Parts List





MAPLIN Item Source No 15-way D socket BK59P **BK600** 15-way D cover 2.1 mm power socket **RK37S** FG87U 20-way IDC connector (BBC) 24-way edge connector (C64) BK74R strip self-adhesive pads HB22Y MISCELLANEOUS 12-way ribbon cable 4m 20-way ribbon cable (BBC) 1m 12v1 amp DC supply

Interfacing To The User Port

Having completed the internal connections for the Workshop robot we have to design a simple interface board to allow us to control the robot from the user port and to supply the 12v DC required by the stepper motors.

Cut a 24 strip by 14 hole piece of veroboard and connect three metres of 12-way ribbon cable to the board as shown. Using the red stripe down one edge of the ribbon cable as a guide, solder the 12 wires to the relevant pins of a D socket as shown and fit the D socket cover to secure the cable.

Mount the 2.1mm power socket on the board, noting the orientation of the pins. The central pole of this socket is negative. Then make the wire links as shown. The user port connections are also shown but here BBC Micro and Commodore 64 owners must part company as the user port plugs for each machine are different

Making Connections

Once the motor connections have been made it remains only to make the appropriate connections to the D plug, mounted on the lid of the robot body. The diagram shows the relevant pin connections for the D plug, viewed from the underside of the lid. Using a short length of 12-way ribbon cable, connect the data lines, D0 to D3, the +5v, the +12v and earth connections to the circuit board. Again, you must refer to the circuit board diagram given on page 837 for the correct wiring positions for these lines to the circuit board. Take special care to ensure that the +12v power line is connected to the correct point on the circuit board. Failure to do this could damage the internal circuits of your computer. Note that the data lines. D4 to D7, are not to be connected at this stage, as they are reserved for the input sensors we shall be adding to the robot in future instalments.

All the connections inside the robot are now complete. Find a suitable place inside the case for the circuit board to rest and secure it with selfadhesive pads. Close the lid and secure with the four corner screws supplied