## Note to Visual Basic for DOS Users

This note explains Visual Basic for DOS programming information not included in the *NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS* (part number 320282-01).

## **Running Visual Basic for DOS Application Programs**

The Microsoft Professional BASIC language interface is compatible with Visual Basic for DOS; however, you must first recreate all QuickLibraries using the file LINK.EXE and the library support files VBDOS.LIB and VBDOSQLB.LIB. These files are part of Visual Basic for DOS. The following steps show you how to recreate your QuickLibraries using LINK.EXE, the library support files, and Microsoft Professional BASIC files MBIB.OBJ and MBDECL.BAS in Visual Basic for DOS application programs.

 You must include MBDECL.BAS at the beginning of your application program. To do this, enter the following command in the module-level code:

```
'$INCLUDE: 'MBDECL.BAS'
```

Do not list MBDECL . BAS in a project . MAK file.

Enter Steps 2 through 4 at the command line.

2. To set up the Visual Basic environment, first create a QuickLibrary with the language interface. To create the QuickLibrary VBIB.QLB, enter the following command:

```
Link /Q MBIB.OBJ VBDOS.LIB, VBIB.QLB, , VBDOSQLB.LIB;
```

3. If you are going to make an EXE file in the Visual Basic environment, you must create an object module library. To create the parallel object-module library VBIB.LIB, enter the following command:

```
LIB VBIB.LIB+MBIB.OBJ+VBDOS.LIB;
```

4. You must specify the library that the Visual Basic for DOS environment uses. To specify the VBIB.QBJ library, enter the following command:

```
VBDOS APPLIC /L VBIB.QLB
```

## **Visual Basic for DOS Calling Syntax**

The NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS contains Microsoft Professional BASIC and Microsoft QuickBASIC formats and examples for the NI-488.2 routines and NI-488 functions. The syntax for each routine and function in the NI-488.2 Software Reference Manual for MS-DOS is compatible with your Visual Basic application programs.

*Do not* pass dynamic arrays to the asynchronous functions IBRDIA and IBWRTIA. Visual Basic for DOS might move the arrays in memory during an I/O operation.

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