



Chapter 3: Digital Inputs - Pushbuttons



What's a Microcontroller?



Presentation based on:
"What's a Microcontroller ?"
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9/02/03





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Use and Copyright

What's a Microcontroller?

This presentation supplements "**What's a Microcontroller**" by Andy Lindsay. ([Link to text](#) at Parallax)

- ✓ This presentation is not a replacement for the text.
- ✓ Important concepts of the text are highlighted.
- ✓ In some cases, additional material has been added to augment the text. Denoted by titles colored **gold**.
- ✓ Full program listings are generally not provided in the presentation.

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Pushbuttons

What's a Microcontroller?

Pushbuttons are virtually everywhere interactions with an electronics device are required.

In Chapter #2, the BASIC Stamp was used for **output control** of a device – an LED. In this chapter the BASIC Stamp will be used to read the **state of an input** from a simple device – the pushbutton.



Activity #1: Testing a PushButton/LED Circuit

What's a Microcontroller?

The pushbuttons supplied with the kits are **normally-open, momentary contact**. That is, the switch does not make contact until the button is pressed. Once released, it returns to the open position.

Open State: The pins on either side are electrically the same point. With the button released, there is no path for electrons between pins 1,4 and 2,3.

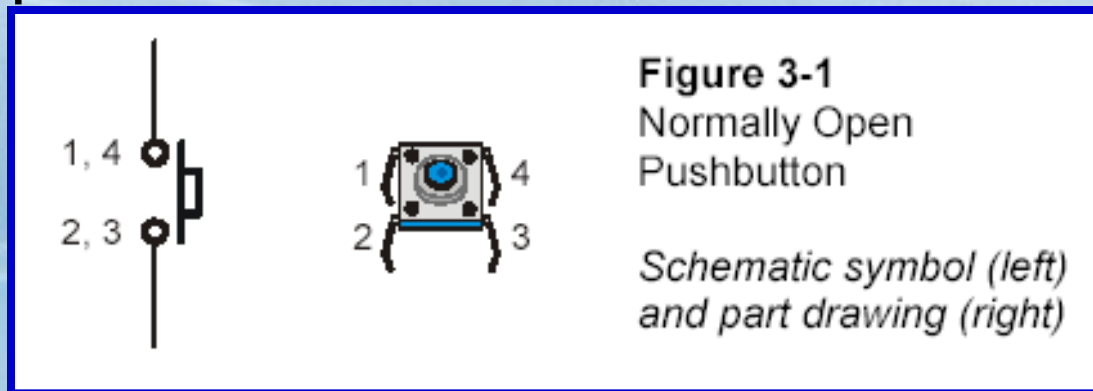
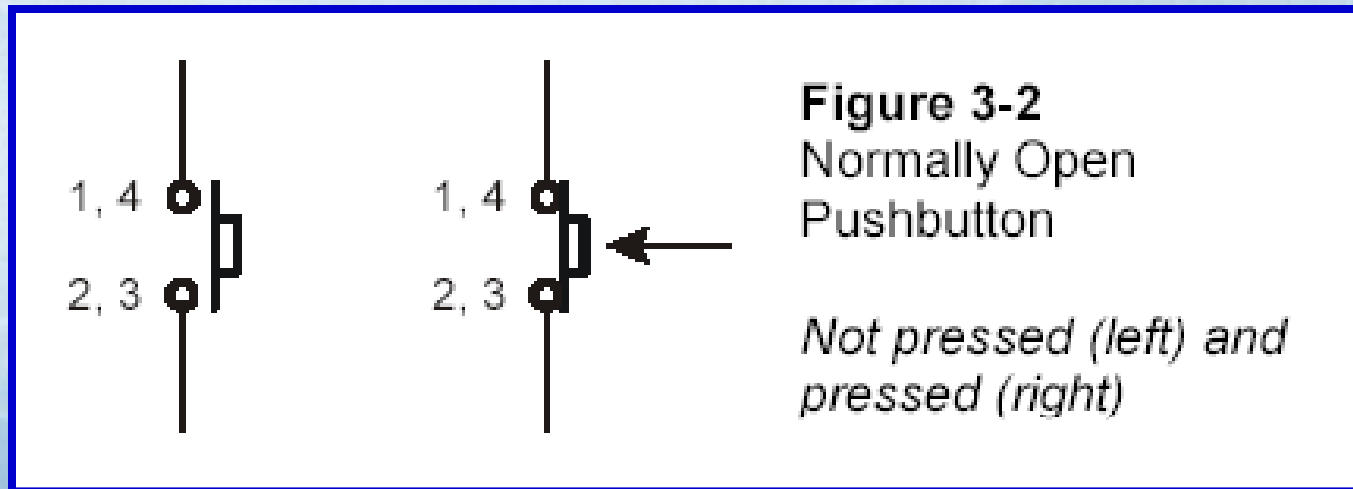


Figure 3-1
Normally Open
Pushbutton

*Schematic symbol (left)
and part drawing (right)*



Closed State: With the button pressed, a conductive material bridges the gap allowing electrons, and thus current, to flow.





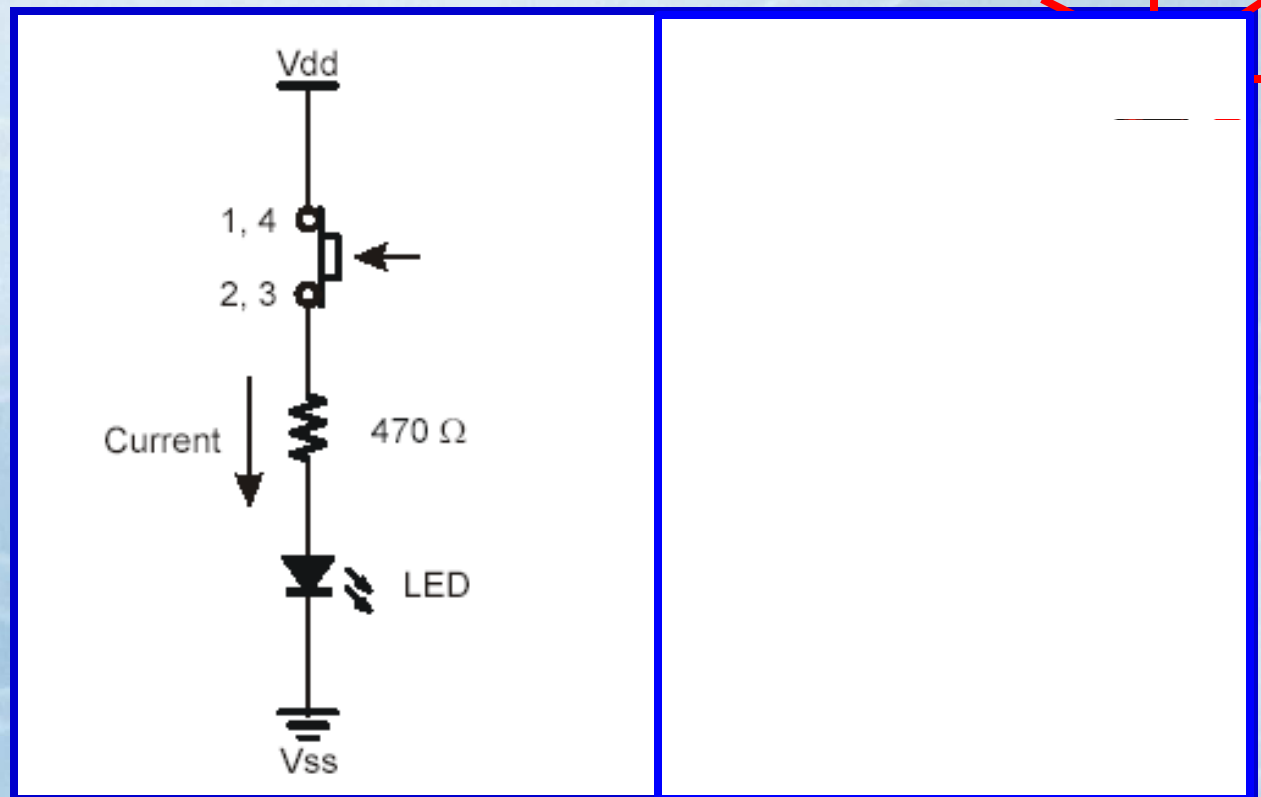
Pushbutton Test Circuit

What's a Microcontroller?

This circuit demonstrates how the pushbutton switch allows current to flow when closed.

Not pressed - Open: No current flow, LED is not-lit.

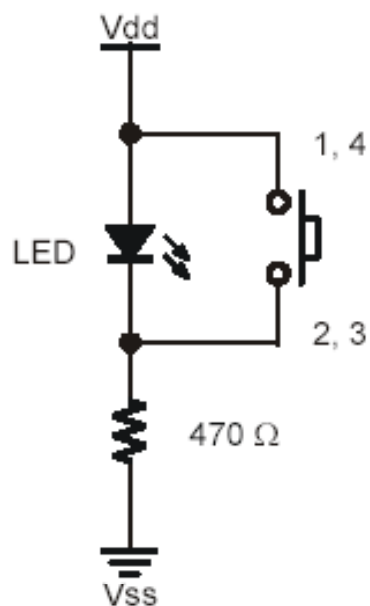
Pressed - Closed: Current flows lighting the LED.





What's a Microcontroller?

This circuit demonstrates how the switch can create a short-circuit around the LED. Current will take the easiest path and not flow through the LED.

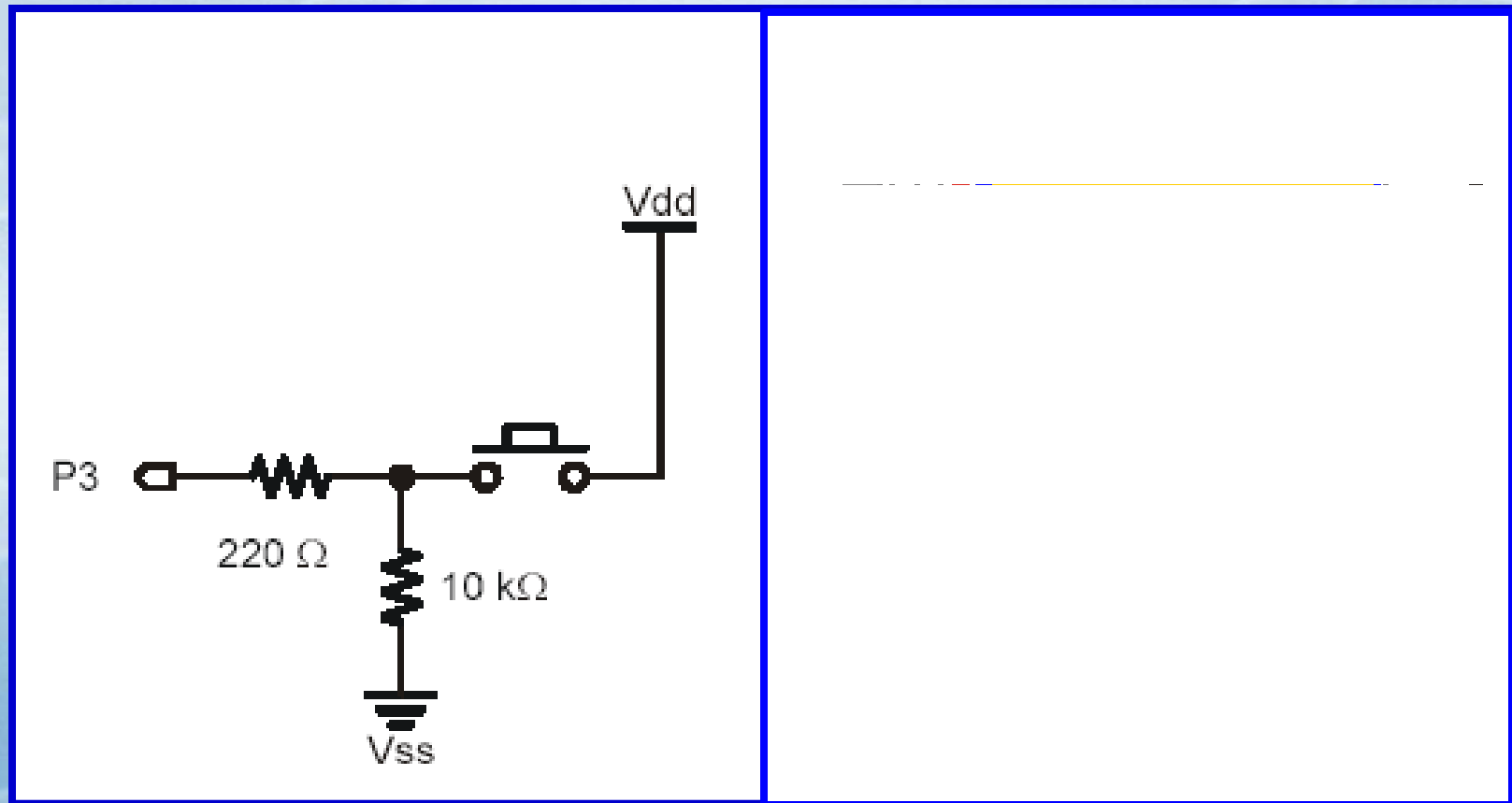


Shorts are usually not desirable. Note that resistor is still in the path either way to ensure excessive current is not drawn.



Activity #2: Reading a Pushbutton

- ✓ Construct the circuit. Pay attention to the values/colors of the resistors.



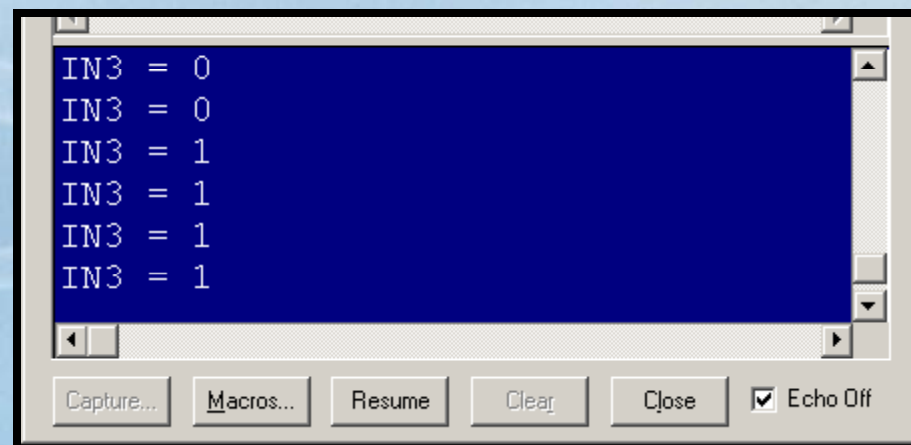
What's a Microcontroller?



What's a Microcontroller?

- ✓ Enter and test the code by occasionally pressing the pushbutton and monitoring the state in the DEBUG Window.

```
DO
  DEBUG ? IN3
  PAUSE 250
LOOP
```





What's a Microcontroller?

DEBUG ? IN3 displays the value of I/O P3 in the DEBUG Window. Which state relates to 1? Pressed or not pressed?

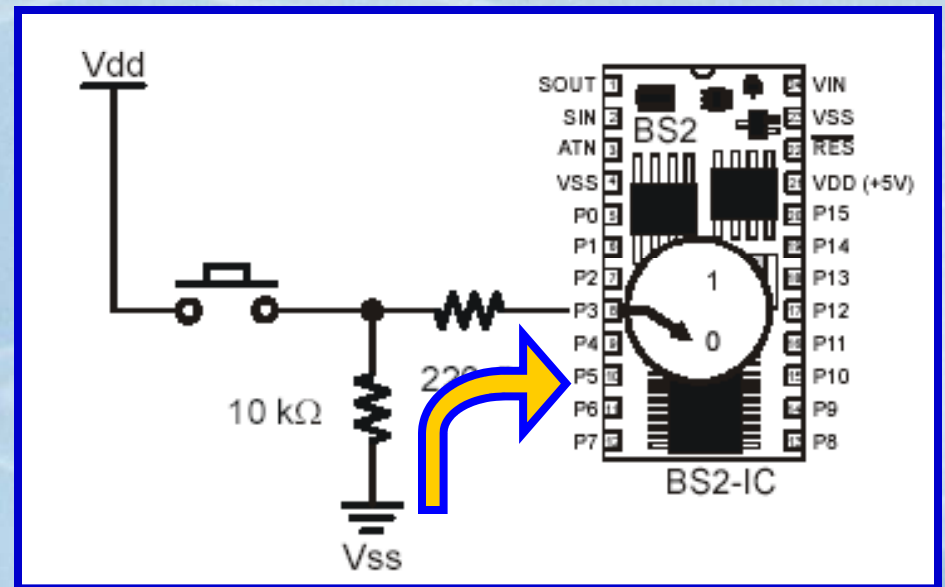
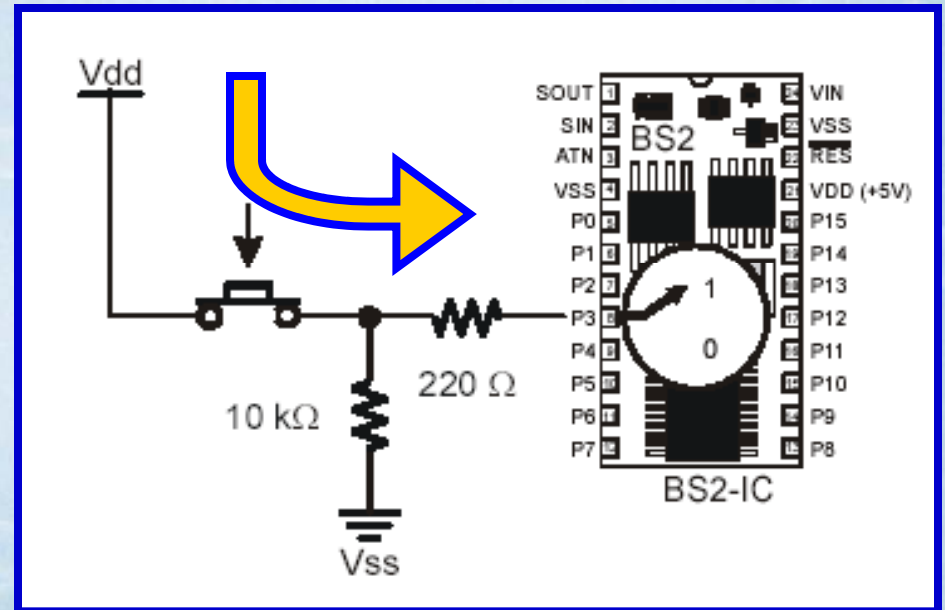


What's a Microcontroller?

When the switch is pressed, Vdd (+5V) is sensed at the input of P3.

When the switch is released, Vss (0V) is sensed at the input of P3.

The 10K Ω resistor prevents a short circuit from Vdd to Vss





What's a Microcontroller?

In this configuration, the $10\text{K}\Omega$ is said to be a **Pull-Down** resistor since it is pulling the input down to ground or V_{ss} when the button is not active (not pressed).

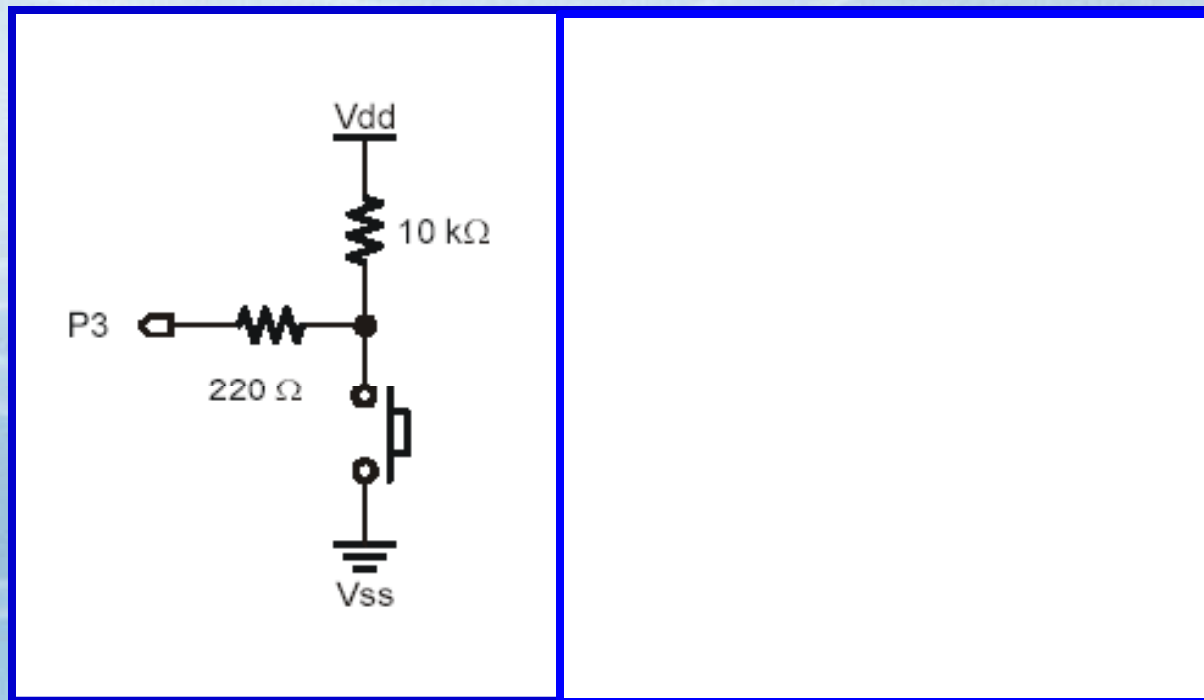
The switch is said to be **Active-High** since activating it (pressing it) will cause the input of P3 to be High.



What's a Microcontroller?

This configuration shows a Pull-Up resistor to Vdd, with an Active-Low button.

When the same code is ran with this configuration, when will IN3 be a value of 1?





What's a Microcontroller?

A BASIC Stamp input must always be pulled high or low. If not connected to either, it is said to be **floating** and produce erratic readings as voltages at the pin fluctuate around 1.4V.

$<1.4V = \text{Low}$

$>1.4V = \text{High}$

The majority of switches on devices are configured for Active-Low. This is due to input current-draw considerations of most semi-conductor devices.



Activity #3: Pushbutton Controlled LED

What's a Microcontroller?

Now that you can work with both outputs and inputs, a pushbutton will be used as control for an LED.

Pseudo-code:

1. If button is pressed:
 - Blink LED quickly at 20mSec
2. Or else, if not pressed:
 - Keep LED off for 100mSec
3. Loop back to Step 1

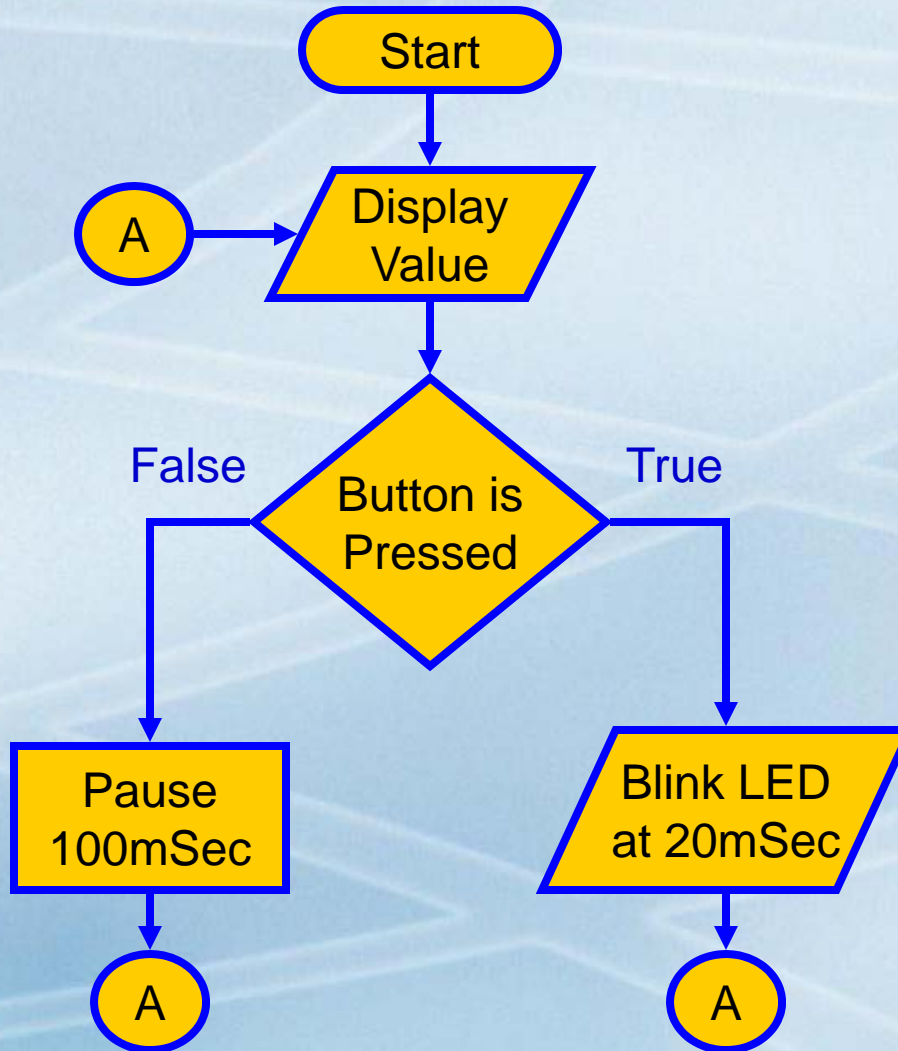


We know how to blink an LED:
On, pause, Off, Pause.
To reduce our design work, 'Blink' will suffice.



What's a Microcontroller?

Flowchart:



Flow **Connectors** are used to connect points without having to draw **flow lines** all around.



Code for Pushbutton controlled LED Control:

```
DO
  DEBUG ? IN3           ' Display state of pushbutton
  IF (IN3 = 1) THEN    ' Pushbutton pressed?
    HIGH 14            ' True, blink LED
    PAUSE 50
    LOW 14
    PAUSE 50
  ELSE                  ' False, pause
    PAUSE 100
  ENDIF
LOOP                   ' Repeat
```



The IF...THEN...ELSE is a decision making structure.

If the condition is True, then perform this code:

```
IF (IN3 = 1) THEN
  HIGH 14
  PAUSE 50
  LOW 14
  PAUSE 50
ELSE
  PAUSE 100
ENDIF
```

If false, then perform this code:



What's a Microcontroller?

Other forms of IF...THEN:

```
IF (condition) THEN code
```

```
IF (condition) THEN  
code  
ENDIF
```

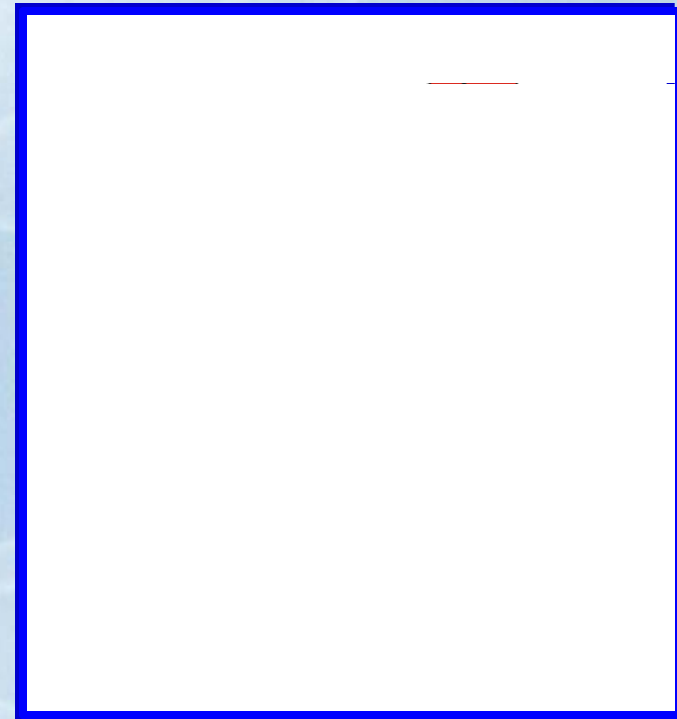
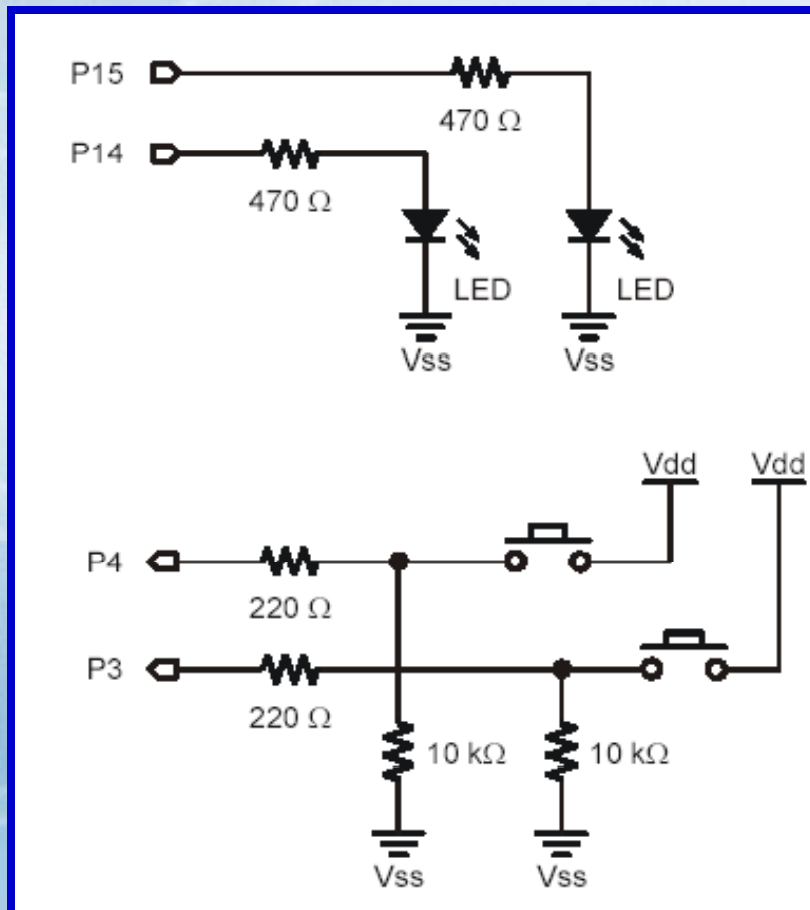
```
IF (condition) THEN  
code  
ELSEIF (condition) THEN  
code  
ENDIF
```



Activity #4: 2 Pushbuttons, 2 LEDs

What's a Microcontroller?

In this activity 2 buttons are used to control 2 LEDs.

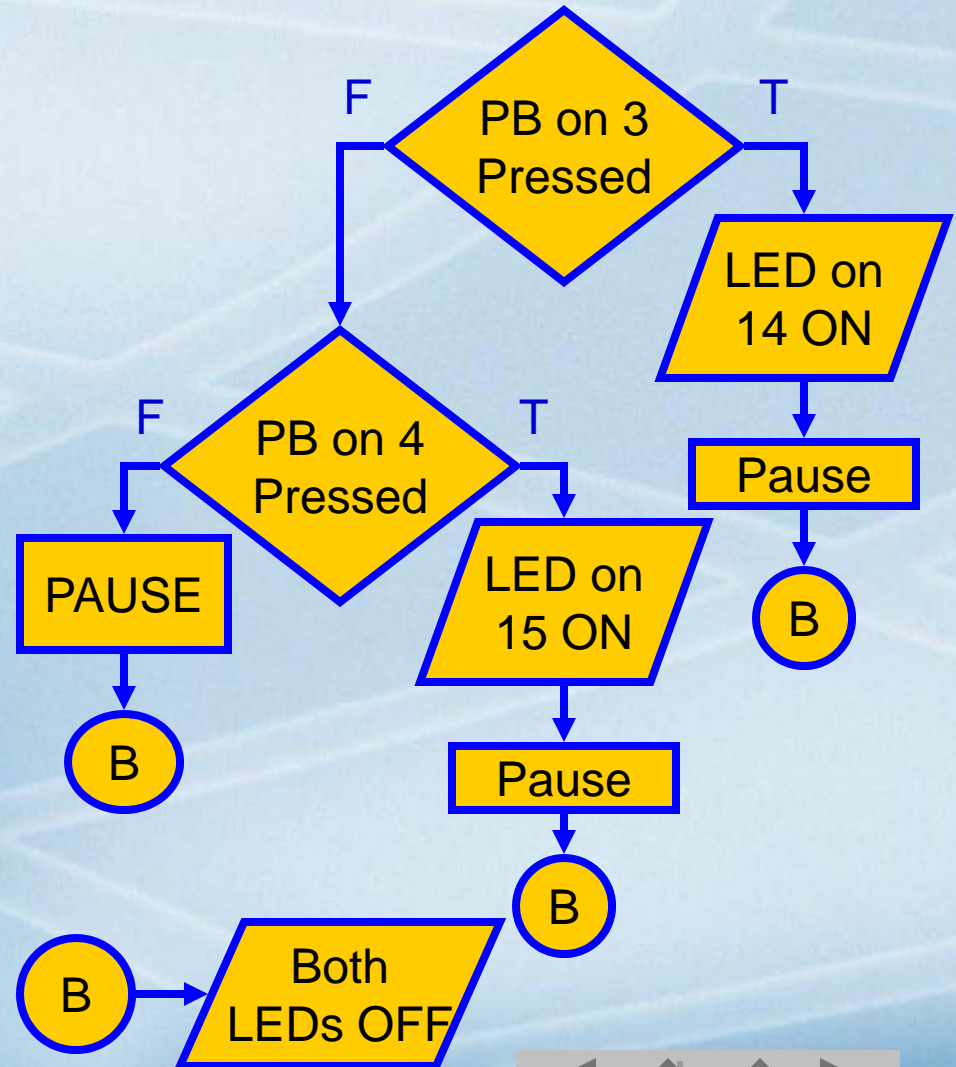




Fragments of decision code and flow :

```
IF (IN3 = 1) THEN
  HIGH 14
  PAUSE 50
ELSEIF (IN4 = 1) THEN
  HIGH 15
  PAUSE 50
ELSE
  PAUSE 50
ENDIF

LOW 14
LOW 15
```



What happens when both buttons are pressed?



Logical Operators – AND, OR, XOR

What's a Microcontroller?

With both pressed, only one LED blinks because the flow path for the other was not met.

With the use of the **logical operators**, two or more conditions can be checked for a single statement. This is called **Boolean Algebra**.

IF (condition1) **AND** (condition2) THEN

IF (condition1) **OR** (condition2) THEN



AND: BOTH conditions have to be true for the overall statement to be true. It needs this AND that to be true.

OR: EITHER condition or both have to be true. It needs this OR that to be true.

XOR (Exclusive OR): This OR that must be true, but BOTH cannot be true. It needs this OR that, but NOT both to be true.



What values of X would cause 'True' to be printed for each of the IF...THEN's below?

(click for answer)

```
X VAR Byte
IF (X<6) AND (X>3) THEN
    DEBUG "TRUE",CR
ELSE
    DEBUG "FALSE",CR
ENDIF

IF (X>8) OR (X<4) THEN
    DEBUG "TRUE",CR
ELSE
    DEBUG "FALSE",CR
ENDIF
```

1st : X is 4 or 5

2nd: X is 0,1,2,3 or 9,10,11....



What's a Microcontroller?

For the LED control, logical operators can be used to make both LED's operate when both buttons are pressed.

```
IF (IN3 = 1) AND (IN4 = 1) THEN
  HIGH 14
  HIGH 15
  PAUSE 50
ELSEIF (IN3 = 1) THEN
  HIGH 14
  PAUSE 50
ELSEIF (IN4 = 1) THEN
  HIGH 15
  PAUSE 50
ELSE
  PAUSE 50
ENDIF

LOW 14
LOW 15
```



Activity #5: Reaction Timer

What's a Microcontroller?

The Reaction Timer game tests how quickly a person can react to the LED changing colors.

The player must let go of the button as quickly as possible when the LED turns green. The time is measured in milliseconds.



What's a Microcontroller?

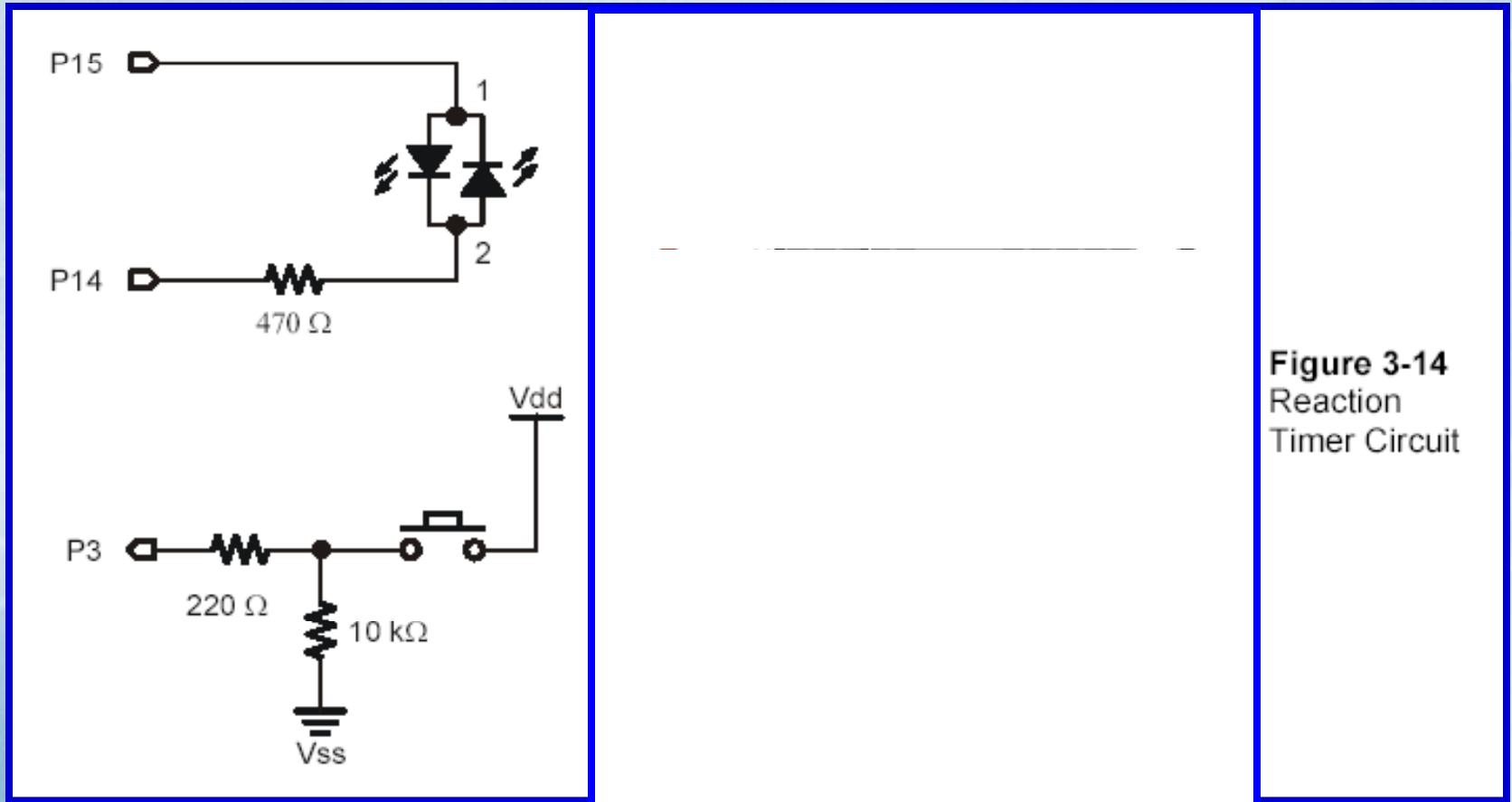


Figure 3-14
Reaction
Timer Circuit



What's a Microcontroller?

The game brings out some real world examples of problems involved.

```
timeCounter = 0      ' Set timeCounter to zero.  
  
DO                  ' Nested loop, count time...  
  PAUSE 1  
  timeCounter = timeCounter + 1  
LOOP UNTIL IN3 = 0  ' until pushbutton is released.
```

- ✓ The **nested loop** to measure reaction time (nested means a loop within a loop) only measures half as long as the actual time held because instructions take time to process adding to the loop time limiting counts.



What's a Microcontroller?

- ✓ After playing a few rounds, a player starts to expect when the LED will turn green.

The RANDOM command can be used to provide a pseudo-random number generator based on a seed Value.

Seed values provide a starting point. Pseudo-Random generators always follow a repeating sequence of 'randomness'. By changing the seed, the sequence changes.

```
timeCounter VAR Word  
value VAR Byte  
value = 23
```




The RANDOM instruction 'randomizes' the value of the variable.

```
RANDOM Value  
PAUSE 1000 + Value
```

- ✓ Finally, it is noted if the button is released too soon, the player is able to cheat and get a score of 1mS. IF...THEN conditionals can be added to check for that event.



Using the PIN and CON commands

The **PIN** command is used to name I/O.

Use of the command can greatly improve the readability of code.

The **CON** command is used to name static values – **constants**.

Take for example the Pushbutton control of LEDs on the next slide.



What's a Microcontroller?

```
D0
  DEBUG HOME
  DEBUG ? IN4
  DEBUG ? IN3

  IF (IN3 = 1) THEN
    HIGH 14
    PAUSE 50
  ELSEIF (IN4 = 1) THEN
    HIGH 15
    PAUSE 50
  ELSE
    PAUSE 50
  ENDIF

  LOW 14
  LOW 15
  PAUSE 50
LOOP
```

With those numbers for I/O devices and states, it can become a little confusing what is being referred to.



What's a Microcontroller?

PIN is used to name the I/O:

LED_Green PIN 14

LED_RED PIN 15

PB1 PIN 3

PB2 PIN 4

CON is used to name a value:

Pressed CON 1



What's a Microcontroller?

```
LED_Green    PIN 14
LED_Red      PIN 15
PB1          PIN 3
PB2          PIN 4
Pressed      CON 1
DO
  DEBUG HOME
  DEBUG ? PB1
  DEBUG ? PB2

  IF (PB1 = Pressed) THEN
    HIGH LED_Green
    PAUSE 50
  ELSEIF (PB2 = Pressed) THEN
    HIGH LED_Red
    PAUSE 50
  ELSE
    PAUSE 50
  ENDIF

  LOW LED_Green
  LOW LED_Red
  PAUSE 50
LOOP
```

The code becomes so readable that it greatly reduces the need for comments to understand what is being performed.



Real World Testing

What's a Microcontroller?

Real world use of a product requires careful testing to ensure it is accurate and operates correctly under ALL circumstances.

Human interaction is the most difficult to program for because of the user's misuse, intentional or not.



What's a Microcontroller?

The pushbutton switch is only one of many devices that can be read as a digital inputs. You will come across many more in your explorations with the BASIC Stamp and electronics.



Chapter 3 Review

What's a Microcontroller?

- ✓ What electronic action does a switch perform?
- ✓ What is meant by: Active-High? Active-Low?
- ✓ What command is used to read the state of an input?
- ✓ What command structure is used to make decisions?
- ✓ AND, OR, XOR are _____ operators. What does each require to be true?
- ✓ What does the RANDOM command do? What is meant by the seed value?
- ✓ _____ and _____ can greatly increase code readability.
- ✓ Why does real-world use requires extensive testing.



Links

What's a Microcontroller?

- ✓ [BASIC Stamp Home](#)
- ✓ [Stamps In Class Home](#)
- ✓ [BASIC Stamp Software](#)
- ✓ [BASIC Stamp Robots](#)
- ✓ [BASIC Stamp Yahoo Group](#)
- ✓ [Stamps In Class Yahoo Group](#)
- ✓ [SIUC EST Degree](#)