MIOS supports internally **Hitachi HD44780** compatible character displays

It's 'so called' industry standard for character displays, but not all “standard” displays have this particular chip.

HD44780 compatible LCD controllers:

Controller:	**Manufacturer:**
HD44780	Hitachi
KS0066	Samsung
KS0076	Samsung
KS0070	Samsung
S6A0069	Samsung
LC7985NA	Sanyo
SED1278	Epson
NT3881D	Novatek
SPLC780	Sunplus
MSM6222	OKI
NJU6408B	NJR
NJU6468	NJR
NJU6470	NJR
Probably:	
UM3881B [1)]	UMC
T7934 [2)]	Toshiba

If your LCD has one of these chips, there are good changes to get it work. These chips have similar instruction set, data bus and timings are like original HD44780 (or faster, which shouldn't matter)

BUT this only means that controller chip is compatible with driver designed to HD44780

It's simply easier to get a display, that has datasheet available.

Common problems, *if it isn't your soldering*:

First: There is no common standard for display connector - You should get your LCDs datasheet to see what the pinout is.

Second: Your display may need negative contrast voltage. (Watch out for V_{ee} pin.) (Usually found in 'extended temperature range' displays)

Third: Backlight not working? Maybe it's Electroluminescent (EL) type. (might need 'so called' inverter circuit to drive backlight)

And it's also good to know, at least HD44780 displays can be initially programmed to different character sets - maybe your dirt cheap surplus display just talks greek to you 😬

1)
I haven't found any reports about this chip
2)

instruction set compatible, has extra characters in CG ROM, it shouldn't matter

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