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Author's Guide



EDITORIAL CONTACTS:

Circuit Cellar: C. J. Abate (cabate@circuitcellar.com)

audioXpress: Joao Martins (j.martins@audioxpress.com)

Voice Coil: Shannon Becker (sbecker@audioxpress.com)

INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers and Potential Authors:

Circuit Cellar, Inc. and Segment LLC are hereafter referred to collectively as the “Publisher.”

The Publisher publishes *Circuit Cellar* magazine, *audioXpress* magazine, *Voice Coil* magazine, *The Loudspeaker Industry Sourcebook*, *CircuitCellar.com*, *audioXpress.com*, e-newsletters, and books. Hereafter, the aforementioned titles collectively are referred to as the “Publications.”

The editors of the Publications are always looking for terrific articles—project articles, articles on theory/technique, etc.—to showcase. We publish articles written by the designers, innovators, students, and academics themselves. Our issues are filled with compelling articles about the following and more:

- Complete applications
- Workable solutions for everyday problems
- Unique uses for devices
- Helpful tutorials
- Introductions to technologies and components
- Product reviews

Have you designed an interesting project that you know your peers would love to read about? Do you have a theories, techniques, or tips you’d like to share with other innovators? Have you ever thought about writing an article?

We welcome proposals from both seasoned authors and first-time writers. Our team of dedicated technical editors and staff engineers will help shape your article for publication.

In this Author’s Guide, you will find information about how to submit a proposal, requirements, copyright, compensation, and more.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Regards,

The Editors

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HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE PROPOSAL

For your proposal, you may submit an abstract, outline, or draft article. E-mail proposals to the following addresses:

- **CIRCUIT CELLAR:** C.J. Abate | Email: cabate@circuitcellar.com
- **AUDIOXPRESS:** Joao Martins | Email: j.martins@audioxpress.com
- **VOICE COIL:** Shannon Becker | Email: sbecker@audioxpress.com

Please include:

- In the subject line of your email, specify which magazine it is intended for
- Your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address
- When you plan to complete the article
- Detailed description of your project
- Detailed explanation of what you intend to discuss in the article
- Parts list (main components)
- Block diagram or schematic showing the circuitry
- Feel free to include any other diagrams, code, or photos

Include "Article Proposal" in the subject line of your e-mail. If you are submitting a proposal for a specific issue, please indicate that in the subject line too.

Deadline

There is no set deadline for article proposals. If you are submitting a proposal for a specific issue, it is best to send your proposal as early as possible. Completed articles are due three months prior to the publication date. Proposals should be received at least a month in advance of the completed article deadline.

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REVIEW PROCEDURE

Initial Review of Proposal

The initial review process usually takes two to four weeks. We will contact you by e-mail after we have considered your proposal. If we think your article would be a good fit for one or more of the Publications, we will ask you to complete the article and submit it for a final review.

Final Review of a Completed Article

The final review process usually takes one to two weeks. We will notify you by e-mail whether or not your article is accepted for publication.

If your article is not accepted as is, we may provide feedback and suggestions for modifications. We do this when an article has great potential but may need some revisions to get it ready for publication.

Notification of Acceptance

Acceptance is based on a review of the completed article. After your article has been accepted for publication, we will send you an author's contract to sign and return. See the <Author's Payment & Rights> section for more information about the author's contract.

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Our goal is to entertain and educate. That is why we ask that you include enough material so that our readers can experiment with the techniques and theories introduced. We provide complete applications and solutions that our readers can apply in their own projects.

If you're marketing the project as a hardware kit or software with expanded functionality, then include a description of the kit, cost, and ordering information at the end of the article.

There are four requirements for publishing an article:

- The article must be your work and it must be completely original:**
 - Text cannot be copied from other sources (web sites, datasheets, app notes, articles, books, etc).
 - Text cannot be copied from your own previous published writings (your personal web site does not count as being published).
- The article must not be published elsewhere first.**
- You must include a complete schematic(s), if applicable.**
- If your project requires code, you must submit your code to be posted on our FTP site.**
 - We prefer source code so that readers can study and modify it for their own use. If you are uncomfortable releasing your source code, you may submit your operational, or object, code instead.

Note: It is the author's responsibility to secure permission to use any copyrighted materials (e.g., photos, code), such as diagrams, from the original publisher.

Example submission:

Name	Type	Size
 Article_text.doc	Microsoft Office ...	26 KB
 Author-Bio-ContactInfo.doc	Microsoft Office ...	28 KB
 code - list.c	C File	2 KB
 code - uart.c	C File	5 KB
 Figure1_BlockDiagram.jpg	JPEG image	204 KB
 Figure2_Schematic.jpg	JPEG image	521 KB
 Figure3_Flowchart.jpg	JPEG image	363 KB
 Listing1_pseudocode.doc	Microsoft Office ...	28 KB
 Parts-Resources-References.doc	Microsoft Office ...	26 KB
 Photo1_Project.jpg	JPEG image	1,260 KB
 Photo2_Circuitry.jpg	JPEG image	951 KB
 Photo3_LCDscreenshot.jpg	JPEG image	2,602 KB
 Table1_Temp.xls	Microsoft Office E...	17 KB
 Table2_Output.xls	Microsoft Office E...	17 KB

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ARTICLE TEXT

File Type:

- Submit your article as a Word document if possible.

Article Lengths:

- A **Circuit Cellar** article should be approximately 3,000 (± 500) words long. If your article is in the 4000 – 6000 word range, it should be split into a 2-part series. Each part should have an introduction and conclusion.
- An **audioXpress** article should be approximately 1500 - 3000 words long (± 500 words). If your article is in the 3500 – 6000 word range, it should be split into a 2-part series.
- **Voice Coil** article lengths should be discussed on a case by case basis with editors.

Style:

- Feel free to use a conversational tone. You may write in the first person, include humor, and let your personality come through. Our technical editors will edit your article for grammar and to match our style.

Parts of an Article:

- Preview: 2 or 3 sentences explaining what your article is about.
- Title: sometimes a catchy title and a descriptive subtitle create the best balance
- Section headers: insert section headers in the natural breaks of the text (1 to 3 words); Examples: HARDWARE OVERVIEW ... TESTS & RESULTS
- Captions: descriptive captions must accompany each piece of art (2 to 3 complete sentences)
- References to art: insert references (e.g., Figure x) in the body of your article for each piece of art
- Biography: education, current position, technical interests, and e-mail address (2 to 4 sentences)
- Sources/BOM: Include a list of parts and their manufacturers
- References: Include list of books, articles, websites, etc. that you referenced (i.e., footnotes)
- Resources: Include a list of books, articles, and websites that you used for background information or that readers would find useful

Style Details:

- Text must be in paragraph format. Do NOT use bulleted or numbered lists.
- Spell out all units (e.g., megabytes, milliohm, feet, kilowatt-hour)
- Indicate any text that should appear in code font. For examples:
 - When the goto [Editor: "goto" is code] function is initiated...
 - When the goto function is initiated...
- Use one-column format.

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ARTICLE ART

“Art” is defined as figures, schematics, graphs, tables, code listings, diagrams (block diagrams, flowcharts), screenshots, and photos. Submit each piece of art as a separate file.

- The maximum number of pieces of art is 10.
- Every project article should include complete schematic(s) and a photo(s)
- All figures will be recreated in order to our house style

Art definitions:

- Figure: any schematic, flow chart, block diagram, or other drawing
- Photo: photo or screenshot (approx. 300 dpi, 4x4 image size, TIF, GIF, JPG, or BMP)
- Listing: a code snippet longer than three lines
- Table: any information in table format

Include a text reference for each piece of art (e.g., Figure x). For example:

In [Figure 1](#), you can see that the design is fairly simple. The device is enclosed in a plastic container ([see Photo 1](#)). The most important routines and functions in the code ([see Listing 1](#)) are categorized in [Table 1](#).

Photos

Digital file formats: JPG, GIF, TIF, and BMP. (Do NOT send photos in a text file or PDF.) Photos must be high resolution (~ 300 dpi) at approximately 4 × 4 inches. Do not manipulate the size or resolution. Do not add text. Special instructions for **screen shots**: For the best image quality, maximize your screen resolution and make the window as large as possible on your screen before capturing the image.

Code Listings

Listings must not exceed one page in length (approx. 68 lines). Because your code will be posted on our FTP site, include only the relevant portions of code.

Schematics and other diagrams

Specify ALL part names. Label all pins, signals, etc. Include part designations (e.g., U1, C5). Please make sure everything is legible. All schematics are redrawn. Include any special instructions/notes to the editor in brackets. Don't use abbreviations (e.g., mega = incorrect; ATmega128L = correct). Don't use underscores in signal names.

Graphs

Include labels for the axes. Simple graphs (e.g., bar) will be redrawn. To preserve the accuracy of complex graphs, we may use digital files instead. When submitting complex graphs, please follow the guidelines for formatting photos.

Print all art prior to submission

Please print out all artwork prior to submitting it. Photos that are blurry, dark, or illegible cannot be published. Check all schematics and other diagrams for legibility.

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REFERENCES, RESOURCES, & SOURCES

The article must be your own original work. When you're writing your article, you may want to conduct research using a variety of reference materials. Any ideas borrowed from other works (e.g., articles, books, web sites, datasheets, app notes, white papers, manuals) must be cited. If you don't cite the reference, then it appears that you are taking credit for someone else's text or idea, which is plagiarism.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Text on the Internet is NOT open source. Therefore, you cannot copy any text and put it in your article as your own words. This means you cannot copy a paragraph, a sentence, or even a portion of a sentence.

References

Whether you restate someone else's concepts in your own words or quote someone directly, you must cite the original reference. Include the author's name, title, publisher, number (if any), and copyright date. References should be listed consecutively as they appear in the text (e.g., [1], [2]). Example:

Example 1

According to Douglas C. Schmidt, "At the heart of these problems is the growth of platform complexity."^[1]

Reference

[1] D. Schmidt, "Model-Driven Engineering," *Computer Magazine*, Feb. 2006.

Resources

You should list the books, datasheets, application notes, and articles that you found useful while working on your project or writing your article. Resources do not need to be cited in the text. Simply list these at the end of the article and label them as "Resources." Examples:

RESOURCES

D. Fichte, "Practical Eco-Electrical Home Power Electronics," *Elektor*, 2009.

J. Anderson, *Embedded 101*, Acme Publishing, New York, NY, 2009.

Sources

Include a list of your project's main components, their manufacturers, and the manufacturers' web sites at the end of your article. Please also include a complete parts list to be posted on our FTP site. Example:

SOURCES

MSP430 Microcontroller
Texas Instruments, Inc. | www.ti.com

Virtex-II FPGA Development board
Xilinx | www.xilinx.com

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

When submitting an article and all the associated files (e.g., photos, figures, code, etc), consider putting everything in a ZIP and sending it to us.

Be sure to include to the following:

1. The article as a Word doc: include a title and short preview/abstract
2. Art in separate files
3. High-resolution photos and screenshots sent as TIF, GIF, BMP, or JPG (send original files, not Word docs or PDFs)
4. Complete schematic(s) if applicable: Clearly label all part names/numbers, units, pin names/numbers, etc.
5. Captions for all art
6. Textual references for all art in numeric order (number all art files accordingly)
7. Short biography
8. Cite references and resources
9. Code (in separate zip file)
10. Your phone number and mailing address for our records

Example submission:

Name	Type	Size
 Article_text.doc	Microsoft Office ...	26 KB
 Author-Bio-ContactInfo.doc	Microsoft Office ...	28 KB
 code - list.c	C File	2 KB
 code - uart.c	C File	5 KB
 Figure1_BlockDiagram.jpg	JPEG image	204 KB
 Figure2_Schematic.jpg	JPEG image	521 KB
 Figure3_Flowchart.jpg	JPEG image	363 KB
 Listing1_pseudocode.doc	Microsoft Office ...	28 KB
 Parts-Resources-References.doc	Microsoft Office ...	26 KB
 Photo1_Project.jpg	JPEG image	1,260 KB
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ARTICLE PROOFREADING

After your article is edited, it will be returned for proofreading a few weeks prior to publication. You will have approximately one week to review the article and send back your comments.

The proofreading stage is designed to catch minor errors only. We cannot accept major revisions or excessive rewrites during this stage.

AUTHOR PAYMENT & RIGHTS

Payment

For a print article, the Publisher typically pays a fixed \$75 honorarium for each published page. However, other agreements can be made on a case by case basis.

Article payments are processed around the end of the month in which the article is published. With the payment, an author will receive two complimentary copies of the issue in which your article appears. Contact us if you wish to purchase additional copies.

The Publisher's rights

The Publisher owns the published article, which means no one else can publish, post, reprint, or disseminate in any other way the published article (either in part or in full) without written permission from the Publisher. The Publisher also owns the first-time publishing rights to the original manuscript, which means the article cannot appear in any other publication, professional web site, etc. prior to appearing in one of the Publisher's Publications.

Author's rights

You retain the rights to your original materials as submitted. You keep your intellectual property (IP). Upon acceptance of your completed article, you will be sent the standard author contract that explains this in greater detail.

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