

Cambridge Electronic Design Limited

Fitting a Spike2 top card to a Micro1401 mk 2

Introduction

The Micro1401 mk 2 (hereafter simply the '1401') is designed so that it can be fitted with a variety of add-on units available from CED. These 'top cards' are housed in an extended version of the case hardware. Each 1401 may have several top cards fitted to it, depending on the chassis metalwork. This leaflet describes how to fit a 3001-9 Spike2 top card to an unexpanded 1401.

Before commencing the work, please read the instructions carefully and arrange a clear working space where you can lay out the pieces. Ensure that both you and the 1401 are earthed, to prevent the risk of electrostatic discharge. Ideally, the 1401 should be connected to mains earth and you should be connected to the 1401 by a wrist strap. If you are in any doubt about being able to carry out the dismantling and reassembly, please ask a qualified engineer or send the 1401 to the CED Service Department. CED will make a small charge for this service.

It is strongly recommended that you re-check each step after you have completed it, as it is more difficult to correct errors later.

The fitting kit

The fitting kit comprises:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Spike2 card (3001-9)	<input type="checkbox"/>	26-way ribbon cable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dual-height inner can (lid & base)	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-way ribbon cable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spike2 outer case (front, sides & back)	<input type="checkbox"/>	40-way digital I/O ribbon cable
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 off stacking bars	<input type="checkbox"/>	60-way digital I/O ribbon cable
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 off 10mm M3 pan head screws	<input type="checkbox"/>	40-way & 60-way pin headers
<input type="checkbox"/>	2mm hex wrench	<input type="checkbox"/>	8 off hex spacer pillars

The procedure

Digital I/O pin headers are soldered onto the 1401 base card (the 'motherboard'). The Spike2 card is bolted to the motherboard with pillars, and cables are fitted between them. This assembly is housed in one dual-height inner can. The outer case is extended by adding new sections to form a dual-height outer case. All the fixings are reused, so they should be saved. All the original outer-case metalwork is reused. Save the original inner-can metalwork if you envisage ever converting back to an unexpanded unit.

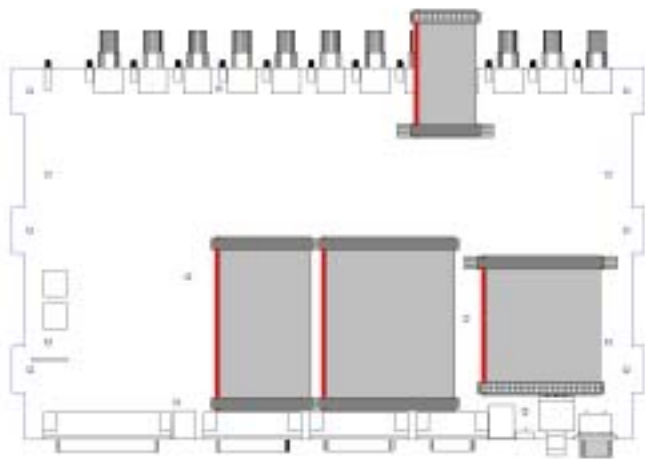
Dismantling the old 1401

1. Switch off the 1401 and remove all cables connected to it. Position it on the bench with the back towards you.
2. Undo the four countersunk screws from the rear panel of the 1401, and remove it. We provide a 2mm hex wrench for this. There is no need to disconnect the green & yellow earth wire.
3. Slide the black top panel from the outer case.
4. The inner can is now exposed. Slide it out of the case until the spade connector protruding from the left-hand side is accessible. Disconnect the spade tag (it may be quite tight) and slide the can out completely. Be careful not to splay the case sides. NB: all descriptions of left and right are as seen from the rear of the unit.
5. Unscrew the six 5mm M3 screws along the sides of the inner can. These are special screws with integral shakeproof washers ('combo screws'). Lift the lid away.
6. The 1401 motherboard is now visible. Note the two graphite-impregnated gasket strips at either side. Save these carefully; they are quite delicate. The motherboard is secured by ten 5mm M3 combo screws on the card itself and eight hex bolts ('screwlocks') that anchor the D-type connectors to the rear fold. Observing electrostatic precautions, undo all these fixings. A 6BA or a 440UNC nut spinner is the best tool for the screwlocks and also for the hex pillars.)
7. Remove the motherboard by lifting the back edge first, then sliding the front-panel BNC connectors out of the front fold. It is quite likely the shells may fall off some of the rear-panel D-type connectors; do not worry, they are easily replaced during reassembly.

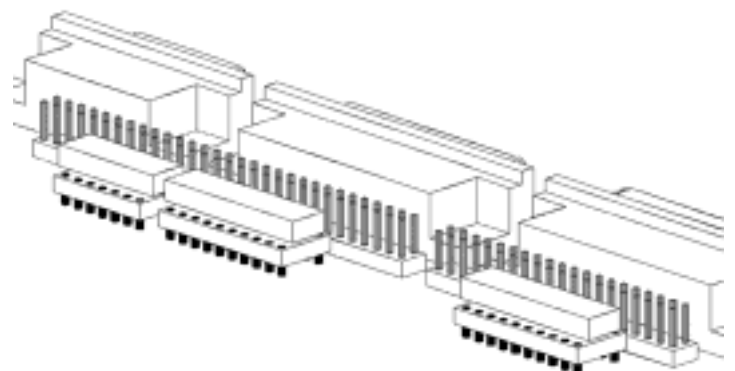
Building the new inner can

1. Solder the pin headers into their positions at the back of the motherboard. Make sure they are fully inserted and level before soldering (see diagram below). Deflux the joints afterwards.
 2. Offer the motherboard to the dual-height inner can base. First feed the BNCs through their holes, then make sure that all the LEDs line up with their holes. If any have been bent, they may be gently pushed back into position. Make sure the D-type shells are all in place, longer side uppermost, before lowering the back edge past the rear fold.
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3. Replace the eight screwlocks on the D-type connectors but do not tighten them fully.
4. The two rearmost fixing points are secured by 5mm M3 combo screws removed previously. The remaining eight fixing points are occupied by the spacer pillars. Screw them all down loosely at first, then tighten them fully. Lastly tighten the screwlocks.
5. Connect the two ribbon cables to the headers on the motherboard. The red edges go on the left. The 26-way cable points forwards, the 50-way cable backwards.
6. Connect the two digital I/O ribbon cables to the pin headers at the back of the motherboard. The red edges go on the left. Both cables point forwards.
7. Still observing electrostatic precautions, position the Spike2 top card on the pillars. Feed the 26-way and 50-way cables through the holes in the top card.
8. Ensure the LEDs are all through their holes, then screw the top card down with the remaining eight 5mm M3 combo screws.
9. Mate the four ribbon cables with their connectors.
10. Position the graphite gaskets on the motherboard. Note that they are asymmetric, and fit with the holes closer to the inside and offset to the front.
11. Fit the dual-height inner lid. Position the front lip first, then manoeuvre the back lip over the rear fold of the base. There is a retaining gusset behind the lip, and the fold fits in the gap in between.
12. Ensure that the graphite gaskets are properly lined up, e.g. by centring the holes with a pencil tip, and screw down the inner can lid with the six 5mm M3 combo screws removed previously.



Ribbon cables on motherboard



Digital I/O pin headers in situ

Extending the outer case

1. Fasten the two bright-metal stacker bars to the tops of the existing side panels using six 10mm M3 pan head screws. Do not use washers. The stacker bars are asymmetric and fit with the holes towards the inside, and the recesses upward.
2. Unscrew the four countersunk screws on the rear panel of the Spike2 outer case extension. Set the rear panel aside.
3. Place the rest of the Spike2 outer case on top of the 1401 outer case so that the front panels line up. Fasten the Spike2 case to the stacker bars with a 10mm M3 pan head screw in each corner. Do not use washers.
4. Slide the inner can assembly into the extended case until the earth spade terminal is close enough to reconnect to the earth wires. Be careful not to splay the case sides.
5. Slide the inner can home. Slide the black top panel into the top slot.
6. Replace the two rear panels, using the hex wrench provided. The assembly is now complete.



Stacker bar details

Self test

Connect only the power cable to the 1401 and switch on. At the end of its power-up self test, the 1401 red test LED should go out indicating that all is well and the unit is ready for use. If the red test LED flashes, this indicates an error. If this happens you should re-check all the steps for mistakes. Contact the CED service department if the problem persists.

Software configuration

Top cards contain identifying information in a small non-volatile memory chip. The 1401 monitor will detect the presence of the Spike2 top card as soon as the machine is powered up. To verify this, open the TRY1432 utility (typically, by selecting *Start, Run, Test1401, Try1432*) and select *1401info...* from the *File* menu. You will see a new line that identifies the top card type, and reports its issue and serial number. Application programs such as Signal and Spike2 accommodate the expanded hardware immediately; the new event input and digital output channels behave just like the original ones.