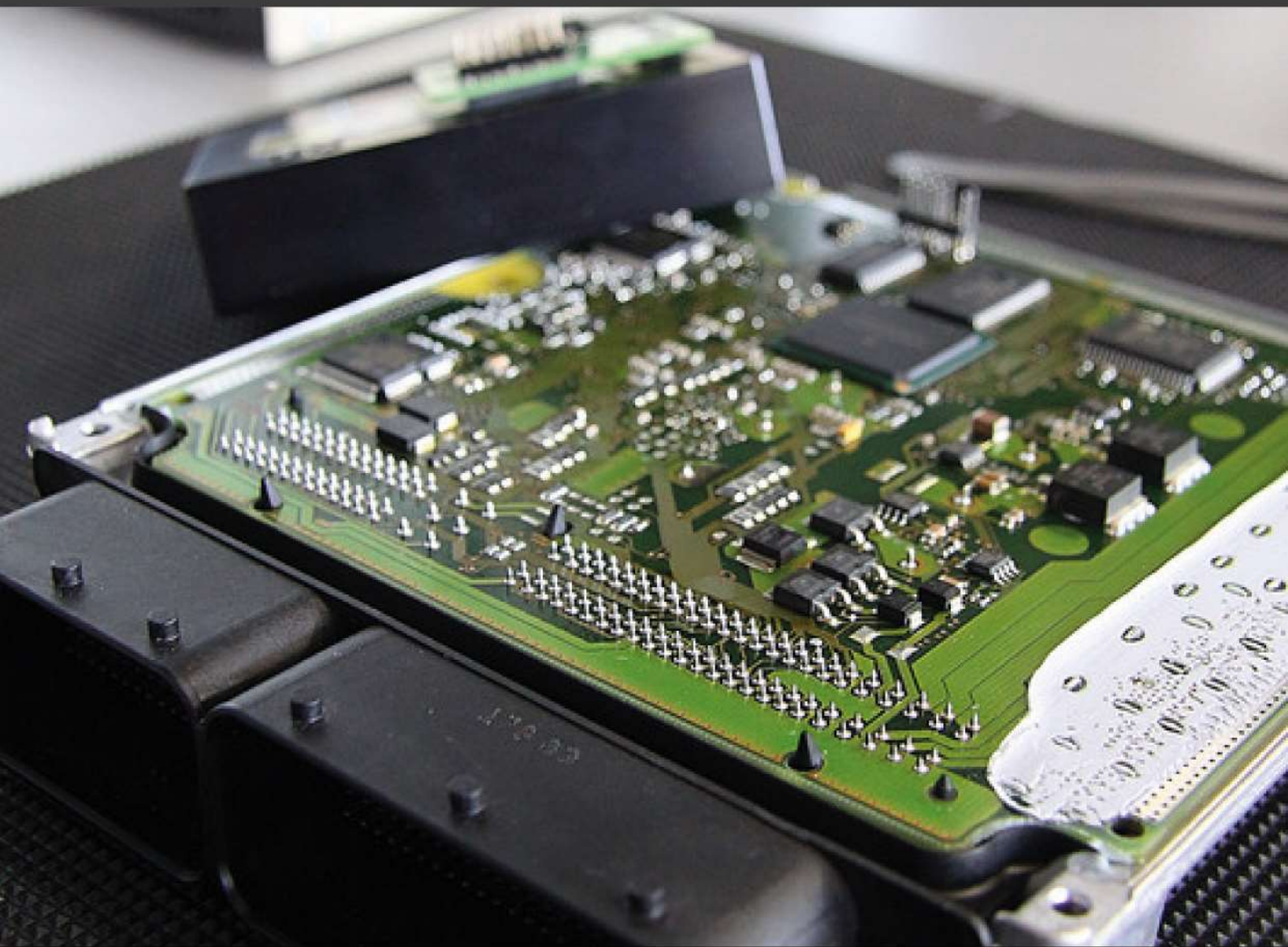


locktronicsTM

Simplifying Electricity

Sense and Control



MATRIX

CP7241

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Worksheet 1

Simple digital sensors

There are many sensors in a modern car. Some are controlled by the driver (like a light switch) and some by factors in the car itself - like the fuel sensor. Each sensor provides an input signal - often directly into an Electronic Control Unit.

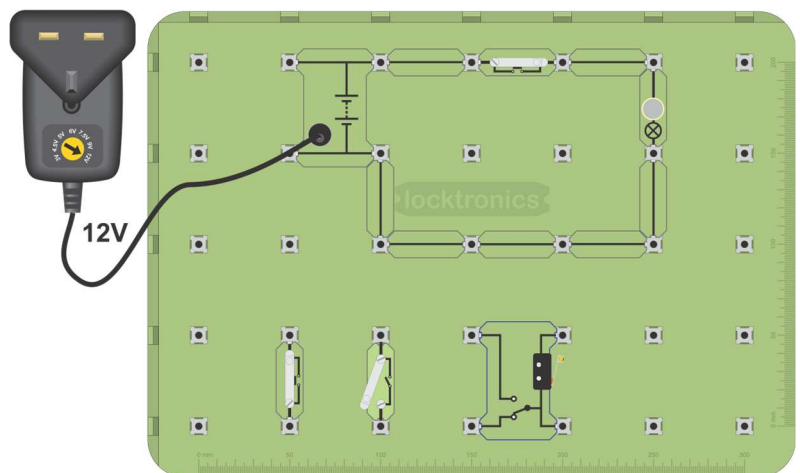
The sensors in a car can be divided into two types; **analogue** and **digital**. **Digital** sensors have a two state output, usually either 'on' or 'off'. The car power supply determines the voltages corresponding to these two states - often 12V (on) and 0V (off).

The photograph shows a brake switch component.



Over to you:

- Build the circuit shown opposite.
- Set the power supply to 12V, plug into the Locktronics carrier and switch on.
- Press the switch to make the bulb light.
- Connect a multimeter to read the voltage across the bulb.
- Read the voltage across the bulb when the switch is pressed, and when not pressed.
- Complete table 1.1 in the Student Handout with your results.
- Similarly for the three separate switches, use a multimeter to measure the resistance of the switches when open and when closed.
- Record your measurements in table 1.2 in the Student Handout.

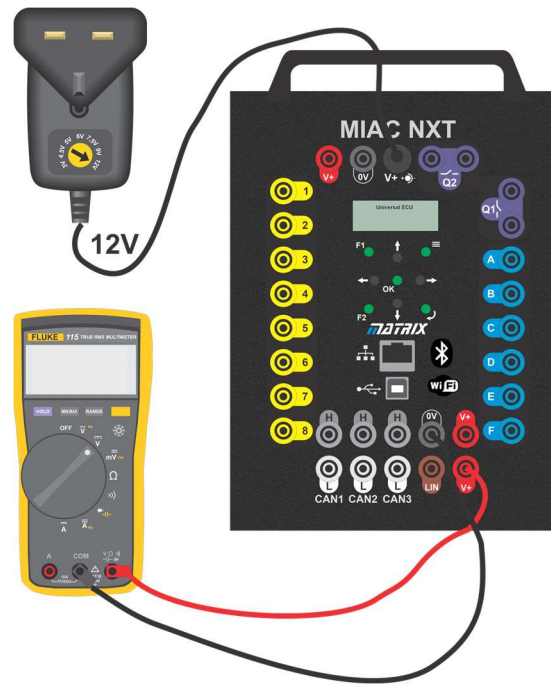


So what?

- These simple digital sensors have a two-state output - either open (off) or closed (on).
- They have a very high resistance when open and a very small resistance when closed.

Worksheet 1

Simple digital sensors



Over to you:

1. Power up the MIAC ECU.
2. Use a multimeter to measure the voltage at input 1.
3. Record it in the Student Handout.

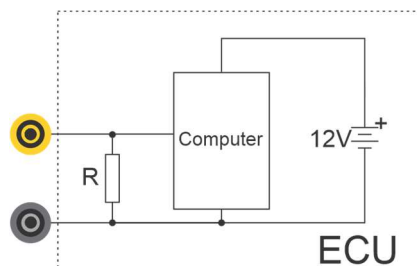
So what?

The MIAC ECU is a computer with inputs and outputs. Computers make decisions based on the state of the inputs.

If the input is not attached to either ground or +5V, it 'floats' between 0V and 5V at an indeterminate level.

When a computer samples the input, the result is unpredictable.

To prevent this, the input is 'tied' to a known voltage level with a resistor. In the case of the MIAC, the inputs are tied to +0V through an internal 10k resistor, R, as you can see in the circuit diagram below.



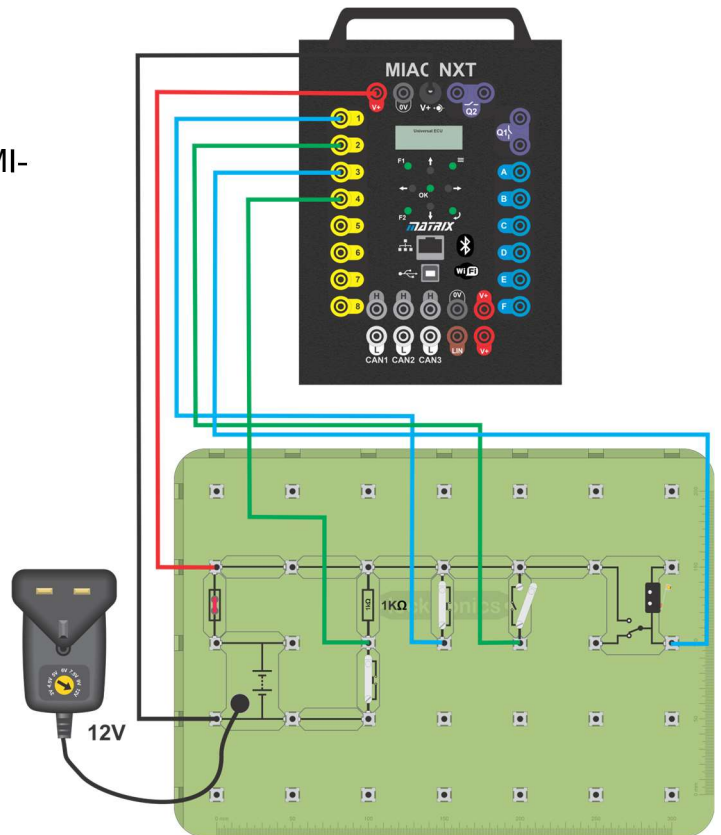
Worksheet 1

Simple digital sensors



Over to you:

1. Build the circuit shown opposite, which connects a number of switches to a MI-AC ECU.
2. Plug the power supply (12V) into the Locktronics carrier. It provides power for the full system.
3. Select program 1 on the MIAC.
4. Close the switches in turn. Complete the first four rows of table 1.3 in the Student Handout.
5. Choose a switch and measure the input current when the switch is activated.
6. Note this measurement in the table in the Student Handout.



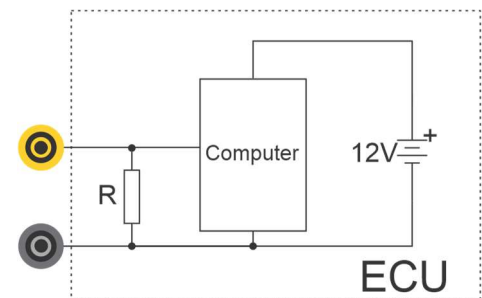
So what?

- The internal pull-down resistor on the MIAC ECU input keeps the input at 0V when the switches are open.
- Hence, for switches connected to 12V:
 - when the switch is open, the output is 0V;
 - when the switch is closed, the output is 12V.
- If a switch is connected to 12V, it has no effect on the circuit when it is closed.

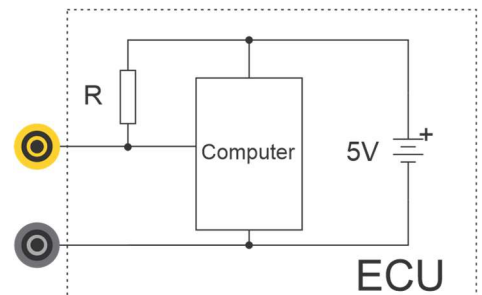
This is not the case on all ECU inputs. The system designer could include a pull-up resistor on an input as shown in this circuit. In this case the switch would be wired to 0V, the input would be at +5V when the switch is open and 0V when the switch was closed.

Most inputs in ECUs have pull-down resistors.

Thermistor inputs generally use pull-up resistors.



ECU with pull down resistor



ECU with pull up resistor

Over to you:

If you have the 'Sensors and Actuators' pack, then you can do Worksheets E1, 2

Worksheet 2

Using relays

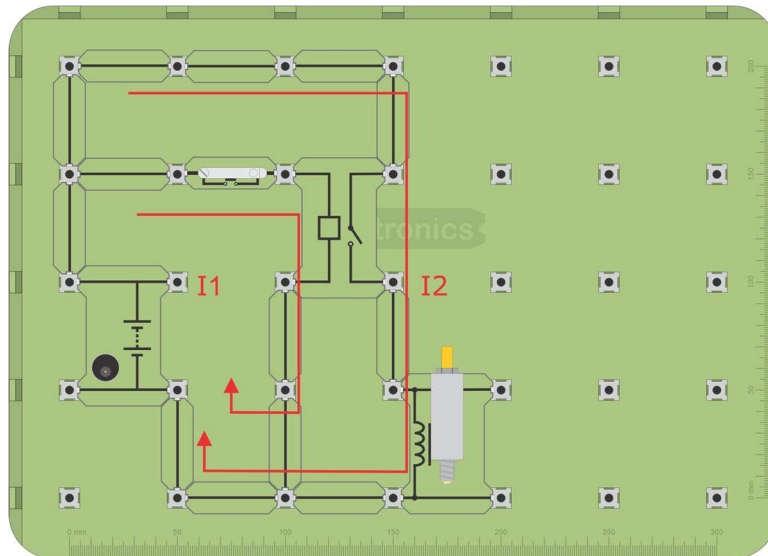
A key function of the electronics in a car is to turn low current signals, from a switch or sensor, into high current signals to operate the output device.

The output current of transistors is limited to a few amps at the most. When higher currents are needed, we use relays.

The photograph shows a typical starter motor relay, often called a 'solenoid'



Over to you:



1. Build the circuit shown above, to investigate the relay.
2. Set the power supply to 12V, plug into the Locktronics carrier and switch on.
3. Connect a multimeter to read current **I1**, when the switch is pressed. This is the current through the coil that activates the relay, equivalent to the transistor input current.
4. Move the multimeter to measure the current **I2**, through the solenoid. This is the current delivered by the relay contacts to the output device, the solenoid in this case. It is equivalent to the transistor output current.
5. Record your readings in table 2.1 in the Student Handout.

So what?

- A relay uses a small solenoid (coil) to control a switch, located nearby but electrically isolated from it.
- When the solenoid is energised (i.e. passing a sufficient current ,) it closes the switch.
- In this way, it uses a low current to control a high one, up to 40A in a car.

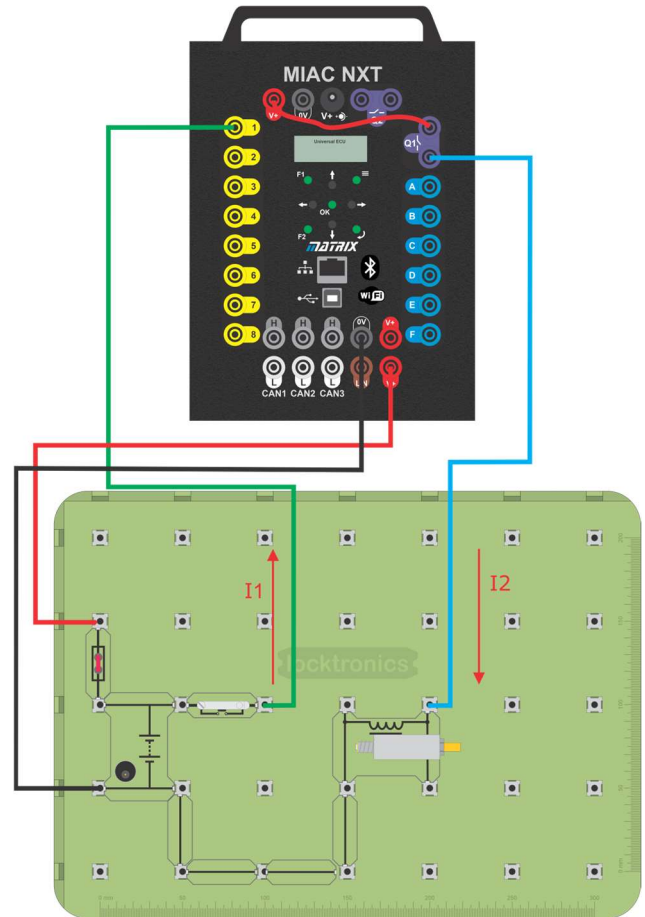
Worksheet 2

Using relays



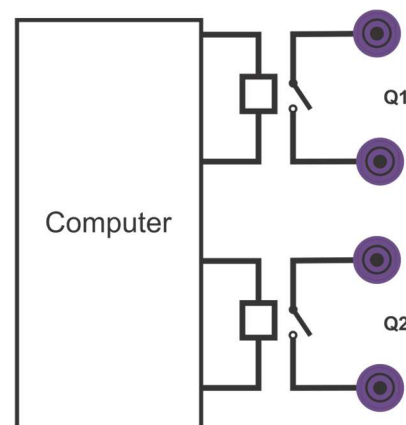
Over to you:

1. Build the system shown opposite.
2. Plug the power supply (set to 12V) into the Locktronics carrier, to power the full system.
3. Select program 4 on the MIAC.
4. Press the switch to check that the system is working.
5. Use a multimeter to measure the new current I_1 through the switch. This is the MIAC input current. You should find that it is much less than the relay input current in the previous worksheet.
6. Now measure current I_2 , through the solenoid. This current should be similar - it depends on the solenoid used.
7. Record your readings in table 2.2 in the Student Handout.



So what?

- Inside the MIAC, there are two relays connected to an internal computer, each capable of switching up to 10 amps.
- Each relay has two terminals, with an internal high current switch.
- Both terminals must be connected into the circuit. In the system above, the top relay terminal is connected to the power supply V+.
- Relay outputs on ECUs have the advantage that they can switch high current, but have the disadvantage that they are quite slow to act, compared to transistors.
- The diagram shows how the relays are wired inside the MIAC



Over to you:

If you have the 'Sensors and Actuators' pack then you can do Worksheet E3.

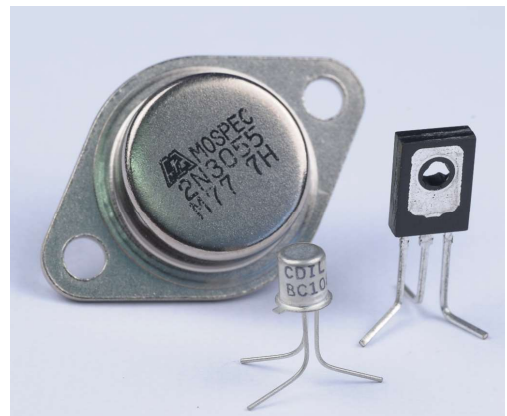
Worksheet 3

Using transistors

The transistor is the building block of modern electronics. You will rarely see a 'stand alone' transistor in an automotive application, but they are there, embedded in radios, ECUs and other subsystems.

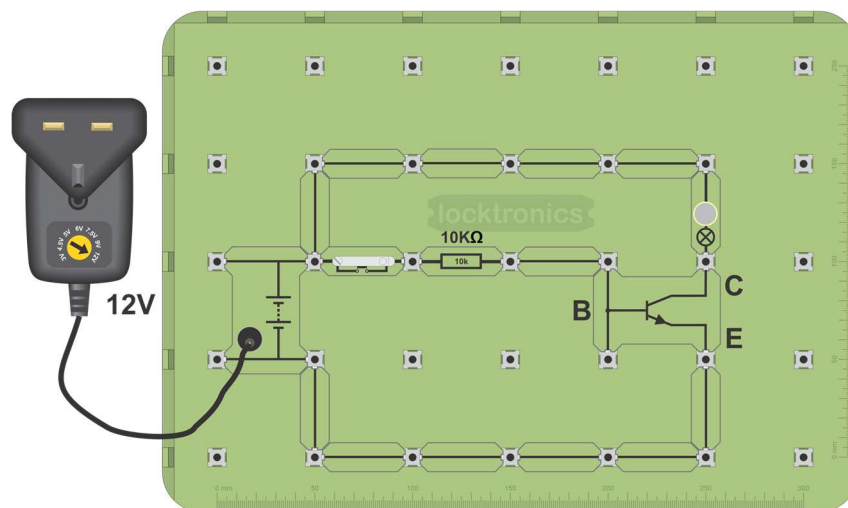
The most basic use of a transistor is to amplify current. It is useful to understand how they work, and what their limitations are.

The photograph shows several types of transistor.



Over to you:

1. Build the circuit shown below.



2. Press the switch to check that the bulb lights.
3. Connect a multimeter to read the current through the 10kΩ resistor when the bulb is lit. This is the transistor **input** current
4. Move the meter to measure the current through the bulb - the transistor **output** current.
5. Press the switch and measure the bulb current.
6. Record your results in table 3.1 in the Student Handout.

So what?

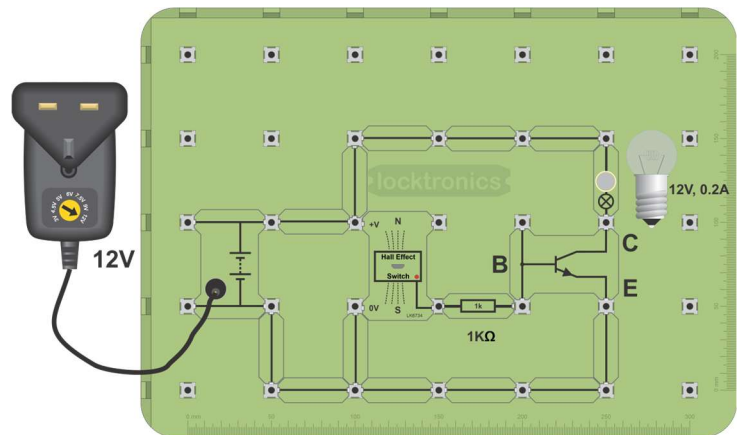
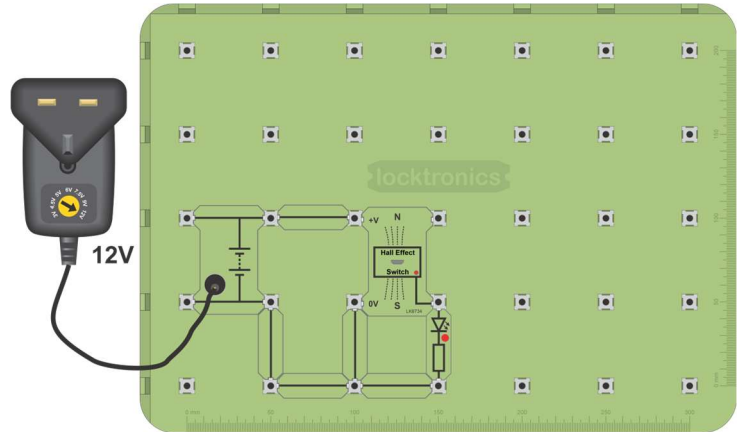
- There are many types of transistor. This one is a 'NPN' transistor. The three terminals, shown on the symbol by the letters 'B', 'C' and 'E' are the base, collector and emitter.
- Transistors are useful because they amplify current - a small current flowing into the **b**ase controls a much larger current flowing from the **c**ollector to the **e**mitter.

Worksheet 3

Using transistors

Over to you:

1. Build the circuit shown - a Hall effect sensor connected to an incandescent bulb (12V, 0.1 A).
2. Unscrew the bulb and hold a magnet near the Hall effect sensor. (The LED on the sensor should turn off when the sensor is activated).
3. Now screw in the bulb. Does it light when the magnet is brought close to the sensor?
4. Next, connect a transistor on the output of the Hall effect sensor as shown in the second circuit.
5. Again, use a magnet to turn the sensor on.
6. Does the bulb light now?
7. Answer the questions raised in the Student Handout about what you observed.



So what?

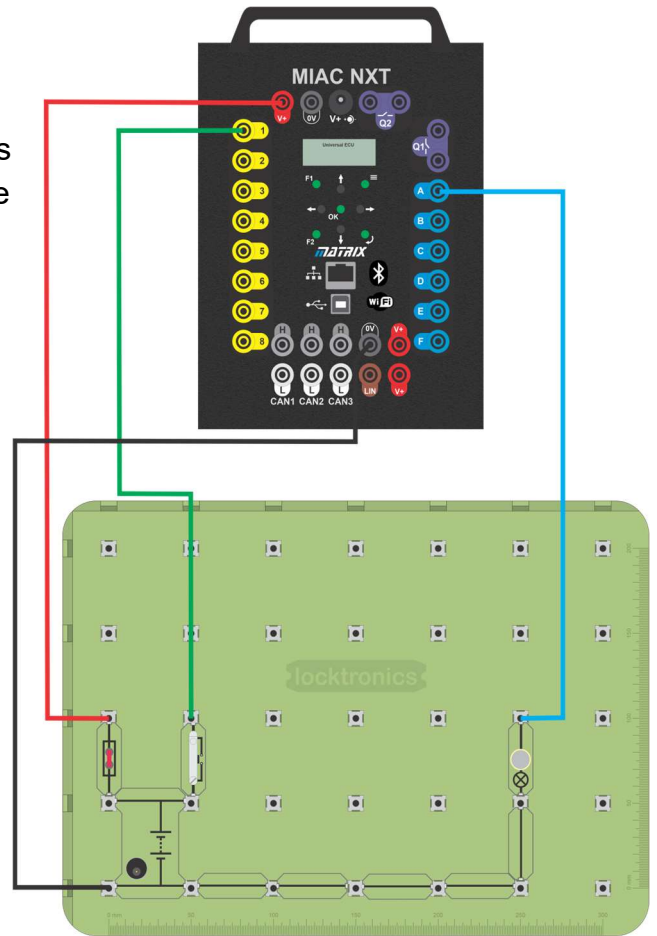
- The Hall Effect sensor is 'active low'. It outputs 12V normally and 0V when it detects a magnet.
- In the first circuit, the sensor cannot provide enough current to power the bulb, connected across the output.
- When a transistor is added, it amplifies the current from the Hall Sensor and allows 0.2A to flow through the bulb.
- Most ECU outputs are transistor outputs. They can switch more than 10 amps.
- Some ECU outputs 'sink' current - the ECU output is connected to the collector with the emitter connected to 0V inside the ECU.
- Some ECU outputs are connected to the emitter, with the collector connected to +12V. These outputs 'source' current. The MIAC ECU outputs source current.

Worksheet 3

Using transistors

Over to you:

1. Build the system shown opposite, which is effectively the same circuit as on the previous page, but using a transistor located inside the MIAC.
2. Plug the power supply (set to 12V) into the Locktronics carrier to power the full system.
3. Use the 'Up' and 'Down' keys on the MIAC to select program 6.
4. Measure the current through the switch, (MIAC **input** current,) and then through the lamp (MIAC **output** current.)
5. Record your results in table 3.2 in the Student Handout.
6. Compare these results with those obtained for the stand-alone transistor previously.

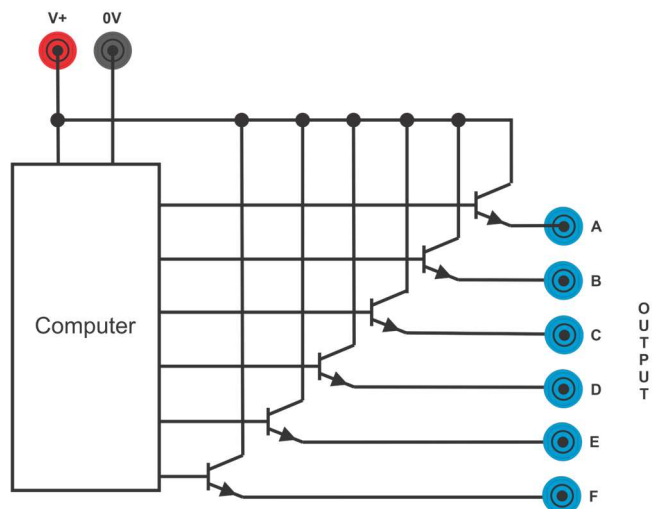


So what?

- Inside the MIAC, outputs **A** to **F** are controlled by an internal computer, connected to power transistors.
- Power for the whole system comes from the V+ and 0V terminals.
- In practice, the circuitry inside the MIAC, (and ECU's in general) is more complicated. Outputs are protected against short circuits, and against high voltages caused by inductive loads, such as motors and coils.

Over to you:

If you have the 'Sensors and Actuators' pack, then you can do Worksheet E4.



Worksheet 4

Analogue inputs

Two types of sensor, **analogue** and **digital**, are found in a car.

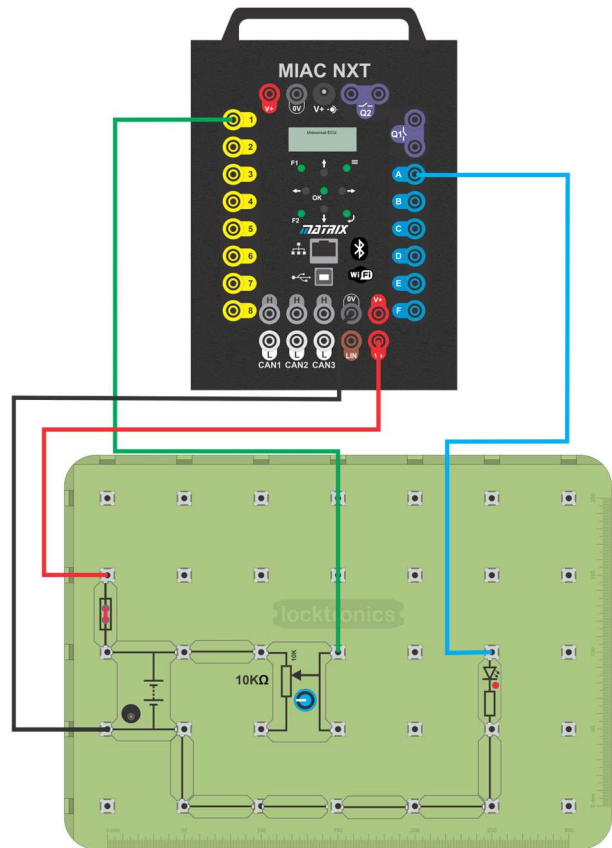
Analogue sensors provide more information than just the sensor being 'on' or 'off' and can be used to interpret the state of a system more accurately. They provide information about how full?, how far?, how many?, how hot? etc.

The photograph shows a fuel sensor with float.



Over to you:

1. Build the system shown opposite.
The potentiometer is an analogue sensor. It is equivalent to the fuel sensor in a car.
2. Plug the power supply (set to 12V) into the Locktronics carrier to power the full system.
3. Select program 8 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Use a multimeter to measure the output voltage of the potentiometer.
5. Turn the potentiometer to reduce the output in steps of two volts from 12V down to 6V. Record the corresponding fuel levels, shown on the MIAC display, in table 4.1 in the Student Handout.
6. At what value does the 'low fuel' LED come on?
7. Twist the potentiometer quickly from one side to another, to simulate fuel slopping around in the tank. Notice how quickly the readout on the MIAC changes. Why is this a problem?
8. Next, short-circuit the potentiometer output first to 0V and then to the supply voltage.
9. Make a note of the corresponding fuel level readings in the Student Handout. You will need this information later.



Worksheet 4

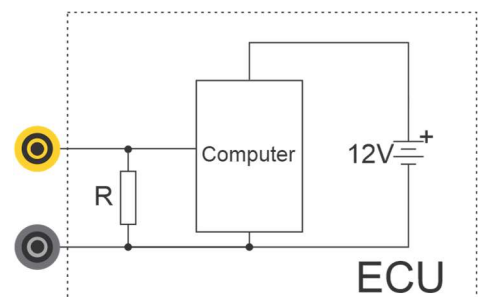
Analogue inputs

So what?

- If you know how the resistance of a sensor varies with the quantity it is sensing, then you can design a system that measures that quantity. Using a simple voltage divider chain of two resistors, where one is the sensor, you can design a circuit where the computer input voltage varies with the quantity we are trying to measure - in this case fuel level.
- You should have seen that changing the variable resistor (potentiometer) changes the fuel reading in the tank. But there is only one resistor in this circuit so how does this work?
- Inside the MIAC ECU, there is a pull-down resistor, R , connected to the input, rather like the one shown in the diagram. Having it inside the ECU saves on wiring and external components.

Pull-down resistors are present on most ECU inputs. The value of the resistor is not always the same.

- In general, ECU inputs use pull-down resistors. The exception is where the input uses a thermistor. These use pull-up resistors. Understanding this is important when fault-finding - an open circuit on a digital input would result in a 0V reading on a multimeter, whereas, on a thermistor input, it would result in a 12V reading.



Over to you:

One of the problems with the previous circuit is that the fuel level indicator can give a false reading when the car goes up a hill or over a bump.

1. Select program 9 on the MIAC ECU.
2. Twist the pot. quickly from one side to another. Notice the response now. The reading is 'damped' by the software program running on the MIAC so that the low fuel indicator only changes status slowly.

So what?

- ECUs offer many advantages in a modern car. One is that the behaviour of a system can be changed by altering the software. In older cars, changing the system would have required a hardware design change.

Over to you:

If you have the 'Sensors and Actuators' pack, you can do Worksheets E5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11.

Worksheet 5

Fault detection with ECUs

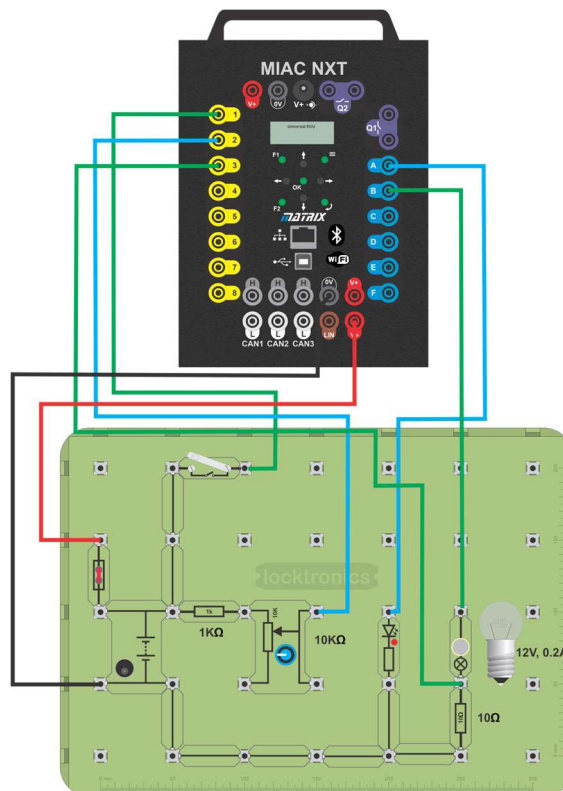


In modern automotive systems, ECUs are used for much more than control. They can also report on the status of the vehicle and many of its components. The photograph shows a Volvo V70 dashboard. The ECU has detected that the front headlight bulb is **faulty** and has reported it to the dashboard so that the driver can replace it.



Over to you:

1. Build the system shown below. It contains features to monitor both the fuel level sensor and the incandescent headlamp bulb connected to output B.



2. Plug the power supply (set to 12V) into the Locktronics carrier to power the full system.
3. Select program 15 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Use a multimeter, on the 20V DC range, to measure the potentiometer output voltage.
5. Turn the potentiometer to change the output in regular one volt intervals. (It may not be possible to obtain all the values shown in the table.)
6. Record the corresponding fuel levels in table 5.1 in the Student Handout.
7. Note the value at which the 'low fuel' LED come on.
8. Comment on the difference between this and the previous program?

Over to you continued

At this point, you are going to create a number of faults in the system.

The circuit and software are set up to detect these faults.

Fault 1: Short-circuit to 0V

9. Short-circuit the potentiometer output to 0V
10. What is shown on the MIAC display?

Fault 2: Short-circuit to positive supply

11. Remove the short-circuit.
12. Next, short-circuit the potentiometer output to the positive supply terminal. To do this, connect a wire from the output of the potentiometer to one of the V+ terminals. This simulates a fault where the sensor output is connected, by accident, to the positive supply voltage in the car.
13. Verify that the fault is recognised by the MIAC.
14. Measure the voltage on MIAC input I2 and record it.

Fault 3: Sensor output is open-circuit

15. Remove the short-circuit.
16. Disconnect the lead from the potentiometer to the MIAC.
17. Verify that the fault is recognised by the MIAC.

Fault 4: A faulty headlamp bulb

18. Connect a multimeter to measure the voltage across the 10Ω resistor.
19. Measure this voltage when the switch is pressed and the headlamp is lit.
20. Remove the bulb, to simulate a blown filament fault .
21. Close the switch and record the new voltage across the resistor:
22. Hence, describe how the MIAC ECU is able to detect this fault.

So what?

- With careful design of the system and software, it is possible to provide detailed information to the driver, and service centre, of the state of a system and its fitness for purpose.
- However, it is not always possible for an ECU to diagnose the exact fault - an open-circuit for a sensor at the ECU can give the same electrical symptoms as a short-circuit.

Worksheet 6

Open-loop vs closed-loop

There are two main types of control systems in a car - **open-loop** and **closed-loop**.

In a closed-loop system, the system output state is fed back to the input, so that the system can check when the desired outcome has been attained.

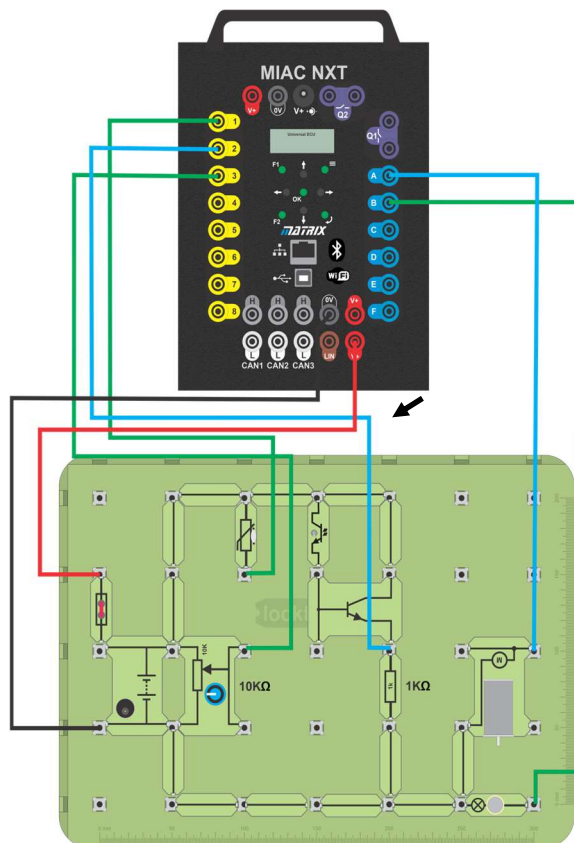
The photograph shows a rear view mirror.

The open-loop system on the mirror uses a light sensor to dim the mirror's reflection.



Over to you:

1. Build the system shown below.



It contains two output devices - a motor and a lamp and three analogue sensors:
a potentiometer, (rotation-dependent resistor);
a thermistor, (temperature-dependent resistor);
a phototransistor, (light-dependent resistor).

The motor represents the car fan heater motor. The temperature inside the car is set using the potentiometer, and is sensed by the thermistor. The bulb represents the headlamps. It switches on automatically when it gets dark, sensed by the phototransistor.

Worksheet 6

Open loop vs closed loop



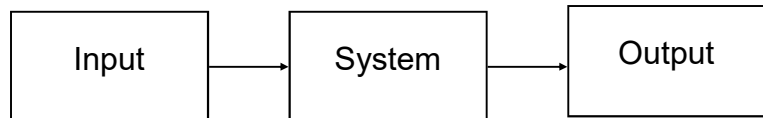
Over to you continued

2. Plug the power supply (set to 12V) into the Locktronics carrier to power the full system.
3. Select program 16 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Cover the phototransistor with your finger. Make a note of what happens in the Student Handout.
5. Adjust the potentiometer so that the motor is only just running.
6. Use a multimeter to measure the voltage on the MIAC input connected to the thermistor. Warm the thermistor between your fingers to simulate the car interior getting hotter. What happens to the voltage at the MIAC input? What happens to the motor? Record your measurements and findings in the Student Handout.
6. What happens as the thermistor cools down? (simulating the car interior cooling.) Again, make a note in the Student Handout.

So what?

- The light sensor circuit is open-loop.

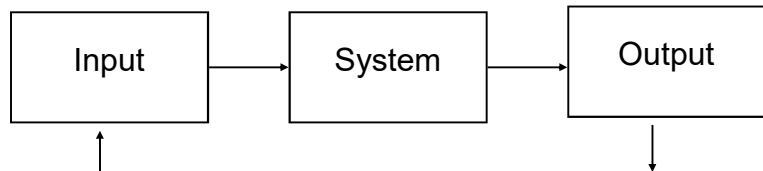
Open-loop control system



- The sensor detects that it is dark enough that the headlamps should be turned on. However, the system cannot verify that this happens, i.e. that the light has reached a given brightness.

- The thermistor circuit is closed-loop.

Closed-loop control system



- The fan heater warms the car up. A signal from the thermistor, indicating the current temperature, is fed back to the system and compared with the desired temperature, set by the potentiometer signal. Hence the system can know when the desired temperature has been reached.

Worksheet 7

Controlling DC motors

So far we have considered circuits that provide only one level of power to a motor- turning it fully on or fully off. However, in many situations, we want to vary the **power** supplied to it, in order to control the speed of a motor, for example, and this requires a new technique.

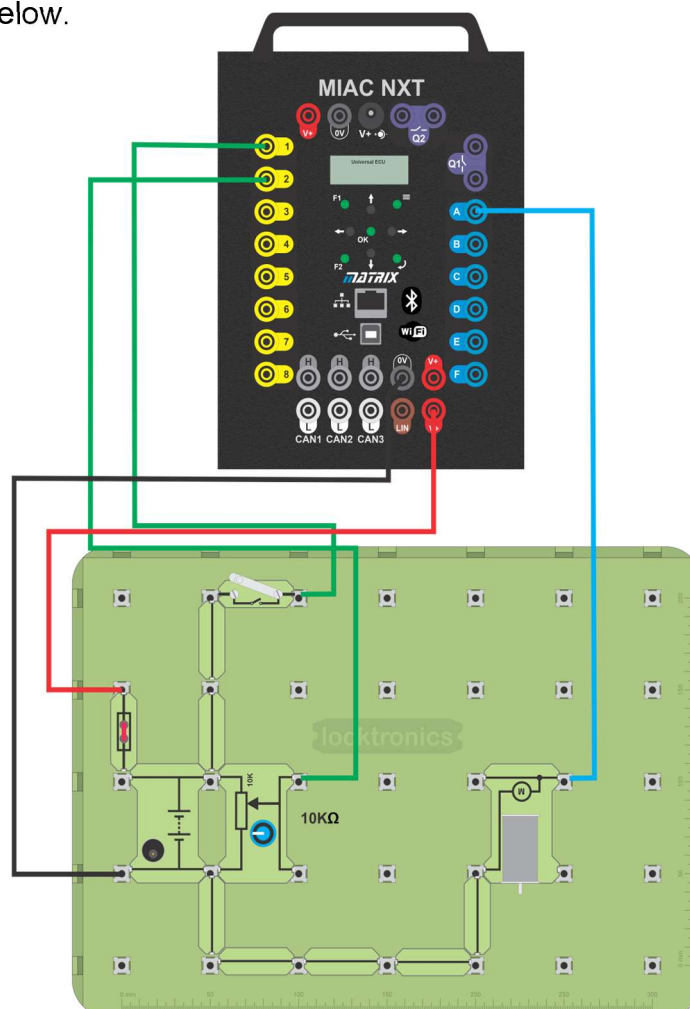
The two easiest ways of doing so are to vary the voltage, or vary the **duty cycle** of the motor supply.

The photograph shows a car seat motor with linkage.



Over to you:

1. Build the system shown below.



It contains a switch, a potentiometer and a motor.

The motor represents the windscreen wiper motor and the potentiometer controls the wiper speed.

Worksheet 7

Controlling DC motors



Over to you continued

2. Plug the power supply (set to 12V) into the Locktronics carrier, to power the full system.
3. Select program 17 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Close the switch to turn the wipers on.
Check that the motor speed is controlled by the potentiometer.
5. For two settings of the potentiometer, one where the motor runs slowly and the other where it runs fast, monitor the MIAC output waveform on an oscilloscope.
Sketch the waveforms on the templates provided in the Student Handout .
Label each with significant voltages and times.

So what?

- Using the **first** form of speed control:
 - when the MIAC output is a constant 0V, no power supplied to the motor;
 - when the MIAC output is a constant 12V, maximum power is supplied to the motor.
- Using the **second** form of control, the motor speed is varied by pulsing the output to the motor.
 - In the first oscilloscope trace, notice that the output is seldom on, so that the power transferred is small, and the resulting speed is low.
 - In the second trace, notice that the output is on for most of the time and so the power supplied to the motor, and the resulting speed, is high.
- This technique of pulsing the output is known as Pulse Width Modulation (PWM.)
- The ratio of the time for which the pulse voltage is high to the time for which it is low is called the '**duty cycle**'.

Over to you:

If you have the 'Sensors and Actuators' pack then you can do Worksheets E9.

Worksheet 8

Controlling stepper motors

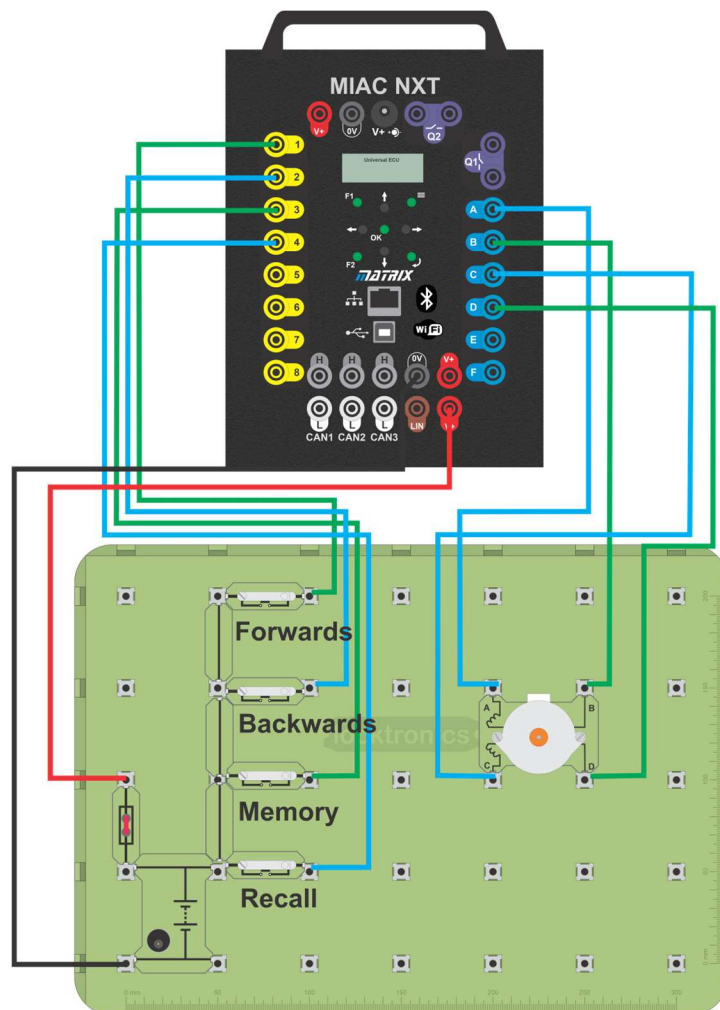
DC motors are cheap and reliable but are difficult to control when a measured, precise movement or rotation is required. Stepper motors use four internal coils which allow the rotor to be moved in small steps - forwards or backwards. In our case the step size is 3.75 degrees per step.

The photograph shows an idle valve stepper motor.



Over to you:

1. Build the system shown below.



Worksheet 8

Controlling stepper motors



Over to you continued

2. Plug the power supply (set to 12V) into the Locktronics carrier, to power the full system.
3. Press the reset switch on the MIAC and select program 18.
4. The four switches represent **forwards**, **backwards**, **memory** and **recall**. Check that they work correctly.
5. For eight steps of the motor going forward (clockwise), measure the voltages at the MIAC outputs, **A**, **B**, **C**, **D**.
6. Fill in the table in the Student Handout, using a '1' to represent the supply voltage and a '0' to represent 0V.
7. The direction in which a stepper motor moves is dictated by the sequence of voltages on its four coils. In completing the table, you observed the forward pattern. Confirm that when you reverse the motor, this pattern is simply reversed.
8. Change the connections to the stepper motor.
Connect **A** on the MIAC to **B** on the stepper, and **B** on the MIAC to **A** on the stepper.
What happens when you try to make the motor go forward or backwards? Make a note in the Student Handout.

So what?

- Stepper motors allow precise, predictable movement
- They need four wires rather than two.
- The outputs have to be driven in a particular sequence or the motor will not rotate.
- The connections to the motor have to be correct or the motor will not rotate.

Extension work - using real automotive sensors

Worksheet E1

Coolant level switch

In a coolant level switch, a magnet encased in a floating arm interacts with a reed relay in the main body of the sensor.

When there is sufficient coolant in the system, the arm touches the main body and the relay is closed.

When the level drops too far, the magnet falls and the relay becomes open circuit.

The photograph shows a typical coolant level switch.



Over to you:

1. Connect the coolant level switch to the MIAC as shown in the diagram.
2. Plug the 12V power supply into the MIAC.
3. Use the Up / Down arrows on the MIAC to select program 2.
4. What warning message does the MIAC display when the coolant level is low (switch is open)?
5. What is the voltage at the switch when there is low coolant?

Record your answers in the Student Handout.

So what?

The MIAC ECU can be programmed to carry out a number of tasks.

In this case the program is told that input 1 is a coolant level switch and that it should display a message when the voltage at input 1 is 12V.



Worksheet E2

Cam and crank sensors



Cam and crank sensors are essentially the same device but probably contained in a different physical package.

They detect the presence of a metal object close to the sensor, such as the teeth of a cog.

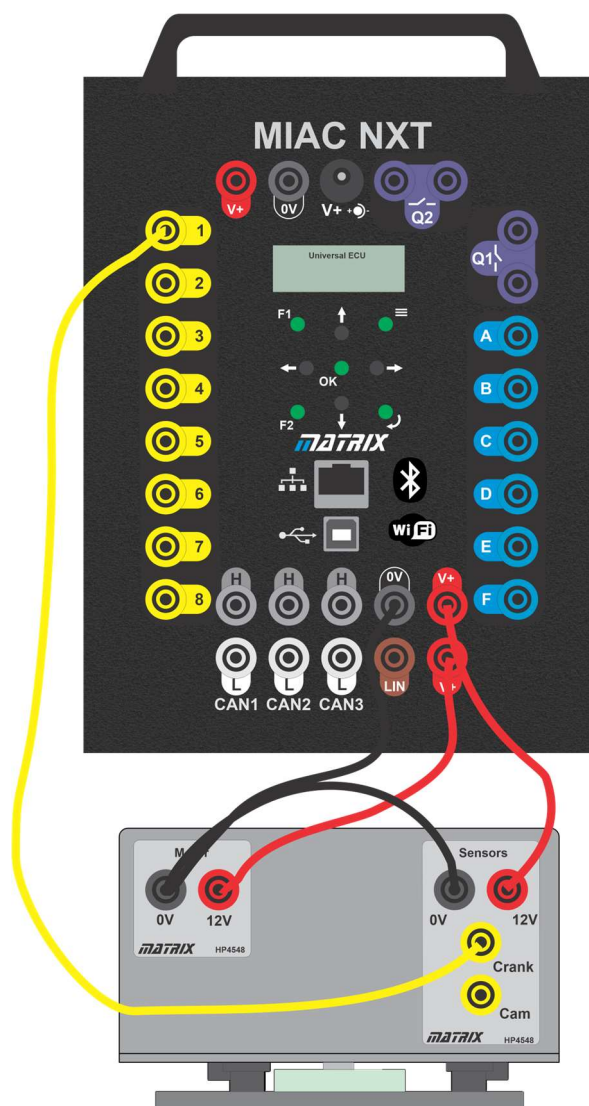
A circuit inside these sensors uses the Hall effect or a property called magnetic reluctance to detect the proximity of metal.

The photograph shows a Nissan camshaft sensor.



Over to you:

1. Connect the CAM crank motor and sensor to the MIAC as shown in the diagram.
The cog on the unit should rotate at a fixed speed.



Worksheet E2

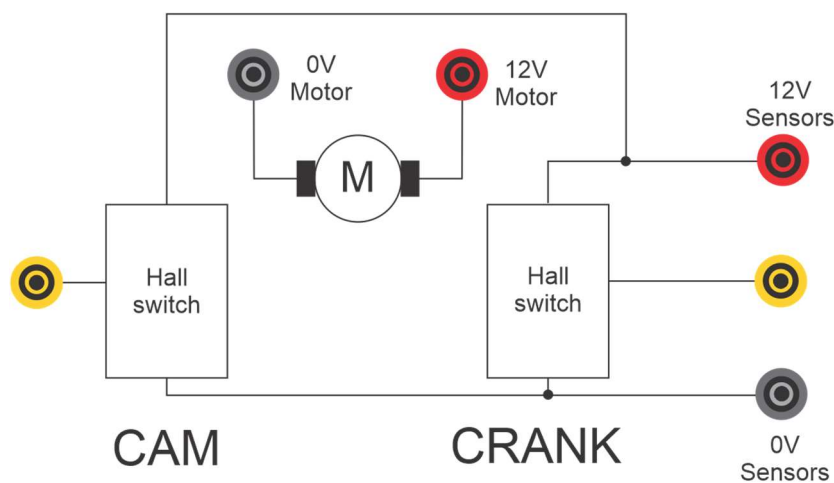
Cam and crank sensors



2. Plug the 12V power supply into the MIAC.
3. Use the Up / Down arrows on the MIAC to select program 3.
4. After a few seconds, the display shows you the frequency of rotation of the device.
5. Connect an oscilloscope to obtain traces of the cam sensor and crank sensor signals. Sketch them, using the templates provided in the Student Handout.
6. Look at the metal rotating disk. When does each sensor give out a high voltage and when a low voltage? Comment on this in the Student Handout.

So what?

1. The diagram shows the circuit of the CAM CRANK system. An electric motor makes the metal disk rotate.
2. The two sensors are identical but operate in different ways. The CAM shaft sensor switches on whenever a tooth of the cog passes by the sensor. There is a one tooth missing so that one of the positive pulses is longer than the others. This is how the vehicle detects the position of the cam shaft and sets the timing for other parts of the engine.
3. The CRANK sensor detects the presence and absence of the metal on the inside of the disk. The resulting waveform is very different.
4. The MIAC ECU measures the timings of the waveform and hence derives the speed of the engine.



Worksheet E3

Lights using relays

As modern transistor performance has improved, the use of relays for switching lights in ECUs is less common than in the past.

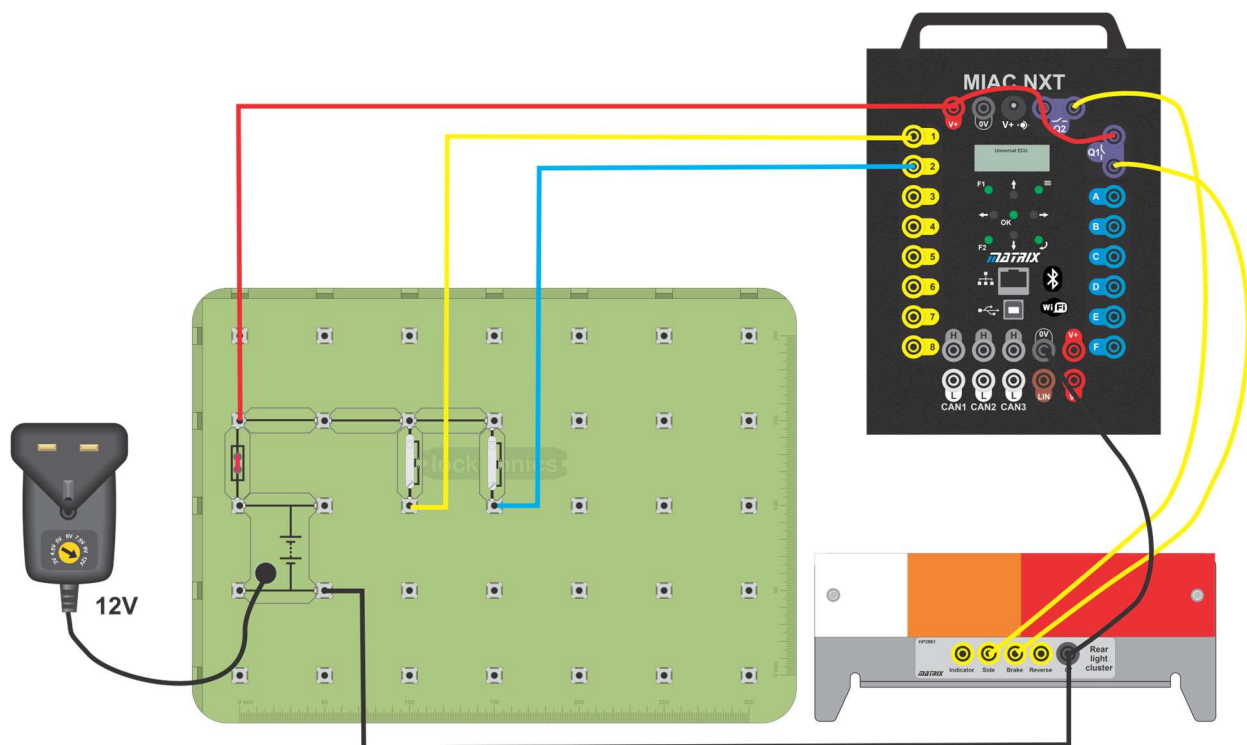
The big advantage of relays is that they can control larger currents.

The photograph shows a truck with headlights on.



Over to you:

1. Construct the circuit shown below and connect it to a 12V supply.
3. Select program **5** on the MIAC: 'High Current Outputs'.
4. Each switch should activate one part of the lighting cluster.



So what?

- Relay outputs are ideal for switching high currents, (though the currents **needed by** this modern LED light cluster are not that high.)
- Relays do not switch as fast as transistor outputs.

Worksheet E4

Lights using transistor outputs



Older cars used relays to switch high current to the headlights. Modern cars now use transistor outputs in Electronic Control Units for this purpose. Whilst modern transistor outputs in ECUs can switch 20 amps and more, many cars now use low current LED lamps and indicators meaning that the current requirements are smaller. Photograph shows modern headlight unit.

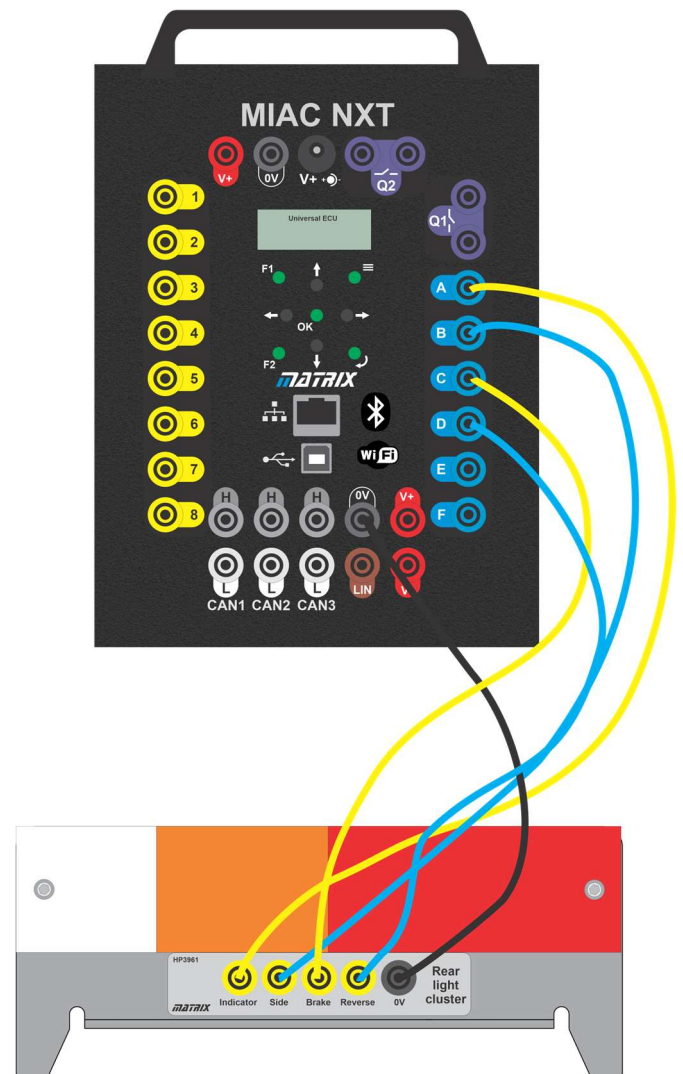


Over to you:

1. Construct the circuit shown opposite and connect it to a 12V supply.
2. Using the Up / Down keys on the MIAC, select program 7: 'Low current outputs'.
3. The four lights in the lighting cluster should come on alternately.

So what?

- Transistor outputs are ideal for switching relatively low currents.
- They are cheaper than relays and are electrically more reliable.
- For low current LED lights like these, transistors are fine. For high current headlights a relay might still be needed.



Worksheet E5

Air temperature sensor

A modern air temperature sensor uses a semiconductor device whose resistance varies with temperature, connected in a voltage divider chain. They are often integrated into a MAF (Mass Air Flow) sensor.

The photograph shows a typical air temperature sensor.

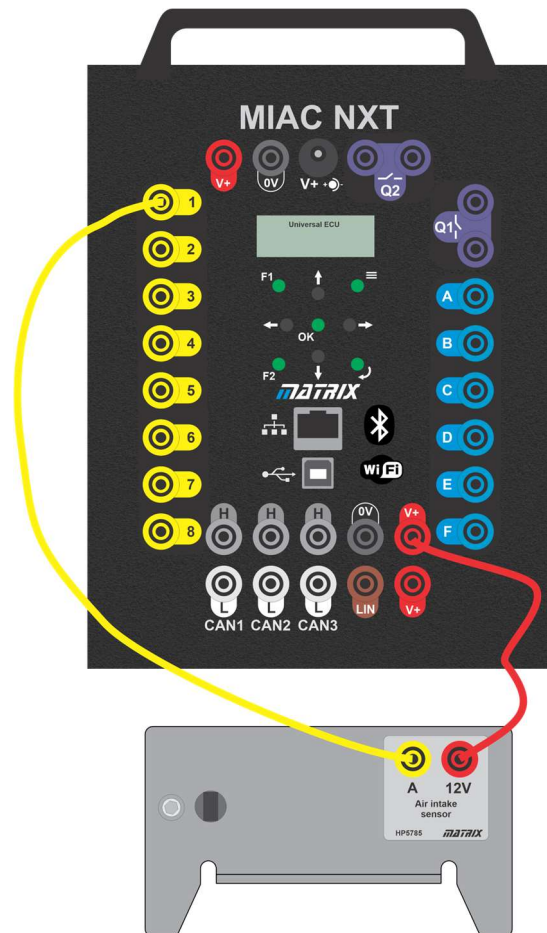


Over to you:

1. At room temperature, measure the resistance between the terminals of the air temperature sensor.
2. Connect the air temperature sensor to the MIAC as shown in the diagram opposite.
3. Plug the 12V power supply into the MIAC.
4. Select program 10 on the MIAC ECU.
5. Use a hair dryer to raise the air temperature and notice the effect on the display.
6. Remove the sensor from the circuit and quickly measure its resistance again.
7. Make a note of all your measurements in the Student Handout.

So what?

- If you know how the resistance of a sensor varies with the quantity it is sensing, you can design a system that measures that quantity.
- Using two resistors connected in a voltage divider chain, you can design a circuit in which the voltage at the input of a computer varies with the quantity you want to measure - in this case fuel level air temperature.
- On most automotive ECUs, thermistor-based sensors like this one would be wired between the ECU input and 0V. On the MIAC ECU, all inputs have internal pull-down resistors and so we wire the thermistor between the ECU input and 12V.



Worksheet E6

Throttle position sensor

All modern cars are 'drive by wire'.

At one time, the fuel / air mixture entering the carburettor was controlled by a cable from the throttle pedal to the carburettor.

Modern cars have replaced this with a system using a potentiometer connected to the throttle pedal.

The photograph shows a typical throttle position sensor.

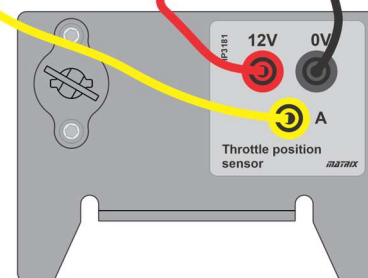
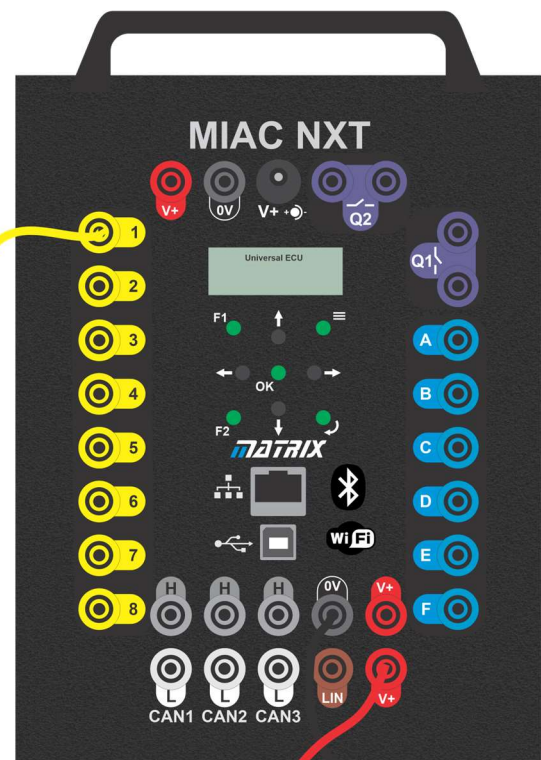
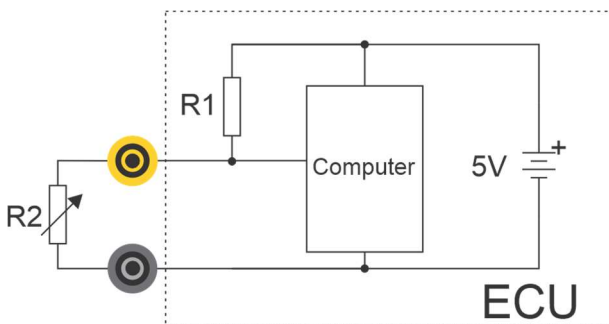


Over to you:

1. Connect the throttle position sensor wire to the MIAC as shown opposite.
2. Plug the 12V power supply into the MIAC.
3. Select program 11 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Use a key to alter the position of the sensor.
5. In the Student Handout, comment on the effect of this on the MIAC display.

So what?

- The throttle position sensor resistance varies between $1k\Omega$ and $10k\Omega$.
- The internal $10k\Omega$ resistor forms the upper half of the voltage divider chain for the throttle position detector circuit, shown as R1 in the diagram below.



Worksheet E7

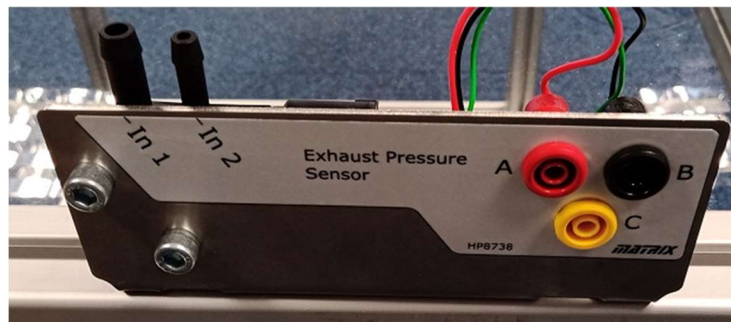
Exhaust pressure and coolant level

Over to you:

For each of the following sensors wire up the sensor to the MIAC, change the quantities that the sensors are measuring and check that the sensor works.

For each sensor, devise a strategy to test that the sensor is working, and describe it in the Student Handout.

1. Exhaust pressure sensor



Simple analogue sensor:

- MIAC programme 12
- Connect to MIAC input 1

To test the sensor, use the pump and tube provided to increase the pressure on In 2.

2. Coolant level sensor



Simple analogue sensor

- MIAC programme 13
- Connect output A to MIAC input 1.
- Decide where to connect socket B, remembering that MIAC inputs incorporate pull-down resistors!

To test the coolant level sensor, dip the sensor prongs into a cup of water **or** use a wet towel between the electrodes.

Worksheet E8

MAF sensor

In modern cars, sensors are no longer simply analogue or digital. There are now a number of sensors which are more complex. The MAF (Mass Air Flow) sensor is a case in point.

The MAF sensor gives out a stream of pulses which indicate to the ECU the flow of air through the sensor and into the carburettor.

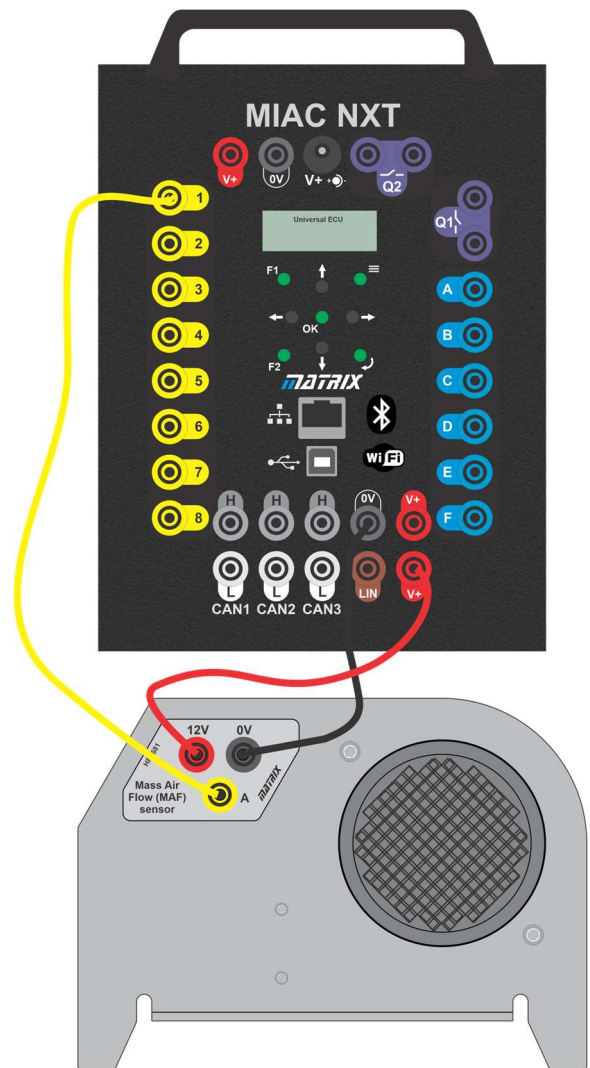
The photograph shows a typical MAF sensor.



Over to you:

1. Connect the MIAC ECU and MAF sensor as shown in the diagram
2. Plug the power supply into the MIAC.
3. Select program 14 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Use an oscilloscope to view the waveform coming from the MAF sensor.
5. Using the template in the Student Handout, sketch this waveform.
6. Record the initial airflow reading shown on the MIAC in the Student Handout.
7. Use a hairdryer to send a modest amount of air through the MAF sensor.
8. Record the new airflow reading.
9. Turn the hairdryer on to full power.
10. Record the new airflow reading.

Note that you will need quite a powerful hair dryer to make a change.



Worksheet E9

Throttle valve

In previous worksheets you saw how Pulse Width Modulation can control the speed of a DC motor, and you saw how using a stepper motor allows control of the position of a motor.

Electronic throttle valves allow control of a different type of mechanism - a kind of servo motor that uses a DC motor and PWM to drive a butterfly valve. The valve is connected to a spring. When the DC motor PWM falls to zero, the spring closes the valve.

The photograph shows an electronic throttle valve.



Over to you:

1. Modify the system built in worksheet 7 by replacing the motor with the electronic throttle valve.
2. Plug the power supply into the MIAC.
3. Select program 17 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Close the switch to turn the system on. Check that the motor speed is controlled by the potentiometer.

So what?

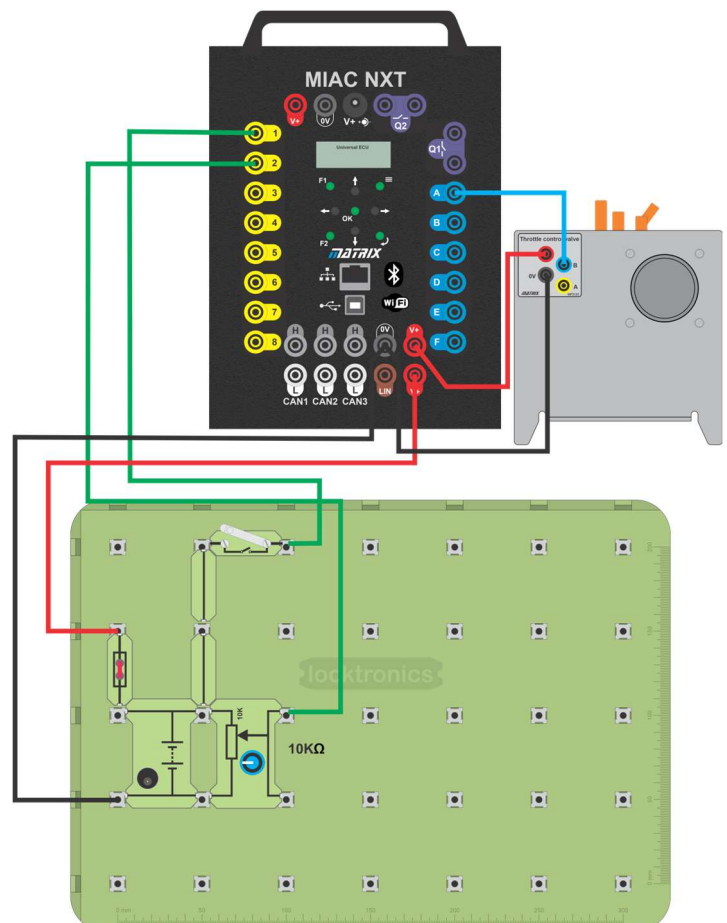
- The electronic throttle valve is a kind of servo motor where increasing the PWM mark:space ratio determines the extent of the valve opening. It has a return spring so that when the PWM M:S ratio drops, the valve closes.

Over to you:

Replace the potentiometer with the throttle position sensor.

So what?

You now have a fully working throttle control system.



Worksheet E9

Throttle valve



So what?

1. Some sensors are more complex than analogue or digital. Some include additional circuitry - or a small computer - that allow information to be conveyed in the form of pulses.
2. Debugging sensor operation with just a multimeter is not always possible.

Worksheet E10

Knock sensor

The knock sensor contains a small piezoelectric sensor (essentially a microphone) that detects high frequency vibrations.

It gives out a short pulse when the engine 'knocks'. This knocking is caused by an irregularity in combustion - often a result of bad timing of the ignition signals.

The photograph shows a typical knock sensor.

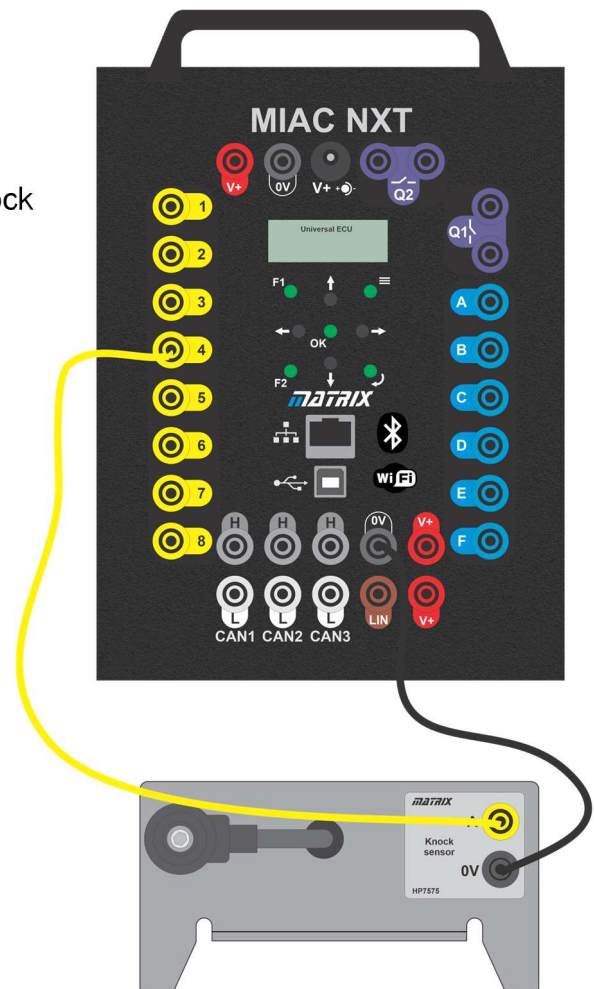


Over to you:

1. Build the system shown opposite.
2. Connect a 12V power supply to the MIAC.
3. Select program 19 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Tap the knock sensor with a hammer or hard object. The display should register a knock for five seconds.
5. In the Student Handout, note the message displayed on the MIAC.
6. Using an oscilloscope, monitor the incoming signal on input 4 of the MIAC.
What factors affect the shape of the knock signal?

So what?

- The knock sensor is a simple sensor that detects short, large vibrations in the engine. Low frequency vibrations are filtered out.
- When the knock sensor is triggered, the engine management system adjusts the timing and power of the ignition signal.



Worksheet E11

Ultrasonic parking sensor

Ultrasonic parking sensors send out bursts of ultrasonic energy at regular intervals.

A nearby object will reflect some of this back to the sensor. The time interval between transmission and reception gives an indication of how close the object is to the sensor.

The ECU calculates this distance using the speed of sound.

The photograph shows a ultrasonic parking sensor.

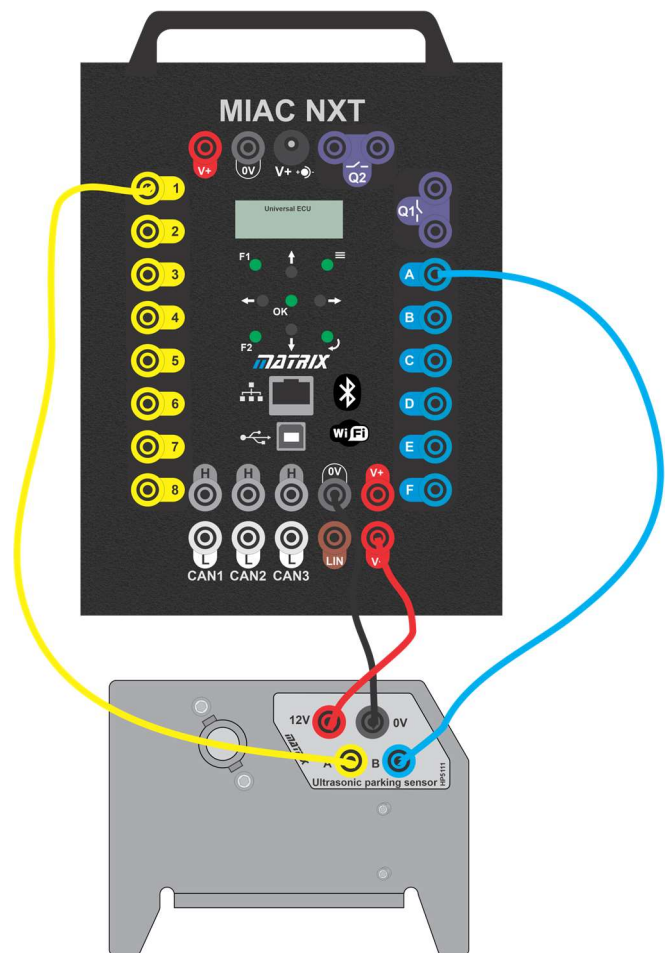


Over to you:

1. Build the system shown opposite.
2. Connect a 12V power supply to the MIAC.
3. Select program 20 on the MIAC ECU.
4. Point the sensor at various objects.
5. For an object at a known distance, use an oscilloscope to examine the pulses leaving terminal A and the reflection on B.
6. Check that the sensor is measuring distance correctly by using the formula:
$$\text{distance} = \text{speed} * \text{time}$$
where speed is $343\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$. (Note that the time is for the pulse to travel to and from the object in front of the sensor)

So what?

- The ultrasonic parking sensor is a good example of an active sensor.
- The MIAC sends out an ultrasonic pulse and then times the interval for the reflected pulse and shows the time difference in microseconds.
- The time difference is proportional to the distance the sound has travelled.



The parking sensor has a very wide field of view. You will need to make sure that the area around the sensor is clear.

Student Handout

Automotive sense and control



Worksheet 1 - Simple digital sensors

Table 1.1

Switch	Voltage across bulb
Pressed	
Not pressed	

Table 1.2

Component	State	Resistance
Push-to-make switch	Open (Off)	
	Closed (On)	
Slide switch	Open	
	Closed	
Microswitch	Open	
	Closed	

Voltage at input 1 = _____

Table 1.3

Input number	Signal voltage - switch closed	MIAC NXT message	Signal voltage - switch open	MIAC NXT message
1				
2				
3				
4				
.....	Input current =			

Worksheet 2 - Using relays

Table 2.1 - external relay

Relay	Current in mA
Input, I1	
Output, I2	

Table 2.2 - MIAC relay

Relay	Current in mA
Input, I1	
Output, I2	

Automotive sense and control



Worksheet 3 - Using transistors

Transistor behaviour:

Table 3.1

Transistor	Current in mA
Input	
Output	

Hall sensor circuits:

In the first circuit, describe what happens when the magnet is placed near the sensor.

With the transistor added, what is the difference in the behaviour?

MIAC transistor control:

Table 3.2

MIAC	Current in mA
Input	
Output	

Compared with the stand-
the advantage of the MIAC is:

alone transistor (table 3.1),

Worksheet 4 - Analogue inputs

Table 4.1 - Fuel level

Input voltage	12	10	8	6
Fuel level (l)				

potentiometer results:

At what value does the 'low fuel' LED come on? _____

Why is fuel slopping around in the fuel tank a problem?

When potentiometer short-circuited to 0V, fuel level reading = _____

When potentiometer short-circuited to 12V, fuel level reading = _____

Automotive sense and control



Worksheet 5 - Fault detection with ECUs

Table 5.1

Input voltage	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
Fuel level (l)							

At what value does the 'low fuel' LED come on? _____.

What is the difference between the performance of this and the previous program?

Fault 1: What is shown on the MIAC display? _____

Fault 2: Voltage on MIAC input I2: _____

Fault 3: How do you know that MIAC has recognised the fault?

Fault 4: Switch pressed and headlamp lit - voltage across the 10Ω resistor: _____

Switch pressed and headlamp not lit - voltage across the 10Ω resistor: _____

How do you know that MIAC has recognised the fault?

Worksheet 6 - Open-loop vs closed-loop

What happens when you cover the phototransistor with your finger?

Thermistor voltage when cold: _____

Thermistor voltage when warmed: _____

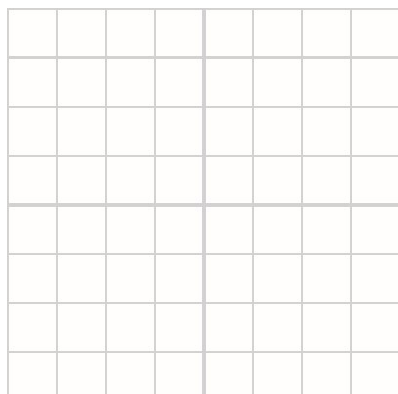
What is the effect of this warming on the motor?

What happens as the thermistor cools down?

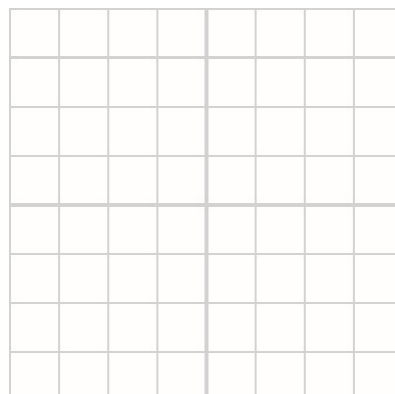
Automotive sense and control



Worksheet 7 - Controlling DC motors



Slow



Fast

Worksheet 8 - Controlling stepper motors

	A	B	C	D
Step 1				
Step 2				
Step 3				
Step 4				
Step 5				
Step 6				
Step 7				
Step 8				

When the connections between the stepper motor and MIAC are changed:

Automotive sense and control

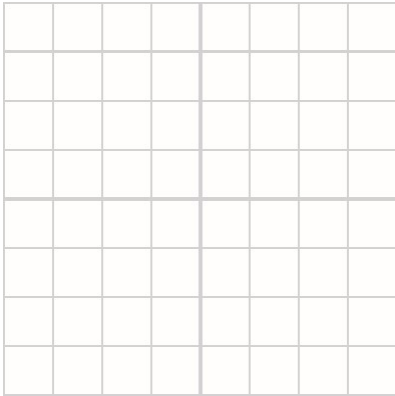


Worksheet E1 - Coolant level switch

When the coolant level is low:

- MIAC displays the message _____;
- the voltage at the switch is _____.

Worksheet E2 - Cam and crank sensors



Cam



Crank

A sensor gives out 12V when: _____

A sensor gives out 0V when: _____

Worksheet E5 - Air temperature sensor

Resistance of air temperature sensor:

- at room temperature _____
- when warm _____

Worksheet E6 - Throttle position sensor

What is the effect of turning the position of the sensor?

Automotive sense and control

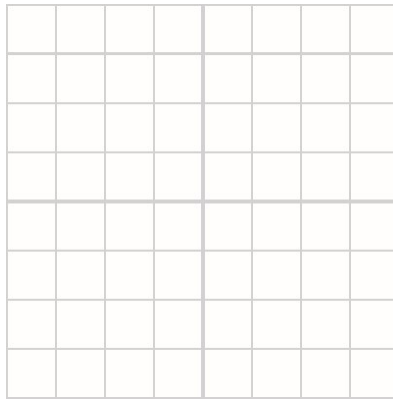


Worksheet E8 - MAF sensor



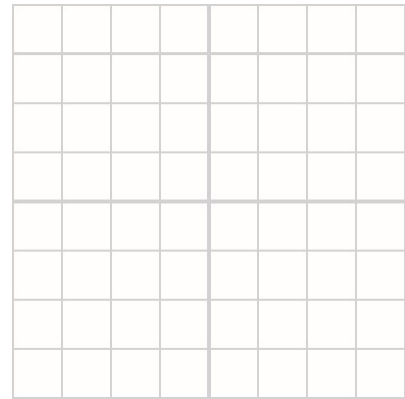
At rest

10ms / div



Low power

10ms / div



High power

10ms / div

How does the waveform change as more air flows through it?

Automotive sense and control



Worksheet E10 Knock sensor

What message is displayed on the MIAC when it detects a 'knock'?

What factors affect the shape of the knock signal displayed on the CRO?

Worksheet E11 Ultrasonic parking sensor

For the chosen object:

Time between pulses = _____ s

Using velocity of sound = 343m.s^{-1}

distance between sensor and object = _____ m

Notes for the Instructor

About this course

Introduction

The course is essentially a practical one. Locktronics equipment makes it simple and quick to construct and investigate electrical circuits. The end result can look exactly like the circuit diagram, thanks to the symbols printed on each component carrier.

Aim

The course aims to introduce students to sensing and control circuits in motor vehicles.

Prior Knowledge

It is recommended that pupils have followed the 'Electricity Matters 1' and 'Electricity Matters 2' courses, or have equivalent knowledge and experience of building and analysing simple circuits.

Learning Objectives

On successful completion of this course the pupil will have learned:

- to distinguish between analogue and digital sensors;
- that simple digital sensors have a two-state output - either open (off) or closed (on);
- that digital sensors have a high resistance when open, and a small resistance when closed;
- that simple digital sensors output a signal either at 0V or at the full power supply voltage;
- the circuit symbols for a range of switches, bulbs and sensors;
- that some components are polarised - work properly only when connected the right way round;
- that an ECU can recognise a high input voltage as the switch being either 'on' or 'off';
- that output devices require a variety of current levels to make them operate;
- that transistors can be used to deliver currents up to around 10A;
- that relays can be used to deliver currents up to around 40A in a vehicle;
- that transistors are much faster than relays in switching on and off;
- how to connect MIAC to deliver current through its transistor output terminals;
- how to connect MIAC to deliver current through its relay output terminals;
- that electronic systems consist of three elements, input, process and output subsystems;
- that analogue sensors output a continuous range of voltages;
- that a capacitor can be used to dampen the reading from an analogue sensor;
- that a potentiometer can set a reference voltage to determine quantities such as the temperature inside a car;
- that an ECU can be used to monitor the status of a vehicle and its components;
- that there are two types of control system, open-loop and closed-loop;
- that the speed of a motor can be controlled by varying the duty cycle of a square wave signal applied to it, using a technique called pulse-wave modulation (PWM);
- the advantage of a stepper motor over a simple DC motor;
- that a stepper motor rotates through a specific angle each time that the coils are energised in the correct sequence.

Design compromises

There are several differences between the circuits built in this learning package and their equivalents in the real world:

Power supply voltage - 12V/5V:

The Extension work includes the use of real automotive sensors, many of which work at 5V rather than 12V. However, we have chosen to use 12V throughout, coupled with small 12 / 5V interface circuit boards.

The reason is to make sure that students do not damage equipment through faulty wiring. If they try to power a 5V sensor from 12V then the sensor will break.

Thermistor inputs:

It is really important that students understand the significance of pull-up and pull-down resistors.

One of the pitfalls in designing an educational ECU is the need for flexibility in how the ECU works. The task was to make the input configuration uniform. As a consequence, they all include pull-down resistors.

Students need to be aware that on most real-world ECUs, thermistor inputs use pull-up resistors.

Bill of materials:

To deliver this course, you need the components listed in the next page below, available from Matrix as kit LK1142. The sensors and actuators pack allows Extension worksheets to be carried out. These are available as a single kit with part number HP8256.

Bill Of Materials



LK1142		
Sense and control II		
1	HP2045	Shallow tray
2	HP4039	Lid for plastic trays
1	HP2666	International power supply with adaptors
1	HP5540	Deep tray
2	HP7750	Locktronics daughter tray foam insert
1	HP9564	62mm daughter tray
1	HPUSB	USB A to B lead
1	LK0123-00	Magnet
1	LK2346	MES bulb, 12V, 0.2A
1	LK3246	Buzzer (12V)
1	LK4025	Resistor - 10 ohm, 1W 5% (DIN)
1	LK4322	Stepper Motor
1	LK4786	Automotive fuse carrier
1	LK5202	Resistor - 1K, 1/4W, 5% (DIN)
1	LK5203	Resistor - 10K, 1/4W, 5% (DIN)
1	LK5214	Potentiometer, 10K (DIN)
1	LK5240	Transistor - NPN, right hand feed
16	LK5250	Connecting Link
1	LK5280	Relay 12V 10A (transparent case)
1	LK5291	Lampholder
1	LK5402	4.7K thermistor, NTC (DIN)
2	LK5603	Lead - red - 500mm, 4mm to 4mm stackable
2	LK5604	Lead - black - 500mm, 4mm to 4mm stackable
6	LK5607	Lead - yellow - 500mm, 4mm to 4mm stackable
6	LK5609	Lead - blue - 500mm, 4mm to 4mm stackable
4	LK6207	Switch Press (morse key-type strip, push to make)
1	LK6209	Switch on/off (stay put, sideways swivel strip)
1	LK6635	LED, red, 12V (DIN)
1	LK6634	Microswitch
1	LK6653	Capacitor, 4,700 uF, Electrolytic, 16V
1	LK6706	Motor 3/6V D.C. 0.7A
1	LK6734	Hall Effect Switch carrier
1	LK6838	Solenoid
1	LK6841	MES bulb, 12V, LED, white
1	LK7290	Phototransistor
1	LK8275	Power supply carrier with battery symbol
1	LK8900	7 x 5 baseboard with 4mm pillars
1	MI5500	Cased Allcode MIAC with 4mm sockets

This is kit LK1142

Last update 11 03 24

1	HP4548	Cam and crank(Hall Effect) sensor
1	HP5111	Ultrasonic parking sensor
1	HP5785	Intake Air Temperature (Thermistor) sensor
1	HP3181	Throttle position sensor
1	HP7575	Knock Sensor
1	HP0713	Mass Air Flow Sensor
1	HP1409	Coolant level (magnetic reed) switch
1	HP7910	Coolant temperature (Thermistor) sensor
1	HP8738	Exhaust (differential) pressure sensor
2	HP3961	rear light cluster
1	COM4177	4mm diameter tubing, 300mm
1	COM00170	Pipette filler
1	HP2876	12V Power supply
1	COM5826	EU head for 24V PSU
1	COM5825	UK head for 24V PSU
1	COM5827	USA head for 24V PSU

This is kit HP8256

Last update 15 11 23

Worksheet	Notes for the Instructor	Timing
1	<p>In this worksheet we take a look at simple digital sensors.</p> <p>Students use a multimeter to measure first voltage, then resistance and finally current. It is assumed that they have prior experience of this. A Help Sheet is provided to remind them of how to proceed.</p> <p>Many multimeters have internal fuses to protect them when on 'current' ranges. Misuse may lead to these fuses blowing. There is no external indication of what has happened - the meter just refuses to measure current. It is worthwhile checking each multimeter beforehand, and having to hand a supply of the fuses during the practical sessions.</p> <p>When measuring resistance, the multimeter applies a low voltage to the component and uses the resulting current measurement to compute a value for resistance. It is vital that the component is not connected in a live circuit while this is taking place.</p>	40 - 60 minutes
2	<p>The aim is to show that ECUs may contain relays to allow switching of high currents . (Relays are not that common in modern ECUs - but are found in older ECUs.)</p> <p>The worksheet begins by getting students to measure the current needed by a range of output devices. Students should be informed that there is a wide range of output devices, solenoids, for example, each of which has its own particular current requirement.</p> <p>The second page of the worksheet then moves on to show students what circuits involving relays inside ECUs look like.</p>	40 - 60 minutes
3	<p>The aim is to show the function of transistors in ECUs.</p> <p>The worksheet starts off by reminding students about the basic transistor circuit.</p> <p>The second part of the worksheet highlights why transistors are needed - sensors do not deliver enough current - and shows students a typical transistor sensors circuit.</p> <p>The third part reinforces the fact that the ECUs contain several transistor powered outputs.</p>	40 - 60 minutes

Work-sheet	Notes for the Instructor	Timing
4	<p>Analogue sensors offer a voltage copy of whatever they are measuring. In the case of the fuel-level sensor, the higher the fuel level, the higher the voltage. This allows us to introduce a trigger level, so that if the fuel level (and analogue sensor voltage,) falls too far, a warning LED is switched on.</p> <p>The MIAC is programmed to convert the signal voltage from the fuel sensor into a fuel volume reading. A problem that arises is that, since the fuel is in liquid form, it moves around in the tank as the vehicle moves. We do not want to see this movement on the fuel reading.</p> <p>The second program applies a software filter that slows down the change in fuel reading. In the past, for simple resistive sensors this function was provided by a capacitor. One advantage of using ECUs is that you can modify circuit behaviour using just software.</p>	40 - 60 minutes
5	<p>The first part of the worksheet modifies the analogue sensor used in the previous investigation by adding an additional resistor. With the internal 10kΩ MIAC resistor, the fuel sensor potentiometer is part of a voltage divider chain made up of three resistors, one above and one below it.</p> <p>As a result, the output of this 'fuel level sensor' does not have as big a range as before. It cannot output 0V, nor the full positive supply voltage. As a result, the fuel volume / sensor output table is different from that in the previous investigation. More importantly, the MIAC now knows that receiving a 0V signal, or a full V+ signal from the sensor is not possible, and must indicate a fault.</p> <p>The student creates these faults by connecting the potentiometer output first to 0V and then to V+ to show that MIAC will interpret these signals as indicating faults. Equally, the open-circuit condition in 'Fault 3' triggers a fault. The system designer makes decisions about which faults to detect, and what amount of detail to report to the driver.</p> <p>An additional circuit has the ability to detect when a headlamp bulb is faulty, so that the driver can be warned. To do this, a small resistor is connected in series with the bulb. If the bulb behaves normally, it passes a high current, which in turn sets up a measurable voltage across the resistor. When the bulb is faulty, there is no current and so no voltage across the resistor. One of the MIAC inputs looks at this voltage across the resistor, and so senses when the bulb fails.</p>	40 - 60 minutes

Worksheet	Notes for the Instructor	Timing
6	<p>Many sensor circuits use the voltage divider principle to change the output voltage from the sensor, the first part of the voltage divider. The 10kΩ internal resistor in the ECU is the second part of the voltage divider chain.</p> <p>This investigation looks at the topic of open and closed loop control systems. In an open-loop control system, the system has no way of knowing whether the desired outcome has been achieved. For example, switching on a washing machine may cause it to run through the same programme and for the same time whether or not there are any dirty clothes in the washer and regardless of how dirty the clothes are.</p> <p>A closed-loop control system receives feedback which allows it to know when the desired outcome has been reached. In the case of a washing machine, the aim is to clean clothes. If a sensor detected how clean the clothes are, it could control how long the washing machine programme runs.</p>	40 - 60 minutes
7	<p>This worksheet shows how system designer controls the power applied to the motor using a PWM (pulse-width modulated) voltage supply.</p> <p>The PWM waveform is generated by the MIAC. The duty cycle depends on the DC voltage signal from the potentiometer.</p> <p>The investigation uses an oscilloscope to examine the PWM waveform, enabling students to examine the duty cycle at two motor speeds.</p>	40 - 60 minutes
8	<p>In some situations, we need precise control of how far a motor has rotated, or how fast it is going. One possibility is to use a stepper motor, which, as its name suggests, advances in steps, making one step each time that a particular series of pulses is received. This is an open-loop system - there is no feedback.</p> <p>The MIAC generates the required sequence of pulses and delivers them to the appropriate coil, depending on which switch is pressed.</p> <p>A problem occurs if the coils are not pulsed in the correct sequence, (the motor simply twitches). This is the focus of the second part of the worksheet, where the stepper is wired incorrectly. As there is no feedback, the MIAC has no way of knowing whether or not the motor is turning.</p>	40 - 60 minutes

Worksheet	Notes for the Teacher	Timing
Extension work with real sensors and actuators	This is not an essential part of this course Here, student have the opportunity to examine systems that include real sensors. If you have purchased these, then students can use them as they go through the main worksheets, or do them as a block at the end.	Depends on the tasks

Note on LED bulbs

Supplier policies change: some are polarised, some are not. LED bulb polarity should be tested before use.

MIAC Programs:

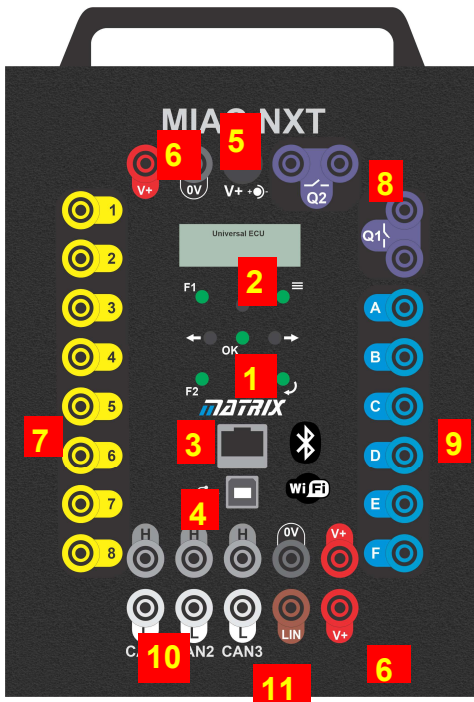
All the MIACs in this solution need to have the same program downloaded onto them. This program has the part number LK7638 and can be downloaded using Flowcode or the MIAC download utility 'MIACprog', available from the Matrix web site.

Here is a list of programs included in LK2209:

Program 1	Simple digital sensors	WS1
Program 2	Coolant warning	E1
Program 3	Cam and crank sensor	E2
Program 4	Using relays	WS4
Program 5	High current outputs	E3
Program 6	Using transistors	WS6
Program 7	Low current outputs	E4
Program 8	Analogue inputs	WS8
Program 9	Dampened fuel sensor inputs	WS9
Program 10	Air temperature	E5
Program 11	Throttle position	E6
Program 12	Exhaust pressure	E7
Program 13	Coolant level	E7
Program 14	Mass air flow sensor	E8
Program 15	Fault detection	WS15
Program 16	Open vs closed-loop	WS16
Program 17	Controlling a DC motor	WS17, E9
Program 18	Stepper motor	WS18
Program 19	Knock sensor	E10
Program 20	Ultrasonic parking/ distance sensor	E20

Reference

MIAC NXT introduction



1. Keypad
2. LCD display
3. RJ45 connector
4. USB connector
5. 12V 2.1mm positive inner connector
6. Power/ ground connectors
7. Eight digital or analogue inputs
8. Two relay-controlled outputs
9. Six transistor-controlled PWM outputs
10. Three CAN bus connectors
11. LIN bus connector

'MIAC' stands for Matrix Industrial Automotive Controller. 'NXT' stands for NeXT generation.

MIAC NXT is designed for educational purposes, allowing students to experiment with various types of control system.

Each MIAC has eight analogue or digital inputs, two relay-controlled outputs, and six transistor-controlled outputs.

It can communicate with other automotive applications via three CAN bus interfaces or its LIN bus interface.

The unit has a USB interface, RJ45 Ethernet interface, internal Bluetooth and internal Wi-fi modules.

Inputs are fed into a signal-conditioning circuit which allows them to be used as either analogue and digital inputs, dictated by the software. They are not optically isolated. The input range of 0 to 12V DC makes the MIAC compatible with industry standard sensors.

Two outputs from the internal PIC processor are fed into power stages, giving current amplification for four separate relays.

Relay contacts are not current-limited and so external fuses should be used to limit relay current to 8A AC or DC.

Six additional outputs are fed into a driver stage, which includes current monitors to limit output current and protect the motor driver chip in the event of short-circuits.

The internal processor connects to three CAN bus driver circuits and a LIN bus circuit to allow a number of MIACs to be linked to form a control network.

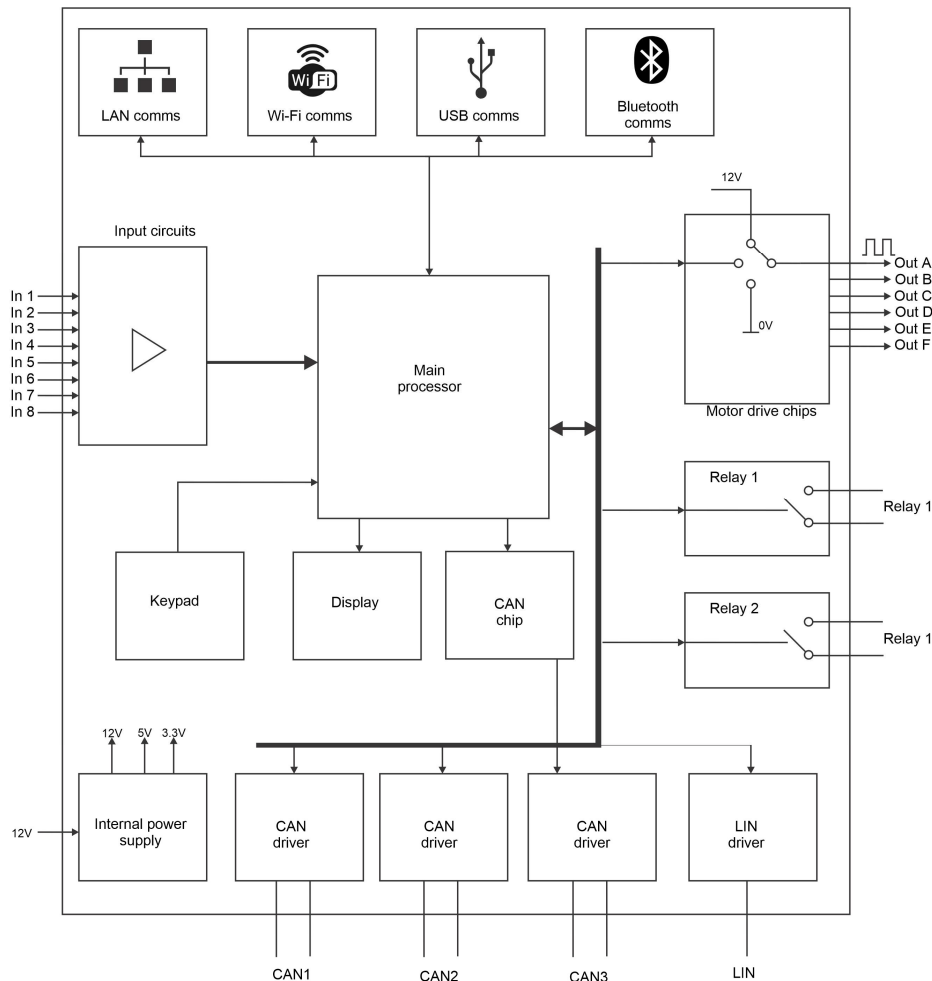
The MIAC is electrically rugged. Any output can be short-circuited to any input or any other output without the unit failing.

Control and monitoring of processes is facilitated by a four-line LCD display and a keypad.

MIAC NXT - Matrix part number: MI5550

Reference

MIAC NXT block diagram



Internally, the MIAC is powered by a powerful 24 series PICmicro device which connects directly to the USB port for fast programming and USB communications.

The PIC device is pre-programmed with a bootloader program and a Windows utility which allows programmers to download PIC compatible hex code into the device.

The PIC processor includes two internal CAN bus driver circuits. These are fed to external CAN line driver circuits for CAN buses 1 and 2. An additional CAN driver chip and line driver is included to form the third CAN bus. (Three CAN buses are needed for some applications.) A simple LIN line driver circuit is included for LIN bus communications.

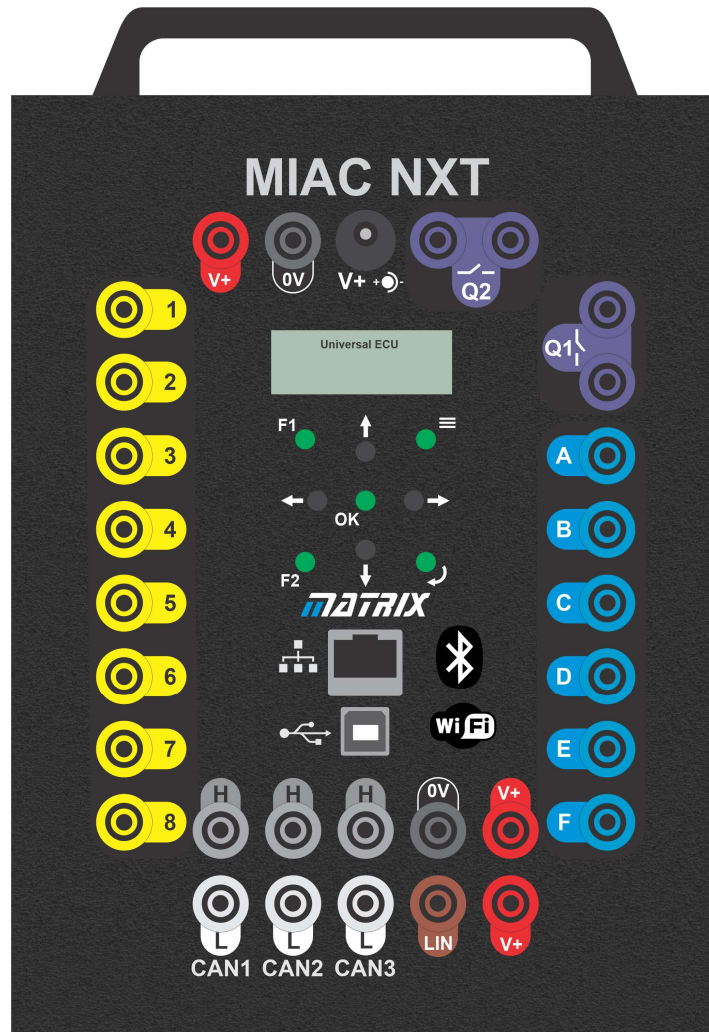
MIAC can be powered with a DC supply voltage in the range 12V to 24V DC. This can be supplied via the 2.1mm power jack (POWER), or the power supply terminals (V+, 0V) which are wired in parallel with the 2.1mm power jack. Internal power supply circuitry provides 12V, 5V and 3.3V power rails to all parts of the MIAC.

The PIC24 includes USB circuitry to provide USB connection for reprogramming and communications. Internally Bluetooth and Wi-fi modules provide communications for control, data transfer and reprogramming.

For further details on the MIAC please see the MI3728 datasheet.

Reference

MIAC NXT operating instructions



For the Sense and Control and CAN bus learning packages, the MIAC must be loaded with LK7638 firmware. If you have bought Sense and Control II or CAN bus II then this firmware will be loaded into the MIAC.

The LK7638 program contains the programs for two learning packages: Sense and Control II and CAN bus II. It allows users to control the MIAC for each worksheet in these packages.

The menu system and keypad allows you to choose the package you are working with. You can use the menu keys to go between Sense and Control II and CAN bus II.

When CAN bus is chosen then the menu system and keypad allow you to choose which node program the MIAC runs.

When Sense and Control is chosen then the menu system allows you to choose which Sense and Control program to run.

11 05 23	First release
02 08 23	Reformatted to new style
10 08 23	minor changes to E7 (removed '???) and Worksheet 5 (marked bulb as incandescent)
17 08 23	image 9a (ws8) changed. Image 3x and 3y (ws3) changed
19 08 23	Wording on page 34 changed.
15 11 23	BOM on page 47 updated
11 03 24	BOM on page 47 updated