Using Timer1 in Asynchronous Clock Mode

INTRODUCTION

This application note discusses the use of the Timer1 module, of the PIC16CXX family, for an asynchronous clock. The Timer1 module has it own oscillator circuitry, which allows the timer to keep real time, even when the device is in sleep mode. When the device is in sleep, the oscillator will continue to increment Timer1. An overflow of Timer1 causes a timer1 interrupt (if enabled) and will wake the processor from sleep. The interrupt service routine, then can do the desired task.

OVERVIEW

Timer1 is a 16-bit counter with a 2-bit prescaler. Timer1 can be incremented from either the internal clock, an external clock, or an external oscillator. Timer1 can be configured to synchronize or not synchronize the external clock sources. The asynchronous operation allows timer1 to increment when the device is in sleep. Figure 1 is a block diagram of Timer1.

To set up Timer1 for asynchronous operation the timer1 control register (T1CON) must have the following bits configured:

- TMR1CS set (external clock source)
- T1CKS<1:0> configured for the desired prescaler
- T1INSYNC set (asynchronous operation)
- TMR1ON set (enables Timer1)
- Set T1OSCEN, if using an external oscilator

In asynchronous operation, if the clock source is an external clock, the clock must be on the T1CKI pin. If the clock source is a crystal oscillator, the crystal is connected accross the T1OSO and T1OSI pins. Please refer to the device Data Sheet for recommended capacitor selection for the Timer1 oscillator.

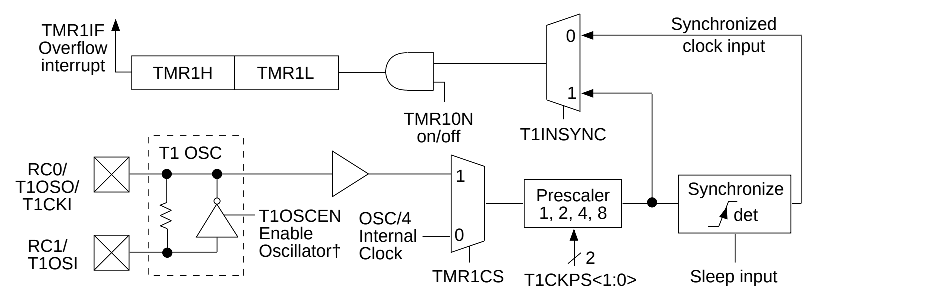
When using Timer1 in asynchronous mode, the use of an external clock minimizes the operating and sleep currents. This is because the oscillator circuitry is disabled. Though the external clock may give the lower device currents, the use of a crystal oscillator may lead to lower system currant consumption and system cost.

System current consumption can also be reduced by having the timer1 overflow interrupt wake the processor from sleep at the desired interval, With a 32.768 KHz crystal, Timer1's overflow rate ranges from 2 to 16 seconds, depending on the prescaler chosen. Table 1 shows timer1 overflow times for various crystal frequencies and prescaler values.

TABLE 1: TIMER1 OVERFLOW TIMES

	Frequency (KHz)		
Prescaler	32.768	100	200
1	2 Seconds	0.655	0.327 Seconds
2	4 Seconds	1.31 Seconds	0.655 Seconds
4	8 Seconds	2.62 Seconds	1.31 Seconds
8	16 Seconds	5.24 Seconds	2.62 Seconds

FIGURE 1: TIMER1 BLOCK DIAGRAM



† When the T1 OSCEN bit is cleared, the inverter and feedback resistor are turned off. This eliminates power drain.

As can be seen the 32 Khz crystal, gives very nice overflow rates. These crystals, refered to as watch crystals, also can be relativly inexpensive. In many applications the 2 second overflow time, of a 32 KHz crystal, is too long. An easy way to reduce the the overflow time is during the interrupt service routine, to load the TMR1H register with a value. Table 2 shows the overflow times, depending on the value loaded into the TMR1H register and a prescaler of 1.

TABLE 2: TMR1H LOAD VALUES / TIMER1 OVERFLOW TIMES

TMR1H Load Value	Overflow Time (@ 32.768 KHz)
80 h	1 Second
C0 h	0.5 Seconds
E0 h	0.25 Seconds
F0 h	0.125 Seconds

Note: The loading of either TMR1H or TMR1L causes the prescaler to be cleared. When Timer1 is in operation, extreme care should be taken in modifying either the TMR1H or TMR1L registers, since this automatically modifies the prescaler to 1.

The code segment shown in Example 1 initializes the Timer1 module for asynchronous mode, enables the Timer1 interrupt, and the interrupt service routine loads the TMR1H register with a value.

CONCLUSION

Timer1 gives designers a powerful timebase function. The asynchronous operation and oscillator circuitry gives designers the ability to easily keep real time, while minimizing power consumption and external logic.

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EXAMPLE 1: TIMER1 CODE SEGMENT FOR ASYNCHRONOUS OPERATION

```
      org   0x000
Reset_V     GOTO    START
;
      org   0x004
PER_INT_V
            BCF     STATUS, RP0    ; Bank 0
            BTFSC   PIR1, TMR1IF   ; Timer 1 overflowed?
            GOTO    T1_OVRFL       ; YES, Service the Timer1 Overflow Interrupt
;
; Should NEVER get here
;
ERROR1                              ; NO, Unknown Interrupt Source
            BSF     PORTD, 1        ; Toggle a port pin to indicate error
            BCF     PORTD, 1
            GOTO    ERROR1
;
T1_OVRFL
            BCF     PIR1, TMR1IF   ; Clear Timer 1 Interrupt Flag
            MOVLW   0x80           ; Since doing key inputs, clear TMR1
            MOVWF   TMR1H          ;   for 1 sec overflow.
            :
            :                      ; Do Interrupt stuff here
            :
            RETFIE                 ; Return / Enable Global Interrupts
;
;
START                              ; POWER_ON Reset (Beginning of program)
            CLRF    STATUS         ; Do initialization (Bank 0)
            BCF     T1CON, TMR1ON  ; Timer 1 is NOT incrementing
            :
            :                      ; Do Initialization stuff here
            :
            MOVLW   0x80           ; TIM1H:TMR1L = 0x8000 gives 1 second
            MOVWF   TMR1H          ;   overflow, at 32 KHz.
            CLRF    TMR1L          ;
;
            CLRF    INTCON
            CLRF    PIR1
            BSF     STATUS, RP0    ; Bank 1
            CLRF    PIE1           ; Disable all peripheral interrupts
;
    if ( C74_REV_A )               ; See PIC16C74 Errata
            BSF     TRISC, T1OSO   ; RC0 needs to be input for the oscillator to function
    endif
            BSF     PIE1, TMR1IE   ; Enable TMR1 Interrupt
;
; Initialize the Special Function Registers (SFR) interrupts
;
            BCF     STATUS, RP0    ; Bank 0
            CLRF    PIR1           ;
            BSF     INTCON, PEIE   ; Enable Peripheral Interrupts
            BSF     INTCON, GIE    ; Enable all Interrupts
;
            MOVLW   0x0E
            MOVWF   T1CON          ; Enable T1 Oscillator, Ext Clock, Async, prescaler = 1
            BSF     T1CON, TMR1ON  ; Turn Timer 1 ON
;
zzz         SLEEP
            GOTO    zzz            ; Sleep, wait for TMR1 interrupt
```

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