

The CircuitWerkes Sicon-8 Compared to Similar Products

Fill in the Brand B answers for any other products that you are considering.

| Category: Hardware Platform | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
|--|---------|---------|---|
| 8 channels of metering and status included | YES | | |
| Has a raise relay and a lower relay for each channel (16 total relays) | YES | | |
| Relay ratings | 5A | | Sicon-8's extra heavy relays are designed to last for many years. |
| Number of DPDT relays available | 2 | | DPDT relays rated @ 1amp |
| Meters can accept inverted inputs (negative voltages) | YES | | Handy for monitoring some phase meters |
| Maximum input sample voltage | 15V | | |
| Includes dedicated silence detector | YES | | |
| Standard Metering input can be used to detect silence | YES | | |
| Has built-in precision reference calibration standard for low drift accuracy | YES | | |
| Includes temperature sensor | YES | | |
| Audio can be monitored via telephone | YES | | |
| 10 bit A/D | YES | | |
| Auto-ranging & Self-re-calibrating metering inputs for best accuracy & ultra-low drift | YES | | |
| Can calculate indirect readings in hardware | YES | | |
| Modular construction for inexpensive & easy field replacement of parts | YES | | Sicon-8 has replaceable telephone interface, relay board, Web server/USB board and voice codec board. Most other ICs are in sockets for field repair. |
| Has onboard microphone for listening to room noise | NO | | |

| Category: Integrated Web Server Functions | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
|--|----------------|----------------|---|
| Web applet notifies the user if the network connection fails | YES | | With some products, you could lose control & never know. That's ridiculous! If you're relying on a Web connection, make sure the product you select will let you know if the network fails. |
| Web server applet attempts to reconnect if the connection fails | YES | | Sicon-8 tells you and then tries to fix it! |
| Web Server supports either DHCP or a static IP | YES | | |
| Number of open ports required to display a Web page | 1 | | Some Web products require 4, or more, ports to work. |
| Web Server Applet Loads in under 10 seconds | YES | | |
| Web Server supports Mobile/ PDA with specially formatted page | YES | | |
| Relay "On" indicators show actual feedback from relay actions | YES | | Sicon-8 indicators don't just show a button press, they are confirmation of actual closures. |
| Latching relays operate via Web server | YES | | Some products with latching relays only work via DTMF. |
| Relays close on "Mouse down" | YES | | Some products close on mouse-up. |
| Momentary relays stay closed proportional to the mouse-down time | YES | | 2-sec max for Sicon. Some products close on Mouse-Up instead of down and they have a fixed close time, too. |
| Maximum meter/status update speed | 1.3secs | | Some products take 10 secs typical. Sicon-8 = 2 secs typical. |
| | | | |

| Category: Clock & Scheduler | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
|---|----------------|----------------|--|
| Has a real-time clock function | YES | | |
| Clock works without an active connection to a network time server. | YES | | Some products will not keep time without an active network connection. |
| Clock is battery backed and keeps time when unpowered | YES | | For better accuracy, the Sicon-8 uses a true RTC, not a timing loop. |
| Clock can be set by NTP server | YES | | Requires either Internet connection or in-house NTP server |
| Clock can be set by sync to software | YES | | |
| Clock can be set by external contact closure from master clock | YES | | |
| Number of Actions that can be performed, in sequence, by an scheduled event | 7 | | |
| Event Scheduler supports Daylight Savings time | YES | | |
| Event Scheduler supports annually repeating functions (like pattern changes) | YES | | |
| Event Scheduler supports single events (one-time events) | YES | | |
| Event Scheduler supports repeating events with defined ends | YES | | |
| | | | |
| Category: Upgrades & Expansion | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
| Firmware can be field upgraded when new features are added or bugs are fixed. | YES | | |
| Can add more channels with inexpensive expander chassis | YES | | Sicon-8: up to 32 chans., in blocks of 8 |
| | | | |

| Category: Operation | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
|--|----------------|----------------|---|
| All main control/monitoring functions available via DTMF or Web server | YES | | |
| All main control/monitoring functions available via serial port using software | YES | | |
| Has multi-site monitoring & control interface included | YES | | Monitor several sites from one software tool. |
| Administrator can use special code to exit from local mode to remote mode | YES | | Can save trips to remote sites |
| Has user-defined validation timers for alarms and other operational parameters | YES | | |
| Write your own multi-step actions that can include multiple sites using software scripts | YES | | Turn off sites, check interlocks, etc. |
| Has a Push-to-Talk relay function for use over radio links | YES | | |
| Administrator can restrict controller's use of individual relays | YES | | |
| User can define meter scales | YES | | Software only in Sicon-8 |
| User can define status indicator colors | YES | | Software only in Sicon-8 |
| User can define text labels for status on and status off | YES | | |
| User can define text labels for "raise" and "lower" relays | YES | | |
| Linear metering calibration mode | YES | | |
| Power metering calibration mode | YES | | Provides better tracking of power meters |
| Log metering calibration mode | YES | | Provides better tracking of RF Amp meters |
| Direct Voltmeter Mode | YES | | |
| Audio is trimmed to exact length for more natural sounding audio without pauses | YES | | |
| Supports simultaneous multiple users (telco, Web, local serial/USB) | YES | | |

| Category: Programming & Setup | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
|--|----------------|----------------|---|
| Includes setup & control software | YES | | Makes setup fast & easy |
| Configuration data can be saved locally for setup of multiple units or reprogramming | YES | | Local saving is a Huge timesaver |
| If the hardware is reset or replaced, settings can be uploaded quickly | YES | | Some products have no way to save configuration data, so if the unit is scrambled or reset, you have to start over. from scratch. |
| Spoken labels can be configured using software | YES | | |
| Unit is fully resettable to factory defaults | YES | | Some units allow only partial resetting. The rest must be overwritten. |
| Web server address can be set by software instead of logging in to the Web server | YES | | No network connection is required to setup our Web Server's address. |
| Web server address can be set by DTMF (Telephone) | YES | | We give you many ways to find or set your IP address |
| Web server address can be found by dedicated software (if the IP address range is already known) | YES | | |
| Web server address can be found by operational software | YES | | |
| Web server address can be found by DTMF | YES | | |
| Web server's address can be found even if the IP address range is unknown | YES | | |
| All main setup function duplicated in via DTMF or serial data connection | YES | | If you don't have a PC, you can still configure the Sicon-8 |
| Event scheduler is programmable via software or via DTMF | YES | | |
| Audio words and phrases can be recorded / changed | YES | | |
| Changes/additions can be recorded via analog process (via telephone) | YES | | |
| Digital audio (wav or mp3) can be uploaded directly in digital format | YES | | Record your audio in studio and upload digitally with ease. |
| Audio uploads can be sent in batches | YES | | Applies to digital uploads only |
| | | | |

| Category: Alarm Handling | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
|--|----------------|----------------|---|
| Once triggered, identical alarms don't call you unless the first has been cleared. | True | | Lets you sleep at night |
| Critical alarms can notify you via telephone call | YES | | |
| Critical alarms can notify you via e-mail and/or text message | YES | | |
| Alarms can take automatic corrective actions like closing relays | YES | | |
| E-mail notifications are done on hardware | YES | | Emailing also available within the Siconcontroller software |
| E-mail & SMS notifications can use authentication | YES | | |
| E-mailing & SMS can use third party software for SSH/TLS and non-standard mail protocols | YES** | | Software only function. Requires software to launch 3 rd party clients. |
| Shows out-of-tolerance conditions, even if alarms haven't yet occurred or have been acknowledged | YES | | |
| | | | |
| Category: Logging | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
| Has hardware based logging capabilities | YES | | |
| Has software logging with user defined formatting (HTML, CSV, TXT, etc.) | YES | | Sicon-8's hardware and software logs are both configurable |
| Logs can be e-mailed | YES | | |
| Older Logs are automatically archived | YES | | Archiving is a software only function, but hardware logs can be emailed on a schedule |
| | | | |
| Category: cost | Sicon-8 | Brand_B | Comments |
| Cheaper? | | | |

