8254
PROGRAMMABLE INTERVAL TIMER

- Compatible with All Intel and Most Other Microprocessors
- Handles Inputs from DC to 10 MHz
  - 5 MHz 8254-5
  - 8 MHz 8254
  - 10 MHz 8254-2
- Status Read-Back Command
- Six Programmable Counter Modes
- Three Independent 16-Bit Counters
- Binary or BCD Counting
- Single +5V Supply
- Available in EXPRESS
  - Standard Temperature Range

The Intel® 8254 is a counter/timer device designed to solve the common timing control problems in microcomputer system design. It provides three independent 16-bit counters, each capable of handling clock inputs up to 10 MHz. All modes are software programmable. The 8254 is a superset of the 8253.

The 8254 uses HMOS technology and comes in a 24-pin plastic or CERDIP package.

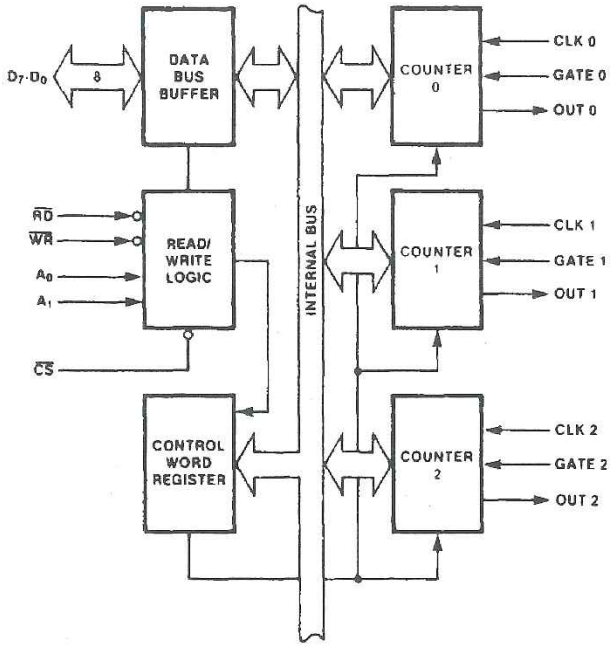

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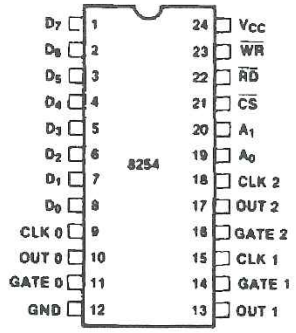
Figure 1. 8254 Block Diagram



231164-2

Figure 2. Pin Configuration

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Order Number: 231164-004

Table 1. Pin Description

Symbol	Pin No.	Type	Name and Function
D_7–D_0	1–8	I/O	**DATA:** Bi-directional three state data bus lines, connected to system data bus.
CLK 0	9	I	**CLOCK 0:** Clock input of Counter 0.
OUT 0	10	O	**OUTPUT 0:** Output of Counter 0.
GATE 0	11	I	**GATE 0:** Gate input of Counter 0.
GND	12		**GROUND:** Power supply connection.
V_{CC}	24		**POWER:** +5V power supply connection.
$\overline{WR}$	23	I	**WRITE CONTROL:** This input is low during CPU write operations.
$\overline{RD}$	22	I	**READ CONTROL:** This input is low during CPU read operations.
$\overline{CS}$	21	I	**CHIP SELECT:** A low on this input enables the 8254 to respond to $\overline{RD}$ and $\overline{WR}$ signals. $\overline{RD}$ and $\overline{WR}$ are ignored otherwise.
A_1, A_0	20–19	I	**ADDRESS:** Used to select one of the three Counters or the Control Word Register for read or write operations. Normally connected to the system address bus.

A_1	A_0	Selects
0	0	Counter 0
0	1	Counter 1
1	0	Counter 2
1	1	Control Word Register

CLK 2	18	I	**CLOCK 2:** Clock input of Counter 2.
OUT 2	17	O	**OUT 2:** Output of Counter 2.
GATE 2	16	I	**GATE 2:** Gate input of Counter 2.
CLK 1	15	I	**CLOCK 1:** Clock input of Counter 1.
GATE 1	14	I	**GATE 1:** Gate input of Counter 1.
OUT 1	13	O	**OUT 1:** Output of Counter 1.

3

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

General

The 8254 is a programmable interval timer/counter designed for use with Intel microcomputer systems. It is a general purpose, multi-timing element that can be treated as an array of I/O ports in the system software.

The 8254 solves one of the most common problems in any microcomputer system, the generation of accurate time delays under software control. Instead of setting up timing loops in software, the programmer configures the 8254 to match his requirements and programs one of the counters for the desired delay. After the desired delay, the 8254 will interrupt the CPU. Software overhead is minimal and variable length delays can easily be accommodated.

Some of the other counter/timer functions common to microcomputers which can be implemented with the 8254 are:

- Real time clock
- Event-counter
- Digital one-shot
- Programmable rate generator
- Square wave generator
- Binary rate multiplier
- Complex waveform generator
- Complex motor controller

Block Diagram

DATA BUS BUFFER

This 3-state, bi-directional, 8-bit buffer is used to interface the 8254 to the system bus (see Figure 3).

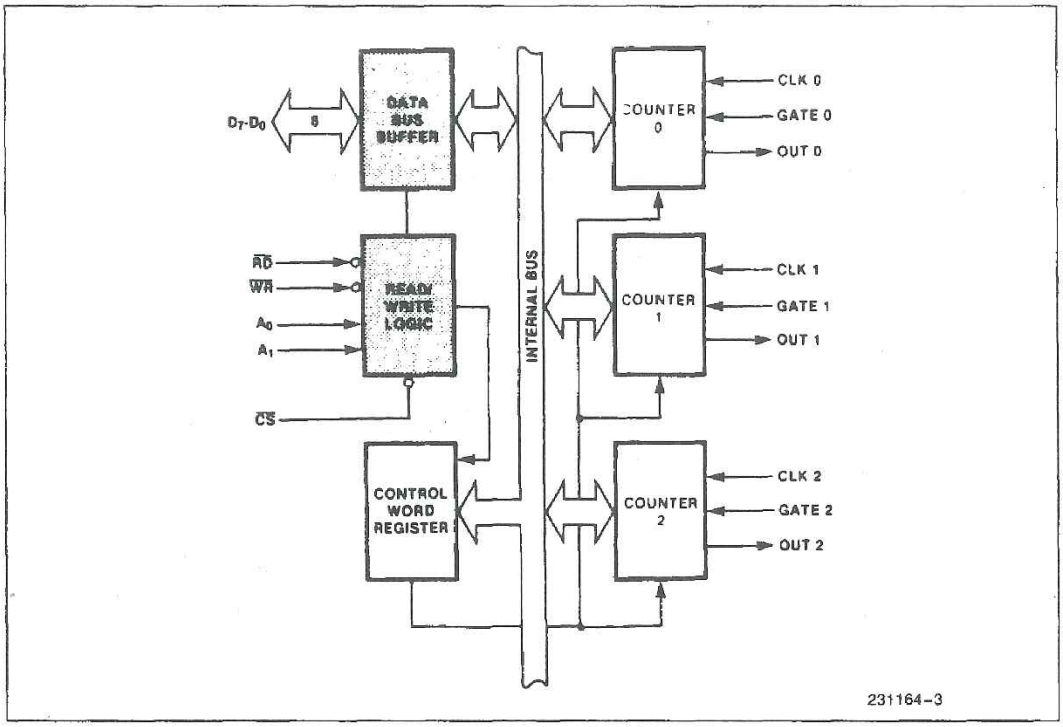

Figure 3. Block Diagram Showing Data Bus Buffer and Read/Write Logic Functions

READ/WRITE LOGIC

The Read/Write Logic accepts inputs from the system bus and generates control signals for the other functional blocks of the 8254. A_1 and A_0 select one of the three counters or the Control Word Register to be read from/written into. A "low" on the $\overline{RD}$ input tells the 8254 that the CPU is reading one of the counters. A "low" on the $\overline{WR}$ input tells the 8254 that the CPU is writing either a Control Word or an initial count. Both $\overline{RD}$ and $\overline{WR}$ are qualified by $\overline{CS}$; $\overline{RD}$ and $\overline{WR}$ are ignored unless the 8254 has been selected by holding $\overline{CS}$ low.

CONTROL WORD REGISTER

The Control Word Register (see Figure 4) is selected by the Read/Write Logic when $A_1,A_0 = 11$. If the CPU then does a write operation to the 8254, the data is stored in the Control Word Register and is interpreted as a Control Word used to define the operation of the Counters.

The Control Word Register can only be written to; status information is available with the Read-Back Command.

COUNTER 0, COUNTER 1, COUNTER 2

These three functional blocks are identical in operation, so only a single Counter will be described. The internal block diagram of a single counter is shown in Figure 5.

The Counters are fully independent. Each Counter may operate in a different Mode.

The Control Word Register is shown in the figure; it is not part of the Counter itself, but its contents determine how the Counter operates.

The status register, shown in Figure 5, when latched, contains the current contents of the Control Word Register and status of the output and null count flag. (See detailed explanation of the Read-Back command.)

The actual counter is labelled CE (for "Counting Element"). It is a 16-bit presettable synchronous down counter.

OL_M and OL_L are two 8-bit latches. OL stands for "Output Latch"; the subscripts M and L stand for "Most significant byte" and "Least significant byte"

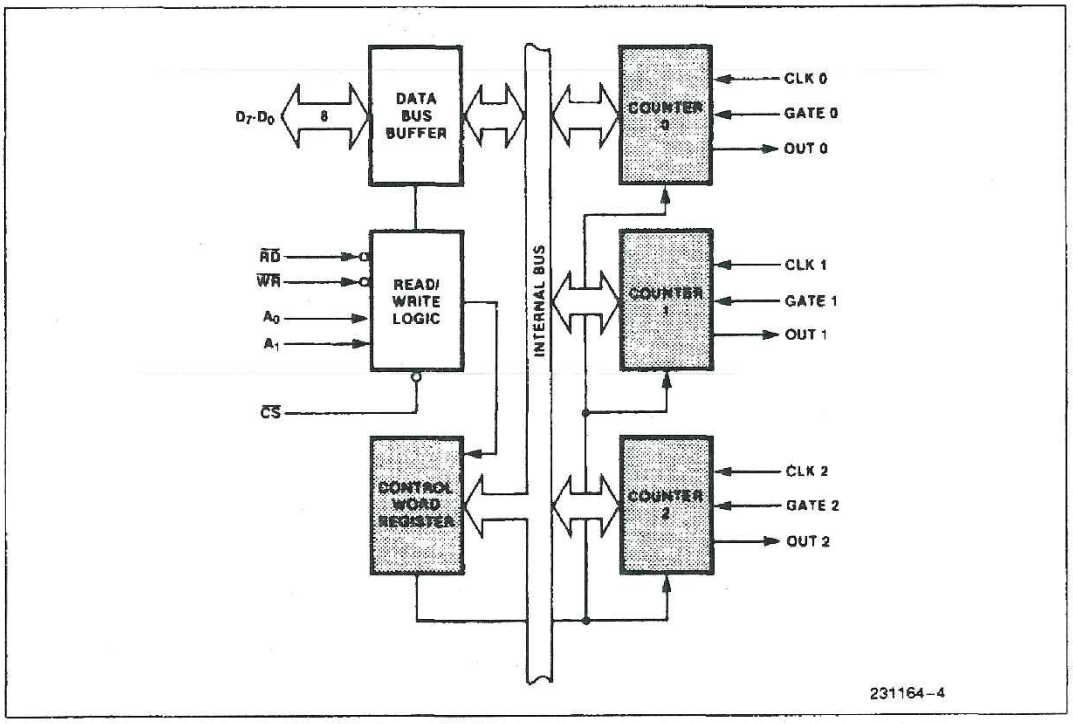

Figure 4. Block Diagram Showing Control Word Register and Counter Functions

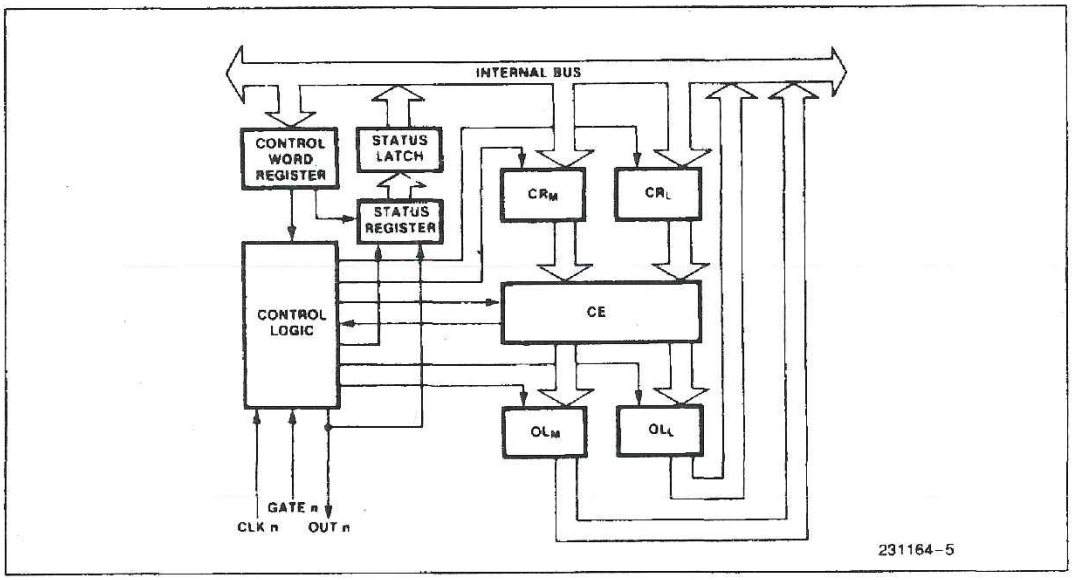

Figure 5. Internal Block Diagram of a Counter

respectively. Both are normally referred to as one unit and called just OL. These latches normally "follow" the CE, but if a suitable Counter Latch Command is sent to the 8254, the latches "latch" the present count until read by the CPU and then return to "following" the CE. One latch at a time is enabled by the counter's Control Logic to drive the internal bus. This is how the 16-bit Counter communicates over the 8-bit internal bus. Note that the CE itself cannot be read; whenever you read the count, it is the OL that is being read.

Similarly, there are two 8-bit registers called CR_M and CR_L (for "Count Register"). Both are normally referred to as one unit and called just CR. When a new count is written to the Counter, the count is stored in the CR and later transferred to the CE. The Control Logic allows one register at a time to be loaded from the internal bus. Both bytes are transferred to the CE simultaneously. CR_M and CR_L are cleared when the Counter is programmed. In this way, if the Counter has been programmed for one byte counts (either most significant byte only or least significant byte only) the other byte will be zero. Note that the CE cannot be written into; whenever a count is written, it is written into the CR.

The Control Logic is also shown in the diagram. CLK n, GATE n, and OUT n are all connected to the outside world through the Control Logic.

8254 SYSTEM INTERFACE

The 8254 is a component of the Intel Microcomputer Systems and interfaces in the same manner as all other peripherals of the family. It is treated by the system's software as an array of peripheral I/O ports; three are counters and the fourth is a control register for MODE programming.

Basically, the select inputs A_0,A_1 connect to the A_0, A_1 address bus signals of the CPU. The CS can be derived directly from the address bus using a linear select method. Or it can be connected to the output of a decoder, such as an Intel 8205 for larger systems.

OPERATIONAL DESCRIPTION

General

After power-up, the state of the 8254 is undefined. The Mode, count value, and output of all Counters are undefined.

How each Counter operates is determined when it is programmed. Each Counter must be programmed before it can be used. Unused counters need not be programmed.

Programming the 8254

Counters are programmed by writing a Control Word and then an initial count.

The Control Words are written into the Control Word Register, which is selected when A_1,A_0 = 11. The Control Word itself specifies which Counter is being programmed.

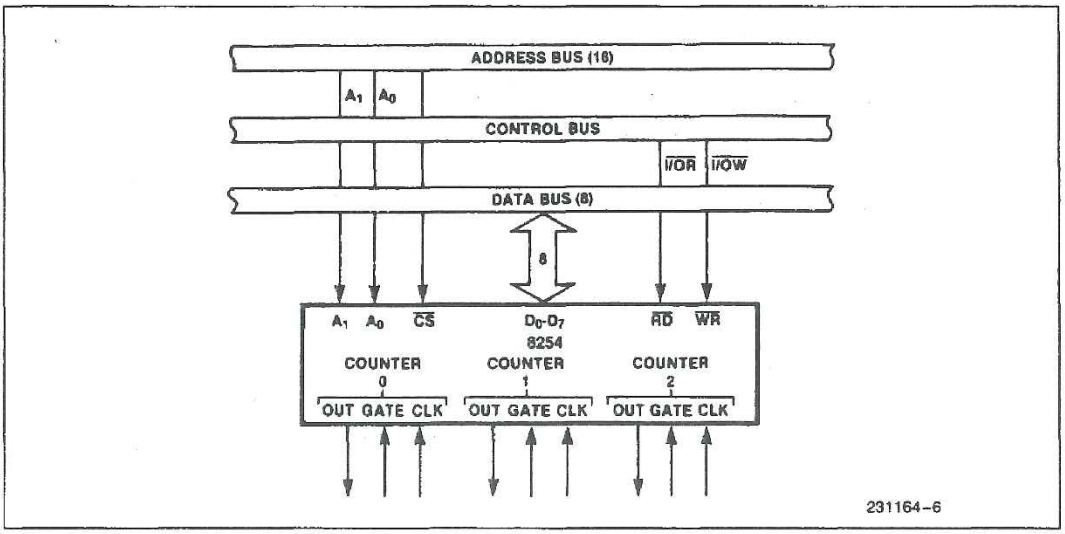

Figure 6. 8254 System Interface

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