the screen. This font also emphasizes lines of code that are different from the other examples.

Related Documentation

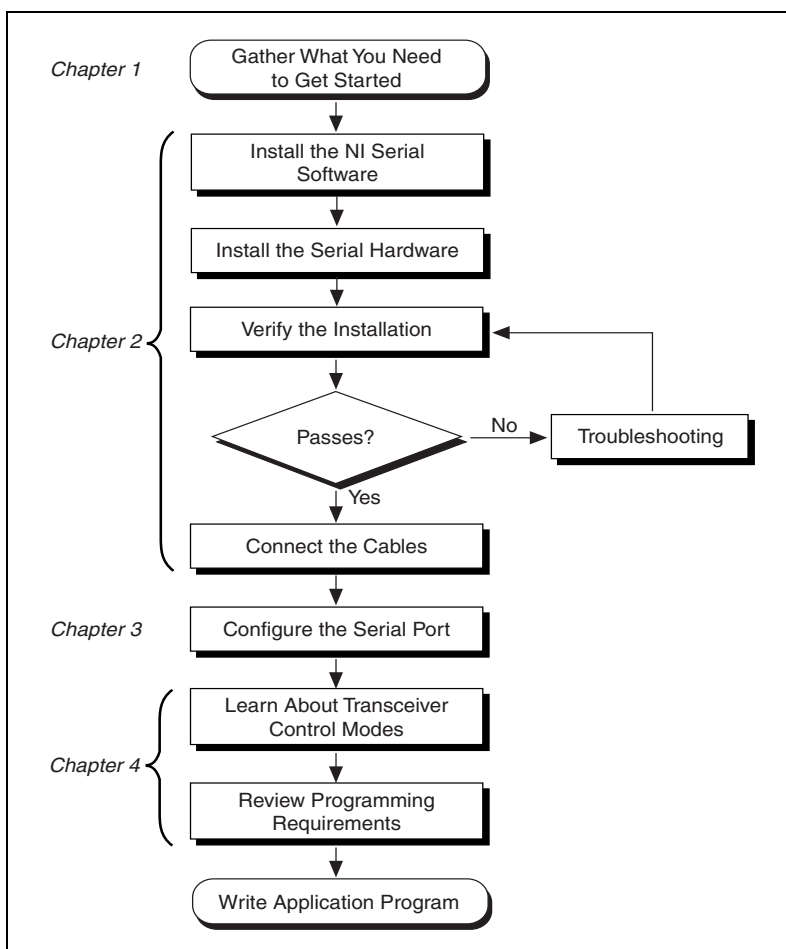
The following documents contain information that you might find helpful as you read this manual:

- ANSI/EIA-232-D Standard, *Interface Between Data Terminal Equipment and Data Circuit-Terminating Equipment Employing Serial Binary Data Interchange*
- EIA/RS-422-A Standard, *Electrical Characteristics of Balanced Voltage Digital Interface Circuits*
- EIA-485 Standard, *Standard for Electrical Characteristics of Generators and Receivers for Use in Balanced Digital Multipoint Systems*
- *Microsoft Win32 Software Developer Kit*, Online Documentation for *Win32 Overviews*, *Win32 Reference*, and *Microsoft Windows NT System Guide*, Microsoft Corporation
- *NS16550AF Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter with FIFOs*, National Semiconductor
- *ST16C654 Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter with FIFOs*, EXAR Corporation

Introduction

This chapter explains how to use this manual, lists what you need to get started and optional equipment you can order, and briefly describes the serial hardware and the NI-Serial software.

How to Use This Manual



What You Need to Get Started

Before you install your serial hardware and the NI-Serial software, make sure you have all of the following items:

- Windows 2000 installed on your computer
- One of the following serial interfaces, which is included in your kit:
 - PCMCIA-232 (one, two, or four port)
 - PCMCIA-485 (one or two port)
- CD, *NI-Serial Software for Windows 2000/NT/Me/9x*, which is included in your kit
- Adapter cable from PCMCIA card to DB-9 connector, which is included in your kit

Optional Equipment

For more information about ordering the following optional equipment, contact National Instruments:

- DB-9 RS-485 termination connector
- RS-232 9-pin to 9-pin null modem cable
- RS-232 9-pin to 25-pin null modem cable
- RS-485 9-pin to 9-pin null modem cable

Serial Hardware Overview

The serial hardware gives you a variety of solutions for serial communications. The PCMCIA-232 interfaces work with the RS-232 protocols, and the PCMCIA-485 interfaces work with the RS-422 and RS-485 protocols. You can use the PCMCIA-232 hardware for serial communication up to distances of 50 ft. You can connect the PCMCIA-485 hardware with up to 31 devices using serial cable lengths up to 4,000 ft.

The PCMCIA-232 is available with one, two, or four ports. The PCMCIA-485 is available in a one-port version or two-port version. All PCMCIA cards come with cables for each port that terminates in a standard DB-9 D-Sub connector. Throughout this manual, references to PCMCIA serial interfaces generally refer to all versions of the interfaces.

The PCMCIA-485 interfaces support four hardware transceiver control modes for reliable communication with two-wire and four-wire devices. Refer to Chapter 4, *Using Your Serial Hardware*, for more information about transceiver control modes.

All of the serial hardware uses standard 16550-compatible UARTs (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitters) for 100 percent compatibility with standard PC COM ports. The serial hardware contains FIFOs (First-In-First-Out buffers) for reduced susceptibility to interrupt latency and faster transmission rates. Full Plug and Play compatibility gives you the convenience of switchless configuration and installation. Refer to Appendix D, *Specifications*, for more information about the serial hardware specifications and operating conditions.

NI-Serial Software Overview

The NI-Serial software for Windows 2000 includes a native Windows device driver that provides full interrupt-driven, buffered I/O for multiple COM ports. You can obtain a maximum baud rate of 115.2 KBaud. You can also use up to 256 serial ports under Windows 2000. The NI-Serial software also includes a configuration utility, which is fully integrated into the Windows 2000 Device Manager. For more information about software specifications, refer to Appendix D, *Specifications*.

The NI-Serial software includes the following components:

- Device driver
- Diagnostic utility
- Configuration utility
- Product manuals

The NI-Serial software supports all National Instruments serial hardware, including the AT, PCI, PXI/CompactPCI, and PCMCIA versions.

Time-Saving Development Tools

Your kit includes the NI-Serial software for Windows 2000. In addition, you can order the LabWindows/CVI or LabVIEW software from National Instruments to speed your application development time and make it easier to communicate with your instruments.

LabVIEW is an easy-to-use, graphical programming environment you can use to acquire data from thousands of different instruments, including IEEE 488.2 devices, VXI devices, serial devices, PLCs, and plug-in data acquisition boards. After you have acquired raw data, you can convert it into meaningful results using the powerful data analysis routines in LabVIEW. LabVIEW also comes with hundreds of instrument drivers, which dramatically reduce software development time, because you do not have to spend time programming the low-level control of each instrument.

LabWindows/CVI is similar to LabVIEW, except that it combines an interactive, easy-to-use development approach with the programming power and flexibility of compiled ANSI C code.

For ordering information, or to request free demonstration software, contact National Instruments.

Using Your Serial Hardware with LabVIEW and LabWindows/CVI

After you install your serial hardware and the NI-Serial software, you can use standard serial I/O functions in LabVIEW and LabWindows/CVI with your serial interface. If you already have LabVIEW or LabWindows/CVI and want to use it with your serial hardware, refer to your LabVIEW or LabWindows/CVI documentation for information about serial I/O functions.

Installation and Verification

This chapter describes how to install the NI-Serial software, serial hardware, and cables, and how to verify the installation.

Install the Software

Before you install your serial hardware, complete the following steps to install the NI-Serial software for Windows 2000:

1. Select **Start»Settings»Control Panel**.
2. Double-click on the **Add/Remove Programs** icon. A dialog box similar to the one shown in Figure 2-1 appears.

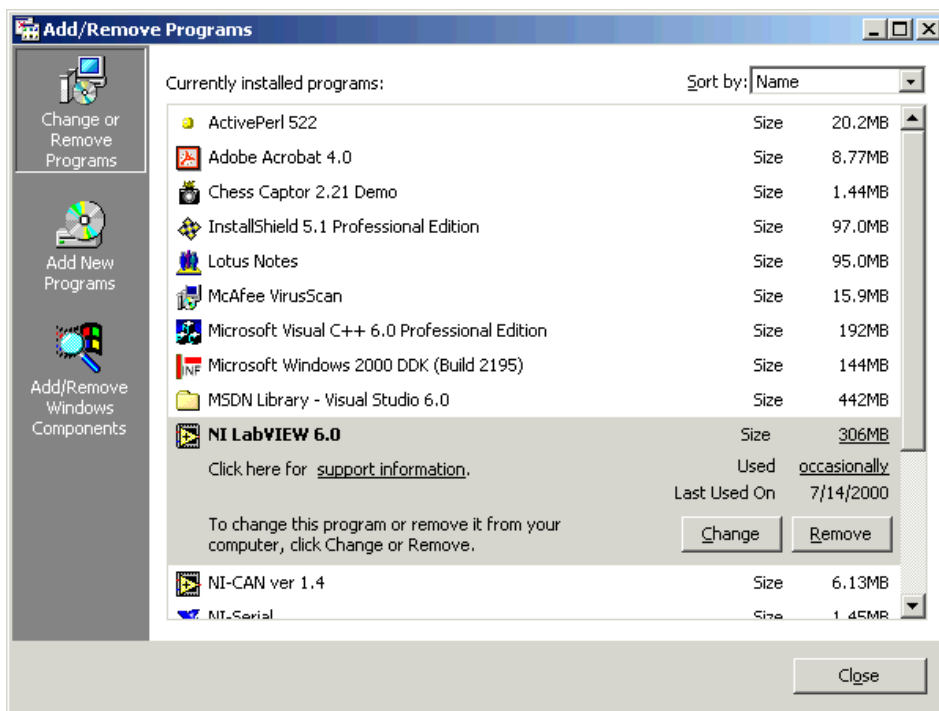


Figure 2-1. Add/Remove Programs Dialog Box

3. Click on the **Add New Programs** button and then the **CD or Floppy** button.
4. When prompted, insert the *NI-Serial Software for Windows 2000/NT/Me/9x* CD and click on the **Next** button.
5. When prompted, click on the **Finish** button to install the program files from the CD.
6. The setup wizard begins with the screen shown in Figure 2-2.

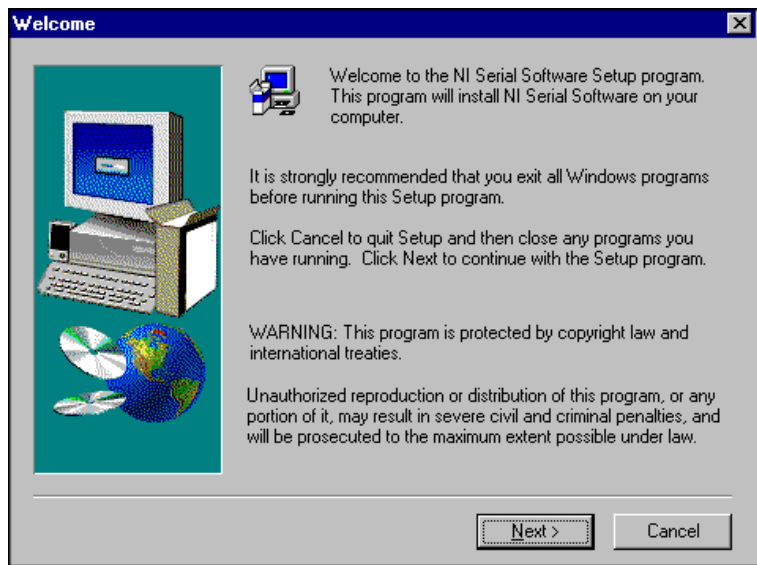


Figure 2-2. NI-Serial Setup Screen

The setup wizard guides you through the necessary steps to install the NI-Serial software. To exit the setup wizard at any time, click on the **Cancel** button.

7. If you need to install your hardware, or if this is your first time to install the NI-Serial software for Windows 2000, skip to the next section, [Install the Hardware](#). Otherwise, continue to step 8.
8. Windows 2000 should automatically detect your hardware and display the Found New Hardware Wizard. Complete the wizard by clicking **Next** in each window and then **Finish**. When you complete the wizard, continue to the [Verify the Installation](#) section.

If the Found New Hardware Wizard does not appear, refer to the [Forcing Windows to Detect Your Hardware](#) section in Appendix C, [Troubleshooting and Common Questions](#).

Install the Hardware

To install the PCMCIA-232 or PCMCIA-485 in your computer, first start Windows 2000. If the card is not already inserted, insert it into a free PC Card (PCMCIA) socket the same way you insert a disk into a floppy drive. The card has no jumpers or switches to set, and you do not need to shut down the system before you insert it.

Windows 2000 should automatically detect your hardware and display the Found New Hardware Wizard. Complete the wizard by clicking **Next** in each window and then **Finish**.

If the Found New Hardware Wizard does not appear, refer to the [Forcing Windows to Detect Your Hardware](#) section in Appendix C, [Troubleshooting and Common Questions](#).

Figure 2-3 shows how to insert a PCMCIA serial card and how to connect the cable.

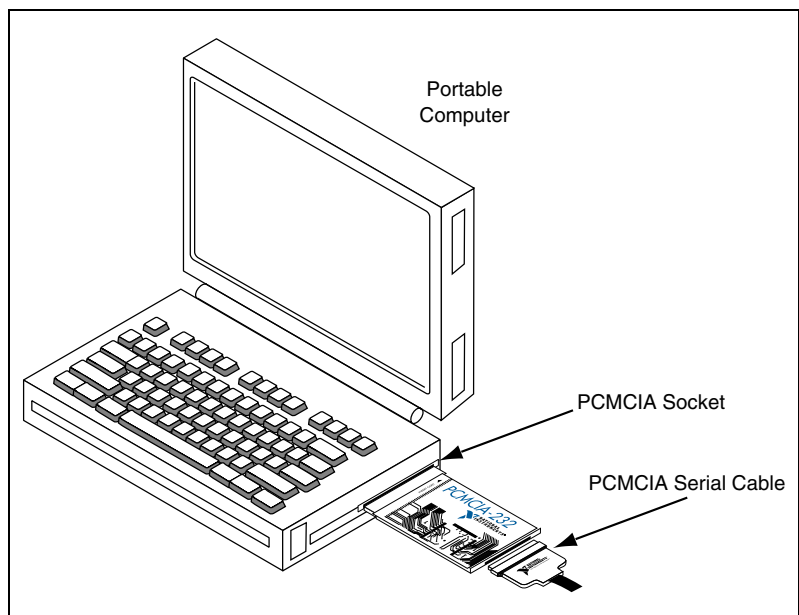


Figure 2-3. Inserting a PCMCIA Serial Card

The serial hardware installation is complete. Continue to the next section, [Verify the Installation](#).

Verify the Installation

To verify the hardware and software installation, complete the following steps:

1. Select **Start»Settings»Control Panel** and double-click on the **System** icon.
2. Click on the **Hardware** tab and click on the **Device Manager** button.
3. Double-click on the **Ports (COM & LPT)** icon to display all of the ports.
4. Double-click on the **Multi-function adapters** icon.

The PCMCIA serial cards are configured as devices belonging to the *multi-function adapters* class. The multi-function parent device is listed under the **Multi-function adapters** icon, and each child device is listed as a port under the **Ports (COM & LPT)** icon.

Figure 2-4 shows the Device Manager tab for serial hardware that is installed properly.

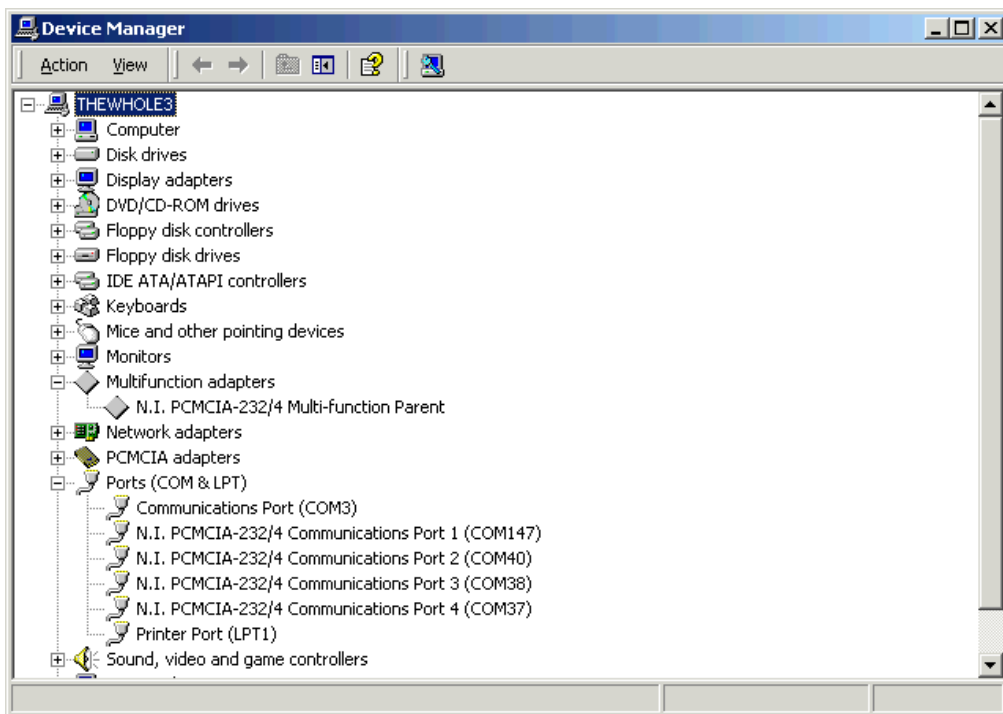


Figure 2-4. Device Manager for PCMCIA Serial Card Ports

5. Verify the hardware resources, as follows:
 - a. In the Device Manager under **Multi-function adapters**, double-click on a serial card.
 - b. Click on the **Resources** tab. If the resources were assigned properly, the **Resources** tab shows which resources are assigned to your serial ports.
 - c. Repeat steps 5a and 5b until you have verified the resources for each board.
6. (Optional) To determine which physical port is associated with COM x , note the Port 1, Port 2, etc. entries next to the COM numbers. For all serial hardware, PORT1 refers to the top port, PORT2 refers to the next port down, and so on.
7. Run the diagnostic utility, as follows: select **Start»Programs»National Instruments»NI-Serial»Diagnostics**.

The diagnostic utility verifies that your serial driver is installed properly, that the configuration of your hardware does not conflict with anything else in your system, and that the serial driver can communicate with your hardware correctly.

If the test is successful, your serial hardware and software are installed properly. If the test fails, refer to Appendix C, *Troubleshooting and Common Questions*, to troubleshoot the problem.

After you verify the hardware and software installation, continue to the next section, *Connect the Cables*.

Connect the Cables

For the PCMCIA serial cards, you can use the standard DB-9 connector found on most serial cables.

Figure 2-5 and Table 2-1 give the pin locations and descriptions of the DB-9 connector, which is found on the PCMCIA serial cable.

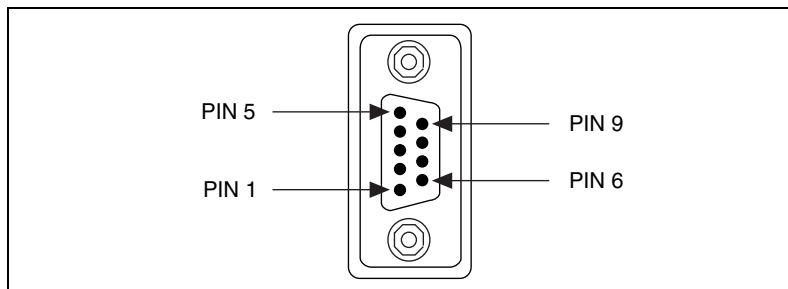


Figure 2-5. DB-9 Connector Pin Locations

Table 2-1. DB-9 Pin Descriptions

DB-9 Pin	232 Signal	485 Signal
1	DCD*	GND
2	$\overline{\text{RXD}}$	CTS+ (HSI+)
3	$\overline{\text{TXD}}$	RTS+ (HSO+)
4	DTR*	RXD+
5	GND	RXD-
6	DSR*	CTS- (HSI-)
7	RTS	RTS- (HSO-)
8	CTS	TXD+
9	RI*	TXD-

* These signals are not supported by the isolated 232 boards or ports 9-16 of the RS-232 sixteen-port board.

Connecting Two-Wire Devices

The PCMCIA-485 boards are designed to work with either two- or four-wire devices. If you are using a two-wire device, refer to the device documentation for specific wiring instructions.

In general, half-duplex networks use a single twisted pair of wires for communication in both directions, so you must connect both the transmitter and the receiver at each end of the same pair of wires. For example, to connect an RS-485 data acquisition device to a port on your PCMCIA-485 using half-duplex communication, you need a single twisted pair of wires. At the PCMCIA-485, connect the TXD+ and RXD+ signals (pins 8 and 4 on a DB-9 connector) together and to one wire. Connect the other end of this wire to both the TXD+ and RXD+ signals on the data acquisition device. You use the same method to connect the TXD– and RXD– signals (pins 9 and 5 on a DB-9 connector) to the second wire.

For information about setting the transceiver mode for two-wire communication, refer to Chapter 4, *Using Your Serial Hardware*. For more information about duplex architectures, refer to Appendix A, *Serial Port Information*.

Configuration

This chapter describes how to view or change the communication port settings.

View or Change Communication Port Settings

The serial configuration utility is fully integrated into the Windows 2000 Device Manager. You can use it to view or change the configuration of your serial ports.

To configure a serial port, complete the following steps:

1. Select **Start»Settings»Control Panel** and double-click on the **System** icon.
2. Click on the **Hardware** tab and click on the **Device Manager** button.
3. Double-click on the **Ports (COM & LPT)** icon.
4. Double-click on the port you want to configure and refer to the following instructions:
 - To view the hardware resources assigned to the serial port, click on the **Resources** tab.
 - To view or change the port settings, click on the **Port Settings** tab. For more information about the settings, refer to the next section, *Port Settings Tab*.
 - To change the RS-485 transceiver mode, or to enable or disable the FIFOs on the serial hardware, in the **Port Settings** tab, click on the **Advanced** button. For more information about the settings, refer to the next section, *Port Settings Tab*.



Note Transceiver modes apply to RS-485 interfaces only. For more information about transceiver modes, refer to Chapter 4, *Using Your Serial Hardware*.

5. To save your changes, click on the **OK** button. To exit without saving the changes, click on the **Cancel** button.

Port Settings Tab

In the **Port Settings** tab, you can change any of the settings by clicking on the arrow button to the right of a field. When you click on the arrow button, a list of valid values for that field appears and you can select the desired setting from the list. Figure 3-1 shows the **Port Settings** tab.

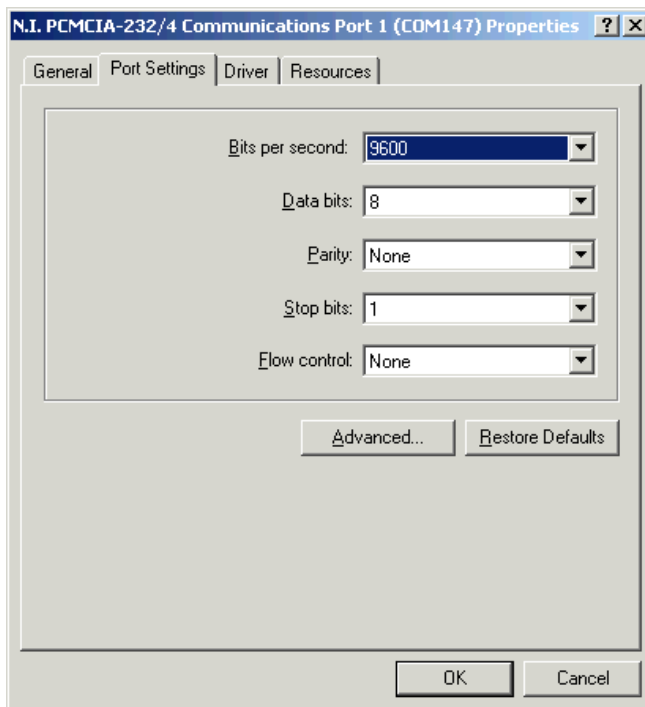


Figure 3-1. Port Settings Tab

The following sections describe the options you can set in the Device Manager **Port Settings** tab.

Bits per Second

Bits per second, or baud rate, is the speed for a serial port.

Data Bits

Data bits is the number of data bits in a single serial byte.

Parity

Parity is the specification for even, odd, or no parity bits in each transmitted byte.

Stop Bits

Stop bits is the number of terminating bits on the end of each transmitted serial byte.

Flow Control

Flow control is a method for temporarily halting the stream of serial bytes to prevent overflow.

Advanced Settings

To view or change the advanced settings, click on the **Advanced** button. Figure 3-2 shows the **Advanced Settings** dialog box.

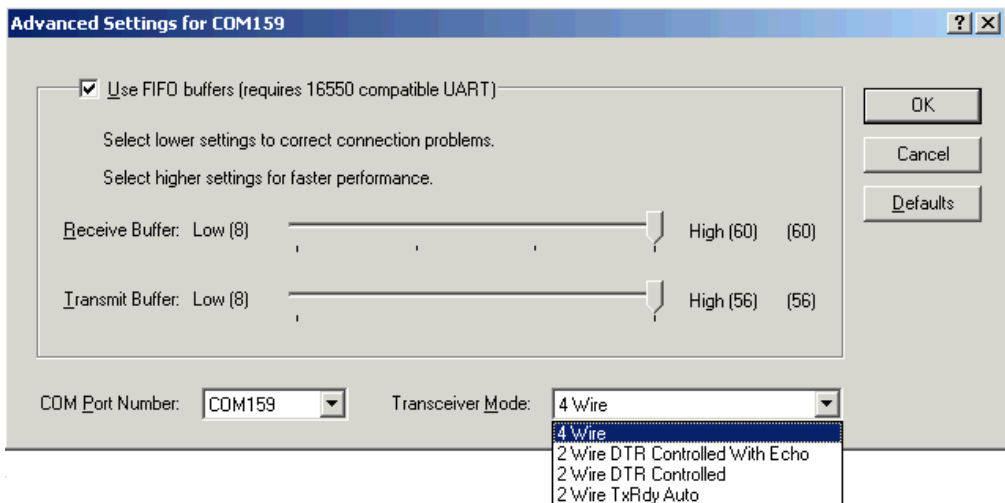


Figure 3-2. Advanced Settings Dialog Box

The following sections describe the advanced settings options.

Transceiver Mode

This field shows the transceiver mode in use, and applies only to PCMCIA-485 boards. For more information about transceiver modes, refer to Chapter 4, *Using Your Serial Hardware*.

Use FIFO Buffers

FIFO buffers are present on the 16550-compatible UARTs—one for the transmitter and one for the receiver. The **Receive Buffer** control sets the number of characters received in the FIFO before the PC is interrupted to read the data. The **Transmit Buffer** control sets the maximum number of bytes written to the FIFO in a block when the PC is interrupted to write the data. When you configure FIFO settings, consider the following points:

- You can select larger FIFO buffer sizes to reduce the number of interrupts your PC receives and therefore minimize system overhead.
- If transfer rates are high, you can lower the **Receive Buffer** value to prevent overrun errors due to interrupt latency.
- If your data transfer sizes are small and your **Receive Buffer** value is above your data sizes, your system is less efficient. Therefore, set the **Receive Buffer** value below your data sizes.

Restore Defaults

To reset the fields to their default values at any time, click on the **Restore Defaults** button.

Using Your Serial Hardware

This chapter describes how to set the hardware transceiver control mode for your RS-485 interfaces and lists some general programming requirements.

General Programming Requirements

The NI-Serial software is fully integrated into the standard Windows 2000 communications software. NI serial ports are used like any other Windows 2000 communications (COM) port. Windows 2000 has standard communication functions for use within either Win16 or Win32 applications.

When you develop your application, remember that you must use the standard Microsoft Windows serial communication functions. For information about Microsoft Windows serial communication functions, refer to the *Win32 Software Development Kit* and to the *Win32 Overviews and Win32 Reference* online help.

If you have LabVIEW or LabWindows/CVI and want to use it with your serial hardware, refer to your LabVIEW or LabWindows/CVI documentation for information about serial I/O functions.

Advanced Transceiver Control for the PCMCIA-485



Note Transceiver modes apply only to the PCMCIA-485 boards.

The PCMCIA-485 boards support four modes of hardware transceiver control. You can use hardware flow control to enable and disable your transmitters and receivers so that they function on different bus topologies. Table 4-1 lists the status of the transmitters and receivers under each of the transceiver control modes.

Table 4-1. Transceiver Control Modes

Mode	Transmitter	Receiver
Four-wire mode	Always enabled	Always enabled
Two-wire mode: $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ with echo	Enabled with $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ unasserted	Always enabled
Two-wire mode: $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ controlled	Enabled with $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ unasserted	Enabled with $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ asserted
Two-wire mode: $\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$ auto control	Enabled with $\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$ asserted	Enabled with $\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$ unasserted



Note Signal names with an overscore, such as $\overline{\text{DTR}}$, indicate that the signal is active low.

Four-Wire Mode

Use the four-wire mode for most full-duplex systems. In this mode, the transmitter and receiver are always enabled. This mode is the default.

Two-Wire Mode: $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ with Echo

Use this mode in half-duplex systems where the $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ (Data Terminal Ready) line must control the transmitter. In the $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ -with-echo mode, the transmitter is tri-stated when the $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ signal of the UART (Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter) is asserted. To transmit, your application must first clear the $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ bit to enable the transmitter. After the data is fully transmitted, your application once again sets the $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ bit to disable the transmitter. Because the receiver is always enabled in this mode, you not only receive packets from other devices, you also receive the packets sent from your transmitter.

Two-Wire Mode: $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ Controlled

This mode is similar to the two-wire, $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ -with-echo mode. Use this mode in half-duplex systems where the $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ line must control the transmitter. Although this mode uses the same method as the $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ -with-echo mode to control the transmitter, the hardware automatically disables the receiver whenever the transmitter is enabled. Thus, you do not receive the packets sent from your transmitter.

Two-Wire Mode: $\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$ Auto Control

In this mode, the serial hardware transparently enables the transmitter and receiver in a two-wire system. Use this mode to remove the burden of flow control from your application. By connecting the transmitter to the $\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$ (Transmit Ready) line, the hardware enables the transmitter for each byte to be transmitted. Also, the hardware disables the receiver whenever the transmitter is enabled, so you do not receive the packets sent from your transmitter.



Note When you are communicating with a two-wire device, National Instruments recommends that you use the two-wire $\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$ auto control mode. Because this mode handles the transmitter/receiver enabling for a two-wire connection in your hardware, it reduces the software overhead required to perform this operation in your application program.

For more information about serial communication in two- or four-wire modes, refer to the [Serial Communication Issues](#) section in Appendix A, [Serial Port Information](#).

Setting the Transceiver Control Mode

To set the transceiver control mode, use the Windows 2000 Device Manager. For instructions on how to use the Device Manager, refer to Chapter 3, [Configuration](#). The mode you select in the Device Manager is automatically configured when you open a port on a serial interface.

Setting the Transceiver Mode with DeviceIoControl

The NI-Serial software extends the `DeviceIoControl` Windows function for programming the transceiver control mode. To program the transceiver control mode using `DeviceIoControl`, complete the following steps:

1. Add the following lines to your source code:

```
#include <winioctl.h>

#define IOCTL_SERIAL_SET_TRANSCEIVER_MODE
CTL_CODE(FILE_DEVICE_SERIAL_PORT, 37,
METHOD_BUFFERED, FILE_ANY_ACCESS)
```

2. Use the Win32 function `DeviceIoControl`, as follows:
 - a. Use the defined control code value listed in step 1 to set the transceiver mode.
 - b. Use the input buffer values (unsigned long) listed in Table 4-3 for programming different transceiver modes.

Table 4-2. DeviceIoControl Function Input Values

Transceiver Mode	DeviceIoControl Function Input Value
Four-wire mode	128
Two-wire mode: $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ with echo	129
Two-wire mode: $\overline{\text{DTR}}$ controlled	130
Two-wire mode: $\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$ auto control	131

For example, to set $\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$ two-wire auto control mode, use the following code:

```

ULONG TranceiverMode = 131;
ULONG dummy;
DeviceIoControl(hDevice,
IOCTL_SERIAL_SET_TRANSCEIVER_MODE, (PVOID)
&TranceiverMode, sizeof(ULONG), NULL, 0, &dummy, NULL);

```

Serial Port Information

This appendix describes the RS-232, RS-422, and RS-485 standards and explains some of the issues involved with these types of serial communication.

Table A-1 lists the features of the RS-232, RS-422, and RS-485 standards.

Table A-1. RS-232, RS-422, and RS-485 Features

Feature	RS-232	RS-422	RS-485
Type of transmission lines	Single ended	Differential	Differential
Maximum number of drivers	1	1	32
Maximum number of receivers	1	10	32
Maximum cable length	50 ft	4,000 ft	4,000 ft
Maximum data rate	20 kbytes/s	10 Mbytes/s	10 Mbytes/s
Maximum CMV	± 25 V	± 7 V	+12 to -7 V
Driver output	5 to 25 V	2 to 6 V	1.5 to 6 V
Driver load	> 3 k Ω	100 Ω	60 Ω

RS-232

As specified in the ANSI/EIA-232-D Standard, *Interface Between Data Terminal Equipment and Data Circuit-Terminating Equipment Employing Serial Binary Data Interchange*, RS-232 standardizes serial communication between computers, and between computer terminals and modems. Most applications use the RS-232 standard to interface peripherals to personal computers. RS-232 uses transmission lines in which the state of each signal is represented by referencing the voltage level of a single line to ground. RS-232 was designed for serial communication up to

distances of 50 ft and with data rates up to 20 kbytes/s. However, because of improvements in line drivers and cabling, you can usually increase the actual performance of the bus past the limitations on speed and distance recommended in the specification.

RS-422

As specified in the EIA/RS-422-A Standard, *Electrical Characteristics of Balanced Voltage Digital Interface Circuits*, RS-422 defines a serial interface much like RS-232. However, RS-422 uses balanced (or differential) transmission lines. Balanced transmission lines use two transmission lines for each signal. The state of each signal is represented, not by a voltage level on one line referenced to ground as in RS-232, but rather by the relative voltage of the two lines to each other. For example, the TX signal is carried on two wires, wire A and wire B. A logical 1 is represented by the voltage on line A being greater than the voltage on line B. A logical 0 is represented by the voltage on line A being less than the voltage on line B. Differential voltage transmission creates a signal that is more immune to noise as well as voltage loss due to transmission line effects. Thus, you can use RS-422 for longer distances (up to 4,000 ft) and greater transmission speeds (up to 10 Mbytes/s) than RS-232.

RS-485

As specified in the EIA-485 Standard, *Standard for Electrical Characteristics of Generators and Receivers for Use in Balanced Digital Multipoint Systems*, RS-485 expands on the RS-422 standard by increasing the number of devices you can use from 10 to 32 and by working with half-duplex bus architectures. Unlike the RS-422 standard, RS-485 addresses the issue of using multiple transmitters on the same line. RS-485 defines the electrical characteristics necessary to ensure adequate signal voltages under maximum load, short-circuit protection. RS-485 can also withstand multiple drivers driving conflicting signals at the same time.

Serial Communication Issues

This section explains some serial communication issues, including duplex architectures, termination methods, bias resistors, and types of connecting equipment.

Duplex Architectures

Duplex refers to the means of bandwidth usage in a serial system. The two common means of bi-directional serial communication are full duplex and half duplex. Half-duplex communication involves a transmitter and a receiver connected to each end of the same wire or pair of wires. Because the same transmission line both sends and receives data, devices cannot send data in both directions at the same time. First, one device transmits over the wire(s) to the receiver of the second device. When the first device finishes transmitting, both devices switch the connections from their transmitter to their receiver, or vice versa. The device that was receiving data can then transmit over the line.

In full-duplex communication, the devices use a separate wire (or pair of wires) for simultaneous transmission in each direction. Thus, the devices do not switch between transmitting and receiving.

In a differential serial bus (such as RS-422 or RS-485), a half-duplex system transmits and receives over the same twisted pair of wires. Thus, half-duplex communication is often referred to as *two-wire* communications. Likewise, full-duplex communication is often referred to as *four-wire* communications, because the full-duplex system uses a separate pair of wires for communication in each direction.

Full Duplex

A typical full-duplex multidrop bus architecture involves a master-slave protocol. Only one device, the master, can control access to the bus. All other devices are slaves. Slave devices must wait for the master to give them access to the bus. In a typical full-duplex system, one transmission line connects the bus master transmitter to all of the slave receivers. A second transmission line connects all of the slave transmitters to the bus master receiver. Because each transmission line has two separate wires, a full-duplex system is often referred to as a four-wire system. Figure A-1 shows a typical full-duplex system.

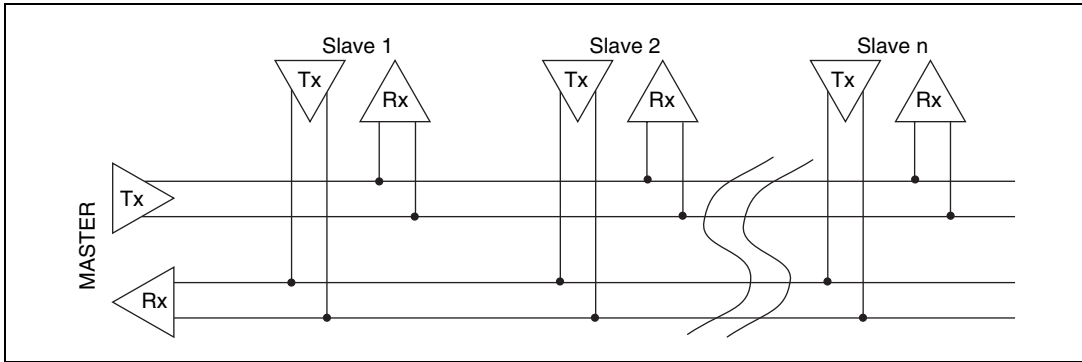


Figure A-1. Typical Full-Duplex System

Half Duplex

A typical half-duplex multidrop bus architecture also involves a master-slave protocol. However, in a half-duplex system, all transmitters and receivers are connected to the same transmission line. A half-duplex system is often referred to as a two-wire system. Figure A-2 shows a typical half-duplex system.

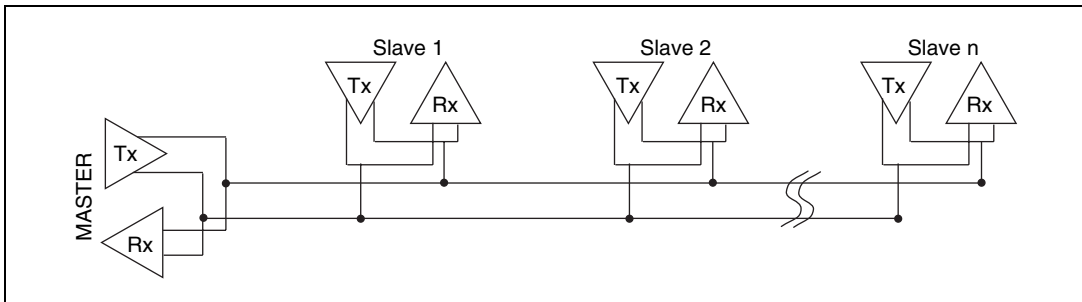


Figure A-2. Typical Half-Duplex System

Termination

Because each differential pair of wires is a transmission line, you must properly terminate the line to prevent reflections. A common method of terminating a two-wire multidrop RS-485 network is to install terminating resistors at each end of the multidrop network. If you daisy-chained multiple instruments together, you need a terminating resistor at only the first and last instruments. The terminating resistor should match the characteristic impedance of the transmission line (typically 100 to 120 Ω). You can order an optional DB-9 RS-485 termination connector that contains embedded terminating resistors for easy termination from National Instruments. For ordering information, contact National Instruments.

Figure A-3 shows a multidrop network using terminating resistors.

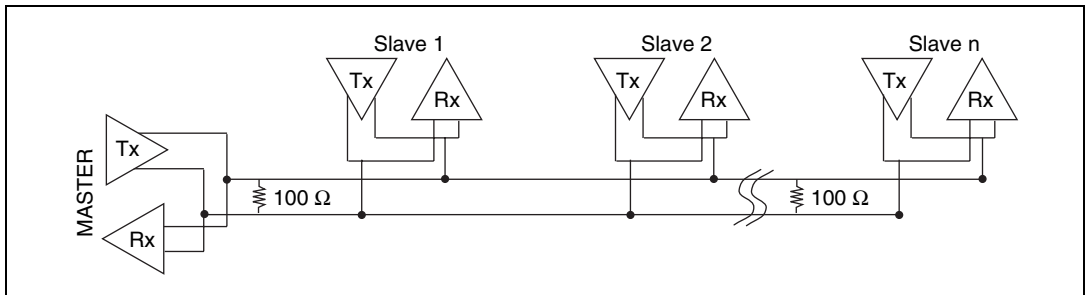


Figure A-3. Multidrop Network Using Terminating Resistors

DTE vs. DCE

In the RS-232 specification, DTE (Data Terminal Equipment) and DCE (Data Communications Equipment)¹ refer to the types of equipment on either end of a serial connection. In general, DTE and DCE refer to computer equipment and modems, respectively. Because the RS-232 specification mainly involves connecting a DTE directly to a DCE and vice versa, the pinouts are defined so that cabling is simple. That is, a cable connected a computer to a modem by wiring pin 1 to pin 1, pin 2 to pin 2, and so on. This method is known as *straight-through* cabling.

¹ In Revision D of the RS-232 specification, a DCE is a Data Circuit-Terminating Equipment.

Figure A-4 shows straight-through cabling in a DTE-to-DCE interface.

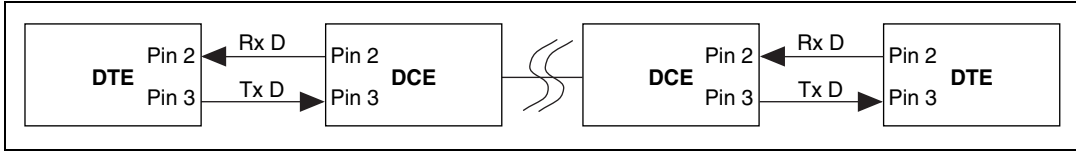


Figure A-4. Straight-Through Cabling in a DTE-to-DCE Interface

Straight-through cabling is still the standard method to connect a modem to your PC. However, because many applications use serial communication to connect two or more DTEs without modems, the cabling becomes more complicated. If two DTEs are wired together using a straight-through cable, one transmitter is connected to the other transmitter, and one receiver is connected to the other receiver. In this setup, no transmissions can occur. Thus, these applications must use a cabling scheme that connects the transmitter on one device to the receiver on the other device and vice versa. This method is known as *null-modem* cabling, because it replaces the two modems that traditional RS-232 applications would require between the two DTEs. To communicate from one serial port to another, use a null-modem cable.

Figure A-5 shows null-modem cabling in a DTE-to-DTE interface.

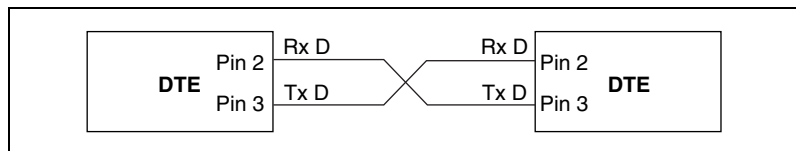


Figure A-5. Null-Modem Cabling in a DTE-to-DTE Interface

Uninstalling the Hardware and Software

This appendix describes how to uninstall your serial hardware and the NI-Serial software.

Uninstall the Hardware

Before you physically remove the serial hardware from your system, you must remove the hardware information. To do so, complete the following steps:

1. Select **Start»Settings»Control Panel** and double-click on the **System** icon.
2. Select the **Hardware** tab and click on the **Device Manager** button.
3. Double-click on the **Multi-function adapters** icon.
4. From the **Multi-function adapters** list, right-click on the National Instruments interface that you want to uninstall, as shown in Figure B-1.

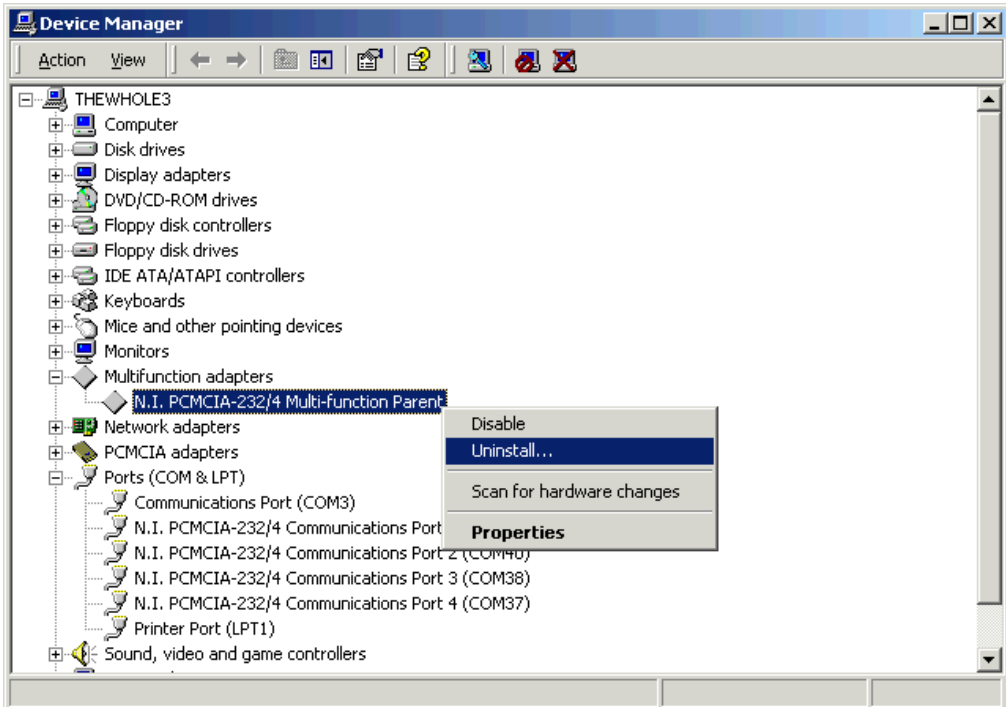


Figure B-1. Selecting an Interface to Uninstall

5. Choose the **Uninstall...** option.
6. In the **Confirm Device Removal** dialog box, click on the **OK** button to remove the hardware information, or click on the **Cancel** button to cancel your request.

Uninstall the Software

Before you uninstall the NI-Serial software, you must remove the hardware information from your system, as described in the previous section.

To uninstall the NI-Serial software, complete the following steps:

1. Select **Start»Settings»Control Panel**.
2. Double-click on the **Add/Remove Programs** icon. A dialog box similar to the one shown in Figure B-2 appears. This dialog box lists the software that you can uninstall.

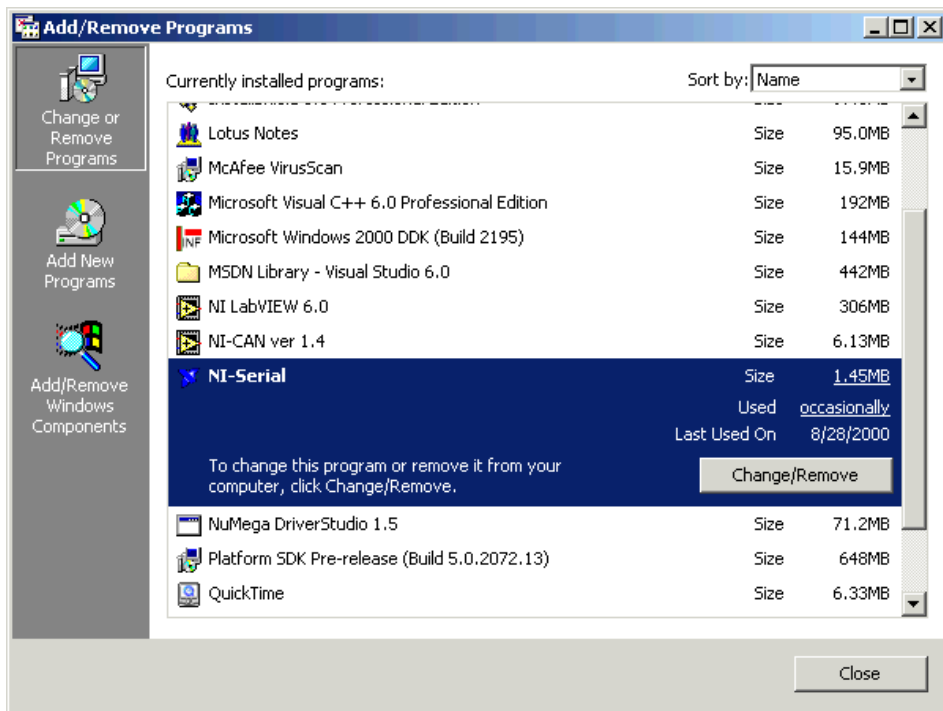


Figure B-2. Add/Remove Programs Dialog Box

3. Select **NI-Serial** and click on the **Change/Remove** button. The uninstallation program removes all folders, utilities, and registry entries associated with the NI-Serial software. Figure B-3 shows the results of a successful uninstallation.

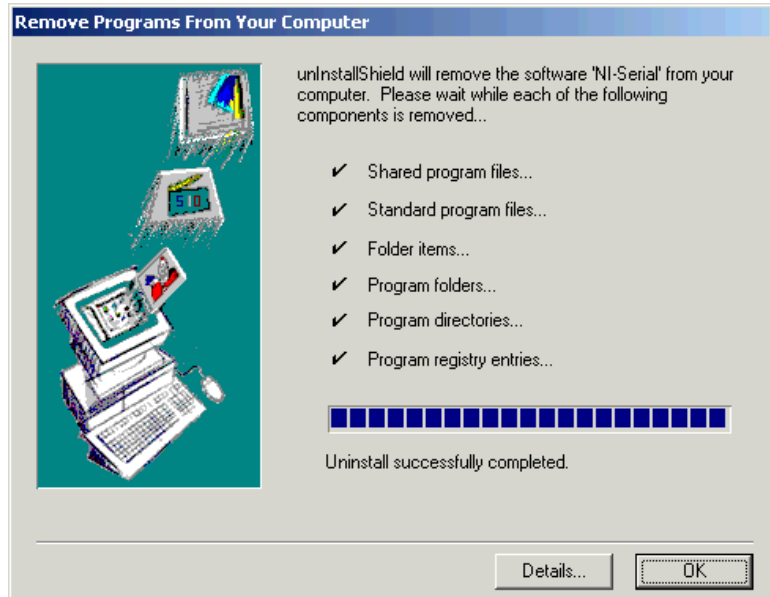


Figure B-3. Successful Uninstallation

4. Remove the PCMCIA serial interface from your system.

The uninstallation program removes only items that the setup wizard installed. If you added anything to a directory that the setup wizard created, the uninstallation program does not delete that directory. You must remove any remaining components yourself.

If you want to reinstall the hardware and software, refer to Chapter 2, [Installation and Verification](#).



Troubleshooting and Common Questions

This appendix describes how to troubleshoot problems and answers some common questions.

Forcing Windows to Detect Your Hardware

If Windows 2000 did not display the Found New Hardware Wizard, it did not detect your hardware. To solve this problem, complete the following steps:

1. Select **Start»Settings»Control Panel** and double-click on the **System** icon.
2. Select the **Hardware** tab and click on the **Device Manager** button.
3. Double-click on the **Multi-function adapters** icon.
4. From the **Multi-function adapters** list, right-click on the National Instruments interface that you want to uninstall, as shown in Figure C-1.

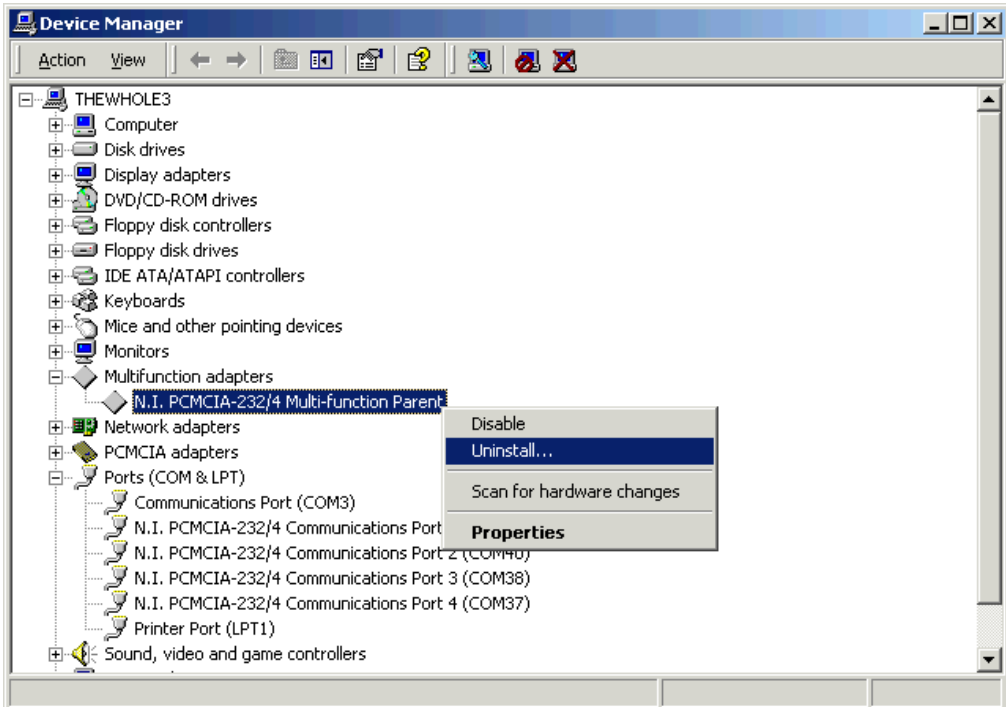


Figure C-1. Selecting an Interface to Uninstall

5. Choose the **Uninstall...** option.
6. In the **Confirm Device Removal** dialog box, click on the **OK** button to remove the hardware information, or click on the **Cancel** button to cancel your request.
7. Click on the **Scan for Hardware Changes** icon at the top of the Device Manager window.
8. Windows 2000 should automatically detect your hardware and display the Found New Hardware Wizard. Complete the wizard by clicking **Next** in each window and then **Finish**.

Troubleshooting Diagnostic Messages

This section lists possible error messages returned by the diagnostic utility, along with solutions.

No National Instruments Serial Port Found or Diagnostic Utility Does Not Show All Installed Ports

If the **No National Instruments serial port found** error message appears or the diagnostic utility does not show all the ports you installed, follow all the steps in the [Forcing Windows to Detect Your Hardware](#) section above.

Address Test Failed

If the **address test failed, Interrupt test cannot be performed** error message appears, you might have an address conflict with legacy boards in your system. To solve this problem, change the base addresses assigned to your legacy boards and refer to the *Resolving Resource Conflicts with Legacy Boards* section later in this appendix.

Interrupt Test Failed

If the **Interrupt test failed** error message appears, you might have an IRQ conflict with legacy boards in your system. To solve this problem, change the IRQ level assigned to your legacy boards and refer to the next section, *Resolving Resource Conflicts with Legacy Boards*.

Resolving Resource Conflicts with Legacy Boards

Resource conflicts typically occur if your system contains legacy boards that use resources that are not reserved properly. If a resource conflict exists, write down the resource that caused the conflict and refer to the Microsoft Windows 2000 user's guide for instructions on how to use the Device Manager to reserve I/O and IRQ resources for legacy boards.

Common Questions

How can I determine which type of serial hardware I have installed?

1. Select **Start»Settings»Control Panel** and double-click on the **System** icon.
2. Click on the **Hardware** tab and click on the **Device Manager** button.
3. Double-click on the **Ports (COM & LPT)** icon to display a list of installed ports.

How can I determine which version of the NI-Serial software I have installed?

The **Read Me** file gives the version of the software. To open the file, select **Start»Programs»National Instruments»NI-Serial»Read Me**.

What do I do if the diagnostic test fails with an error?

Refer to the [Troubleshooting Diagnostic Messages](#) section earlier in this appendix.

How can I determine which port is associated with COMx?

To determine which physical port is associated with COM x , complete the following steps:

1. In the **Device Manager**, under **Ports (COM & LPT)**, double-click on a serial port.
2. Note the Port 1, Port 2, etc. entries next to the COM numbers. For all serial hardware, PORT1 refers to the top port, PORT2 refers to the next port down, and so on.

How can I change the COM numbers of my National Instruments serial ports?

1. Select **Start»Settings»Control Panel** and double-click on the **System** icon.
2. Click on the **Hardware** tab and click on the **Device Manager** button.
3. Double-click on the **Ports (COM & LPT)** icon.
4. Double-click on the port you want to configure.
5. Click on the **Port Settings** tab.

6. Click on the **Advanced** button. The Advanced Settings dialog box should pop up.
7. Change the COM number in the **COM Port Number** field. (You can use a COM number that is designated as in use, as long as no hardware is actually using that COM number.)

How do I remove information about serial cards from the Device Manager?

Refer to the [Uninstall the Hardware](#) section in Appendix B, [Uninstalling the Hardware and Software](#).

What is the maximum baud rate supported and how can I set it?

The maximum baud rate supported is 460.8 Kbaud for RS-485 and 115.2 Kbaud for RS-232. To set the baud rate, use the **SetCommState** Win32 function and pass the actual value of the baud rate in the **BaudRate** field of the **DCB** structure.

Specifications

This appendix describes the characteristics of the serial hardware, the NI-Serial software, along with the recommended operating conditions.

Hardware Specifications

Table D-1. Physical Characteristics of the PCMCIA Serial Cards

Characteristic	Specification
Dimensions	85.6 by 54.0 by 0.5 cm (3.370 by 2.126 by 0.197 in.)
I/O Connector	Special Cable with DB-9 Dsub Connector and Converter for PC Card
Power Requirement (from PCMCIA expansion slot)	
PCMCIA-232	+5 VDC 40 mA Typical
PCMCIA-485	+5 VDC 100 mA Typical
PCMCIA-232/2	+5 VDC 60 mA Typical
PCMCIA-485/2	+5 VDC 100 mA Typical
PCMCIA-232/4	+5 VDC 60 mA Typical

Table D-2. Environmental Characteristics of the Serial Hardware

Characteristic	Specification
Operating Environment Component Temperature Relative Humidity	0 to 70° C 10 to 90%, noncondensing
Storage Environment Temperature Relative Humidity	-40 to 120° C 5 to 90%, noncondensing
EMI	FCC Class A Verified

Software Specifications

Table D-3. Software Characteristics

Characteristic	Specification
Maximum Serial Transfer Rate	115,200 bps*
* Actual speed may vary considerably from speed shown due to system and instrumentation capabilities.	

Technical Support Resources

Web Support

National Instruments Web support is your first stop for help in solving installation, configuration, and application problems and questions. Online problem-solving and diagnostic resources include frequently asked questions, knowledge bases, product-specific troubleshooting wizards, manuals, drivers, software updates, and more. Web support is available through the Technical Support section of ni.com

NI Developer Zone

The NI Developer Zone at ni.com/zone is the essential resource for building measurement and automation systems. At the NI Developer Zone, you can easily access the latest example programs, system configurators, tutorials, technical news, as well as a community of developers ready to share their own techniques.

Customer Education

National Instruments provides a number of alternatives to satisfy your training needs, from self-paced tutorials, videos, and interactive CDs to instructor-led hands-on courses at locations around the world. Visit the Customer Education section of ni.com for online course schedules, syllabi, training centers, and class registration.

System Integration

If you have time constraints, limited in-house technical resources, or other dilemmas, you may prefer to employ consulting or system integration services. You can rely on the expertise available through our worldwide network of Alliance Program members. To find out more about our Alliance system integration solutions, visit the System Integration section of ni.com

Worldwide Support

National Instruments has offices located around the world to help address your support needs. You can access our branch office Web sites from the Worldwide Offices section of ni.com. Branch office Web sites provide up-to-date contact information, support phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and current events.

If you have searched the technical support resources on our Web site and still cannot find the answers you need, contact your local office or National Instruments corporate. Phone numbers for our worldwide offices are listed at the front of this manual.

Glossary

Prefix	Meaning	Value
p-	pico-	10^{-12}
n-	nano-	10^{-9}
μ -	micro-	10^{-6}
m-	milli-	10^{-3}
k-	kilo-	10^3
M-	mega-	10^6
G-	giga-	10^9
t-	tera-	10^{12}

° degrees

Ω ohms

% percent

A amperes

ANSI American National Standards Institute

b bits

B bytes

baud bits per second

bps bits per second

C Celsius

COM Computer Output Microform; used in reference to a communication port

CTS clear to send

DB-xx subminiature D connector, where xx is the number of pins

Glossary

DCD	data carrier detect
DCE	data communications equipment or data circuit-terminating equipment
DLL	dynamic link library
DMA	direct memory access
DSR	data set ready
DTE	data terminal equipment
$\overline{\text{DTR}}$	data terminal ready—the overscore denotes that the signal is active low
duplex	the means of bandwidth usage in a serial system
EIA	Electronic Industries Association
EMI	electromagnetic interference
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FIFO	First-In-First-Out
ft	feet
GND	ground
HSI	handshake input
HSO	handshake output
Hz	Hertz
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
in.	inches
I/O	input/output
IRQ	interrupt request
ISA	Industry Standard Architecture
Kbaud	kilobits per second
m	meters

MB	megabytes of memory
PC	personal computer
PCI	Peripheral Components Interconnect
RAM	random-access memory
RI	ring indicator
RTS	request to send
RX	receive
$\overline{\text{RXD}}$	receive data—the overscore denotes that the signal is active low
s	seconds
SCSI	Small Computer Systems Interface
TX	transmit
$\overline{\text{TXD}}$	transmit data—the overscore denotes that the signal is active low
$\overline{\text{TXRDY}}$	transmit ready—the overscore denotes that the signal is active low
UART	Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter
V	volts
VDC	volts direct current
VXI	VME eXtensions for Instrumentation
Win16	describes a 16-bit Windows application
Win32	describes a 32-bit Windows application

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