

## Interfacing an SX Microcontroller to a Hitachi HD44780 LCD Display

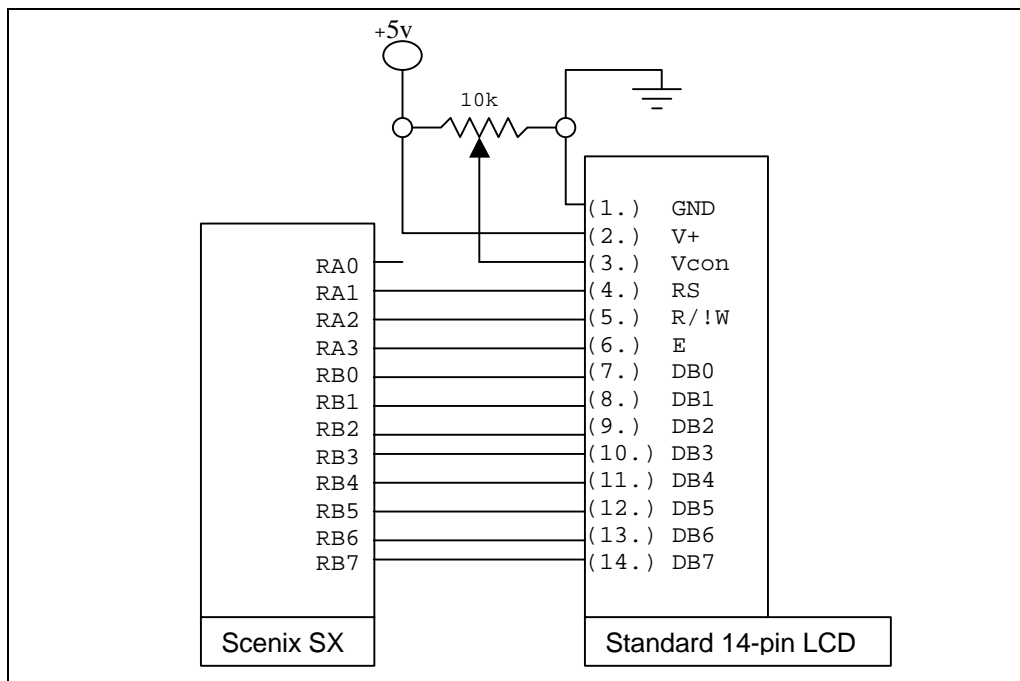
### Application Note: Simple Interface between Scenix SX and Hitachi-HD44780 Driven Display.

#### Introduction

This application note describes two simple way to interface a Scenix SX microcontroller and a Hitachi HD44780-Driven Display, through a 4-bit and an 8-bit interface. The Hitachi HD44780 LCD driver is one of the most common LCD controllers, and is very easy to find at surplus electronics stores.

#### The HD44780 controller IC

The HD44780 IC is a self contained LCD driver, designed to interface with microcontrollers/microprocessors. Its interface is either 4 or 8 bits. The IC has built-in Display Data RAM (DDRAM) to store the displayed characters, as well as Character Generator Ram (CGRAM), which can hold custom, user-designed characters. This application note deals only with writing characters to the DDRAM, the most common usage.



Connecting the SX to the LCD's *standard* 14-pin connector (Example only. This diagram can be used with both the 8-bit and 4-bit interface techniques, although the DB0-DB3 connections are not necessary for the 4-bit interface. The example programs [lcd8xmpl.src](#) and [lcd4xmpl.src](#) use this layout and are available from [www.scenix.com](http://www.scenix.com).)

Most LCD's using the HD44780 driver chip use this industry-standard pin-out. Check datasheet to be sure:

PIN	NAME	OPERATION
1	Vss	(-) Ground
2	Vcc	(+) Power
3	Vee	Contrast Adjust. Connect to Potentiometer
4	RS	Data/Instruction... 0 = Instruction input, 1 = Data input
5	R!/W	Read!/Write... 0 = Write, 1 = Read
6	E	Enable signal. Active High (Read). Negative edge triggers input latch (Write).
7	DB0	Data Bus Line 0 (LSB)
8	DB1	Data Bus Line 1
9	DB2	Data Bus Line 2
10	DB3	Data Bus Line 3
11	DB4	Data Bus Line 4
12	DB5	Data Bus Line 5
13	DB6	Data Bus Line 6
14	DB7	Data Bus Line 7 (MSB)

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### HD44780 Instruction Set

From Hitachi Liquid Crystal Display Module databook.

Instruction	R S	R/ ! W	D B 7	D B 6	D B 5	D B 4	D B 3	D B 2	D B 1	D B 0	Description	EXE TIME
Clear Display	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Clears display memory and returns the cursor to the home position. (Address 0)	82us - 1.64ms
Return Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	*	Returns the cursor to the home position (Address 0) and shifts the display back to its original position. Does not change DDRAM contents.	40us - 1.6ms
Entry Mode Set	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	I / D	S	Sets direction that the cursor moves and whether or not to shift the display. Write and read.	40us - 1.64ms
Display ON/OFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	D	C	B	D = Display ON/OFF C = Cursor ON/OFF B = Blinking Cursor	40us
Cursor or Display Shift	0	0	0	0	0	1	S / C	R / L	*	*	Moves the cursor and shifts the display without changing DD RAM contents.	40us
Function Set	0	0	0	0	1	D L	N	F	*	*	DL = Interface Data Length N = Number of Display Lines F = Character Font	40us
Set CG RAM Address	0	0	0	1	CG RAM Address					Sets the CG RAM address. CG RAM data is sent/received after this command.		40us
Set DD RAM Address	0	0	1	DD RAM Address					Sets the DD RAM Address. DD RAM is sent/received after this command.		40us	
Read Busy Flag and Address Counter Contents	0	1	B F	Address Counter Contents					Reads the Busy Flag (BF), indicating an internal operation is in progress, as well as the contents of the address counter.		1us	
Write Data to CG/DD RAM	1	0	Data to Write					Writes data into DDRAM or CGRAM, depending on current Address.		40us		
Read Data from CG/DD RAM	1	1	Data to Read					Reads data from DDRAM or CGRAM, depending on current Address.		40us		

Setting Bit	Definition	Setting Bit	Definition
I/D = 1	Increment	BF = 1	Internal Operation in progress. Instructions can be accepted.
I/D = 0	Decrement	BF = 0	
S = 1	Display Shift	R/L = 1	Right Shift
S = 0	No Display Shift	R/L = 0	Left Shift
D = 1	Display ON	DL = 1	8 - Bit Interface
D = 0	Display OFF	DL = 0	4 - Bit Interface
C = 1	Cursor ON	N = 1	2 Line Display
C = 0	Cursor OFF	N = 0	1 Line Display
B = 1	Blink ON	F = 1	5*10 dot matrix
B = 0	Blink OFF	F = 0	5*7 dot matrix
S/C = 1	Display Shift		
S/C = 0	Cursor Movement		

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## Initializing the LCD

On power-up, the LCD needs several milliseconds to initialize. In the example code, about 5ms is used:

```
lcd_init
    mov     W,#0                ; Delays for 5.1ms at 50MIPS
    call   delay
```

After this initial delay, the program initializes the RA and RB ports to outputs, and waits until the LCD has finished initializing. When the initialization process has completed, the program begins sending commands to the LCD, using the `lcd_write_command` subroutine.

The first command, except for busy flag/address read, to be written to the LCD after power-up should always be "Function Set," which chooses the interface data length, the number of data lines, and character font. If this command is not issued first, no function instruction except changing the interface data length can be executed.

After sending each command, the example programs use the `lcd_wait_busy` subroutine to wait for the LCD to finish processing the last command.

```
; Set up the LCD I/O first. RA0-RA3 are all outputs, as are RB0-RB7

    mov     W, #00h
    mov     lcd_control, W          ; Set up the latches for when this register is switched to output.
    mov     !lcd_control, W        ; Switch RA to all outputs, with a 0000 appearing on the pins (Enable is low)
    mov     !lcd_data, W          ; Switch RB to all outputs. (for initialization routine)

; First, set the data length, number of display lines, and character font.
;-----
;          RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time
;          0          0          0          0          1          DL          N          F          *          *          40us
;-----
; DL--Interface Data Length      0 = 4-bit interface      1 = 8-bit interface
; N --Number of Display Lines    0 = 1 line             1 = 2 lines
; F --Character Font             0 = 5*7 dots             1 = 5*10 dots

    call    lcd_wait_busy          ; wait for the LCD to finish initializing
    mov     W, #00111000b
    call    lcd_write_command      ; set for for 8 bits, 2 lines, and 5*7 dots
    call    lcd_wait_busy          ; Wait until the LCD is finished processing.

; Next, turn the display on, turn the cursor on, and turn cursor blink on (so we know LCD is alive)
;-----
;          RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time
;          0          0          0          0          0          0          1          D          C          B          40us
;-----
; D --Display ON/OFF control     0 = Display OFF          1 = Display ON
; C --Cursor ON/OFF control     0 = Cursor OFF            1 = Cursor ON
; B --Blink ON/OFF control      0 = Blink OFF            1 = Blink ON

    clr     W
    call    lcd_write_command      ; Display off
    call    lcd_wait_busy

    mov     W, #00001111b
    call    lcd_write_command      ; turn display on, cursor on, and blink on..
    call    lcd_wait_busy          ; Wait until the LCD is finished processing.

; Next, set display so that the cursor moves as characters are entered.
;-----
;          RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time
;          0          0          0          0          0          0          1          S/C        R/L          *          *          40us
;-----
; S/C--Cursor move/Display Shift 0 = Cursor Move          1 = Shift Display
; R/L--Shift Direction           0 = Shift left        1 = Shift right

    mov     W, #00010000b
    call    lcd_write_command      ; set for cursor move and display shift.
    call    lcd_wait_busy          ; Wait until the LCD is finished processing.

; Next, set entry mode (cursor move direction, shift or no shift).
;-----
;          RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time
;          0          0          0          0          0          0          0          0          1          I/D          S          40us ~ 1.64ms
;-----
; I/D--Increment/Decrement address 0 = Decrement Cursor Address 1 = Increment Cursor Address
; S --Display shift              0 = No shift            1 = Shift

    mov     W, #00000110b
    call    lcd_write_command      ; set for incrementing address and no shift..
    call    lcd_wait_busy          ; Wait until the LCD is finished processing.

    ret                               ; Return from lcd_init subroutine.

;*****
; End of lcd_init subroutine.
;*****
```

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### Writing Commands and Data

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The `lcd_write_command` and `lcd_write_data` subroutines use the same core code. The only difference is that the `lcd_write_command` subroutine clears the LCD's RS pin, whereas the `lcd_write_data` subroutine sets it.

In 8-bit data mode (`lcd8xmpl.src`), the `write` and `wait_busy` subroutines differ from 4-bit data mode (`lcd4xmpl.src`).

Writing to the LCD in 8-bit data mode requires the SX to

- set up RS
- set R/!W to LO
- put data on DB7-DB0
- pulse the Enable pin

Writing to the LCD in 4-bit data mode requires the SX to

- set up RS
- set R/W to LO
- put the most significant four bits of data on DB7-DB4
- pulse the Enable pin
- put the least significant four bits of data on DB7-DB4
- pulse the Enable pin

```
-----  
lcd_write_command  
-----  
; This function writes the command in W to the LCD display, using the 8-bit interface. The procedure is:  
; 1. Clear RS  
; 2. Set up R/!W  
; 3. Write the data to the port  
-----  
        clrb    lcd_RS          ; Drive RS low so LCD knows to write COMMAND.  
        jmp     lcd_write      ; goto WRITE code  
  
lcd_write_data  
-----  
; This function writes the data in W to the LCD display, using the 8-bit interface.  
; 1. Set RS  
; 2. Set up R/!W  
; 3. Write the data to the port  
-----  
        setb    lcd_RS          ; Drive RS high so LCD knows to write DATA.  
  
lcd_write  
        mov     lcd_data,W      ; Write the data in W to the port latches.  
        mov     W,#000h        ; Write zeroes to the control register to switch the data pins to outputs.  
        mov     !lcd_data,W    ;  
        clrb    lcd_RW         ; Drive R/!W low so LCD knows to WRITE.  
        call   nopdel          ;  
        call   nopdel          ;  
        setb    lcd_E          ; Pulse LCD's enable pin.  
        call   nopdel          ;  
        call   nopdel          ;  
        clrb    lcd_E          ; Force LCD to latch the data present on the data bus.  
        call   nopdel          ;  
        call   nopdel          ;  
        ret  
-----  
-----
```



## Interfacing an SX Microcontroller to a Hitachi HD44780 LCD Display

```
*****
;
; Author: Chris Fogelklou for Scenix Semiconductor, Inc.(chris.fogel@scenix.com)
; Written: Thursday, August 20, 1998.
; Modified: Wednesday, August 26, 1998.
;
; This is simple code to demonstrate how to use an SX chip to interface
; with an LCD display. It initializes the display and infinitely loops,
; printing "Hi. " to the display. This code will work with any type of
; HITACHI HD44780 driven display (1*16, 2*16, 1*20, etc...). It is not a
; virtual peripheral, as it does not efficiently use the processor.
; (It contains a wait loop, as well as several delays). This example
; code is simply a good program to build upon. There is a virtual
; peripheral for LCD under development, which will use the MCU
; efficiently. (Check www.scenix.com for updates.)
;
;
; lcd_init
; Because the LCD should only need to be initialized once, the LCD_Init
; routine does not return until it is fully completed. Comments in
; LCD_Init suggest changes for any number of different settings.
; (eg. more/fewer display lines, cursor direction, display shifting...)
; CALLS:
; -lcd_write_command
; -lcd_write_data
; -lcd_wait_busy
; -delay
;
;
; lcd_write_command
; This subroutine is called to write a command to the LCD, such as
; 'clear screen and return home'. The command to be written is passed in
; inside the W register.
; CALLS:
; -nopdel
; -delay
;
;
; lcd_write_data
; This subroutine is called to write data to the LCD, such as a character
; to be displayed. Like lcd_write_command, lcd_write_data accepts the
; data in the W register.
; CALLS:
; -nopdel
; -delay
;
;
; lcd_wait_busy
; This subroutine does not return until the LCD is ready to accept more
; data/commands.
; CALLS:
; -nopdel
; -delay
;
;
; nopdel
; A simple subroutine containing 8 nops, returning after the nops.
;
;
; delay
; This subroutine delays for (w-1)*20us at 50MIPS, (w-1)*1ms at 1MIPS
;
;
; REGISTER USAGE
; The only registers used in this program are
; dlycntl
; dlycnt2
; in the "delay_regs" bank
;
;*****
;*****
; Assembler Directives...
;*****
device pins28,pages1,banks8,oschs ; 28 pin package,
; 1 page program,
; 8 banks RAM,
; HS oscillator.
device stackx,optionx,turbo ; stack extend,
; option extend, turbo.
id 'LCD VP'
reset reset_entry ; Jump to reset_entry on reset.
FREQ 5000000 ; 50MHZ target frequency.
;*****
; Pin Definitions
;*****
```

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```

lcd_control      =      ra
lcd_RS          =      ra.1          ; 0 = instruction, 1 = data
lcd_RW          =      ra.2          ; 0 = write, 1 = read
lcd_E           =      ra.3          ; 1,1-->0 is the LCD enable

lcd_data =      rb

lcd_DB0         =      rb.0          ; DB0 = Data bus line 0 (LSB)
lcd_DB1         =      rb.1
lcd_DB2         =      rb.2
lcd_DB3         =      rb.3
lcd_DB4         =      rb.4
lcd_DB5         =      rb.5
lcd_DB6         =      rb.6
lcd_DB7         =      rb.7          ; DB7 = Data bus line 7 (MSB)

;*****
; Variables
;*****
      org      8

      org      10h

      org      30h          ;LCD Virtual Peripheral variables

delay_regs      =      $

dlycnt1         ds      1
dlycnt2         ds      1

      org      0

;*****
; Interrupt routine - virtual peripherals
;*****

interrupt
      reti
;*****

;*****
; LCD initialization code.
; This code should be called at the beginning of the program to
; initialize the LCD display. It only needs to be called once.
;*****
lcd_init

      mov      W,#0          ; Delays for 5.1ms at 50MIPS
      call     delay
      mov      W,#0          ; Delays for 5.1ms at 50MIPS
      call     delay
      mov      W,#0          ; Delays for 5.1ms at 50MIPS
      call     delay

; Set up the LCD I/O first. RA0-RA3 are all outputs, as are RB0-RB7

      mov      W, #00h
      mov      lcd_control, W          ; Set up the latches for when this register is switched to output.
      mov      !lcd_control, W        ; Switch RA to all outputs, with a 0000 appearing on the pins (Enable is
low)
      mov      !lcd_data, W          ; Switch RB to all outputs. (for initialization routine)

; First, set the data length, number of display lines, and character font.
;-----
;
;      RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7      DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time
;      0          0          0          0          1          DL          N          F          *          *          40us
;-----
; DL--Interface Data Length          0 = 4-bit interface          1 = 8-bit interface
; N --Number of Display Lines        0 = 1 line                  1 = 2 lines
; F --Character Font                 0 = 5*7 dots              1 = 5*10 dots

      mov      W, #00111000b
      call     lcd_write_command      ; set for for 8 bits, 2 lines, and 5*7 dots
      call     lcd_wait_busy          ; Wait until the LCD is finished processing.

; Next, turn the display on, turn the cursor on, and turn cursor blink on (so we know LCD is alive)
;-----
;
;      RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7      DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time
;      0          0          0          0          0          0          1          D          C          B          40us
;-----

```

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```

; D --Display ON/OFF control          0 = Display OFF          1 = Display ON
; C --Cursor ON/OFF control          0 = Cursor OFF           1 = Cursor ON
; B --Blink ON/OFF control           0 = Blink OFF            1 = Blink ON

    clr        W
    call       lcd_write_command
    call       lcd_wait_busy          ; Display off

    mov        W, #00001111b
    call       lcd_write_command      ; turn display on, cursor on, and blink on..
    call       lcd_wait_busy          ; Wait until the LCD is finished processing.

; Next, set display so that the cursor moves as characters are entered.
;-----
;          RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7    DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time
;          0          0          0          0          0          1          S/C          R/L          *          *          40us
;-----
; S/C--Cursor move/Display Shift      0 = Cursor Move          1 = Shift Display
; R/L--Shift Direction                0 = Shift left           1 = Shift right

    mov        W, #00010000b
    call       lcd_write_command      ; set for cursor move and display shift.
    call       lcd_wait_busy          ; Wait until the LCD is finished processing.

; Next, set entry mode (cursor move direction, shift or no shift).
;-----
;          RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7    DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time
;          0          0          0          0          0          0          1          I/D          S          40us ~ 1.64ms
;-----
; I/D--Increment/Decrement address    0 = Decrement Cursor Address 1 = Increment Cursor Address
; S --Display shift                   0 = No shift                 1 = Shift

    mov        W, #00000110b
    call       lcd_write_command      ; set for incrementing address and no shift..
    call       lcd_wait_busy          ; Wait until the LCD is finished processing.

    ret        ; Return from lcd_init subroutine.

;*****
; End of lcd_init subroutine.
;*****

;-----
lcd_write_command
;-----
; This function writes the command in W to the LCD display, using the 8-bit interface. The procedure is:
; 1. Clear RS
; 2. Set up R/!W
; 3. Write the data to the port
;-----
    clr        lcd_RS                ; Drive RS low so LCD knows to write COMMAND.
    jmp        lcd_write ; goto WRITE code

lcd_write_data
;-----
; This function writes the data in W to the LCD display, using the 8-bit interface.
; 1. Set RS
; 2. Set up R/!W
; 3. Write the data to the port
;-----
    setb       lcd_RS                ; Drive RS high so LCD knows to write DATA.

lcd_write
    mov        lcd_data,W             ; Write the data in W to the port latches.
    mov        W,#000h                ; Write zeroes to the control register to switch the data pins to outputs.
    mov        !lcd_data,W
    clr        lcd_RW                 ; Drive R/!W low so LCD knows to WRITE.
    call       nopdel
    call       nopdel
    setb       lcd_E                  ; Pulse LCD's enable pin.
    call       nopdel
    call       nopdel
    call       nopdel
    clr        lcd_E                  ; Force LCD to latch the data present on the data bus.
    call       nopdel
    call       nopdel
    ret

;-----
;-----
lcd_wait_busy
; waits until the LCD is ready to accept a command.
;-----
;          RS-RA2 R/!W-RA3 DB7-RB7    DB6-RB6  DB5-RB5  DB4-RB4  DB3-RB3  DB2-RB2  DB1-RB1  DB0-RB0  Execution Time

```



## Interfacing an SX Microcontroller to a Hitachi HD44780 LCD Display

```

;      0      1      BF      * -----DDRAM Address----- *      lus
;-----
mov     W, #0FFh ; write ones to the control register to switch the data pins to inputs.
mov     !lcd_data,W
clrb   lcd_RS           ; clear RS for instruction
setb   lcd_RW           ; set for READ.
call   nopdel
call   nopdel
setb   lcd_E           ; set enable high to read busy flag
call   nopdel
call   nopdel           ; wait for the LCD to tx data.
mov     W,lcd_data
clrb   lcd_E           ; clear LCD enable
call   nopdel
call   nopdel
and    W, #080h ; test W for zero (Z is cleared if LCD is busy)
sb     Z
jmp    lcd_wait_busy
setb   lcd_RW
mov     W,#00h
mov     !lcd_data,W           ; Switch the data pins back to outputs
call   nopdel
call   nopdel
call   nopdel
ret                                ; return from subroutine

nopdel ; returns to main program in 11 cycles (11us@1MIPS) from call
;-----
nop
nop
nop
nop
nop
nop
nop
nop
nop
ret

;-----
delay; (delays for [(w-1) * 1ms ] at 1MIPS, or [(w-1) * 20us] at 50MIPS ... 0<=w<=255)
;*****
; This function delays for ((W-1)*20us), plus/minus a few ns
;*****
bank   delay_regs
mov    dlycnt1,W
;
delay1
decsz  dlycnt1;
jmp    loop1;
ret    ;

loop1
mov    w,#166;
mov    dlycnt2,W;

loop;
nop
nop
nop
decsz  dlycnt2;
jmp    loop;
jmp    delay1;
;*****

;      Main Code
reset_entry
main2
call   lcd_init
mov    W, #001h           ; Clear the screen
call   lcd_write_command
call   lcd_wait_busy

Hiloop
mov    W, #'H'           ; Write "H"
call   lcd_write_data
call   lcd_wait_busy
mov    W, #'i'           ; Write "i"
call   lcd_write_data
call   lcd_wait_busy
mov    W, #'.'           ; Write "."
call   lcd_write_data
call   lcd_wait_busy
mov    W, #' '           ; Write " "
call   lcd_write_data
call   lcd_wait_busy

```

---

## Interfacing an SX Microcontroller to a Hitachi HD44780 LCD Display

```
mov    W,#255
call   delay           ; Delay 5.1ms @ 50MIPS
mov    W,#255
call   delay           ; Delay 5.1ms @ 50MIPS
mov    W,#255
call   delay           ; Delay 5.1ms @ 50MIPS
mov    W,#255
call   delay           ; Delay 5.1ms @ 50MIPS
mov    W,#255
call   delay           ; Delay 5.1ms @ 50MIPS
jmp    Hiloop
```