

Introduction to WhippleWay AVR Tiny BASIC Version 1.0

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AVR Tiny BASIC was written by me and is based on the design originally suggested in the People's Computer Company magazine (Vol 3 No 4 Nov 1975) and published by John Arnold and me in Dr. Dobb's Journal (Vol 1 No 1 Jan 1976). I made some minor corrections and changes but it closely resembles what I published then.

I am publishing it for demonstration purposes only. I make no claims as to its worthiness for any purpose.

A program line has the following format: *line-number statement {:statement . . .} CRLF*

where *line-number* - An integer between 1 and 65,535

statement - See below

"{" - Optional statements

":" - Continuation character

CRLF - Carriage return (13) and line feed (10)

Valid AVR Tiny BASIC statements:

1. LET *variable* = *expression* - Assigns the computed value of *expression* to designated variable.
Example: LET W = 2 * (A - 2)
Note: LET is optional; that is, "A=0" is the same as "LET A=0".
2. INPUT *variable* list - Accepts numeric input from the keyboard and stores it in a designated variable(s).
Example: INPUT A, B
3. PRINT - Outputs *string* (text enclosed in quotation marks) and/or computed *expression* value. Items separated by semicolon (single space) or comma (zone spacing). A semicolon or colon at the end of the line inhibits new line.
Example: PRINT "The result is "; 3*X
4. IF THEN *expression* - Evaluated the *relational-expression* and, if true, executes the line-number given by evaluation of *expression*¹. If false, execution continues at the next line.
Example: IF A<=10 THEN 200
IF *relational-expression statement{:statement . . .}* - This alternate, non-standard version of the IF statement was developed to permit a more compact form. "THEN" is replaced by any executable statement.
Example: IF A=0 LET A=1:GOTO 20
5. GOTO *expression* - Branches to the line-number given by evaluation of *expression*.
Example: GOTO 100
A=100:GOTO 2*A
6. GOSUB *line-number* - Branches to a subroutine at the line-number given by evaluation of *expression*.
7. RETURN - Returns from a subroutine to the instruction following the corresponding GOSUB.
8. OUT (*expression1*, *expression2*) - Outputs to standard Arduino pin number given by *expression1* either (1) a "low" if *expression2*=0 or (2) a "high" if *expression2* <>0.
9. END - When encountered, returns execution to the command mode

where *variable* - Letters A to Z represent signed integer variables.

expression - standard algebraic expression employing integer arithmetic over the range (-32,768 to +32,767) recognizing these operators:

"-" negation

"+" addition

"-" subtraction

"*" multiplication

¹ The "calculated" GOTO is not standard BASIC, but provides some interesting programming possibilities.

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"/" division

The order of operations is as follows:

negation

multiplication, division

addition, subtraction

relational-expression – Takes the form “expression1 relational-operator expression 2” where valid relational-operators are as follows:

< less than

> greater than

= equal to

<= less than or equal to

>= greater than or equal to

<> not equal to

10.

AVR Tiny BASIC commands:

1. NEW – Clears memory so that a new Tiny BASIC program can be entered
2. RUN – Executes the Tiny BASIC program in memory
3. LIST – Lists the Tiny BASIC program in memory.

AVR Tiny BASIC functions:

1. RND(*expression*) – For *expression*<>0, returns a randomized value between 0 and 10,000. For *expression*=0, returns previous randomized value.

Example: B=RND(1)

Custom AVR Tiny BASIC Statements

1. PWM(*expression*) – Outputs pulse width modulated waveform to pin 9 of SparkFun Redboard where n = percent duty cycle
Example: PWM(75) produces a 75% duty cycle waveform on pin 9
2. OUT(*expression1*, *expression2*) - Outputs a low (*expression2* = 0) or high (*expression2* <> 0) to pin number given by *expression1* of SparkFun Redboard
Example: OUT(3,1) Outputs a high to pin 3
3. DLY(*expression*) - Introduces a delay of *expression* in milliseconds
Example: DLY(1000) introduces 1 second time delay (1000 milliseconds)
4. PUT(*expression1*, *expression2*, *expression3*) - Writes *expression3* (the two byte data) to EEPROM at page given by *expression1* and location given by *expression2*
Example: PUT(10, 0, 1250) Writes the data value 1250 to EEPROM page 10 location 0

Custom AVR Tiny BASIC Functions

1. ADC(*expression*) – Returns the raw A/D value on the A/D channel given by *expression*.
Example: PRINT ADC(3) prints the raw A/D value on pin A3
2. PIN(*expression*) – Returns the status (low=0 or high=1) of standard Arduino pin number given by *expression*.
Example: G=PIN(6) Set G to either 0 or 1 depending on whether pin 6 is low or high, respectively

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3. GET(expression1, expression2) – Returns the two byte data value on EEPROM at page given by expression1 and location given by expression2

Other AVR Tiny BASIC operational information:

- To interrupt an executing program, click “STOP”, “EXAMINE” address 000:003, and click “RUN”. This performs a “Warm Boot” leaving the program undisturbed.
- Command mode prompt is ">".
- From the command mode, the user enters a line of text terminated with ENTER key. Based on the text, one of the following happens:
 - If no line number present – Attempts to directly execute a command or statement.
 - If line number present in range of 1 to 65535
 - If line number not found in program
 - Line inserted in numerical order
 - Returns to command mode
 - If line number found in program
 - If entered line consists of line number only
 - Line is deleted
 - Returns to command mode
 - If entered line consists of line number and statement(s)
 - Line is deleted
 - Entered line inserted in numerical order
 - Returns to command mode
- Run mode – After executing the RUN command, the AVR Tiny BASIC program executes beginning at the first line.
- Tiny BASIC is not case sensitive; i.e., let a=0 is the same as LET A=0.
- Error codes
 - 100 Syntax error
 - 101 Statement not allowed in command mode
 - 102 Command not allowed in RUN mode
 - 103 Maximum number of subroutines exceeded
 - 104 RETURN without corresponding GOSUB
 - 105 Line number not found
 - 106 Expected line number
 - 107 Numeric overflow in expression
 - 108 Arithmetic divide by zero
 - 109 Expression too complex
 - 110 System error: Please report.
 - 111 Print buffer size exceeded
 - 112 Unpaired parentheses
 - 113 Relational expression incorrectly formed
 - 114 Expected variables
 - 115 Expected end-of-line
 - 116 Expected numeric value
 - 117 Out of memory; program size exceeded
- To save a BASIC program, enter the LIST command. Copy and paste lines into a text editor like Notepad++ (no special formatting. Save it.
- To load a BASIC program, enter “NEW” then use text transfer to send the saved text file to AVR Tiny BASIC line input. Use 2 ms character delay and 50 ms end-of-line delay.

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