

Adrienne Electronics Corporation

“PCI-TC HOST PC PROBLEMS”

FIELD APPLICATION NOTE

Introduction:

We have discovered that there are some host PC's which do not properly support our PCI-TC boards. Here are the known problems and their solutions.

Problem #1 - Missing Analog -12V Power Source:

One customer reported moving a PCI-LTC/RG1 analog LTC reader/generator board from an old PC to a new PC. The board worked fine in the old PC, but would not read LTC in the new PC. Furthermore, the LTC output amplitude was greatly reduced in the new PC. Investigation showed that there was no analog -12V power coming from the host PC.

Solution #1 - Always Use a PCI Compliant Host PC:

If the host PC does not supply analog -12V power to PCI plug-in boards, then that PC is not PCI standard compliant. Yes, most PCI boards will continue to operate properly, because most PCI boards do not use -12V. But standards exist for a reason, and many PCI boards with analog interfaces (like PCI-TC) do need the -12V power source on PCI connector pin “B1”. See the Wikipedia article titled “Conventional PCI”. It is possible that the motherboard is OK, but the host PC's power supply has no -12V output, in which case a PCI compatible power supply is needed. It is time to have an honest and frank discussion with your host PC vendor as to why they are selling you a PC with PCI slots which are not compatible with the PCI standard.

THAT'S ALL!