

Corrections & Updates

Simple Rechargeable AA Cell Characteriser

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Resistor R3 is not shown in the circuit diagram. R3 is a 10-k pull-up resistor between the gate of T1 and the +5 V supply rail. It is present on the printed circuit board. R4 is a leaded component, not an SMD as suggested by the parts list.

Just after printing this article a problem occurred with the software supplied by the author. For this software to run, the user's PC must have Microsoft Java installed. For various reasons Microsoft is no longer allowed to use the name 'Java' and the relevant program is no longer found on the Internet (but Google for MSJAVx86.exe and you will still be able to find it).

No problems are usually encountered on PCs running Windows 95 or 98 as MS-Java will be resident and the program AA-CELL msjava.ZIP may be run without problems. The author has adapted his software to avoid the use of MS-Java. This requires changes to the installation. The following steps are recommended.

1. Install the 1-Wire drivers including .NET support (note when to actually connect the circuit, this is indicated during the installation; start without the circuit connected to the USB).

http://files.dalsemi.com/auto_id/licensed/install_1_wire_drivers_v400.msi

2. Download Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 redistributable package and install it (heft file at 23 Mbytes)

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=0856EACB-4362-4B0D-8EDD-AAB15C5E04F5&displaylang=en>

3. Download Microsoft Visual J# 2.0 Redistributable Package and install it.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=F72C74B3-ED0E-4AF8-AE63-2F0E42501BE1&displaylang=en>

4. Download the project software (AA-CELL dotnet.zip) from the Elektor website and install it.

5. Start → Programs → 1-Wire Drivers → start Default 1-Wire Net and select the DS9490 (USB) adapter.

6. Start → Programs → Maxim Integrated Products → AAcclchar

That completes the modified installation procedure.