

## Note to Visual Basic for DOS Users

This note explains Visual Basic for DOS programming information not included in the *NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS* (part number 320282-01).

### Running Visual Basic for DOS Application Programs

The Microsoft Professional BASIC language interface is compatible with Visual Basic for DOS; however, you must first recreate all QuickLibraries using the file `LINK.EXE` and the library support files `VBDOS.LIB` and `VBDOSQLB.LIB`. These files are part of Visual Basic for DOS. The following steps show you how to recreate your QuickLibraries using `LINK.EXE`, the library support files, and Microsoft Professional BASIC files `MBIB.OBJ` and `MBDECL.BAS` in Visual Basic for DOS application programs.

1. You must include `MBDECL.BAS` at the beginning of your application program. To do this, enter the following command in the module-level code:

```
'$INCLUDE: 'MBDECL.BAS'
```

*Do not* list `MBDECL.BAS` in a project `.MAK` file.

Enter Steps 2 through 4 at the command line.

2. To set up the Visual Basic environment, first create a QuickLibrary with the language interface. To create the QuickLibrary `VBIB.QLB`, enter the following command:

```
Link /Q MBIB.OBJ VBDOS.LIB,VBIB.QLB, ,VBDOSQLB.LIB;
```

3. If you are going to make an EXE file in the Visual Basic environment, you must create an object module library. To create the parallel object-module library `VBIB.LIB`, enter the following command:

```
LIB VBIB.LIB+MBIB.OBJ+VBDOS.LIB;
```

4. You must specify the library that the Visual Basic for DOS environment uses. To specify the `VBIB.QLB` library, enter the following command:

```
VBDOS APPLIC /L VBIB.QLB
```

## **Visual Basic for DOS Calling Syntax**

The *NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS* contains Microsoft Professional BASIC and Microsoft QuickBASIC formats and examples for the NI-488.2 routines and NI-488 functions. The syntax for each routine and function in the *NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS* is compatible with your Visual Basic application programs.

*Do not* pass dynamic arrays to the asynchronous functions IBRDIA and IBWRTIA. Visual Basic for DOS might move the arrays in memory during an I/O operation.

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