

Note to Visual Basic for DOS Users

This note explains Visual Basic for DOS programming information not included in the *NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS* (part number 320282-01).

Running Visual Basic for DOS Application Programs

The Microsoft Professional BASIC language interface is compatible with Visual Basic for DOS; however, you must first recreate all QuickLibraries using the file `LINK.EXE` and the library support files `VBDOS.LIB` and `VBDOSQLB.LIB`. These files are part of Visual Basic for DOS. The following steps show you how to recreate your QuickLibraries using `LINK.EXE`, the library support files, and Microsoft Professional BASIC files `MBIB.OBJ` and `MBDECL.BAS` in Visual Basic for DOS application programs.

1. You must include `MBDECL.BAS` at the beginning of your application program. To do this, enter the following command in the module-level code:

```
'$INCLUDE: 'MBDECL.BAS'
```

Do not list `MBDECL.BAS` in a project `.MAK` file.

Enter Steps 2 through 4 at the command line.

2. To set up the Visual Basic environment, first create a QuickLibrary with the language interface. To create the QuickLibrary `VBIB.QLB`, enter the following command:

```
Link /Q MBIB.OBJ VBDOS.LIB,VBIB.QLB, ,VBDOSQLB.LIB;
```

3. If you are going to make an EXE file in the Visual Basic environment, you must create an object module library. To create the parallel object-module library `VBIB.LIB`, enter the following command:

```
LIB VBIB.LIB+MBIB.OBJ+VBDOS.LIB;
```

4. You must specify the library that the Visual Basic for DOS environment uses. To specify the `VBIB.QLB` library, enter the following command:

```
VBDOS APPLIC /L VBIB.QLB
```

Visual Basic for DOS Calling Syntax

The *NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS* contains Microsoft Professional BASIC and Microsoft QuickBASIC formats and examples for the NI-488.2 routines and NI-488 functions. The syntax for each routine and function in the *NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS* is compatible with your Visual Basic application programs.

Do not pass dynamic arrays to the asynchronous functions IBRDIA and IBWRTIA. Visual Basic for DOS might move the arrays in memory during an I/O operation.

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