About

The mbhp Core Module is the heart and brain of every MIDIbox. It holds the PIC microcontroller which runs MIOS and your MIDIbox application. It handles MIDI communication, it drives an LCD (or two), and it connects all the other modules. Main part of this module is the PIC18F452, a microcontroller manufactured by Microchip. It is clocked at 40 MHz (externaly with a 10 MHz crystal) and offers enough performance to handle with all the analog and digital modules with latencies below 1ms. The PIC is a “system on chip” (SoC), this means, it contains not only a CPU, but also an integrated 32k flash program memory, 1536 bytes data memory, 256 bytes data EEPROM, and a lot of usefull peripherals like AD-converter and UART (for MIDI). I decided to use PIC controllers for my MIDI applications many years ago, and I stayed by this product family because of the low prices and worldwide availability for hobbyists. In distance to other (more modern) microcontrollers, the PIC is easy to program, requires no external memories, is almost non-destroyable and comes in a handy DIP package, so that also electronic beginners can work with this chip without the danger of damaging small SMD pins within some seconds with their soldering iron.

A nice outlook for the future is, that Microchip still considers pin compatible devices. The MBHP started with a PIC16F877, in the meantime PIC18F452 is used, and for memory intensive projects like MIDIbox SEQ V3 or MIDIbox SID V2 the PIC 18F4620/PIC 18F4685. So long this upgrade path is given, a switch to another microcontroller family (like Atmel devices) with all it's advantages, but also disadvantages, is not required, and hard/software compatible applications can still be expected in the next years.

Specs

One core module, stuffed with a PIC18F452, can handle:

- up to 128 digital inputs
- up to 128 digital outputs
- up to 64 analog inputs
- character and graphical dotmatrix LCDs
- BankSticks (IIC EEPROMs)
- one MIDI In, one MIDI Out, optionally as to-COM interface

In addition, multiple cores can be linked together to extend these capabilities. Linking Multiple Cores

Getting Started

- Preparation
- Soldering
- Where to buy Parts
- Etching PCBs
- Terminating Cables

Special Instructions

Details

Past Core Revision Documentation

(Check on PCB for revision number)

- Core V2 SmashTV
- Core R3 SmashTV
- Core R4c SmashTV

Pin out list

Pins	Description
J1	Connection to the power supply. Either the output of a 7V-10V transformer, or a wall adapter can be used. 500 mA is recommented, especially if a backlit display is used, but MIDIfilter and MIDImerger work also with ca. 100 mA. AC or DC doesn't matter, since the rectifier behind J1 converts to DC anyhow. Also the polarity has not to be taken into account.
J2	+5V output, can be used to supply other core modules in a multiprocessor environment, so that you only have to mount the parts for the power supply (BR1, IC3, C5, C6) on one core module. Restriction: the 7805 gets very hot when it delivers currents above 500 mA, so only core modules without backlit display like MIDIO128, MIDImerger, MIDIfilter should be supplied over this port.
J4	Interface to the BankStick, to MBHP_IIC_* modules like MBHP_IIC_MIDI, and to the second MIDI IN port for MIDImerger.
J5, J5a, J5b	This is an either-or setup. J5 matches the old (SIL) AIN connection. J5A and J5B match the with newer AIN boards (AIN_R3 up). Obviously with newer AIN boards leave out the SIL pinheader out and load J5A/B, if using older boards leave out J5A/B and load J5. Interface to the AIN module for MIDIbox64 and MIDIbox64E. There are also some application which use this as digital in- or output.
J6	J6-Interface to the AIN module for MIDIbox64 and MIDIbox64E.
J7	Interface to the MF module, sometimes also used for the MBHP_AOUT or MBHP_AOUT_LC module.
J8	Pay attention to this one, it has moved since last rev.... Interface to the DOUT module chain.
J9	Pay attention to this one, it has moved since last rev.... Interface to the DIN module chain.
J10	Pay attention to this one, it has moved since last rev.... Do not mistake it for J8 orJ9 since they were in this position on the last rev. Interface to application specific module extensions like the SID module.
J11	MIDI digital IO port, interface to the LED/Thru/COM module. Can also be used to cascade multiple core modules in a long MIDI chain. Note: Don't plug the optocoupler (IC2, 6N138) into the socket when using the J11:MI (MIDI-IN) pin as an input, otherwise the Rx input will get the data from two different sources, which is not provided by the MIDI protocol (point-to-point). A MIDImerger is necessary to combine multiple MIDI IN sources. In other words: when using the COM module or when connecting the J11:MO of one core module to J11:MI of another core module, or when connecting the core module directly with the Gameport, the optocoupler of the other module should not be plugged into the socket to avoid a corrupted MIDI data stream.

J12	MIDI OUT port. This is an either-or position, load SIL 3 pin header for wiring to panel mount MIDI jacks, otherwise install a PCB mount MIDI socket in/over the J12 pads.
J13	MIDI IN port. This is an either-or position, load SIL 3 pin header for wiring to panel mount MIDI jacks, otherwise install a PCB mount MIDI socket in/over the J12 pads.
J14	Used by MIOS as touch sensor strobe line. Sometimes also used for debugging purposes.
J15	Interface to LCD display module.
GND LIFT	Can be used to temorarily disconnect the CORE's ground from the ground on J12:Pin2. Leave this alone for normal operation!

PCB files

- Core V3 .brd -PCB data, can be viewed, modified and converted with Eagle Light
- Core V3 artwork Printible artwork for etching your own boards SmashTV

Schematic

- MBHP Core V3 uCapps.de

List of parts

Here are suggested part numbers for various distributors for parts for the core V3 board. If you find another site or dealer with a different parts list feel free add it into the list. Also if you've successfully used a different part from what was listed here please add the number and/or link to the list.

Description	polarity	Soldering Instructions	QTY	Reichelt Part# [1)]	Mouser Part#
PIC18F452-I/P	Yes	Don't (use socket)	1	PIC 18F452-I/P	579-PIC18F452-I/P
Crystal 10 MHz	No		1	10-HC18	73-XT49S1000-20
Voltage Regulator 7805	Yes		1	uA 7805	512-LM7805CT
IC-Socket for PIC	Yes		1	GS 40P	571-3902625
Optocoupler 6N138	Yes	Don't (use socket)	1	6N 138	782-6N138
IC-Socket for Optocoupler	Yes		1	GS 8P	571-3902612
Transistor BC337	Yes	quick	1	BC 337-16	512-BC337TF
Resistor 10 kOhm	No		3	1/4W 10k	291-10K-RC
Resistor 5.6 kOhm	No		1	1/4W 5.6k	291-5.6K-RC
Resistor 1.2 kOhm	No		1	1/4W 1.2k	291-1.2K-RC
Resistor 1 kOhm	No		3	1/4W 1k	291-1K-RC
Resistor 220 Ohm	No		3	1/4W 220	291-220-RC
Resistor 100 Ohm	No		1	1/4W 100	291-100-RC
Ceramic Cap 100 nF	No		3	Z5U-2,5 100n	80-C412C104K5R
Ceramic Cap 330 nF	No		1	MKS-2 330n	80-C320C334M5U
Ceramic Cap 33 pF	No		2	Kerko 33p	140-50N2-330J

Description	polarity	Soldering Instructions	QTY	Reichelt Part# [1)]	Mouser Part#
Polarised Capacitor 10 uF	Yes		1	rad 10/35	140-HTRL25V10-RC
Polarised Capacitor 2200 uF	Yes		1	rad 2200/16	140-HTRL16V2200-RC
Diode 1N4148	Yes	quick	1	1N 4148	78-1N4148
Rectifier	Yes		1	B80C800RUND	625-W08G
TrimmPot 10 k	Yes		2	PIHER 10-S 10K	531-PT6KV-10K
MIDI Sockets	Yes		2	MAB 5S	161-0505
1-row SIL Headers (about 30 pins)	No		1	STIFTL. 40G	517-6111TG
1-row sil female 36 con	No		1	-	517-850-01-36
2-row SIL Headers (about 2*22 pins)	No		1	STIFTL. 2X40G	517-6221TG
2-row sil female 25 rows	No		1	-	517-852-01-25
Ribbon cable 3 meters	No		3	AWG 28-16G	-
Wall adapter (Power supply) 500 mA	-		1	MW 17-GS/6	-
Socket for Power Supply	-		1	HEBLM 21	-

Reichelt Shopping Cart Links

Multiple Cores

There are different possibilities to have multiple Cores.

- MIDIbox Link [uCApps] *Linking multiple Cores via MIDI (a special configured MIDI forwarding pipe)*
- MBNet [uCApps] *The new MIDIbox Network utilizing the CAN (Controller Area Network) Interface on the brandnew PIC18F4685 microcontrollers*
  *===== Building it ===== ==== Building instructions ==== * How to assemble a SmashTV Core module kit - Link to PDF document [VirtualOrgan] ==== Loading MIOS and Applications ==== ==English Version== This page has been split into two pieces: Newbie Section everything you need to know if you want to upload MIOS and an application to the Core Experts Section this is the old page which discusses some details about the MIOS Bootstrap Loader. ==French Version== Cette page est maintenant structurée de la manière suivante: Section "Newbie" (débutants) Tout ce que vou s avez besoin de savoir pour uploader le MIOS et une application vers un module Core Section "Experts" C'est l'ancienne page, plus d&eac ute;taillée quant au MIOS Bootstrap Loader. ==Spanish Version== Esta página ha sido dividida en dos secciones: Sección "Novatos" (newbie) Todo lo que debes saber si quieres cargar MIOS y una aplicación en el módulo Core Sección Expertos Esta es la antigua página en la que se discuten algunos detalles del cargador bootstrap MIOS. ==== Testing ==== **How do I test my circuit?** Before you plug the ICs into the sockets, you should measure the voltage levels at the power pins (Vss and Vdd - Vss means: ground (0V), Vdd means: +5V, you will find the corresponding pins in the schematics). Disconnect the power, plug the ICs into the sockets, turn on the power. Now quickly measure the voltage between any ground and 5V pin again. If you don't see any change (already +5V) you've made the most critical step. Otherwise you have a shorted in your circuit*

*and should disconnect the power as fast as possible to avoid damages. Continue with the MIDI Out port tests like described at the Troubleshooting uCapps.de page. === Troubleshooting === Troubleshooting ==== Reference ==== * Core Module uCApps * Core Module R4D from SmashTV smashTV*

1)

Reichelt Shopping Cart Links