Building Custom Cables for Comtrol[™] Hostess[®] 550 Controllers (4- and 8-Port) RS-485

Compatibility

Use this document if you want to build customized cables for the following Comtrol controllers:

- Hostess *550* (4- or 8-port models; 100-pin)
- Hostess 550/MC (4- or 8-port models)

Note: If you want to build cables for other Comtrol controllers, order the appropriate cabling documentation.

Building Cables

Usually you can buy the correct cables from distributors and electronics stores for your controller. In some cases, your peripheral equipment may need custom cables.

Check your equipment to understand what kind of cable to use, Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) or Data Communications Equipment (DCE). All Comtrol serial connectors are configured as DTE.

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 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 shield to a connector pin on the end of the cable connected to the controller.

RS-485 Cabling

RS-485 communication links use a single twisted-pair line to perform half-duplex, bidirectional communications. The following figure shows an example of RS-485 communication.

Controller Connectors

