

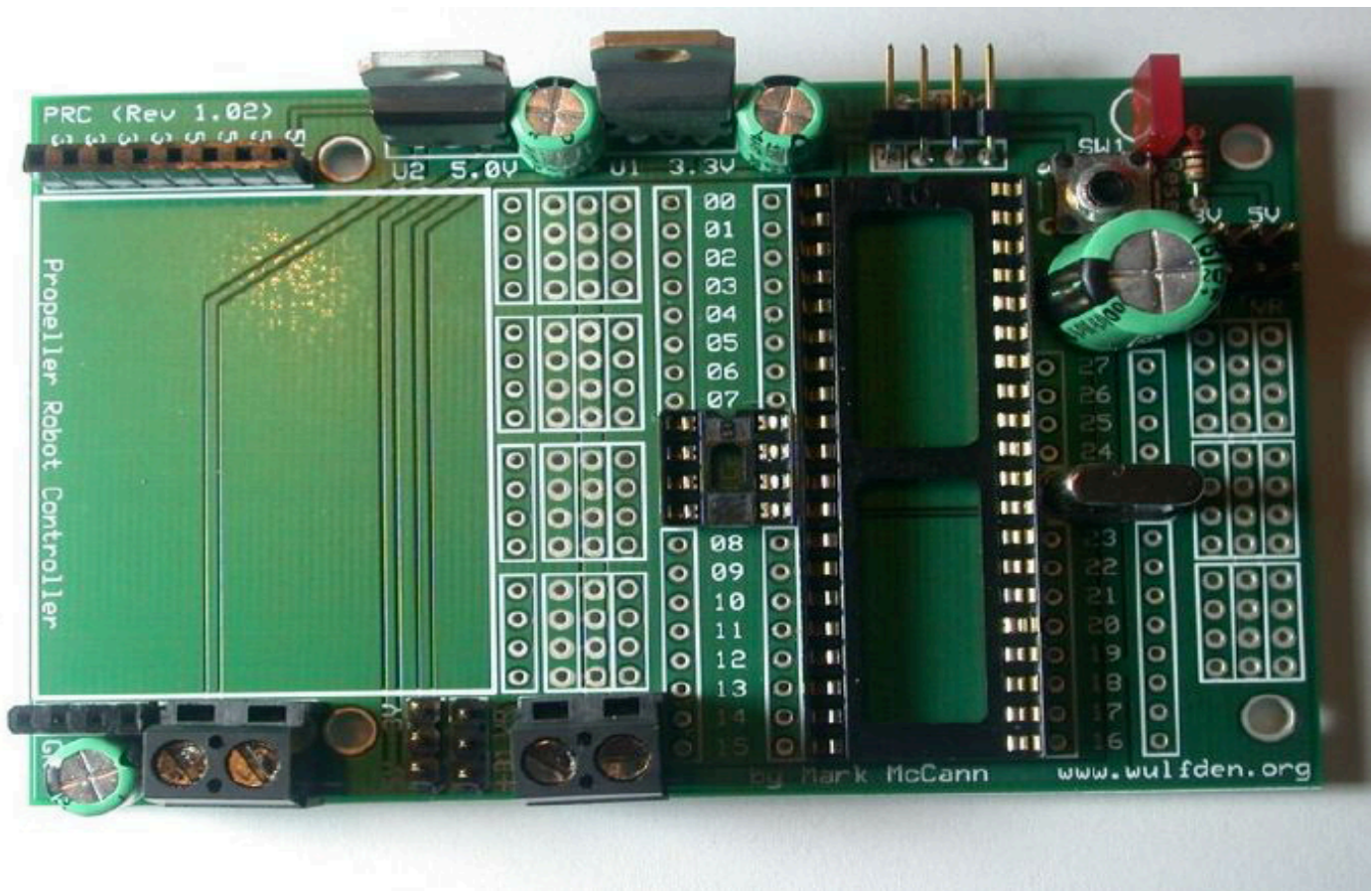
Propeller Robot Controller ver. 1.02

Mark McCann
Brian Riley (N1BQ)

Preliminary 8/4/2006

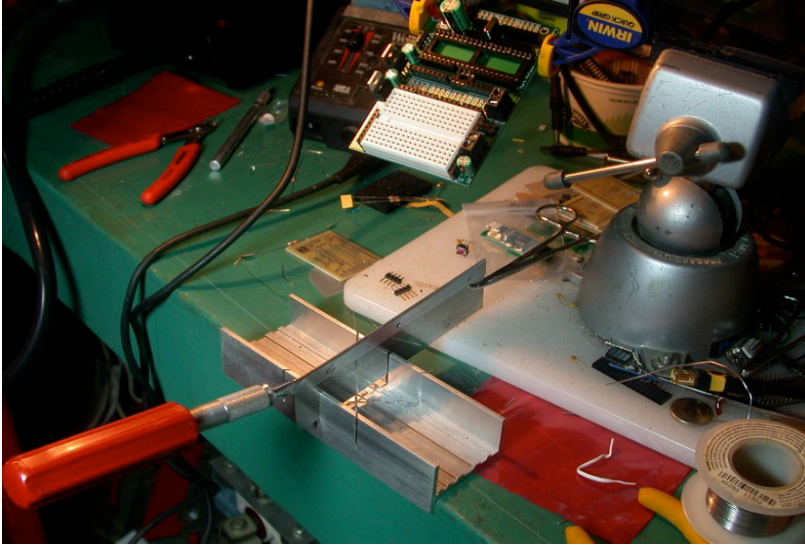


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Builder's Notes



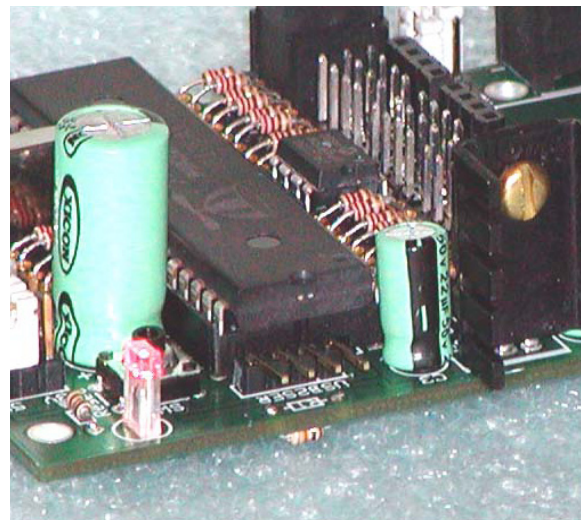
(1) This is a RoHS compliant board. I have seen no problem soldering to the new tinning. However Mark designed the board with extensive ground planes. This added surface area makes soldering your ground more difficult. I found that I had to run my iron up to 800F (I usually run it at 710F) to get a good reasonably quick 'flow' when soldering the grounds. the rest were fine at 710F. The two power blocks and the 1000 uF cap grounds I had to solder at 850F as hot as my iron would go to get a good reasonably quick 'flow.'

(2) Put the 1000 uF cap and the two screwblock power connectors in last they each have small things next to them that are easier to insert and solder if the biggies aren't there.

(3) you will be happy to hear that Mark called the hole sizes for the .100 socket headers just right and they insert needing just a hint of force, meaning they will stay in place when the board is inverted to solder them. The 8 and 40 pin DIP sockets also stay in place when inverted

(4) See photo below. I have supplied just about exactly the amount of .100 pin headers you need. They are supposed to be easily clipped with fine wire cutters. maybe its me but I have tried several different brands and still get more breakage than I like. I use a small hobby saw and miter box I bought from Micro-Mark for \$11. Now, I used my band saw for the female headers, but in the past I used to use the hand miter saw for them too. Its worth the extra time and effort to do it cleanly.

(5) Resistor R1 is located on the board right 'in front of' the USB2SER connector. It gets in the way. Mount R1 (100K Brown-Black-Orange) by inserting it from the solder side and soldering it on the component side and clip the leads off real close. See picture to the right.

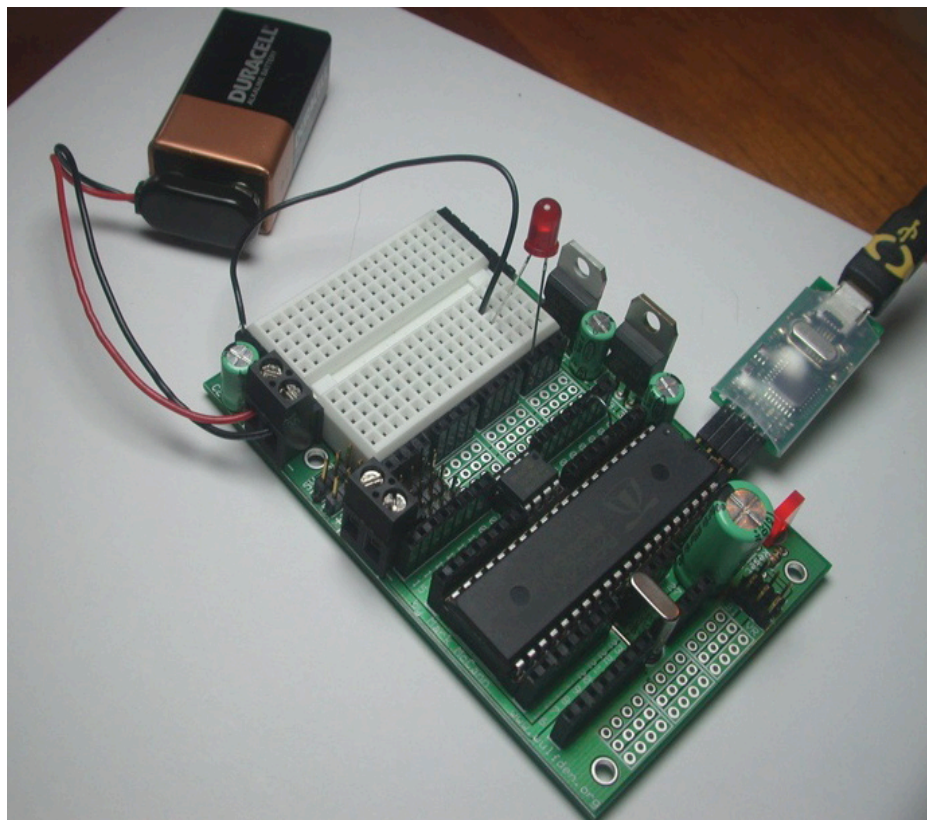
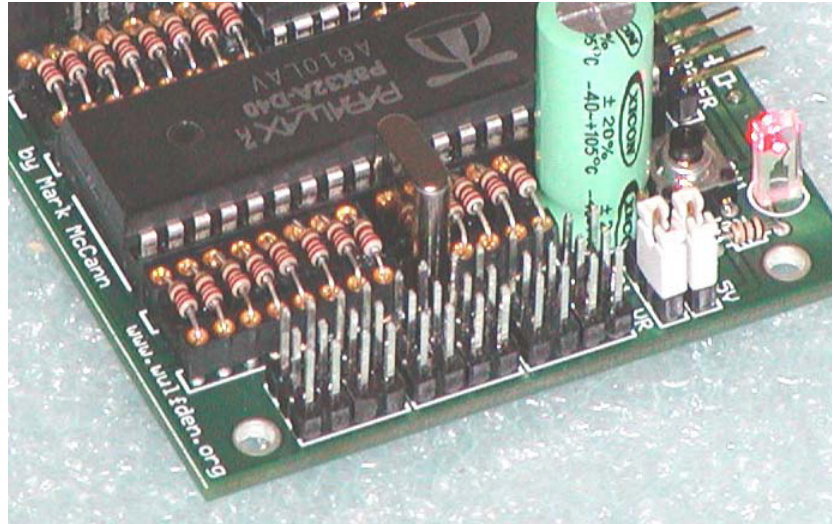


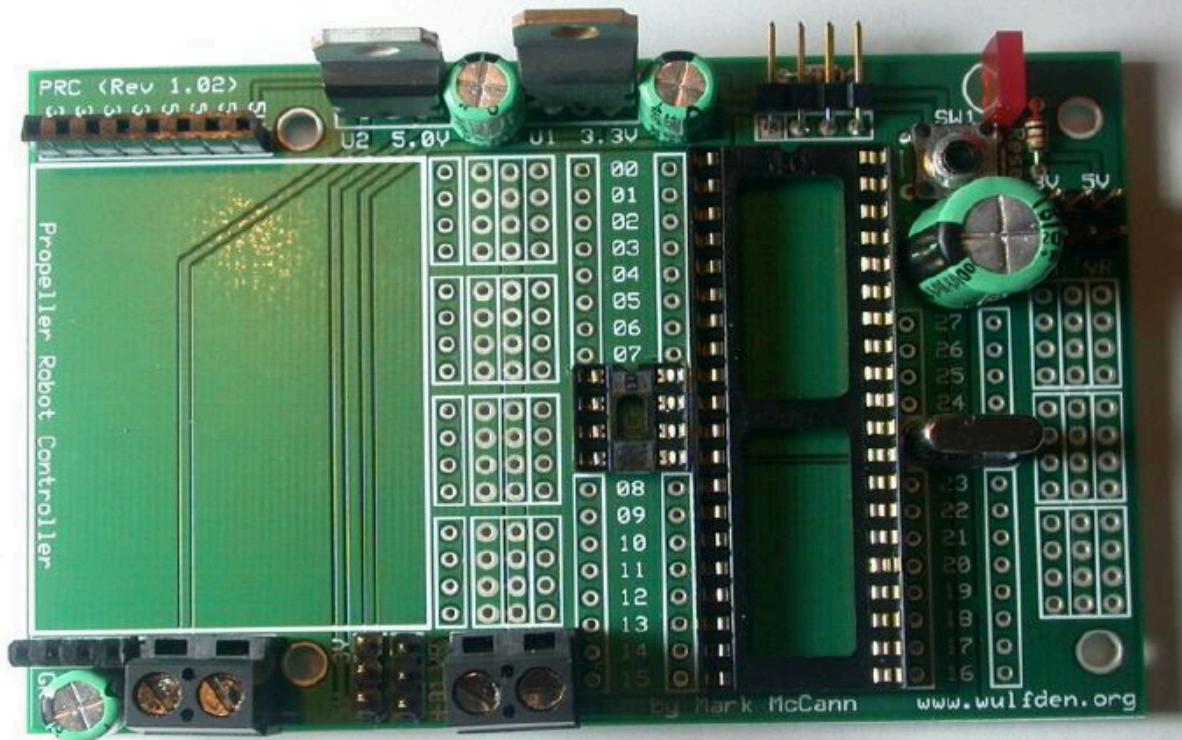
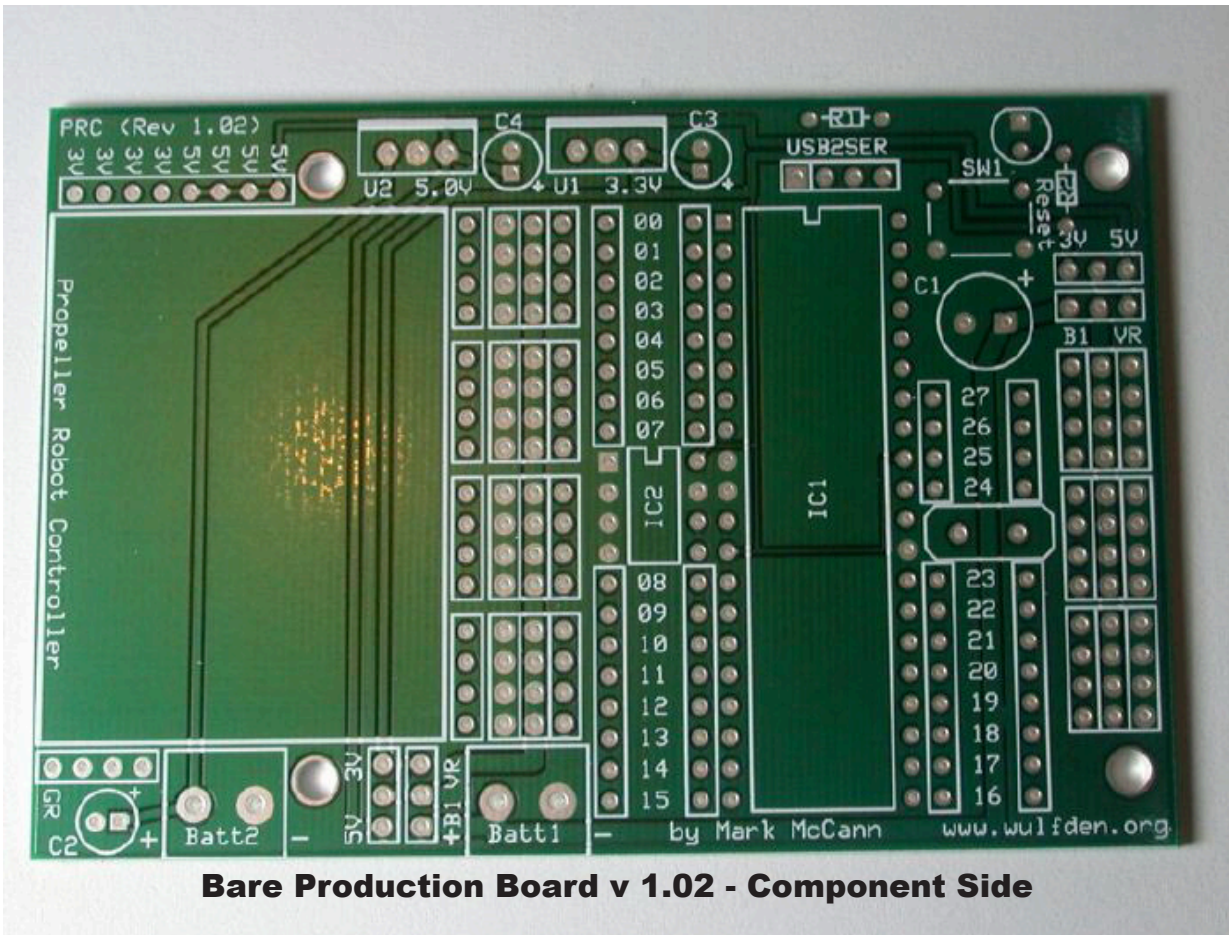
(6) Do the servo pin headers before the socket headers, ... no big deal if you have tiny hands but if you have canned hams like mine, you will appreciate the space.

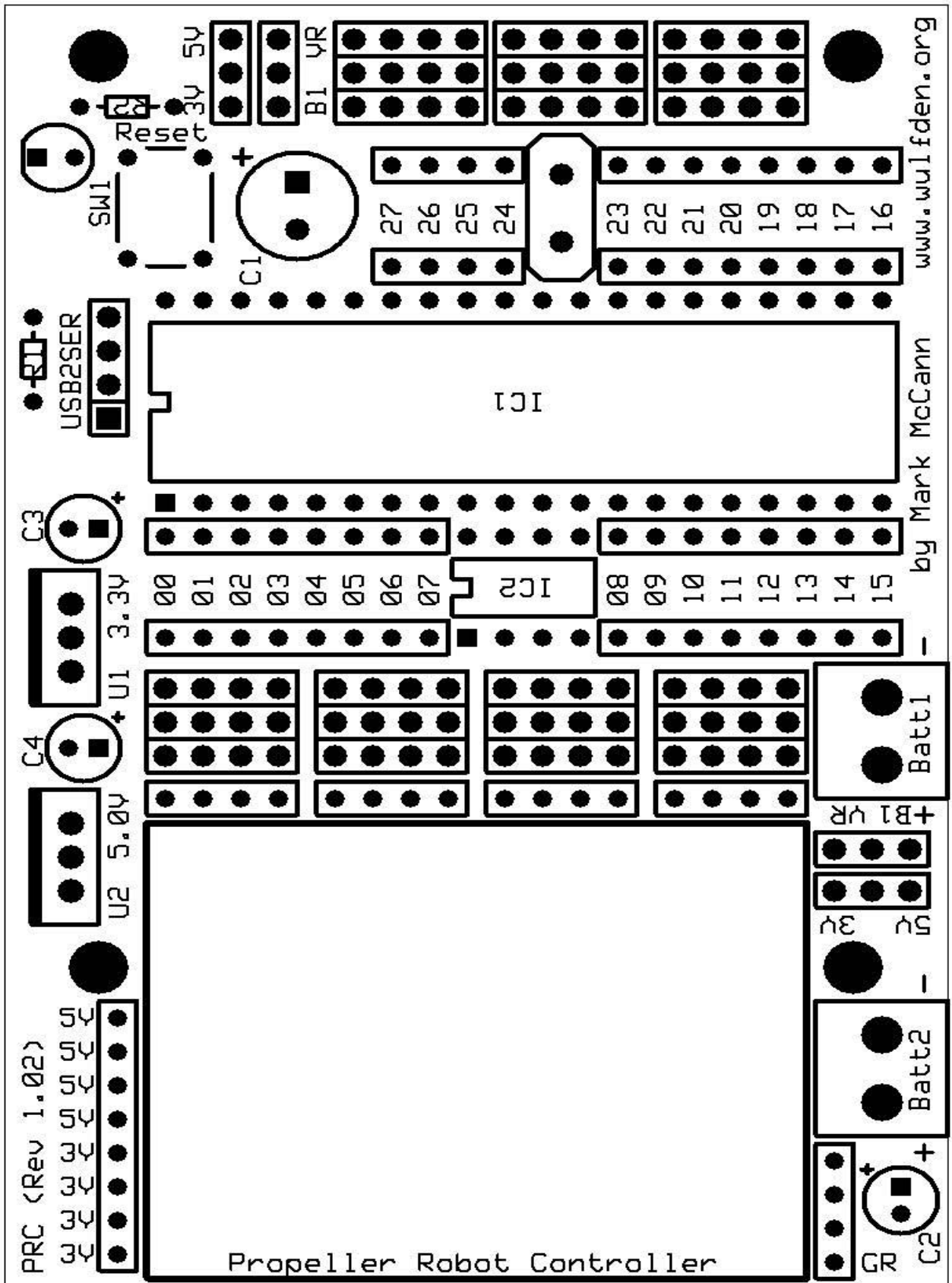
(7) I had a spare servo sitting on the bench and I used the female molex connector on it to plug over the sets of pin headers as I inserted them and hold them aligned and in place while I soldered them in place.

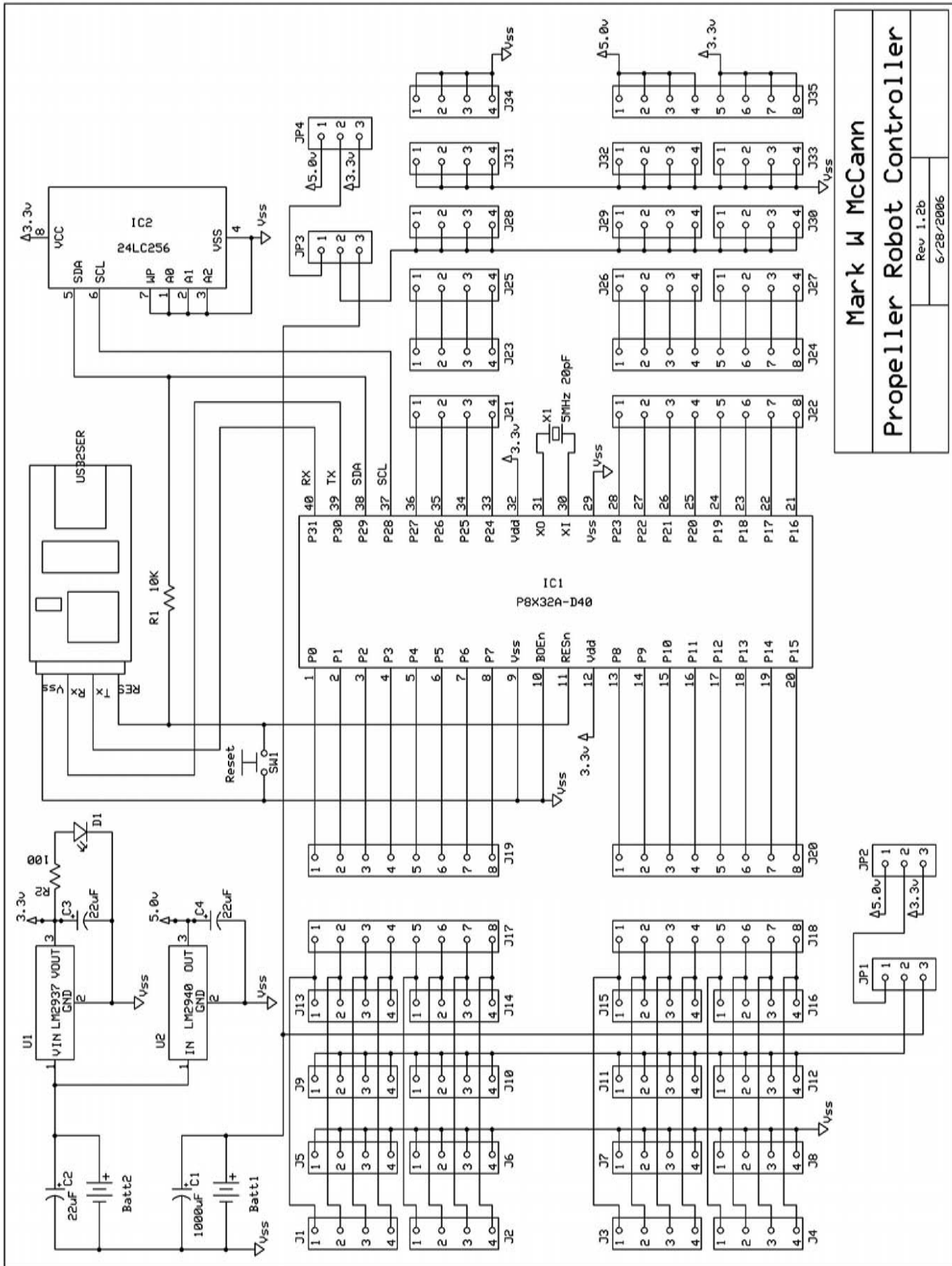
(8) there has been some discussion/complaint concerning the placement/spacing of the servo pin headers. Specifically, many wished we had left the pins in a row so they could be soldered into place in long strips. The gap every four sets of connectors is necessitated by the geometry of the Molex KK connector used on servo cables. They are slightly more than .100" in width and once you get four side by side they bulge out sufficiently that the fifth through eighth connectors become problematic, forget even twelve in a row. It was decided that the extra gap between every group of four worked best.

(9) Russ Ferguson suggested that instead of three groups of 1x4 per four servo connector group, use instead 2 pairs of 2x3, they were easier to place and solder. See here in photo. Note also use of low profile 16 pin machine pin sockets instead of .100" socket headers.









Mark W McCann

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Rev 1.2b
6/28/2006