RTC-VOICE / HCS-VOICE
Text to Speech Board

5/24/95

The RTC-VOICE and HCS-VOICE text to speech boards are now packaged with the new version 3.0 firmware. This release offers the following new or upgraded features:

More Natural-Sounding Voice

The voice is now more human sounding.

Improved Speed Compensation

The voice speed does not change noticeably at low pitches.

Improved Pitch/Smoothing Algorithms

Lower pitch settings sound better than previous versions.

Optimized Front End

Faster speed (higher words per minute) and responsiveness.

Improved Tone Control

Bass and treble settings are not as extreme as previous versions.

New Articulation and Intonation Commands

nA (Articulation)
This command adjusts the synthesizer's articulation level. The range of "n" is from 0 to 9 with 5 being the default. Very low articulation values can make the speech sound slurred. Very high values can make the speech sound choppy.

nE (Intonation)
Intonation is the variation of pitch within a sentence or phrase. When intonation is enabled, the synthesizer attempts to mimic the pitch patterns of human speech. For example, when a sentence ends with a period, the pitch drops at the end of the sentence. If a sentence ends with a question mark and the sentence does not begin with "wh" (who, what, where, etc.), the pitch rises.

The range of "n" is from 0 to 9 with 5 being the default. 0E provides no intonation (monotone) whereas 9E is very animated sounding.