
AVR523: Migration from ATmega8 to ATmega8A



8-bit **AVR**[®]
Microcontrollers

1 Introduction

In order to optimize the manufacturing process and to further reduce current consumption, an optimized version of ATmega8 has been introduced.

The ATmega8A is a functionally identical, drop-in replacement for the ATmega8. All devices are subject to the same qualification process and same set of production tests, but as the manufacturing process is not the same some electrical characteristics differ.

ATmega8 and ATmega8A have separate datasheets. This application note outlines the differences between the two devices and the datasheets. There is also a detailed change log to assist the user at the end of the ATmega8A datasheet. Remember to always use the latest revision of the device datasheet.

Minor differences in typical characteristics are not discussed in this document as long as the low and high limits remain the same. For detailed information about the typical characteristics, see sections "Electrical Characteristics" and "Typical Characteristics" of the device datasheets.

Note: This application note serves as a guide to ease migration. For complete device details, always refer to the most recent version of the ATmega8A datasheet.

Application Note

Rev. 8164A-AVR-05/09



2 Changes in Characteristics

This section outlines major differences in characteristics that may have an effect on the application in which the device is used. For detailed information, refer to the most recent version of the device datasheets.

2.1 Current Consumption

Active and Idle mode current consumption of the device has been reduced significantly. The tables below present typical current consumption figures at room temperature. All values are taken from device datasheets, unless otherwise noted.

Table 2-1. Typical Current Consumption of Device at Room Temperature

Mode	Condition	ATmega8	ATmega8A	Change
Active	V _{CC} =3V, f=4 MHz	3 mA	2mA	- 33%
	V _{CC} =5V, f=8 MHz	11 mA	6 mA	- 45%
Idle	V _{CC} =3V, f=4 MHz	1 mA	0.5 mA	- 50%
	V _{CC} =5V, f=8 MHz	4.5 mA	2.2 mA	- 51%

2.2 VOL Levels

In Table 2-2 are listed differences in output voltage levels.

Table 2-2. Changes to VOL and VOH Levels

Symbol	Parameter	Condition	ATmega8		ATmega8A		Units
			Min	Max	Min	Max	
V _{OL}	Output Low Voltage (Ports A - G)	I _{OL} =20mA, V _{CC} =5V	-	0.7	-	0.9	V
		I _{OL} =10mA, V _{CC} =3V	-	0.5	-	0.6	V

2.3 Voltage Reference Levels

In Table 2-3 are listed differences in reference voltage levels.

Table 2-3. Changes to Internal Voltage Reference Levels

Symbol	Parameter	ATmega8			ATmega8A			Unit
		Min	Typ	Max	Min	Typ	Max	
V _{INT}	Internal Voltage Reference	2.3	2.56	2.7	2.3	2.56	2.8	V

3 Datasheet Changes

For a summary of changes, see the revision history at the end of the ATmega8A datasheet.



Headquarters

Atmel Corporation
2325 Orchard Parkway
San Jose, CA 95131
USA
Tel: 1(408) 441-0311
Fax: 1(408) 487-2600

International

Atmel Asia
Unit 1-5 & 16, 19/F
BEA Tower, Millennium City 5
418 Kwun Tong Road
Kwun Tong, Kowloon
Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2245-6100
Fax: (852) 2722-1369

Atmel Europe
Le Krebs
8, Rue Jean-Pierre Timbaud
BP 309
78054 Saint-Quentin-en-
Yvelines Cedex
France
Tel: (33) 1-30-60-70-00
Fax: (33) 1-30-60-71-11

Atmel Japan
9F, Tonetsu Shinkawa Bldg.
1-24-8 Shinkawa
Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0033
Japan
Tel: (81) 3-3523-3551
Fax: (81) 3-3523-7581

Product Contact

Web Site
www.atmel.com

Technical Support
avr@atmel.com

Sales Contact
www.atmel.com/contacts

Literature Request
www.atmel.com/literature

Disclaimer: The information in this document is provided in connection with Atmel products. No license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any intellectual property right is granted by this document or in connection with the sale of Atmel products. **EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN ATMEL'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE LOCATED ON ATMEL'S WEB SITE, ATMEL ASSUMES NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER AND DISCLAIMS ANY EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY WARRANTY RELATING TO ITS PRODUCTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, OR NON-INFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL ATMEL BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, PUNITIVE, SPECIAL OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES FOR LOSS OF PROFITS, BUSINESS INTERRUPTION, OR LOSS OF INFORMATION) ARISING OUT OF THE USE OR INABILITY TO USE THIS DOCUMENT, EVEN IF ATMEL HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.** Atmel makes no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this document and reserves the right to make changes to specifications and product descriptions at any time without notice. Atmel does not make any commitment to update the information contained herein. Unless specifically provided otherwise, Atmel products are not suitable for, and shall not be used in, automotive applications. Atmel's products are not intended, authorized, or warranted for use as components in applications intended to support or sustain life.

© 2009 Atmel Corporation. All rights reserved. Atmel®, Atmel logo and combinations thereof, AVR® and others, are the registered trademarks or trademarks of Atmel Corporation or its subsidiaries. Other terms and product names may be trademarks of others.