

Programmable Interface Controllers - Limitations

The PIC does have its limits, they cannot drive large loads (low current output), most only operate on a 5V supply, and additional circuitry may be required to interface with analogue inputs/outputs.



Some PIC components e.g. PICAXE 08M2 are capable of interfacing 5 input/outputs.

If more control is required, a larger chip with increased capacity will be needed e.g. PICAXE18M2.

PICs are configurable to a point – you can designate certain inputs and outputs to your needs. Piezo sounders (SMART) can be connected to outputs and RTTTL files (ringtone) files can be played as outputs. Programs can also be designed to play custom tunes using sound commands. PICs are really useful because they can be reprogrammed lots of times, allowing components to be updated and reused in other products.