

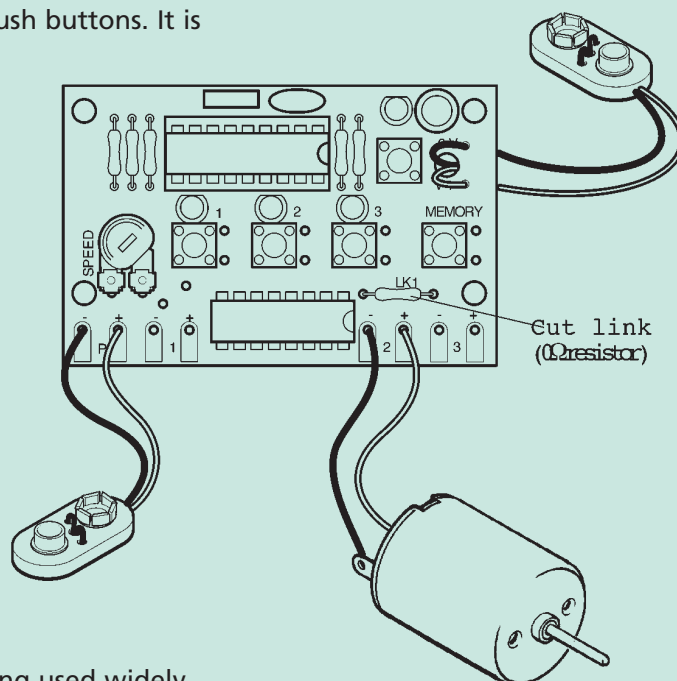
Celebrating the new Millennium with IQ

IQ is the name of a deceptively simple but powerful new programmable controller. It was designed and manufactured as part of TEP's contribution to celebrating design and technology in the millennium year. It provides pupils of all ages with the opportunity to build behaviour into projects ranging from two motor buggies to sequential control systems mirroring the functions of PLCs (programmable logic controllers) now used so widely in industry.

Programming the IQ is achieved using integral push buttons. It is then capable of controlling three outputs motors, lamps etc. using up to 99 lines of program. Each output can source nearly 1 amp of current, and so output devices can be connected directly.

IQ is already being used widely

in schools as a consumable component, and as a tool for prototyping systems. Frank Muraca from TEP comments: *"There is nothing else like this at such a low price; similar programmable systems used in commercial toys cost up to forty times as much. With IQ, pupils can really get involved in control systems and show off! I have spoken to many teachers who are convinced that all the basic requirements of control in the national curriculum can be achieved using this device."* IQ is available from Teaching Resources.



TRAFFIC LIGHTS TUTOR



Working with the Road Safety Unit of Denbighshire County Council's Highways Division, TEP has produced a teaching resource based around small scale

programmable traffic and Pelican crossing lights. Standing just 150 mm tall, these lights are easily programmed for different timings and sequences using the built in system. (See the adjoining article). The working traffic lights, and accompanying printed resource pack, have been trialed extensively with younger children and featured on local TV. They are expected to make a unique contribution to road safety education by providing clear insights into traffic light operation with the added bonus of a better understanding of programmable systems. The complete pack is now available from Teaching Resources. If you are involved in any collaborative work with a local primary school, this presents a great opportunity both to promote safety and to introduce key elements of new technology.