

Introduction

This errata sheet documents a known issue with the USB-Blaster™ cable. This errata sheet also documents how to determine if the failure has occurred and provides the necessary preventative actions to avoid the failure in the future.

Issue

Some USB-Blasters are susceptible to complete failure. The failure occurs when the USB-Blaster is connected to any powered Altera® device and simultaneously when the USB-Blaster is disconnected from the computer. When both of these events happen at the same time, the USB-Blaster fails completely and is no longer functional.

Determining the failure

You can determine that the USB-Blaster has failed when you try to program a device. You will get the following error:

Info: Unrecognized device

Error: JTAG ID code specified in JEDEC STAPL Format File does not match any valid JTAG ID codes for devices

Error: Operation failed

You can also determine that the USB-Blaster has failed when you are using SignalTap®. You will get the following error:

USB-Blaster cable is detected but no device is found.

This failure indicates that either the USB-Blaster cable has failed or the FPGA/PLD has failed.

Resolution

Altera will replace the USB-Blaster if it fails to function properly. If you have a failed USB-Blaster, contact the distributor where you purchased the USB-Blaster to get a return-materials authorization (RMA) to return it for replacement. Your distributor will replace the USB-Blaster with a new, working unit.

Preventive Action

To avoid this failure in the future, you are strongly advised to follow these steps to safely disconnect the USB-Blaster from the board and from the PC USB port:

1. Power down the board where the USB-Blaster is attached.



Do not unplug the USB-Blaster from the PC USB port while it is still attached to the 10-pin header on the board. Do not power down the PC before the target board is powered down, since this will result in the same failure.

2. Disconnect the USB-Blaster from the 10-pin header on the board.
3. Disconnect the USB-Blaster from the PC USB port.



Should you need additional information or assistance, please contact your local Altera sales representative.

Document Revision History

Table 1 shows the revision history for this errata sheet.

<i>Table 1. Document Revision History</i>		
Date and Document Version	Changes Made	Summary of Changes
June 2007, v1.0	Changed the part number to ES-01019-1.0.	—
May 2007, v1.0	Initial release.	—



101 Innovation Drive
San Jose, CA 95134
www.altera.com
Technical Support
www.altera.com/support
Literature Services:
literature@altera.com

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