

# Author's Guide



## INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers and Potential Authors:

We 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

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



# HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE PROPOSAL

For your proposal, you may submit an abstract, outline, or draft article. E-mail proposals to the following address: [jchild@circuitcellar.com](mailto:jchild@circuitcellar.com) Jeff Child, Editor-in-Chief

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 (if applicable).
- Detailed explanation of what you intend to discuss in the article
- Block diagram or schematic showing the circuitry (optional)
- 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.



## REVIEW PROCEDURE

### **Initial Review of Proposal**

The initial review process usually takes a couple 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 Circuit Cellar, 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.

# 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.

There are some key requirements for a Circuit Cellar article:

1. **The article must be your work and it must be completely original:**
  - a. Text cannot be copied from other sources (web sites, datasheets, app notes, articles, books, etc).
  - b. Text cannot be copied from your own previous published writings (your personal web site does not count as being published).
2. **The article must not be published elsewhere first.**
3. **We encourage you to include a complete schematic(s), if applicable.**
4. **If your project requires code, you may submit your code to us. Will will posted it on our website for download.**
  - a. 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.

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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 ( $\pm 500$ ) words long. If your article is in the 4000 – 6000 word range, we may discuss having you split it into a 2-part series. Each part should have an introduction and conclusion.

## 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.
- Suggested Title: Very often we will rewrite the title, but a suggested title is helpful.
- 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
- A short biography: education, current position, technical interests, and e-mail address (2 to 4 sentences)
- Resources: Names of companies of whose products you've used in your project or mentioned in the article.
- References (optional): Include list of books, articles, websites, etc. that you referenced (i.e., footnotes)
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## Style Details:

- Text must be in paragraph format. Do NOT use bulleted or numbered lists.
- 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.

## 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.
- We encourage you to include photos and a complete schematic(s) (if applicable).
- All graphics such as diagrams will be recreated in order to our house style

Art definitions:

- Figure: any photo, screenshot, schematic, flow chart, block diagram, or other drawing
- 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 (**Figure 2**). The most important routines and functions in the code (**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 Google Drive 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.















# 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. Code (in separate zip file)
9. Your email and mailing address for our records

Example submission:

Name	Type	Size
 Article-Text.doc	Microsoft Word ...	81 KB
 author-bio.docx	Microsoft Word ...	13 KB
 code-ble.c	C File	4 KB
 code-main.c	C File	10 KB
 figure1-fullsystem.jpg	JPG File	234 KB
 figure2-components.png	PNG File	91 KB
 figure3-schematics.png	PNG File	170 KB
 figure4-hm10module.p...	PNG File	659 KB
 figure5-gradientdesc.png	PNG File	19 KB
 figure6-rssidata.png	PNG File	15 KB
 Listing 1.doc	Microsoft Word ...	51 KB
 Table 1.docx	Microsoft Word ...	14 KB
 Table 2.docx	Microsoft Word ...	17 KB
 Table 3.docx	Microsoft Word ...	16 KB





## 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 (Circuit Cellar) 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.