

High-Performance Microcontrollers with Integrated On-Board Programmer

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MPLAB® XPRESS EVALUATION BOARD USER'S GUIDE

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Worldwide Sales and Service	

MPLAB * Apress Evaluation Board User's Guide					
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MPLAB® XPRESS EVALUATION BOARD USER'S GUIDE

Preface

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

All documentation becomes dated, and this manual is no exception. Microchip tools and documentation are constantly evolving to meet customer needs, so some actual dialogs and/or tool descriptions may differ from those in this document. Please refer to our website (www.microchip.com) to obtain the latest documentation available.

Documents are identified with a "DS" number. This number is located on the bottom of each page, in front of the page number. The numbering convention for the DS number is "DSXXXXXXXXA", where "XXXXXXXX" is the document number and "A" is the revision level of the document.

For the most up-to-date information on development tools, see the MPLAB[®] IDE online help. Select the Help menu, and then Topics to open a list of available online help files.

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains general information that will be useful to know when using the Microchip MPLAB® Xpress Evaluation Board User's Guide. Topics discussed in this chapter include:

- Document Layout
- · Conventions Used in this Guide
- · Recommended Reading
- The Microchip WebSite
- Development Systems Customer Change Notification Service
- Customer Support
- Revision History

DOCUMENT LAYOUT

This document describes how to use the MPLAB[®] Xpress Evaluation Board User's Guide as a development tool to emulate and debug firmware on a target board. The document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1. "Introduction to the MPLAB® Xpress Evaluation Board" This
 chapter contains general information regarding the Xpress Evaluation Board kit
 contents, layout and power sources.
- Chapter 2. "Getting Started" This chapter offers information on how to program the Xpress Evaluation Board, as well as how to import an existing MPLAB X IDE project.
- Appendix A. "Schematic" This appendix contains the Xpress Evaluation Board schematic.

CONVENTIONS USED IN THIS GUIDE

This manual uses the following documentation conventions:

DOCUMENTATION CONVENTIONS

Description	Represents	Examples	
Arial font:			
Italic characters	Referenced books	MPLAB [®] IDE User's Guide	
	Emphasized text	is the only compiler	
Initial caps	A window	the Output window	
	A dialog	the Settings dialog	
	A menu selection	select Enable Programmer	
Quotes	A field name in a window or dialog	"Save project before build"	
Underlined, italic text with right angle bracket	A menu path	File>Save	
Bold characters	A dialog button	Click OK	
	A tab	Click the Power tab	
N'Rnnnn	A number in verilog format, where N is the total number of digits, R is the radix and n is a digit.	4'b0010, 2'hF1	
Text in angle brackets < >	A key on the keyboard	Press <enter>, <f1></f1></enter>	
Courier New font:			
Plain Courier New	Sample source code	#define START	
	Filenames	autoexec.bat	
	File paths	c:\mcc18\h	
	Keywords	_asm, _endasm, static	
	Command-line options	-Opa+, -Opa-	
	Bit values	0, 1	
	Constants	0xff, 'A'	
Italic Courier New	A variable argument	file.o, where file can be any valid filename	
Square brackets []	Optional arguments	<pre>mcc18 [options] file [options]</pre>	
Curly brackets and pipe character: { }	Choice of mutually exclusive arguments; an OR selection	errorlevel {0 1}	
Ellipses	Replaces repeated text	<pre>var_name [, var_name]</pre>	
	Represents code supplied by user	<pre>void main (void) { }</pre>	

RECOMMENDED READING

This user's guide describes how to use the Xpress Evaluation Board. For the latest information on using other tools, refer to the MPLAB® X IDE home page: www.microchip.com/mplabx/. This resource page contains updated documentation, downloads and links to other MPLAB X IDE compatible tools, plug-ins and much more.

THE MICROCHIP WEBSITE

Microchip provides online support via our website at www.microchip.com. This website is used as a means to make files and information easily available to customers. Accessible by using your favorite Internet browser, the website contains the following information:

- Product Support Data sheets and errata, application notes and sample programs, design resources, user's guides and hardware support documents, latest software releases and archived software
- MPLAB® Xpress Evaluation Board User's Guide Specific product support can be accessed via our website at www.microchip.com/mplab/mplab-xpress
- General Technical Support Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), technical support requests, online discussion groups, Microchip consultant program member listing
- Business of Microchip Product selector and ordering guides, latest Microchip press releases, listing of seminars and events, listings of Microchip sales offices, distributors and factory representatives

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To register, access the Microchip website at www.microchip.com, click on Customer Change Notification and follow the registration instructions.

The Development Systems product group categories are:

- Compilers The latest information on Microchip C compilers, assemblers, linkers and other language tools. These include all MPLAB C compilers; all MPLAB assemblers (including MPASM™ assembler); all MPLAB linkers (including MPLINK™ object linker); and all MPLAB librarians (including MPLIB™ object librarian).
- Emulators The latest information on Microchip in-circuit emulators. This includes the MPLAB REAL ICE™ and MPLAB ICE 2000 in-circuit emulators.
- In-Circuit Debuggers The latest information on the Microchip in-circuit debuggers. This includes MPLAB ICD 3 in-circuit debuggers and PICkit™ 3 debug express.
- MPLAB X IDE The latest information on Microchip MPLAB X IDE, the Windows[®] Integrated Development Environment for development systems tools. This list is focused on the MPLAB IDE, MPLAB IDE Project Manager, MPLAB Editor and MPLAB SIM simulator, as well as general editing and debugging features.
- Programmers The latest information on Microchip programmers. These include production programmers, such as MPLAB REAL ICE in-circuit emulator, MPLAB ICD 3 in-circuit debugger and MPLAB PM3 device programmers. Also included are non-production development programmers, such as PICSTART® Plus and PICkit 2 and 3.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Users of Microchip products can receive assistance through several channels:

- · Distributor or Representative
- · Local Sales Office
- Field Application Engineer (FAE)
- Technical Support

Customers should contact their distributor, representative or Field Application Engineer (FAE) for support. Local sales offices are also available to help customers. A listing of sales offices and locations is included in the back of this document.

Technical support is available through the website at:

http://www.microchip.com/support.

REVISION HISTORY

Revision A (April 2016)

Initial release of this document.

Revision B (October 2017)

Updated Chapter 1. Added sections 2.2 and 2.3 in Chapter 2, and figures A-3, A-4, and A-5 in Appendix A. Other minor corrections.



MPLAB® XPRESS EVALUATION BOARD USER'S GUIDE

Chapter 1. Introduction to the MPLAB® Xpress Evaluation Board

The MPLAB® Xpress Evaluation Board is a development tool designed to work in conjunction with the cloud-based MPLAB® Xpress Integrated Development Environment (IDE). The combination of the IDE and the Xpress Evaluation Board allows for quick experimentation and code development without having to download the IDE or compilers. There are three variants of Xpress Evaluation Boards:

- 1. General Purpose MPLAB Xpress Evaluation Board
- 2. Device Specific MPLAB Xpress Evaluation Board (20-pin variant)
- 3. Device Specific MPLAB Xpress Evaluation Board (40-pin variant)

The General Purpose Xpress board contains a built-in programmer and includes an 8-bit PIC16F18855 microcontroller, allowing for easy programming without additional programming tools. It also contains a set of four indication LEDs, a potentiometer, a push button switch and a mikroBUS™ socket to accommodate a variety of plug-in MikroElektronika click boards that can be used in application development.

The Device Specific Xpress boards contain a specific PIC16 or PIC18 device the board is targeted towards in addition to the built-in programmer. They are available in 20-pin and 40-pin variants based on the device.

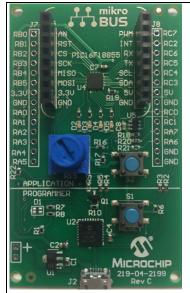
All the Xpress boards contain two sections: the programmer section and the application section. The programmer section contains the circuitry necessary for programming, while the application section contains the circuitry that is used by the microcontroller application.

1.1 MPLAB Xpress EVALUATION BOARD CONTENTS

The Xpress Evaluation Board kit contains the following:

- · An Xpress Evaluation Board
- · Quick Start Guide

FIGURE 1-1: MPLAB® Xpress EVALUATION BOARD VARIANTS







General Purpose Xpress Board

Device Specific Xpress Board (20-pin variant)

Device Specific Xpress Board (40-pin variant)

1.2 MPLAB Xpress EVALUATION BOARD LAYOUT

Figure 1-2 and Figure 1-3 identify the major features of the MPLAB Xpress Evaluation Boards.

FIGURE 1-2: GENERAL PURPOSE MPLAB® Xpress EVALUATION BOARD LAYOUT

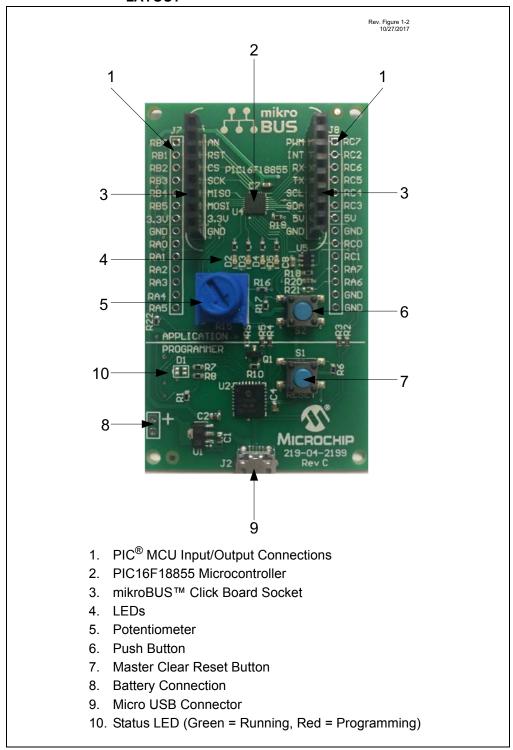
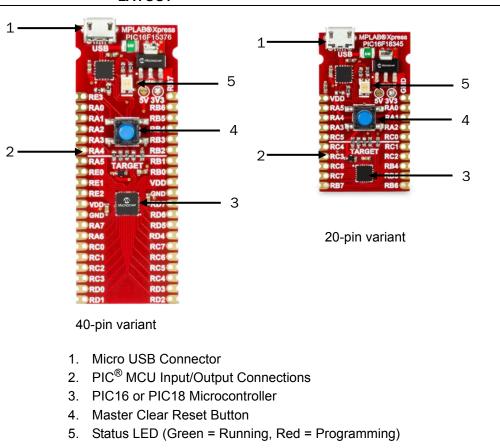


FIGURE 1-3: DEVICE SPECIFIC MPLAB® XPRESS EVALUATION BOARD LAYOUT



Introduction to the MPLAB® Xpress Evaluation Board

1.3 POWER SOURCES

The MPLAB Xpress Evaluation Boards can be powered in one of two ways, depending on its usage. It should be noted that only one power source should be connected at a time.

1.3.1 USB Connector

The USB connector will power the entire Xpress Evaluation Board. With USB power connected to J2, Status LED will always be green to indicate that +3.3V is available on the board.

1.3.2 2.7V-16V External Power Supply (General Purpose Xpress Board Only)

The external power supply (Figure 1-2) option is available on the General Purpose Xpress Board only. It will also power the entire Xpress Evaluation Board. The external power supply is connected to a Low Dropout (LDO) voltage regulator, configured to deliver 3.3V to the Xpress board. The external power supply range is from 2.7V to 16V, allowing use with two to six primary cells, 9V alkaline batteries, or one or two-cell Li-lon batteries. LED D1 will illuminate green when the external power supply is active and supplying sufficient voltage.

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	Apress	Apress Evalua	Apress Evaluation Be	Apress Evaluation Board Os	Apress Evaluation Board Oser's G	Apress Evaluation Board Oser's Guide	



MPLAB® XPRESS EVALUATION BOARD USER'S GUIDE

Chapter 2. Getting Started

The Xpress Evaluation Boards are designed to work with the MPLAB[®] Xpress IDE, but can also be used with MPLAB[®] X IDE. MPLAB Xpress IDE does not require any downloads and can be accessed by visiting mplabxpress.microchip.com.

The Xpress Evaluation Boards allow for rapid development of custom applications without the need to download the IDE or compilers to a computer and allows the storage of a project in the cloud. This allows a user the ability to access their project from virtually anywhere (requires Internet connection) and from any computer. Microchip also provides code examples to help get you started.

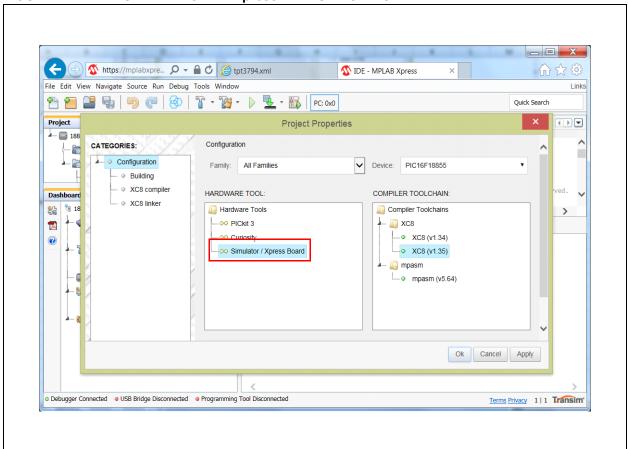
2.1 PROGRAMMING THE MPLAB Xpress EVALUATION BOARD

Programming the Xpress board is accomplished by connecting a micro USB cable to the on-board USB connector, creating the $.\,\mathrm{hex}$ file, and dragging and dropping the $.\,\mathrm{hex}$ file into the Xpress board.

To begin, connect a micro USB cable to the on-board USB connector. Next, open the MPLAB Xpress IDE.

The procedure to create a new project or open an existing MPLAB Xpress project is the same as within MPLAB X IDE. Navigate to the **File** tab, select $\underline{Project\ Properties} > \underline{Configuration} > \underline{Hardware\ Tool} > \underline{Hardware\ Tools}$ and select 'Simulator/Xpress Board' (see Figure 2-1). This ensures that the Xpress board is chosen as the development tool. Once selected, the 'Simulator/Xpress Board' selection will appear under the 'Debug Tool' section in the Dashboard window (see Figure 2-2). Once the project is open and ready to program into the target device, simply click on the **Make and Program Device** button (see Figure 2-3). MPLAB Xpress will build and compile the project, and once completed, will open or save the .hex file that was created. Under the **Save** button, you can either hit **Save** and the .hex file will be stored in your downloads folder, or you can hit **Save** as and choose the location for the .hex file. It is important to remember where the file is stored since the .hex file is what will be programmed into the target PIC® device.

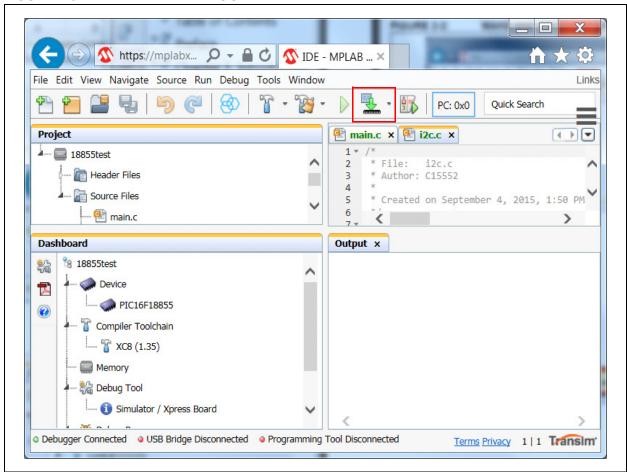
FIGURE 2-1: SELECTING THE Xpress EVALUATION BOARD IN THE MPLAB® X IDE



@ tpt3794.x... File Edit View Navigate Source Run Debug Tools Window Links Quick Search PC: 0x0 Header Files 4 Source Files 5 * Creat 6 main.c 7 8 Copyrigh Dashboard 9 10 % 18855test Device 7 Output x PIC16F18855 Compiler Toolchain T XC8 (1.35) Memory 🎇 Debug Tool Simulator / Xpress Board Debug Resources - ■ Data BP Used: 0 Free: 1000 - Program BP Used: 0 Free: 1000

FIGURE 2-2: SELECTING THE XPRESS EVALUATION BOARD IN THE MPLAB® XPRESS IDE (CONT)

FIGURE 2-3: MAKE AND PROGRAM DEVICE



The Xpress Evaluation Board will show as a mass storage device on the computer (see Figure 2-4). To program the device, simply drag and drop the .hex file image into the Xpress drive. The process is the same for Windows, Linux or OS X.

🜬 🕨 Computer 🕨 ▼ ← Search Computer P <u>=</u> -Organize * Eject **Properties** System properties Favorites ▲ Hard Disk Drives (1) Desktop OSDisk (C) Downloads 317 GB free of 465 GB Dropbox Recent Places ■ Devices with Removable Storage (2) DVD RW Drive (D:) Libraries Documents XPRESS (E:) ♣ Music Pictures 126 KB free of 128 KB Subversion ■ Network Location (1) Videos smaddos (\\overseer) (Z:) Computer 👢 9.00 TB free of 14.7 TB SDisk (C:) XPRESS (E:) Network XPRESS (F:) Space used: Total size: 128 KB Removable Disk Space free: 126 KB File system: FAT

FIGURE 2-4: MPLAB® Xpress BOARD AS MASS STORAGE

2.2 PROGRAMMING XPRESS BOARD USING MPLAB® X

Xpress Boards can be programmed using MPLAB X by following the same steps as described in **Section 2.1 "Programming the MPLAB Xpress Evaluation Board"** for MPLAB Xpress. In addition to drag-and-drop, MPLAB X can run a post-build script to perform this action automatically. To set this up, right click on <u>Project Name > Properties > Building</u> and check the **Execute this line after build**. In the text box below it, type:

cp \${ImagePath} <Path to XPRESS>

Replace <Path to XPRESS> with the actual location where XPRESS board is mounted. For example, on Windows, if the XPRESS board is mounted at $D: \$, the script would look like:

cp \${ImagePath} D:\

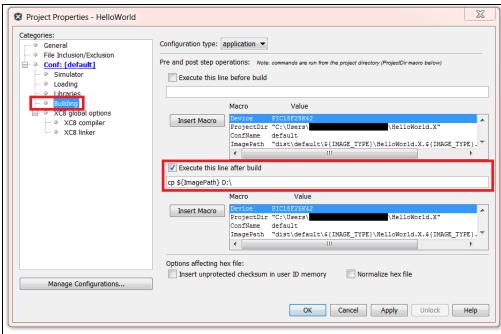
For Mac OS X, if the XPRESS board is mounted at /Volumes/XPRESS, the script would look like:

cp \${ImagePath} /Volumes/XPRESS

For Linux, if the XPRESS board is mounted at /media/XPRESS, the script would look like:

cp \${ImagePath} /media/XPRESS



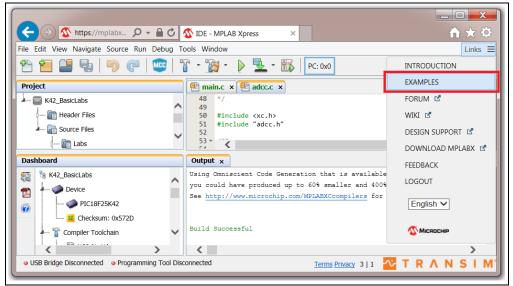


Click on **Apply** and **OK**. Next time when the **Make and Program Device** button is clicked, the . hex file will be copied over to the Xpress board automatically.

2.3 NAVIGATING XPRESS EXAMPLES

MPLAB Xpress comes with many examples that demonstrate how to use different peripherals for different devices. In order to navigate to the examples, on the top menu bar, click on the "Examples" link.

FIGURE 2-6: NAVIGATING TO XPRESS CODE EXAMPLES



The next window that opens up contains many MPLAB Xpress Code Examples. Filter the results based on Author, Board and Device. The code examples with the Microchip logo for author have been functionally tested and verified by Microchip Technology for that board and device. Click on the name of the example to read the description of the example. Click the red "IDE" button across the desired example to open them up in MPLAB Xpress IDE.

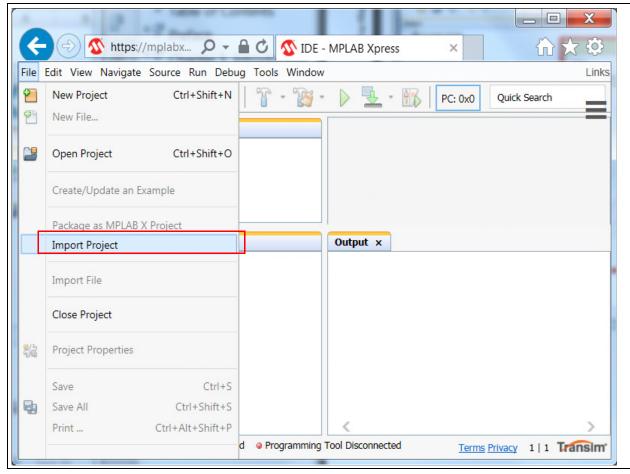
_ D X https://mplabx... $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{O}$ Sexamples - MPLAB Xpress MICROCHIP MPLAB® XPRESS INTRODUCTION | EXAMPLES | IDE | FORUM | WIKI | DESIGN SUPPORT | DOWNLOAD MPLABX | myMicrochip Login MPLAB Xpress Code Examples ■ |||| Author Watch Tags Board Device Updated Open Import × × × × × 0 **V** ... Search From From From #Ge From ADC 2 То То То ::: То ADC 20 Cre.. 0 0 23 #G.. Xpress B.. PIC16F18. 10/03/2017 IDE 2 Blink Xpress B. PIC16F18 10/03/2017 IDE 20 IDE Rea. 0 1 11 #G.. Xpress B.. PIC16F18. 10/03/2017 2 10 #G. Xpress B. PIC16F18. 10/03/2017 IDE 2 Xpress B. Hei Λ 1 2 #G. PIC16F18. 09/29/2017

FIGURE 2-7: FILTERING AND OPENING CODE EXAMPLES

2.4 USING AN EXISTING MPLAB® X IDE PROJECT

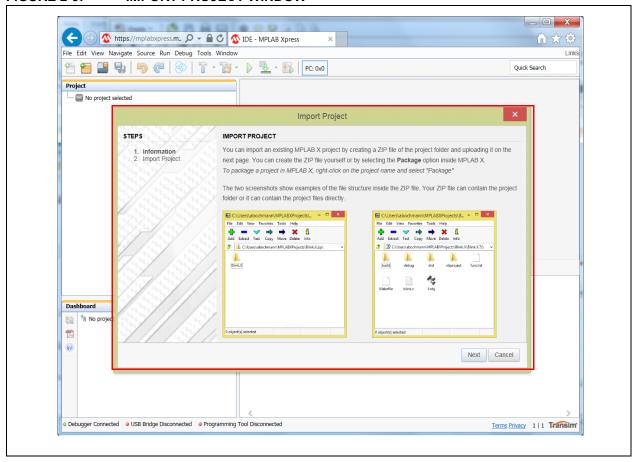
To load an existing MPLAB X IDE project into MPLAB Xpress, the MPLAB X IDE project must be packaged so that it can be imported by MPLAB Xpress. In MPLAB X IDE, right click on the project that is to be imported into MPLAB Xpress and select **Package**. MPLAB X IDE will create a ZIP file that will be imported by MPLAB Xpress. Open MPLAB Xpress and under the **File** tab, select **Import Project** (see Figure 2-8).

FIGURE 2-8: IMPORT EXISTING MPLAB® X IDE PROJECT



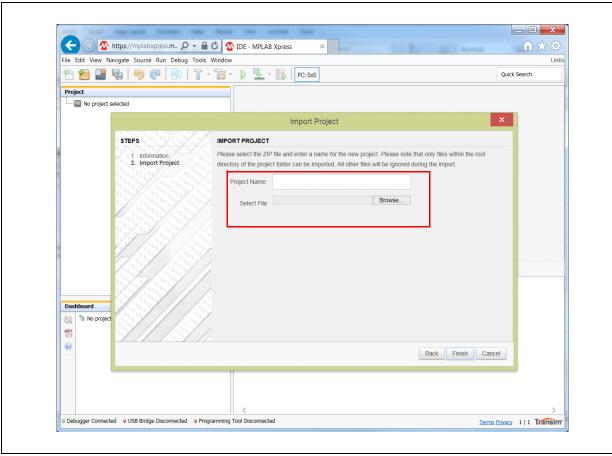
The Import Project window will appear (see Figure 2-9). The window also explains how to prepare your MPLAB X IDE project to import. Click **Next**.

FIGURE 2-9: IMPORT PROJECT WINDOW



The Import Project window will now ask for a project name and allow you to browse for your MPLAB X IDE project (see Figure 2-10). Add a name to your project and then navigate to the folder in which your ZIP file was stored. Select the ZIP file and click **Finish**. MPLAB Xpress will then open your ZIP file and load the necessary files.

FIGURE 2-10: NAMING AND SELECTING MPLAB® X IDE PROJECT TO IMPORT



Appendix A. Schematic

A.1 MPLAB® Xpress EVALUATION BOARD SCHEMATIC

FIGURE A-1: MPLAB® Xpress GENERAL PURPOSE EVALUATION BOARD SCHEMATIC (APPLICATION SECTION)

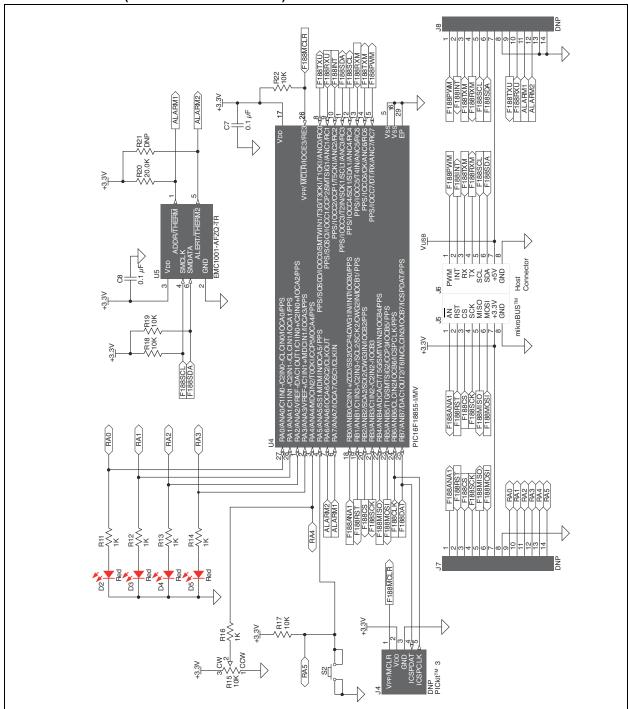
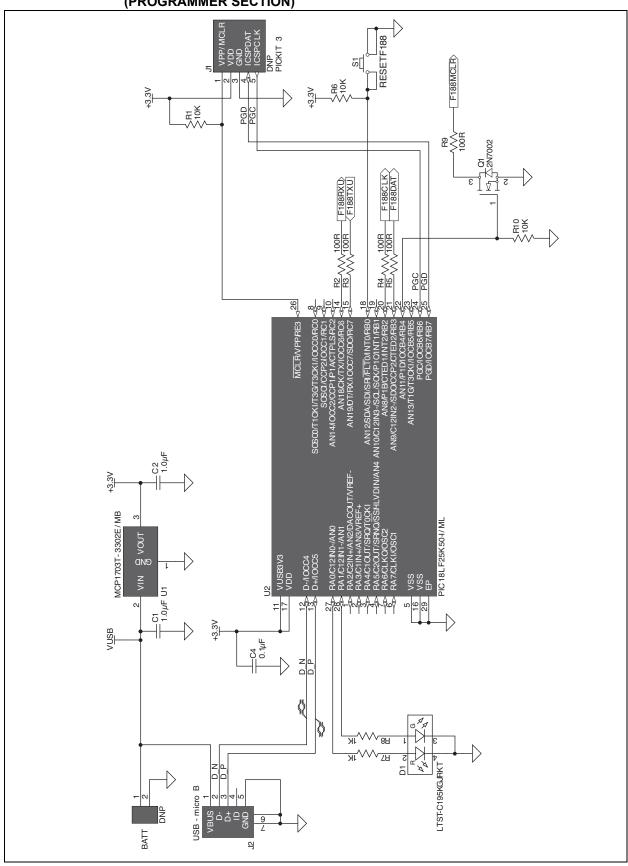
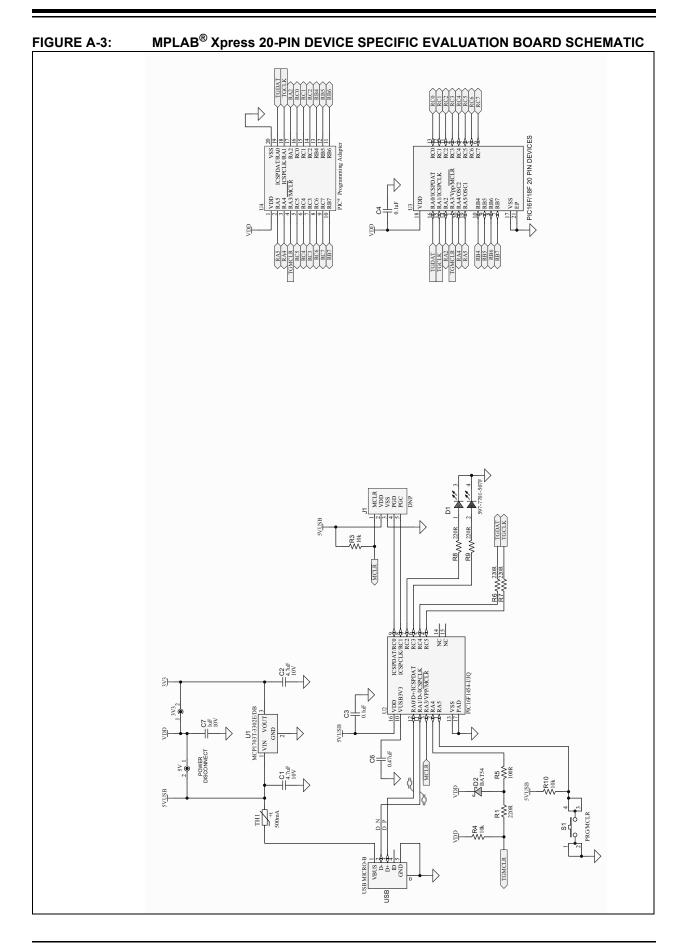
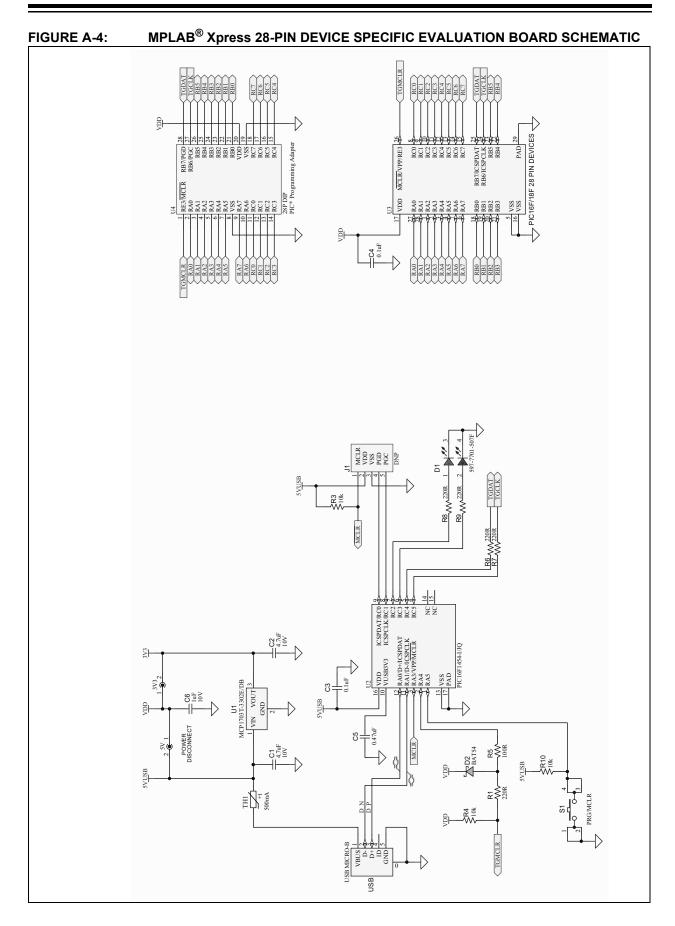
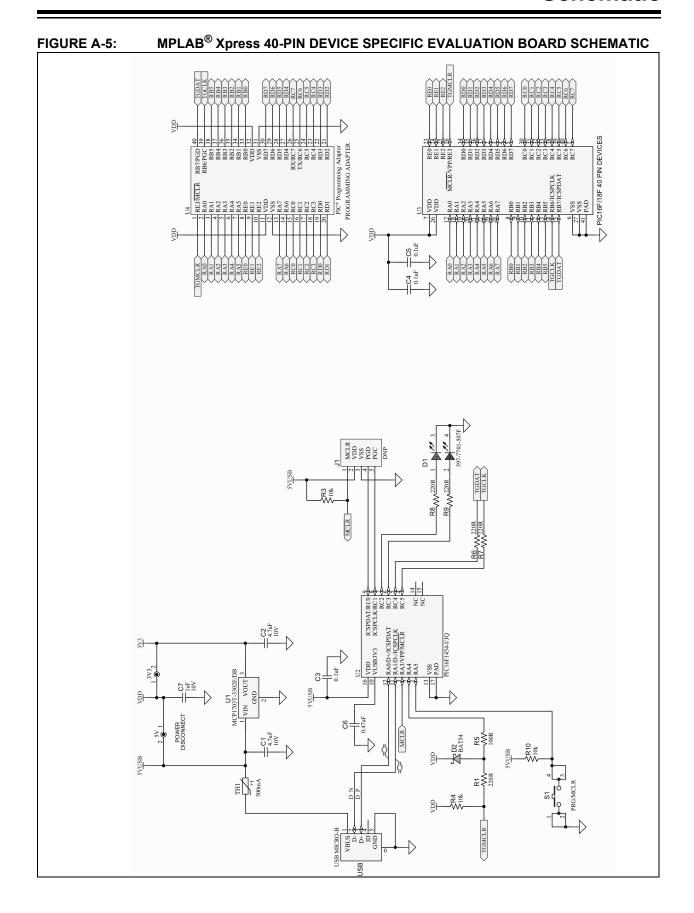


FIGURE A-2: MPLAB® Xpress GENERAL PURPOSE EVALUATION BOARD SCHEMATIC (PROGRAMMER SECTION)









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MPLAB® Xpress Evaluation Board User's Guide						
NOTES:						



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