RS-232/422/485 16-Port (DB9)
Interface Reference Card
Hostess® *550* 16, Hostess *550*/*MC* 16, Hostess *186* 16, Hostess *i* 16, Hostess *i*/*MC* 16, Hostess *i*/*E* 16

Scope

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

The interface box defaults to RS-232 asynchronous mode. The Hostess *550* 16, Hostess *550*/*MC* 16, Hostess *i*/*MC* 16, and Hostess *i*/*E* 16 can be configured for RS-232 or RS-422 mode. The Hostess *i* 16 can be configured for RS-232, RS-422, and RS-485 mode. The Hostess *186* 16 operates in RS-232 mode only.

Prerequisites

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

It also assumes that you have already configured and installed the controller. This includes setting the jumpers on the controller for modes other than RS-232, and installing the device driver (refer to the controller and/or device driver documentation for this information).

Specifications

Table 1 lists specifications for the interface box.

Table 1. Interface Box Specifications

Function	Specification
I/O ports	16 ports
Interface	RS-232, RS-422, and RS-485
FCC certification	Complies with FCC Class A for section 15 subpart J conducted and radiated types of interface.
Default mode	RS-232
Dimensions	4.875" x 5.75" x 1.75"

Refer to the *Hardware Installation Guide* or *Hardware Reference Card* for specific information for the controller.

Software specific information and a comprehensive support section can be found in the *Installation Guide* or *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 Box

Use the following procedure to install the interface box:

1. Plug the interface box cable into the controller's connector.
2. **Manually** twist the plug's thumbscrews into the connector, being careful not to overtighten.

If you need pinout information for the cable connector that attaches to the controller, see the documentation that came with the controller.

Attaching the Peripherals

Use the following steps to attach your peripherals:

1. Connect your peripherals to the interface box. The ports on the interface box are numbered from 1 to 16.
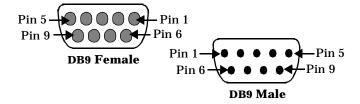2. Use the following figures and table if you need information about the DB9 connector pinouts.

DB9 Female

DB9 Male

Table 2. RS-232/422/485 DB9 Signals

Pin	RS-232	RS-422	RS-485**
1	DCD	Not supported	Not supported
2	RxD	RxD-	Not supported
3	TxD	TxD-	Tx/Rx-
4	DTR*	Not supported	Not supported
5	GND	GND	GND
6	Not supported	Not supported	Not supported
7	RTS	RxD+	Not supported
8	CTS	TxD+	Tx/Rx+
9	Not supported	Not supported	Not supported

* DTR is not supported on ports 11 and 12.

** Hostess *i* 16 only.

Note: *RS-422 is not available on the Hostess* 186 *16.*

Shielding Cables

The interface 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 controller 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, and technicians available to help you.

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