

Compact Bidirectional Autoswitches

Reduce printer costs and increase user options by having four PCs share two laser printers.



FEATURES

- » Fully compatible with IEEE 1284, ECP/EPP, Centronics, Byte, and nibble modes.
- » Data transfer rate of up to 2 MBps.
- » Provides PC-to-PC high-speed data transfer via the parallel port.
- » Built-in microprocessor provides real-time communication.
- » Operates in auto-link or manual mode.
- » Just plug and play! Includes software.
- » 1-year warranty.

OVERVIEW

Many of today's printers use the bidirectional IEEE 1284 interface, which enables the printer to communicate with your PC.

[Compact Bidirectional AutoSwitches](#) are fully IEEE 1284 compatible and enable you to share printers, scanners, Zip drives, CD-ROM drives, digital cameras, and more. You can even use the switches for PC-to-PC high-speed data transfer via the parallel port.

Both models support speeds up to 2 MB per second (MBps) and are fully compatible with the IEEE 1284 standard as well as ECP/EPP, Centronics®, Byte, and nibble modes. A built-in microprocessor provides real-time communication between devices.

The switches automatically sense BiTronics or Centronics printers. And they work with DeskJet® printers without disabling the bidirectional communications.

You can set the timeout period between print jobs from 5 seconds up to 40 seconds. Adjusting the switch's timeout value higher is particularly useful if you want to print long document files with graphics or use a printer's spooler. This can be done by setting the four DIP switches on the side of the switch.

Bidirectional AutoSwitches install easily—just plug and play. In Auto-Link Mode, the switch constantly scans its input ports and sends the job to the attached parallel device. The AutoSwitch also has a Select button for manual port selection.

Easy-to-read LEDs indicate which channel is in use.

The Reversible [Compact Bidirectional AutoSwitch](#) connects two computers to one IEEE 1284 BiTronics printer or other parallel device. Or use two parallel devices with one computer. It supports a Windows® 95 direct cable connection.

Order the Dual Bus [Compact Bidirectional AutoSwitch](#) to connect two or four computers to two IEEE 1284 BiTronics printers or other parallel devices. With a dual-bus architecture, you have two independent channels for simultaneous access to parallel devices and file transfer.

The switches are compatible with Windows 3.1/95/98 and Windows NT®.

Technically Speaking

The 1284 standard is an IEEE standard called "Signalling Method for a Bidirectional Parallel Peripheral Interface for Personal Computers" used for bidirectional parallel-printer-bus support.

While standard parallel interfaces can support speeds of up to 150 kbps at distances of up to 6 feet (1.8 m), IEEE 1284 parallel interfaces can send your data over six times faster and more than five times the distance.

The standard specifies:

- All signals are twisted with a signal line twisted to its ground return.
- Each signal and ground return must have a characteristic impedance of 62 ± 6 ohms over the frequency band of 4 to 16 MHz.
- The wire-to-wire crosstalk shall be no greater than 10%.
- The cable will have shielding with a minimum of 85% optical braid coverage over foil.
- The cable shield shall be connected to the connector back shell using a 360° concentric method. A pigtail connection is not acceptable.
- Compliant cable assemblies shall be marked: "IEEE Std 1284-1994 Compliant."

The standard defines two interface levels and specifies a physical and electrical interface.

The Level I Interface is for devices that need reverse-mode capabilities but do not operate at high speeds. The Level II interface is for both bidirectional and high-speed communications.

The 1284 standard also defines connectors for use in the parallel interface. The 25-pin DB25 connector is defined as the Type "A" connector. The Telco 36, 36-conductor, 0.085" centerline Champ connector with bale locks is defined as the Type "B" connector. The Type "C" connector is a 36-contact, 0.050" centerline mini connector with clip latches.

TECH SPECS

Maximum Distance — 16.4 ft. (5 m)
Maximum Transfer Rate — 2 MB per second (MBps)
Connectors — (3), (4), or (6) DB25 F
Indicators — LEDs: SW177A: None; SW179A: (4) channel in use
Temperature Tolerance — Operating: 41 to 104°F (5 to 40°C)
Power — Interface-powered or optional power supply
Size — SW177A: 1"H x 3.2"W x 3.6"D (2.5 x 8.1 x 9.1 cm);
 SW179A: 1"H x 7.5"W x 3.6"D (2.5 x 19.1 x 9.1 cm)
Weight — SW177A: 0.3 lb. (0.1 kg); SW179A: 0.5 lb. (0.2 kg)

Item

Code

Compact Bidirectional AutoSwitches

Reversible 1-to-2, 2-to-1

SW177A

Dual Bus 4-to-2

SW179A

To send data farther than 15 feet (4.6 m), order...

Optional Power Supply

PS121-R2

You may also want to order...

Enhanced Parallel Port Cable, 6-ft. (1.8-m)

DB25 Male/DB25 Male

EQN200-0006

DB25 Male/DB25 Female

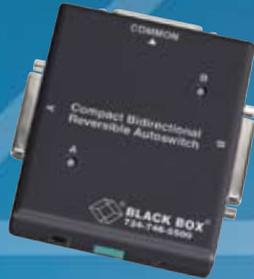
EQN201-0006

DB25 Male/Centronics 36 Male

EQN202-0006



SW179A



SW177A

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