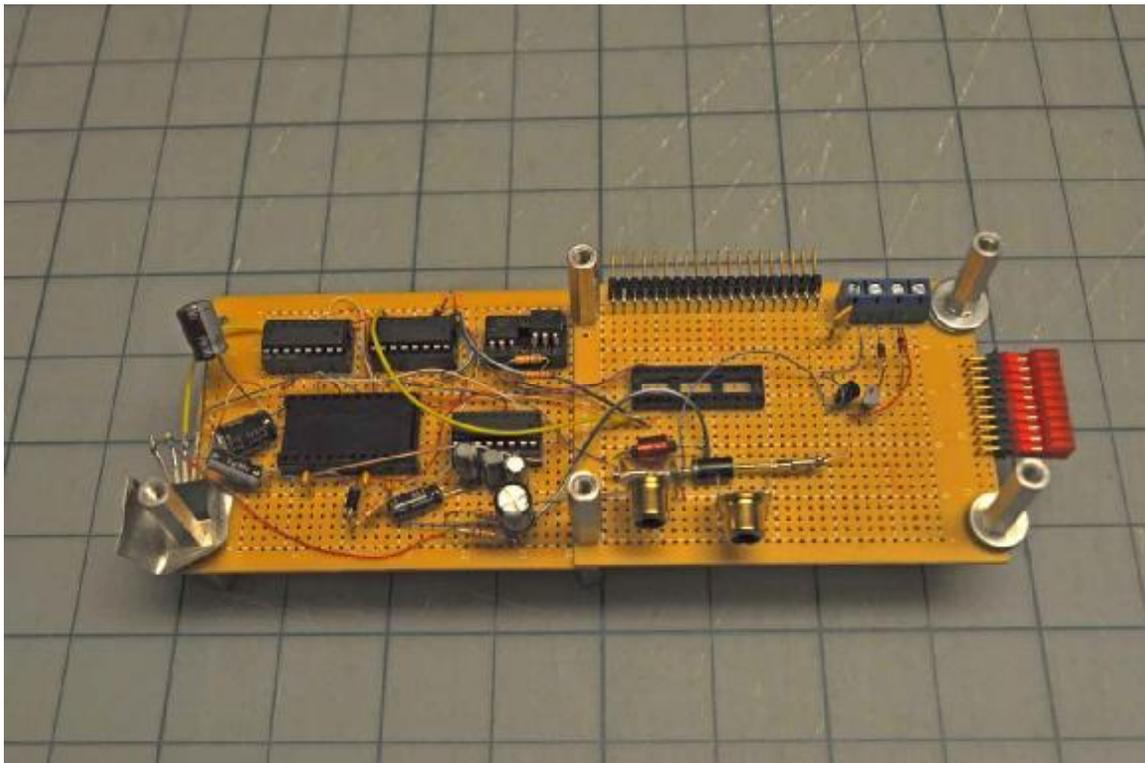


The Volt Vette Project

Chapter 47

The Digital Dash: Cute little money pit? Or bleeding edge technology?

After many, many hours of difficult work; I think I begin to see a little light at the end of the tunnel.



I show my work to Lee.

It's not beautiful, and it's not quite finished.

But Lee thinks my translator board is a little too big and a little too frail to take on pounding potholes.

I see his point and halt work while he works out a new plan.

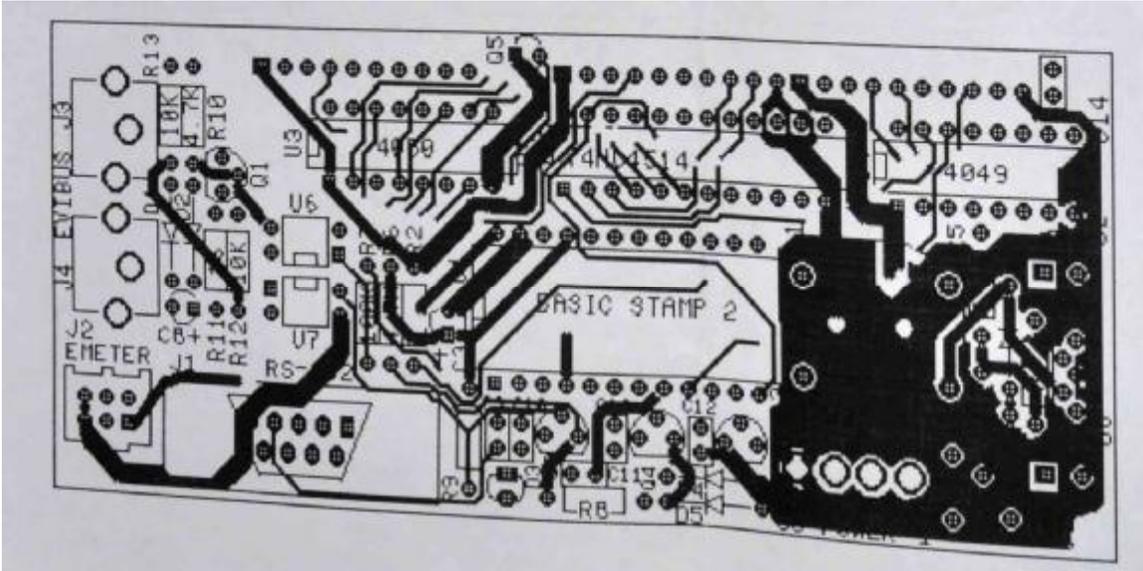
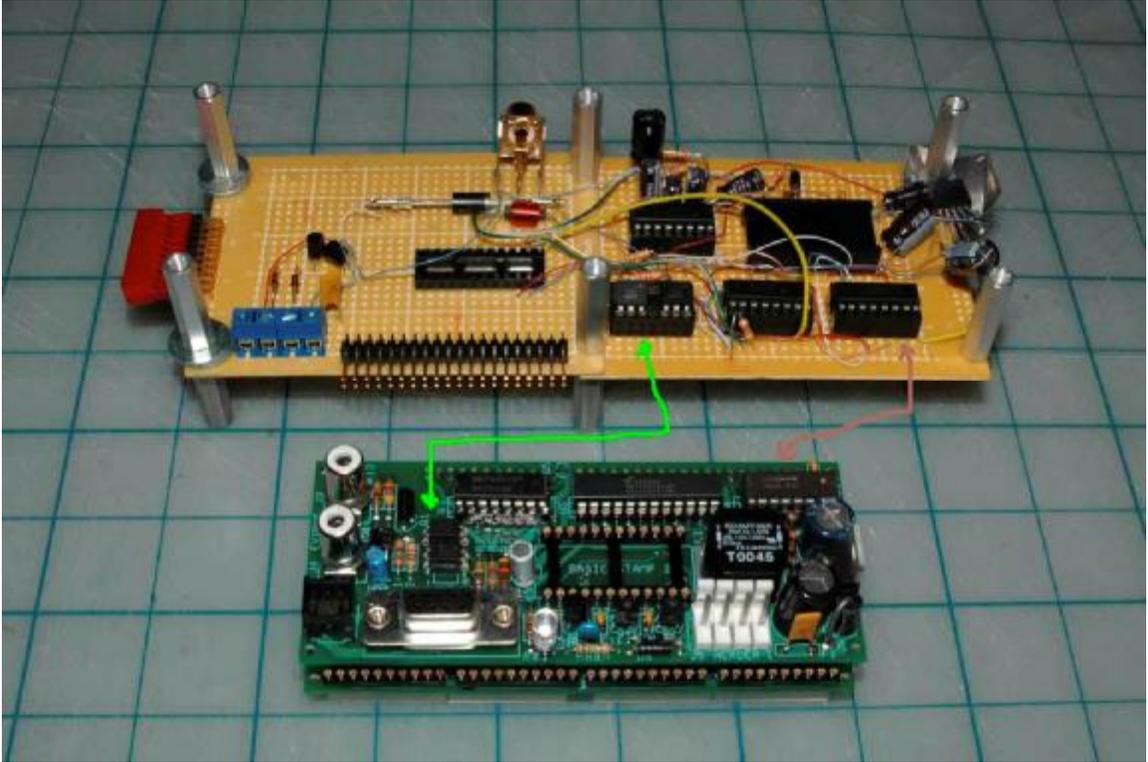
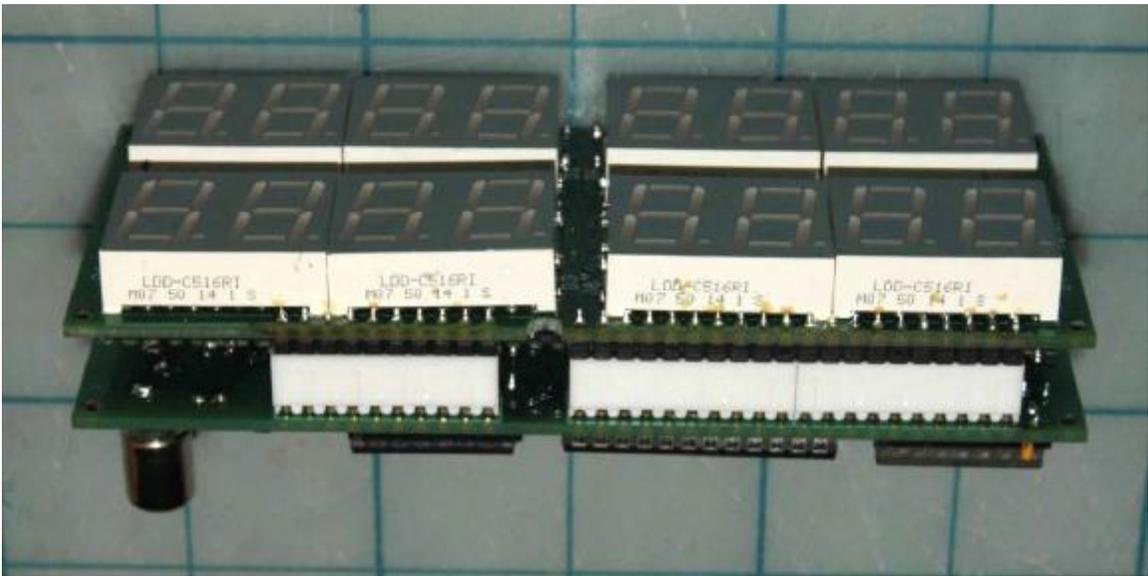


Photo of tiny space

Lee starts with a clean sheet of paper and designs what I think is impossible! A printed circuit board the same size as the display board. I don't see how anyone could hand solder all the needed components on to such a tiny space?!



But some time later, Lee presents me with the completed translator, although he admits that even he had a hard time soldering in such a tight place.



Lee even designed the translator so that it plugs directly into the back of the display board!

I'm very impressed.

But, my happiness is short-lived.

Lee tells me the instrument module will not work until it is programmed to display the information we want.

As you can see in the photo below, the BASIC Stamp 2 microprocessor plugs into the central socket.



It runs on a computer code called BASIC and my book on BASIC makes me think I'm over my head when it comes to writing code!

Volt Vette team member Haudy volunteers to do the programming, so I hand over the module to him.

I am not the only one converting a Corvette to pure electric these days. Gord up in Canada sends me a photo of his handiwork.



As you can see in the photo above, his instrumentation is clean, and does not require computer code. I tip my hat.

Next: A second look at lithium.

(and now the moment you have all been waiting for: The Volt Vette theme song! The votes have all been counted, and the winner is:

“Rods and Cones” by The Blue Man Group. The runner-up is: “Let’s Take A Ride In My Electric Car” by They Might Be Giants.)