AT-GPIB and Windows NT Compatibility

The built-in GPIB Talker/Listener/Controller port on your VXIpc-486 module is application compatible with the National Instruments AT-GPIB plug-in board, the industry-standard GPIB interface for ISA (PC AT) computers. Your VXIpc-486 port uses the same GPIB hardware circuitry as the AT-GPIB, including the NAT4882 and Turbo488 custom ASICs. These custom ASICs give your VXIpc-486, like the AT-GPIB, high GPIB performance capable of achieving a GPIB data transfer rate of 1.3 Mbytes/s for both reads and writes. In addition, your VXIpc-486, like the AT-GPIB, is 100 percent compatible with IEEE 488.2 and SCPI (Standard Commands for Programmable Instruments).

Because the GPIB port on your VXIpc-486 is similar to the AT-GPIB, your kit includes the manual *Getting Started with Your AT-GPIB/TNT and the NI-488.2M Software for Windows NT* along with the NI-488.2M software for the VXIpc-486. The GPIB port is built into your VXIpc-486; however, not all of the information in the AT-GPIB Getting Started manual is relevant to your VXIpc-486. For example, the hardware installation procedure for the AT-GPIB given in Chapter 2, *Hardware Configuration, Installation, and Verification*, does not apply to your VXIpc-486.

Chapter 3, *Software Installation and Configuration*, of the AT-GPIB Getting Started manual contains step-by-step instructions for changing the configuration settings for an AT-GPIB board. This information is not relevant to your kit, however, because the settings for your VXIpc-486 are fixed in hardware and cannot be changed. On your VXIpc-486, the base I/O address is fixed at 180 (hex), the DMA channel is fixed at 5, and the interrupt line (IRQ) is fixed at 11. The base I/O address is different from the default setting for an AT-GPIB, as shown in Table 2-1 in Chapter 2 of the AT-GPIB Getting Started manual. The NI-488.2M software for your VXIpc-486 uses the proper default settings for the VXIpc-486. If you experience any difficulties, you should verify these settings by following the instructions in the *Verify the Hardware Installation* section of Chapter 3. Keep in mind that if you install any plug-in boards into a VXIpc-486 expansion kit, these boards must not conflict with the settings of your VXIpc-486 GPIB port.