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DECEMBER 1995 IC942A-F IC942A-M

Micro Sync/Async Interface Converter



CUSTOMER SUPPORT INFORMATION

Order toll-free in the U.S. 24 hours, 7 A.M. Monday to midnight Friday: 877-877-BBOX FREE technical support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: Call 724-746-5500 or fax 724-746-0746 Mail order: Black Box Corporation, 1000 Park Drive, Lawrence, PA 15055-1018 Web site: www.blackbox.com • E-mail: info@blackbox.com

1. Specifications

- Interface EIA RS-232/ITU-T (CCITT) V.24, DCE on async side, DTE on svnc side
- Clock Source From sync DCE
- **Data Format** 8, 9, 10, or 11 bits per character, including 1 start bit and 1 stop bit (user-selectable)
- Flow Control Transparent to flow control
- Operation Full- or half-duplex point-to-point
- **Data Rate** Automatic detection of and adjustment to data rates from 150 to 19,200 bps
- Maximum Distance 6.5 ft. (2 m, length of Converter's cable) only; attach Converter directly to sync or async device, do not use any additional cable
- Internal Memory 4-bit transmit buffer and 14-bit receive buffer
- **Connectors** Both models: (1) DB25 male on sync side; IC942A-F: (1) DB25 female on async side; IC942A-M: (1) DB25 male on async side
- Leads Supported Async: 1 through 8 and 20; Sync: 1 through 8, 15, 17, and 20
- Power No AC power required; unit uses +6 VDC, 20 mA power derived from data and control signals sent from either side of the sync/async setup (Pins 15 and 17 for sync, Pins 2 and 4 for async); at least 1 signal must be at minimum voltage level

MTBF - 560,000 hours

- **Temperature Tolerance** Operating: 32 to 113°F (0 to 45°C); Storage: -40 to 176°F (-40 to 80°C)
- Humidity Tolerance 0 to 95% noncondensing

Size — 0.9"H x 2.1"W x 4.3"D (2.2 x 5.2 x 11 cm)

Weight — Net: 0.2 lb. (0.1 kg);

Shipping: 0.5 lb. (0.2 kg)

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2. Introduction

The Micro Sync/Async Interface Converter enables your asynchronous devices to communicate with each other over a synchronous communications line. The Converter simply aligns the timing of your async signals so that synchronous muxes, modems, or CSU/DSUs can pass them.

This is *not* a protocol converter in the normal sense of the phrase: It *will not* convert between data formats or translate from one to another protocol. It simply adds clocking to your signals.

The IC942A derives its power from signals it receives from your devices. It is completely transparent to those devices; it won't change the data you send in any way. Automatic data-rate detection lets you connect equipment running at any speed from 150 to 19,200 bps without worrying about setting the Converter to your speed.



Fig. 2-1. Typical IC942A application.

Note: This converter must be used in pairs. You must install one on each side of your synchronous communications line. You can set the character (word) length for 8, 9, 10, or 11 bits, including 1 start and 1 stop bit. The Converter operates with or without parity. There is no limit to block size, because the unit is transparent to both data and protocol. A 4-bit buffer on the transmit side and a 14-bit buffer on the receive side help to prevent transmission errors.

The Converter's async/sync conversion also complies with the V.22 bis standard, a CCITT standard for 2400-bps modems over dialup or 2-wire leased lines.

The Converter consists of two RS-232/CCITT V.24 connectors at either end of a 6.5-foot (2-m) cable. The connector on the async side can be either male or female, depending on which version of the Converter you ordered. The connector on the sync side is always male.

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3. Installation

Follow the steps in this chapter to install the Converter.

- 1. Separate the two halves of the *larger* connector's plastic cover by pressing on the indented tabs. Open from the cable end first.
- 2. Select the character length by setting DIP switch (Switch 1) positions 1 and 2 according to Table A or B on the next page. (Table A will apply to the current version of the converter, shown in Fig. 3-1 below. If you have the earlier version, shown in Fig. 3-2 on the next page, you will have to use the settings in Table B.)



Fig. 3-1. Board layout of current Converter (DIP switch shown).



Fig. 3-2. Board layout of earlier Converter (DIP switch shown).

3. Set DIP switch position 3 (see Fig. 3-1) to select the percentage for shortening the stop bit (see Table C on the next page). For an explanation of stop-bit shortening, see **Chapter 4**.

Table A. Current Settings				Table B. Earlier Settings		
	DIP Switch		Character Length (Bits)	DIP Switch		Character Length (Bits)
	1	2		1	2	
	OFF OFF ON ON	OFF ON OFF ON	8 9 10 11	OFF ON OFF ON	ON ON OFF OFF	8 9 10 11

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DIP Switch	Stop Bit Reduced
3 OFF ON	12.5% 25%

Table C. Stop-Bit Reduction

- Note: DIP switch position 4 is not used. The default settings for positions 1, 2, and 3 are character length of 10, stop bit reduced by 12.5%.
 - 4. Close the unit by snapping the halves of the connector back together again.
 - 5. Make sure you have turned off the two devices you plan to connect with the Converter. Connect the larger connector to the synchronous device and the smaller connector to the asynchronous device. Finally, power up both devices. The Converter requires no further setup.

4. Operation

When the frequency of the transmitted async data is faster than that of the sync data, the Converter may delete as many as one in every four stop bits. (Likewise, the Converter will add extra stop bits if the sync frequency is slower.)

The Converter recognizes start and stop bits, and checks for missing bits. If it detects any missing bits, the Converter compensates for the disparity in speeds by shortening the stop bits by a user-selectable percentage (either 12.5 or 25%).

The Converter is transparent to break signals of any length. In terms of flow-control signals, RTS goes high directly from async to sync. When RTS drops on the async side, after eight more bits it will drop on the sync side.

The Converter operates without AC power, deriving ultra-low power from the standard EIA RS-232/CCITT V.24 data and control signals.