1 Introduction

The purpose of this assignment is to install the necessary components on the project board so that power is available for running the other components that will be installed on the board later. There is no point in installing other items on the board until there is reliable and stable power for them.

2 Components

Each team will be provided with the following components:

- 6" × 8" prototyping board
- 3 position terminal block
- Red and black banana plugs
- Red and black wire
- Single-pole, double-throw (SPDT) panel-mount toggle switch.
- 10µF electrolytic capacitor
- LED
- 220Ω resistor
- Two header strips (or one long one that can be cut in half)

In addition to these components you will receive a padlock for the lockers in the lab and a key to the EE 459Lx supply cabinet.

3 Assembly

The first thing you want to do with your project board is to identify the component side and the wiring side of the board. The wiring side has little metal pads around each hole, the component side has none of these. All the components (IC’s, resistors, capacitors, etc.) will be mounted on the component side with their pins or leads poking through holes to the wiring side. All the wiring connections between pins and leads is done on the wiring side. Some components like the toggle switch used in this assignment are mounted so part of it is on the component side and part is on the wiring side.
3.1 Legs

The next thing to do is to install screws in the holes in the corners of the board to act as legs for the board. The screws, nuts and lock washers are in a plastic box in the supply cabinet. Install two screws at each corner of the board extending in opposite directions so you have legs for the board when it is component side up and when it’s wiring side up. Use a 3/4” long #6 screw for the legs pointing up on the wiring side of the board. Use a 1” long #6 screw for the legs pointing up on the component side since stuff on the component side is sometimes higher. Place a lock washer and nut on each screw as shown in Fig. 1 and use a 5/16” nutdriver from the tool chest to tighten it.

3.2 Header Pins

Before installing any of the components on the board, do some planning to make sure they are installed where you don’t think they will interfere with other stuff that will be installed later. The power components should probably be installed near an edge of board so to leave as much room free as possible in the middle of the board.

Examine your board and note that while most of the center portion of the board consists of individual metal pads around each hole, there are seven places along edges (2 on each short edge, 3 on one long edge) where multiple holes are all in the same metal strip. The header pins can be installed in these “bus” strips to create sets of wire-wrap pins that are all connected to power and ground. The usual place for installing the headers is along one of the short sides of the board where there are two bus strips on the board. The rest of the power supply components can be installed nearby. If necessary use the wire cutters to cut the header to the length needed. Insert it through the holes in the board so the plastic part that holds the pins together is on the component side and the long part of the pin is going through the hole so it sticks out on the wiring side. Solder all the pins of the header to the bus strip. The Lab Notes handout has more information on installing the header strips.

3.3 Power Terminals

The blue 3 position terminal block for connecting power cables can be installed anywhere but the recommended place is between the two header strips that you just installed. There are five individual holes between the bus strips, and the terminal block can be installed into three of these holes. The three openings for wire to be inserted should be facing out from the center of the board. Press the block against the component side of the board when soldering it to make sure is flush against the board.
3.4 Toggle Switch

The toggle switch is installed in a hole with the body of the switch on the wiring side of the board and
the lever on the component side. If you examine the switch and its associated hardware you will see that
there are two nuts, a lock washer and a flat washer on the shaft as shown in Fig. 2. The bottom nut can be
adjusted to make the top of the shaft flush with the surface of the board when the top nut is tightened down.
Look closely at the washer and note that it has a small prong in the inside of the washer’s hole, and on the
outside of the washer a small tab is bent at a 90° angle. The switch will be mounted with the right-angle
tab poking into a hole on the board. The combination of the tab and the groove in the shaft of the switch
that engages the prong on the washer is used to prevent the switch from rotating in case it comes loose.

Drill a 1/4" diameter hole for the toggle switch shaft and then using a smaller drill bit, make a small
hole next to the first one for the tab on the washer. Insert the toggle switch through from the wiring side
of the board and place the washer on the shaft on the component side so the tab goes into the small hole.
Put the lock washer and nut on the switch and use a 5/32" nutdriver to tighten them down. If the shaft is
sticking up too far, loosen the top nut and adjust the bottom nut to make it fit better.

3.5 Electronic Components

Install the capacitor, resistor and LED on the board. The leads of the capacitor and resistor should be bent
90°, pushed through two holes of the board and then soldered to the pads to keep it in place. The capacitor
is polarized so it is a good idea to mount it on the board in such a way that you can read the polarization
marking after it’s installed. The resistor can be installed in a similar fashion. The LED can be installed
sticking straight up. The anode (+) lead of the LED is slightly longer than the cathode (−) lead. In addition
the cathode of the LED is marked by a flat spot on the edge of the LED and this side should go towards
ground.

4 Wiring

The components on the board are wired up as shown in the schematic in Fig. 3. Figures 4 and 5 show both
sides of a board that has had the various components installed.

The electrical connections between the components can be made using wire from the spools in the lab.
All wiring between capacitors, resistors and LEDs should be made using wire-wrapping as shown in Fig. 5.
Connections that go to a solder terminal on a switch or power connector can be made using the 24-gauge
hook-up wire. If some of the components are close together you can just bend their leads together and solder
them without using any additional wire.

For the first step in the wiring decide which bus strip will be for +5V and which one will be for ground.
First make a connection from one of the outer two positions of the blue terminal block to the ground bus
strip.
The toggle switch is a double-throw switch. Depending on which position the lever is in, the center terminal is connected to one of the two outside terminals. Use the center terminal and one of the outside terminals to make a power switch for the board. Make a connection from the +5V position on the terminal block to one of the outside terminals on the switch. Connect the center terminal of the switch to your +5V bus strip or wherever you want power on the board.

Finish the wiring by connecting the capacitor, LED and resistor as shown in the schematic. The capacitor is used to help filter out noise on the 5V line coming from either the power supply or from components that will be added later to the board.

The banana plugs are installed on the ends of the power wires using the small screw in the side of the banana plug. Strip about 1/4” of the insulation from both ends of the wire. Loosen the screw, insert the wire into the barrel of the plug as far as it will go and then tighten the screw. For the blue terminal strip, use the screwdriver to open up the terminal block connector so the wire can be inserted. Insert the wire and tighten the screw. Give a tug on the wires to make sure they are securely fastened.

5 Testing

Once all the components are installed on the board and wired together, plug it in to the bench power supply and turn on the power supply. Turning the switch on the board on and off should make the LED go on and off. Use the multimeter to confirm that there is 5 Volts present when the switch is on.

While the board is turned on and the multimeter is measuring the voltage level, bang the board on the bench top a few times (not too hard) and watch to make sure the power stays on. If the power flicks off and back on at all then something is loose on the board and you’ll need to find the loose connection and fix it. You want the power connections to be rock solid so you don’t have to worry about getting stable power to the rest of the circuit.