Future Technology Devices International Ltd.

UC232R "ChiPi" Minimum Component FT232RL USB to RS232 Converter Cable

Incorporating Clock Generator Output and FTDIChip-ID™ Security Dongle

The **UC232R** *"ChiPi" is a USB to RS232 converter cable incorporating FTDI's FT232RL USB - Serial UART interface IC device, the latest device to be added to FTDI's range of USB UART interface Integrated Circuit Devices. It has been designed to use the minimum number of*

The FT232RL is a USB to serial UART interface with optional clock generator output, and the new FTDIChip-ID™ security dongle feature. In addition, asynchronous and synchronous bit bang interface modes are available. USB to serial interface designs using the FT232RL have been further simplified by fully integrating the external EEPROM, clock circuit and USB resistors onto the device.

The FT232RL adds two new functions compared with its predecessors, effectively making it a "3-in-1" chip for some application areas. The internally generated clock (6MHz, 12MHz, 24MHz, and 48MHz) can be brought out of the device and used to drive a microcontroller or external logic. A unique number (the FTDIChip-ID™) is burnt into the device during manufacture and is readable over USB, thus forming the basis of a security dongle which can be used to protect customer application software from being copied.

The UC232R is supplied on a 16.2 mm x 41.3mm (0.6" x 1.6") PCB, including the DB9 connector. A 295mm (11.8") USB cable with USB 'A' plug is fitted. All components used, including the FT232RL and RS232 level converter IC are Pb-free (RoHS compliant).

1. Features

1.1 Hardware Features

- UC232R Converter Cable provides USB to RS232 (DB9) interface.
- FCC and CE Class B Approval
- Full design files available from FTDI website.
- FT232RL provides single chip USB to asynchronous serial data transfer interface.
- Entire USB protocol handled on the FT232RL chip - No USB-specific firmware programming required.
- UART interface support for 7 or 8 data bits, 1 or 2 stop bits and odd / even / mark / space / no parity.
- Fully assisted hardware or X-On / X-Off software handshaking.
- Data transfer rates from 300 baud to 250 kilobaud at RS232 levels.
- FTDI's royalty-free VCP and D2XX drivers eliminate the requirement for USB driver development in most cases.
- In-built support for event characters and line break condition.
- New USB FTDIChip-ID™ feature.
- FIFO receive and transmit buffers for high data throughput.
- Adjustable receive buffer timeout.
- Integrated 1024 bit internal EEPROM for storing USB VID, PID, serial number and product description strings.

- Device supplied preprogrammed with unique USB serial number.
- Support for USB suspend and resume.
- Converter cable supply voltage comes from VCC - no external supply required.
- FT232RL has integrated USB resistors.
- Integrated power-on-reset circuit in FT232RL IC device.
- Fully integrated clock in FT232RL - no external crystal, oscillator, or resonator required.
- FT232RL has fully integrated AVCC supply filtering - No separate AVCC pin and no external R-C filter required.
- USB bulk transfer mode.
- Low operating and USB suspend current.
- Low USB bandwidth consumption.
- UHCI / OHCI / EHCI host controller compatible
- USB 2.0 Full Speed compatible.
- -40°C to 85°C extended operating temperature range.
- Supplied on 16.2 mm x 41.3mm (0.6" x 1.6") 61.0mm x 32.0mm (2.40" x 1.26") PCB, including DB9 RS232 connector.
- Connect to a PC via standard USB 'A' plug on 30cm USB cable.

1.2 Driver Support

Royalty-Free VIRTUAL COM PORT (VCP) DRIVERS for...
- Windows 98, 98SE, ME, 2000, Server 2003, XP.
- Windows Vista / Longhorn*
- Windows XP 64-bit.*
- Windows XP Embedded.
- Windows CE.NET 4.2 & 5.0
- MAC OS 8 / 9, OS-X
- Linux 2.4 and greater

Royalty-Free D2XX *Direct* Drivers (USB Drivers + DLL S/W Interface)
- Windows 98, 98SE, ME, 2000, Server 2003, XP.
- Windows Vista / Longhorn*
- Windows XP 64-bit.*
- Windows XP Embedded.
- Windows CE.NET 4.2 & 5.0
- Linux 2.4 and greater

The drivers listed above are all available to download for free from the FTDI website. Various 3rd Party Drivers are also available for various other operating systems - see the FTDI website for details.

* Currently Under Development. Contact FTDI for availability.
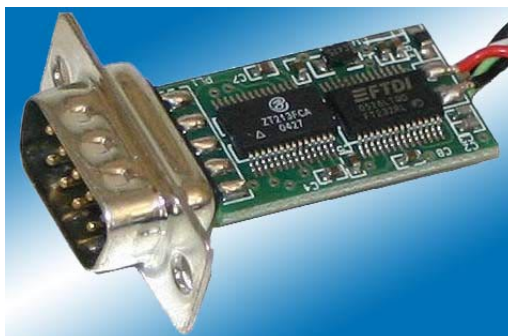
1.3 Typical Applications

- USB to RS232 Converter
- Upgrading Legacy Peripherals to USB
- USB Audio and Low Bandwidth Video data transfer
- PDA to USB data transfer
- USB Smart Card Readers
- USB Instrumentation
- USB Industrial Control
- USB MP3 Player Interface

- USB FLASH Card Reader / Writers
- Set Top Box PC - USB interface
- USB Digital Camera Interface
- USB Hardware Modems
- USB Wireless Modems
- USB Bar Code Readers
- USB Software / Hardware Encryption Dongles

2. Features and Enhancements of FT232R

2.1 FT232R Key Features

This section summarises the key features and enhancements of the FT232R IC device which is used on the UC232R "ChiPi" USB to RS232 converter cable. For further details, consult the FT232R datasheet, which is available from the FTDI website.

Integrated Clock Circuit - Previous generations of FTDI's USB UART devices required an external crystal or ceramic resonator. The clock circuit has now been integrated onto the device meaning that no crystal or ceramic resonator is required. However, if required, an external 12MHz crystal can be used as the clock source.

Integrated EEPROM - Previous generations of FTDI's USB UART devices required an external EEPROM if the device were to use USB Vendor ID (VID), Product ID (PID), serial number and product description strings other than the default values in the device itself. This external EEPROM has now been integrated onto the FT232R chip meaning that all designs have the option to change the product description strings. A user area of the internal EEPROM is available for storing additional data. The internal EEPROM is programmable in circuit, over USB without any additional voltage requirement.

Preprogrammed EEPROM - The FT232R is supplied with its internal EEPROM preprogrammed with a serial number which is unique to each individual device. This, in most cases, will remove the need to program the device EEPROM.

Integrated USB Resistors - Previous generations of FTDI's USB UART devices required two external series resistors on the USBDP and USBDM lines, and a 1.5 kΩ pull up resistor on USBDP. These three resistors have now been integrated onto the device.

Integrated AVCC Filtering - Previous generations of FTDI's USB UART devices had a separate AVCC pin - the supply to the internal PLL. This pin required an external R-C filter. The separate AVCC pin is now connected internally to VCC, and the filter has now been integrated onto the chip.

Less External Components - Integration of the crystal, EEPROM, USB resistors, and AVCC filter will substantially reduce the bill of materials cost for USB interface designs using the FT232R compared to its FT232BM predecessor.

Configurable CBUS I/O Pin Options - There are now 5 configurable Control Bus (CBUS) lines. Options are **TXDEN** - transmit enable for RS485 designs, **PWREN#** - Power control for high power, bus powered designs, **TXLED#** - for pulsing an LED upon transmission of data, **RXLED#** - for pulsing an LED upon receiving data, **TX&RXLED#** - which will pulse an LED upon transmission OR reception of data, **SLEEP#** - indicates that the device going into USB suspend mode, **CLK48 / CLK24 / CLK12 / CLK6** - 48MHz, 24MHz,12MHz, and 6MHz clock output signal options. There is also the option to bring out bit bang mode read and write strobes (see below). The CBUS lines can be configured with any one of these output options by setting bits in the internal EEPROM. The device is supplied with the most commonly used pin definitions preprogrammed - see Section 8 for details.

Enhanced Asynchronous Bit Bang Mode with RD# and WR# Strobes - The FT232R supports FTDI's BM chip bit bang mode. In bit bang mode, the eight UART lines can be switched from the regular interface mode to an 8-bit general purpose I/O port. Data packets can be sent to the device and they will be sequentially sent to the interface at a rate controlled by an internal timer (equivalent to the baud rate prescaler). With the FT232R device this mode has been enhanced so that the internal RD# and WR# strobes are now brought out of the device which can be used to allow external logic to be clocked by accesses to the bit bang I/O bus. This option will be described more fully in a separate application note.

Synchronous Bit Bang Mode - Synchronous bit bang mode differs from asynchronous bit bang mode in that the interface pins are only read when the device is written to. Thus making it easier for the controlling program to measure the response to an output stimulus as the data returned is synchronous to the output data. The feature was previously seen in FTDI's FT2232C device. This option will be described more fully in a separate application note.

CBUS Bit Bang Mode - This mode allows four of the CBUS pins to be individually configured as GPIO pins, similar to Asynchronous bit bang mode. It is possible to use this mode while the UART interface is being used, thus providing up to four general purpose I/O pins which are available during normal operation. An application note describing this feature is available separately from the FTDI website.

Lower Supply Voltage - Previous generations of the chip required 5V supply on the VCC pin. The FT232R will work with a Vcc supply in the range 3.3V - 5.25V. Bus powered designs would still take their supply from the 5V on the USB bus, but for self powered designs where only 3.3V is available and there is no 5V supply there is no longer any need for an additional external regulator.

Integrated Level Converter on UART Interface and Control Signals - VCCIO pin supply can be from 1.8V to 5V. Connecting the VCCIO pin to 1.8V, 2.8V, or 3.3V allows the device to directly interface to 1.8V, 2.8V or 3.3V and other logic families without the need for external level converter I.C. devices.

5V / 3.3V / 2.8V / 1.8V Logic Interface - The FT232R provides *true* CMOS Drive Outputs and TTL level Inputs.

Integrated Power-On-Reset (POR) Circuit- The device incorporates an internal POR function. A RESET# pin is available in order to allow external logic to reset the FT232R where required. However, for many applications the RESET# pin can be left unconnected, or pulled up to VCCIO.

Lower Operating and Suspend Current - The device operating supply current has been further reduced to 15mA, and the suspend current has been reduced to around 70µA. This allows greater margin for peripheral designs to meet the USB suspend current limit of 500µA.

Low USB Bandwidth Consumption - The operation of the USB interface to the FT232R has been designed to use as little as possible of the total USB bandwidth available from the USB host controller.

High Output Drive Option - The UART interface and CBUS I/O pins can be made to drive out at three times the standard signal drive level thus allowing multiple devices to be driven, or devices that require a greater signal drive strength to be interfaced to the FT232R. This option is enabled in the internal EEPROM.

Power Management Control for USB Bus Powered, High Current Designs- The PWREN# signal can be used to directly drive a transistor or P-Channel MOSFET in applications where power switching of external circuitry is required. An option in the internal EEPROM makes the device gently pull down on its UART interface lines when the power is shut off (PWREN# is high). In this mode any residual voltage on external circuitry is bled to GND when power is removed, thus ensuring that external circuitry controlled by PWREN# resets reliably when power is restored.

UART Pin Signal Inversion - The sense of each of the eight UART signals can be individually inverted by setting options in the internal EEPROM. Thus, CTS# (active low) can be changed to CTS (active high), or TXD can be changed to TXD#.

FTDIChip-ID™ - Each FT232R is assigned a unique number which is burnt into the device at manufacture. This ID number cannot be reprogrammed by product manufacturers or end-users. This allows the possibility of using FT232R based dongles for software licensing. Further to this, a renewable license scheme can be implemented based on the FTDIChip-ID™ number when encrypted with other information. This encrypted number can be stored in the user area of the FT232R internal EEPROM, and can be decrypted, then compared with the protected FTDIChip-ID™ to verify that a license is valid. Web based applications can be used to maintain product licensing this way. An application note describing this feature is available separately from the FTDI website.

Improved EMI Performance - The reduced operating current and improved on-chip VCC decoupling significantly improves the ease of PCB design requirements in order to meet FCC, CE and other EMI related specifications.

Programmable Receive Buffer Timeout - The receive buffer timeout is used to flush remaining data from the receive buffer. This time defaults to 16ms, but is programmable over USB in 1ms increments from 1ms to 255ms, thus allowing the device to be optimised for protocols that require fast response times from short data packets.

Baud Rates - The FT232R supports all standard baud rates and non-standard baud rates from 300 Baud up to 3 Megabaud. Achievable non-standard baud rates are calculated as follows -

Baud Rate = 3000000 / (n + x)

where n can be any integer between 2 and 16,384 (= 2^{14}) and x can be a sub-integer of the value 0, 0.125, 0.25, 0.375, 0.5, 0.625, 0.75, or 0.875. When n = 1, x = 0, i.e. baud rate divisors with values between 1 and 2 are not possible.
This gives achievable baud rates in the range 183.1 baud to 3,000,000 baud. When a non-standard baud rate is required simply pass the required baud rate value to the driver as normal, and the FTDI driver will calculate the required divisor, and set the baud rate. See FTDI application note AN232B-05 for more details.

Extended Operating Temperature Range - The FT232R operates over an extended temperature range of -40° to +85° C thus allowing the device to be used in automotive and industrial applications.

New Package Options - The FT232R is available in two packages - a compact 28 pin SSOP (FT232RL) and an ultra-compact 5mm x 5mm pinless QFN-32 package (FT232RQ). Both packages are lead (Pb) free, and use a 'green' compound. Both packages are fully compliant with European Union directive 2002/95/EC. The MM232R module uses a FT232RQ device in its design.
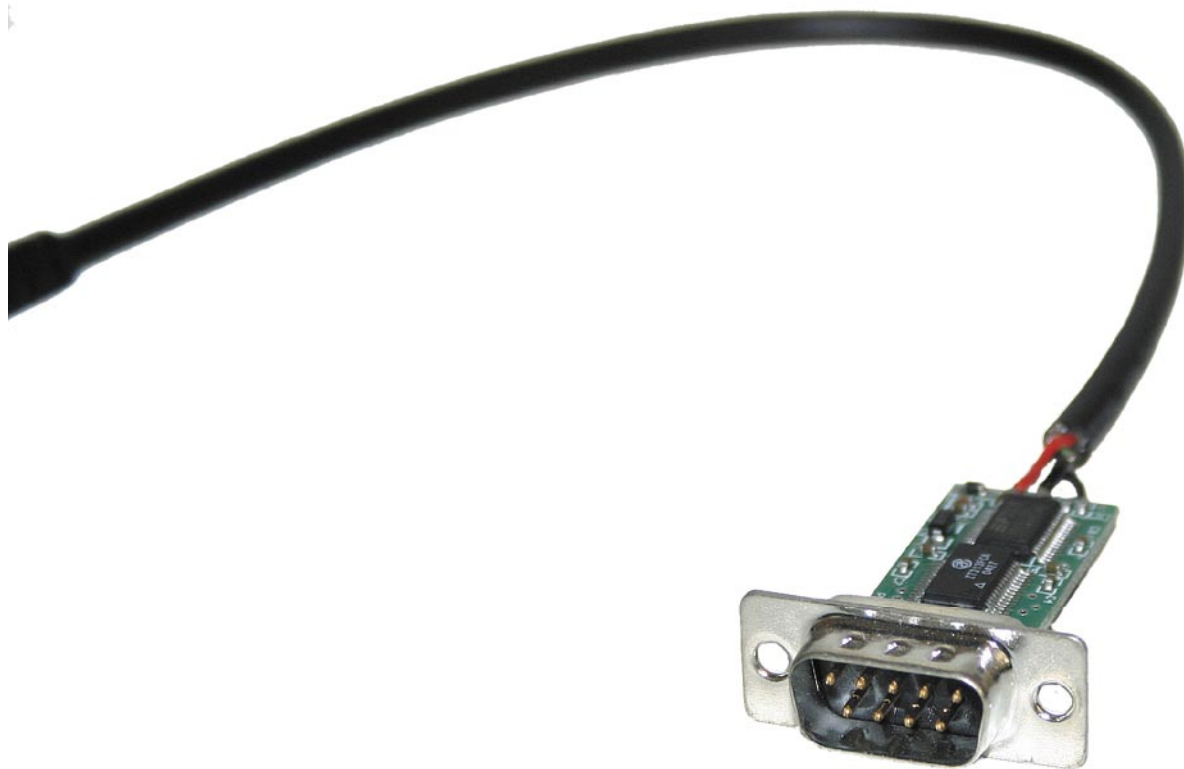

Figure 1 - The UC232R "ChiPi" USB to RS232 Converter Cable.

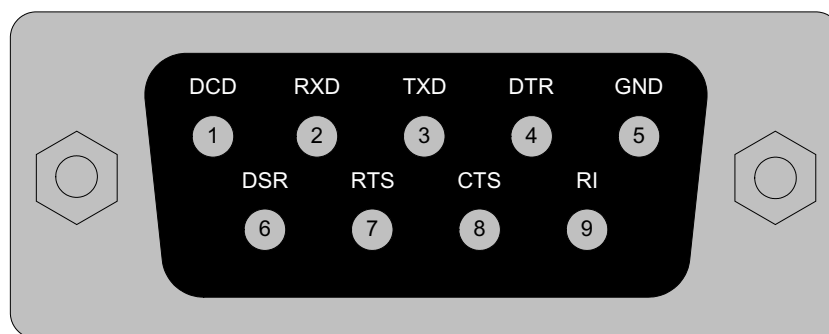# 3. UC232R Pin Out and Signal Descriptions

3.1 UC232R Pin Out

DCD RXD TXD DTR GND
1   2   3   4   5
  DSR RTS CTS RI
   6   7   8   9

Figure 2 - UC232R RS232 (DB9) Pin Out

3.2 RS232 Signal Descriptions

Table 1 - RS232 Signals

| DB9 pin No.	Name	Type	Description
1	DCD	Input	Data Carrier Detect control input
2	RXDATA	Input	Receive Asynchronous Data input.
3	TXDATA	Output	Transmit Asynchronous Data output.
4	DTR	Output	Data Terminal Ready control output / Handshake signal
5	GND	GND	Device groud supply pin.
6	DSR	Input	Data Set Ready control input / Handshake signal
7	RTS	Output	Request To Send Control Output / Handshake signal.
8	CTS	Input	Clear to Send Control input / Handshake signal.
9	RI	Input	Ring Indicator control input. When remote wakeup is enabled in the FT232RL's internal EEPROM taking RI# low can be used to resume the PC USB host controller from suspend.

4. UC232R Dimensions
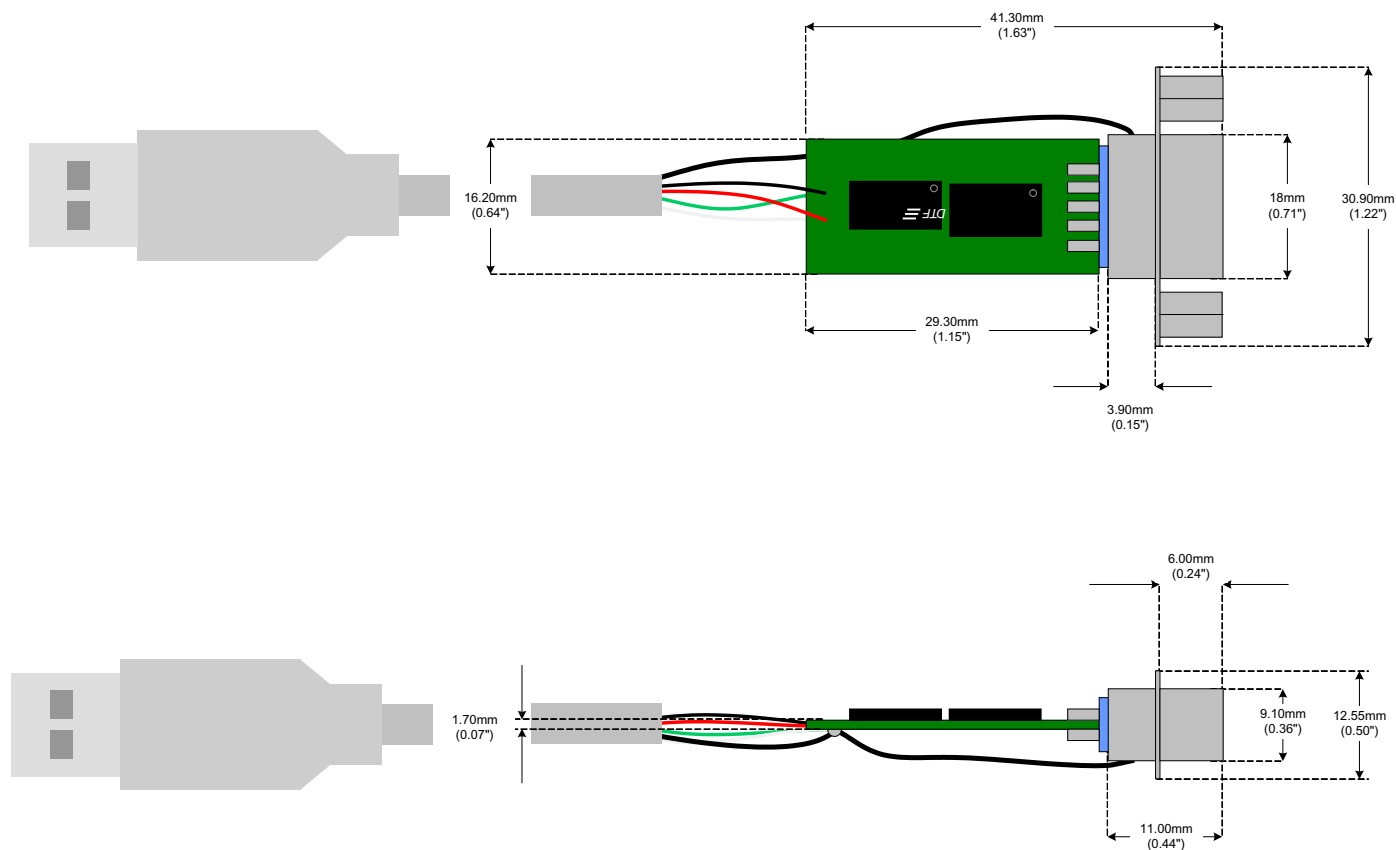
Figure 3 - UC232R "ChiPi" USB to RS232 Converter Dimensions

All dimensions are stated in millimeters, with inches in parenthesis.

The FT232RL used on the UC232R is supplied in a RoHS compliant 28 pinSSOP package. The package is lead (Pb) free and uses a 'green' compound. The date code format is **YYXX** where XX = 2 digit week number, YY = 2 digit year number.

The UC232R module uses exclusivly lead free components.

Both the I.C. device and the module are fully compliant with European Union directive 2002/95/EC.

5. UC232R Circuit Schematic

Figure 4 shows the UC232R "ChiPi" circuit schematic. For the UC232R the FT232RL has been used in combination with a Zywyn ZT213LEEA to make a USB to RS232 converter. The Zywyn ZT213LEEA is used to make the TTL to RS232 level conversion and is capable of RS232 communication at up to 250 kilobaud baud.

Figure 4 - UC232R "ChiPi" USB to RS232 Converter Cable Circuit Schematic
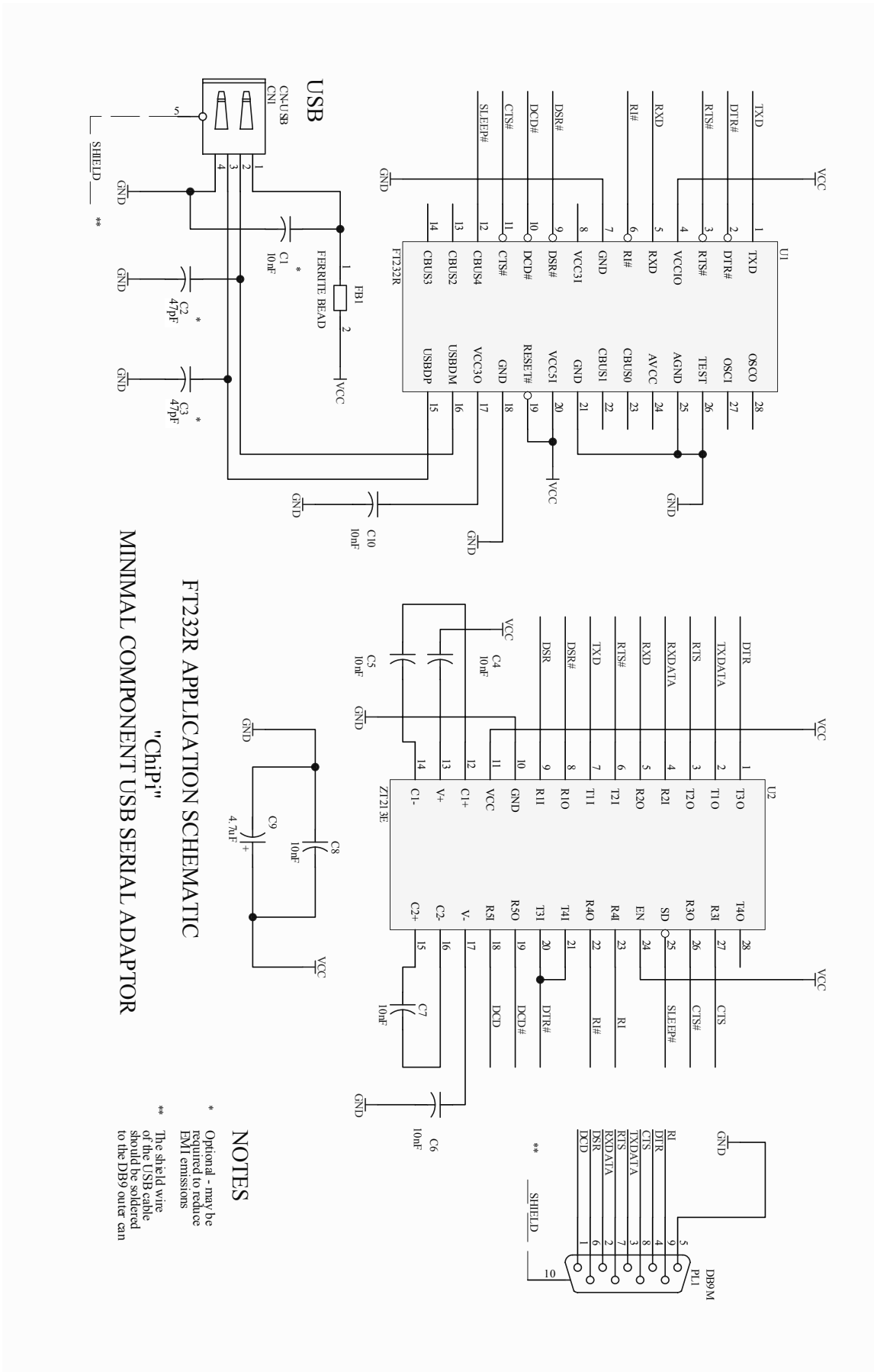
6. Internal EEPROM Configuration

Following a power-on reset or a USB reset the FT232R will scan its internal EEPROM and read the USB configuration descriptors stored there. The default values programmed into the internal EEPROM in the FT232RL used on the UC232R are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 - Default Internal EEPROM Configuration

Parameter	Value	Notes
USB Vendor ID (VID)	0403h	FTDI default VID (hex)
USB Product ID (PID)	6001h	FTDI default PID (hex)
Serial Number Enabled?	Yes	
Serial Number	*See Note*	A unique serial number is generated and programmed into the EEPROM during final test of the UC232R module.
Pull Down I/O Pins in USB Suspend	Disabled	Enabling this option will make the device pull down on the UART interface lines when the power is shut off (PWREN# is high)
Manufacturer Name	FTDI	
Manufacturer ID	FT	
Product Description	Chipi USB <-> Serial	
Max Bus Power Current	100mA	
Power Source	Bus Powered	
Device Type	FT232R	
USB Version	0200	Returns USB 2.0 device descriptor to the host. Note: The device is be a USB 2.0 Full Speed device (12Mb/s) as opposed to a USB 2.0 High Speed device (480Mb/s).
Remote Wake up	Enabled	Taking RI# low will wake up the USB host controller from suspend.
High Current I/Os	Disabled	Enables the high drive level on the UART and CBUS I/O pins
Load VCP Driver	Enabled	Makes the device load the VCP driver interface for the device.
CBUS0	PWREN#	Default configuration of CBUS0 - Power enable. Low after USB enumeration, high during USB suspend.
CBUS1	PWREN#	Default configuration of CBUS1 - Power enable. Low after USB enumeration, high during USB suspend.
CBUS2	PWREN#	Default configuration of CBUS2 - Power enable. Low after USB enumeration, high during USB suspend.
CBUS3	PWREN#	Default configuration of CBUS3 - Power enable. Low after USB enumeration, high during USB suspend.
CBUS4	SLEEP#	Default configuration of CBUS4 - Low during USB suspend. Used to power down the UC232R's RS232 level converter IC.
Invert TXD	Disabled	Signal on this pin becomes TXD# if enabled.
Invert RXD	Disabled	Signal on this pin becomes RXD# if enabled.
Invert RTS#	Disabled	Signal on this pin becomes RTS if enabled.
Invert CTS#	Disabled	Signal on this pin becomes CTS if enabled.
Invert DTR#	Disabled	Signal on this pin becomes DTR if enabled.
Invert DSR#	Disabled	Signal on this pin becomes DSR if enabled.
Invert DCD#	Disabled	Signal on this pin becomes DCD if enabled.
Invert RI#	Disabled	Signal on this pin becomes RI if enabled.

The internal EEPROM in the FT232R can be programmed over USB using the utility program MPROG. MPROG can be downloaded from the FTDI website. Version 2.8a or later is required for the FT232R chip. Users who do not have their own USB Vendor ID but who would like to use a unique Product ID in their design can apply to FTDI for a free block of unique PIDs. Contact FTDI support for this service.

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