RS-232 4/8-Port (DB9)
Interface Reference Card
Hostess® 4/8, Hostess *550* 4/8, Hostess/*MC*4/8
Hostess *550*/*MC*4/8, Hostess *186* 4/8, *Smart* Hostess Series

Scope

This reference card discusses the interface that you purchased with your Comtrol™ controller. This card provides you with technical information for your interface.

Audience

This reference card assumes that you are somewhat familiar with installing equipment in your computer.

Prerequisites

This reference card assumes that you have already configured and installed the controller. In addition, it assumes that you have also installed the device driver.

Installing the interface is the last step of configuring and installing your Comtrol system.

Specifications

The following table lists specifications for the interface.

Table 1. Interface Specifications

Function	Specification
I/O ports	4 or 8 ports
Interface	RS-232
FCC certification	Complies with FCC Class A for section 15 subpart J conducted and radiated types of interface.
UL recognition	Yes
Dimensions (4-Port)	Molded (Call Comtrol for specific dimensions)
Dimensions (8-Port)	2.9" x 3.6" x 1.5"

If you want information about the controller, refer to the *Hardware Reference Card* or *User's Guide* that came with your controller.

Software specific information and a comprehensive support section can be found in the *Installation Guide* or *Installation Reference Card* for the device driver you ordered.

If you did not order a Comtrol device driver, you may receive a *Programming Guide* that contains programming information for your controller.

Installing the Interface

The interfaces requires no configuration before installation. Use the following procedure to install the interface.

Note: *Make sure that your PC is powered down before connecting the interface box.*

1. Plug the interface cable into the controller's connector.
2. **Manually**, twist the plug's thumbscrews into the connector.

If you need pinout information about the cable connector that attaches to the controller, see the applicable *Hardware Reference Card* or *User's Guide* for your controller.

Attaching the Peripherals

Use the following steps to attach your peripherals:

1. Connect your peripherals to the interface. The ports on the interface are numbered from 1 to 4 or 1 to 8 (depending upon which interface you purchased).
2. Use the following table and figures if you need information about the DB9 connector pinouts.

DB9 Male

DB9 Female
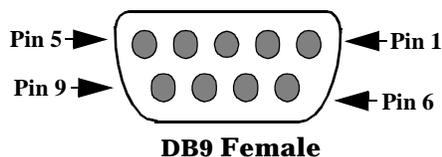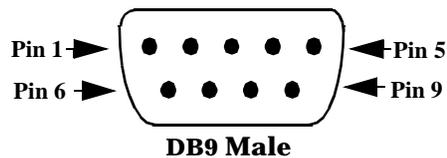
Table 3. RS-232 Interface Port Pinouts

Pin	Signal
1	DCD
2	RxD
3	TxD
4	DTR
5	GND
6	DSR
7	RTS

Table 3. RS-232 Interface Port Pinouts

Pin	Signal
8	CTS
9	RI

Shielding Cables

The controller falls within the limits for a Class A computing device established by the FCC. To comply with these limits, the serial cables used to connect the interface to external devices should be shielded. The shield should be connected to a metal or metallized connector shroud on each end of the cable. It is not necessary to connect the chassis ground pin of the DB9 connector.

Technical Support

If you have questions about your controller, contact Comtrol using one of the following methods.

Corporate Headquarters:

WEB site: www.comtrol.com

email: support@comtrol.com

FAX: (612) 631-8117

Phone: (612) 631-7654

BBS (for driver updates): (612) 631-8310

Note: *The BBS supports modem speeds up to 28.8 Kbps with 8 bits, and no parity.*

FTP site (for driver updates): ftp://ftp.comtrol.com

Comtrol Europe:

email: support@comtrol.co.uk or info@comtrol.co.uk

BBS: +44 (0) 1869 243687

Note: *The BBS supports modem speeds up to 14.4 Kbps with 8 bits and no parity.*

FAX: +44 (0) 1869 323211

Phone: +44 (0) 1869 323220

Comtrol has a staff of hardware and software engineers, technicians, and managers available for help.

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