

Ҵ FEATURES

MERUS⁏ multilevel switching technology

- 5-level voltage modulation for ultra-low idle power consumption: 52 mW @ 18 PVDD (LPC mode) without the need of complex dynamic rail‑tracking systems
- Inductor-less application for reduced system cost without output power limitations
- Reduced EMI emissions compared to traditional 2 and 3 level class D audio amplifiers for fast time to market without compromises in audio performance or eficiency
- High efficiency at low output power: 79 %, 2×1 W, 8 Ω for extended battery life and easy thermal management in multichannel products even in idle state

Flexible configuration and application

- \cdot BTL rated output: 2×37 W, 18 V, 4 Ω , 10% THD
- \cdot PBTL rated output: 1×74 W, 18 V, 2 Ω , 10% THD
- PVDD voltage range: 10 V to 20 V
- High efficiency at low output power: 79% , 2×1 W, 8 Ω
- Selectable power mode profiles: Low Power Consumption (LPC) or High Audio Performance (HAP)
- Short circuit protection: 6 A peak (BTL) / 12 A peak (PBTL)
- ' External closed‑loop feedback for improved THD
- ' Integrated DSP with limiters and volume control
- Easy configuration over I2C-bus with up to 64 device addresses
- 8-bit auxiliary ADC for internal temp. / PVDD monitoring or sampling from external sources
- ' Configurable switching edge steepness and inter‑chip PWM sync for multi-device systems.
- No external heatsink required

Audio performance

- Output noise: 52 μVrms (A-weighted, HAP mode)
- Dynamic range: 106 dB (A-weighted, HAP mode)
- \cdot THD+N: 0.05%, 5 W, 1 kHz

Audio I/O

- 3-wire digital audio interface (no MCLK required)
- \cdot 32, 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4, 192 kHz sample rates
- I2S and TDM formats supported
- Low input-to-output latency for echo cancellation
- Post-DSP I2S output for chaining / echo cancellation

ҵ TARGET APPLICATIONS

- ' Battery powered speakers
- Bluetooth/wireless/smart speakers and soundbars
- ' Conference speakers
- Multichannel/multi-room audio systems

3 DESCRIPTION

The MA2304PNS is a 2×37 W audio amplifier with I2S/TDM audio interface. It features the MERUS™ multilevel switching amplifier technology enabling unmatched power efficiency at both low and high output power. Multilevel switching also relaxes EMI and enables inductor-less applications with lower cost and no compromise in audio performance or eficiency. A high order internal feedback loop en‑ sures low THD for excellent audio performance. The ultralow idle power consumption is at least five times lower than the traditional class D audio amplifiers in the market, making MA2304PNS ideal for battery powered speaker applications with extended battery life and/or reduced battery cell cost. In mains‑powered multichannel applications, the reduced and scalable EMI performance, enables otherwise impossible industrial designs, without the necessity for a heatsink or a traditional LC filter.

ҷ PRODUCT VALIDATION

Qualification standard: Standard

5 TYPICAL APPLICATION

Output power [W]

ҹ Functional Application Block Diagram

Figure 6.1: Functional Application Block Diagram

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Һ Device Comparison Table

Table 1: Device comparison

һ Pin Configuration

Figure 8.1: Package Overview - 6x6 mm QFN-40 pins

9 Pin List

Table 2: Pin List MA2304PNS

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10 Specifications

10.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings

NOTE: Usage outside the specifications stated in this table may cause permanent damage to the device and/or compromise reliability.

Table 3: Absolute Maximum Ratings

10.2 ESD and Thermal Characteristics

10.3 Recommended Operating Conditions

NOTE: Usage outside the recommended operating conditions stated in this table may cause the device to not behave properly. This can lead to interrupted audio playback, protection features being triggered etc. This applies to DC+AC values outside the min/max values.

Refer to sections 11.5 and 11.5.4 for more details on supply voltages and their protection mechanisms.

10.4 Electrical Characteristics

Conditions (unless specified otherwise): PVDD=18 V, VDD/VDD_IO=3.3 V, Power Mode Profile: LPC, T_{AMB}=25 °C, Load: 4 ohm + 22 μH, PCB: EVAL_AUDIO_MA23xx (no output filter)

¹Guaranteed by design simulation.

 2 Measured on EVAL_MA2304 evaluation kit PCB. Parameter may depend on application/layout/board stackup etc.

11 Functional description

11.1 MERUS™ Multilevel Switching

MERUS™ multilevel switching features several benefits in class D audio amplification compared to conventional 2level switching:

- ' Ultra low power consumption
- ' Unmatched power eficiency
- ' Low electromagnetic emission
- ' Reduced system cost

This chapter aims to explain these benefits in more detail.

11.1.1 Multilevel Topology

The integrated power stage of the MA2304PNS is a MERUS™ multilevel switching topology. It consists of two halfbridges with each four power MOSFETs and a flying capacitor. An intermediate voltage supply is generated over the flying capacitor's terminals, which together with the switching scheme of the MOSFETs result in a 2-phase PWM output with three voltage levels (0V, 1/2PVDD and PVDD) rather than the conventional two. This doubles the efective switching frequency seen at the PWM output.

Figure 11.1: BTL/PBTL configuration of two 3-level half bridges

In MA2304PNS, two half-bridges are combined in a BTL/PBTL configuration (Figure 11.1) with a relative phase shift of 270°achieving a 5-level switching scheme across the load, efectively quadrupling the switching frequency seen at the load. This allows the internal MOSFETs to be driven with lower switching frequency, thus reducing power losses related to switching. Switching waveforms are shown in Figure 11.2.

11.1.2 Reduced Inductor Ripple Current

The multilevel topology reduces the voltage magnitude over the output filter inductor during switching, which in turn reduces the ripple current and relaxes filter inductor requirements. At idle operation where the output signal level is low, the MOSFETs are switched at 50 % duty cycle, resulting in near-zero ripple current. Hysteresis losses in the

Figure 11.2: Multilevel switching with various signals.

inductor core material are therefore also greatly reduced which improves overall power efficiency. From Figure 11.3 it is clear that 5-level switching provides greatly reduced ripple current over the entire duty cycle range compared to conventional 2-level switching. In fact, it is not even necessary to use a standard LC filter for electromagnetic inter-

ference (EMI) suppression. The MA2304PNS can even operate with a simple ferrite filter reducing both application cost and size. See Section 11.1.4 and 12 for more information.

11.1.3 Ultra Low Power Consumption with Music

MA2304PNS exhibits ultra low power consumption at low and mid output power, which is ensured by low MOSFET switching frequency, smaller voltage transitions when switching and near zero-ripple current. The low idle power consumption can make battery‑powered applications last significantly longer or reduce the amount of battery cells required for a particular application.

Because of the low power consumption at lower output power levels, the MA2304PNS is ideal for real applications with dynamic signals like music/noise that exhibit a high signal peak-to-RMS ratio (crest factor). Power efficiency can be as high as 80 % at 1 W output power per channel, and because of the low power losses MA2304PNS may run without external heatsink in most applications. Figure 11.4 shows the diference in power eficiency between multilevel and traditional class D. From the figure it is clear that multilevel operation yields superior results for lower playback levels, which is the normal usage in common speaker products.

11.1.4 EMI Reduction

Complying with EMC regulations is a typical challenge with class D amplifiers due to the high power square wave output waveform. Traditional class D amplifiers have maximum current ripple in the output filter inductor at 50 % duty cycle (idle operation) which gives rise to high amount of common mode frequency content. However, MERUS™ multilevel operation exhibits minimal switching at idle which ensures minimal common mode emission at idle operation. The diferential mode content at higher playback levels, when switching activity is stronger, is also significantly reduced as the transition between voltage levels is relatively small

for multilevel compared to traditional class D. In addition, MA2304PNS makes it possible to address EMC issues from a software perspective with its [PWM synchronization](#page-19-4) feature as well as [configurable switching edge](#page-19-3) steepness (slew rate), all to reduce EMI in applications with many devices, e.g. multi‑channel amplifiers.

11.1.5 Power Mode Profiles (PMP)

The MA2304PNS features two selectable power mode profiles (PMP):

- Low Power Consumption (LPC) Mode
- High Audio Performance (HAP) Mode

LPC mode keeps efficiency as high as possible and minimizes idle losses by using a lower switching frequency for low output levels. HAP mode improves noise by using a higher switching frequency and therefore achieves a feedback loop with higher bandwidth. Switching frequency is dynamic for LPC mode and varies with output power with no audible artifacts. Table 7 shows the general properties of the two modes.

Table 7: Power Mode Profiles *PVDD=18 V, VDD/VDD IO=1.8 V, BTL, Load=8 Ω +22 μH, PCB=EVAL AUDIO MA23xx

11.2 Modes of Operation

11.2.1 Normal Operation / Shutdown (ENABLE pin)

The ENABLE pin (20) controls the shutdown state of MA2304PNS. When ENABLE is low, the device is in shutdown mode. When ENABLE becomes high, the device exits shutdown state, boots up and enters normal operation. Refer to [specifications](#page-8-0) for ENABLE timing.

11.2.2 Mute / Unmute (NMUTE pin)

NMUTE (19) controls muting of the amplifier output and is an active-low pin, i.e. if NMUTE=high the output will be unmuted. Muting is instantaneous, but unmuting is a timed function with a delay (refer to [NMUTE timing](#page-8-1))

Muting can also be performed with the mute $\frac{c}{1}$ register for individual channels. Use mute_source to choose the source of muting: NMUTE pin or register setting.

In muted state, no audio content is present at the amplifier output, but there will be some switching activity to balance and pre‑charge the flying capacitors. If no switching activity is desired the individual amplifier channels can be disabled with the disable_ch0/1 registers.

11.2.3 Standby

The device can be put in standby mode for lowest possible power consumption while still maintaining a functional I2C interface (to wake the device at a later point). Standby mode is controlled with the [standby](#page-33-4) register.

11.3 BTL/PBTL Output Configurations

The amplifier output can be configured to operate in

- Bridge Tied Load (BTL)
- Parallel Bridge Tied Load (PBTL)

Parameter	PBTL	BTL
Min. current limit	12 A	6 A
Recommended load	$2-4\Omega$	4-8 Ω
MSEL pin tie-off	Ground	VDD IO

Table 8: BTL/PTBL properties

The MSEL pin (34) controls the output configuration and must be set before the device powers up (when ENABLE=1). Alternatively, the mode_pbtl register can be used to configure the output after the device has powered up. The TBD_reg_ctrl register must also be set for the mode_pbtl register to take efect and override the hardware setting of the MSEL pin.

BTL is best suited for standard current, two-channel applications, e.g. stereo speaker pairs and 2-way systems. PTBL is a 1-channel configuration but with twice the output power/current capability, which can be useful for subwoofers and/or low impedance speakers. Refer to Figure

PBTL mode dynamically enables the second output based on the signal level so that idle power consumption can be as low as possible when high output power is not needed.

Figure 11.5: Bridge Tied Load (BTL) configuration

Figure 11.6: Bridge Tied Load (PBTL) configuration. Note: It is also possible to connect output pins A and B before the ferrite filter in order to use two ferrites in total instead of four.

11.4 Gain Configuration

MA2304PNS offers different gain configurations for matching full scale output with the desired PVDD voltage in an application. The gain is controlled with the pvdd_scale register. Reducing the amplifier gain to a lower value also reduces output noise. Gain frequency response is shown in Figure 13.28. Changing gain settings while the power stage is unmuted can result in significant pop/click and should be avoided. The table below shows the recommended pvdd scale setting for each diferent typical PVDD supply level. For a complete usable PVDD range in each pvdd scale setting refer to Figure 13.30 . Setting 11 and 10 can be used

from 10V to 18V, setting 01 can be used from 10V to 16V and setting 00 can be used from 10V to 15V.

Table 9: Gain options for recommended (guideline) PVDD voltages.

For additional noise characteristics as a function of gain and PVDD, please see Figure 13.29 and 13.30.

Note that the power stage cannot operate at full scale above 20 kHz. HAP mode is preferred if out-of-band operation is desired as its bandwidth is greater than LPC mode.

11.5 Protection

MA2304PNS offers a range of protection features to avoid damage to the device itself or attached speakers.

11.5.1 Errors and Error Handling (NERR pin)

The protection system in MA2304PNS monitors a range of parameters to check if min/max thresholds are exceeded. Exceeding the thresholds will trigger an error event in the protection system and the NERR pin (pin 11) will change from high to low. The NERR pin will only report errors correctly after the first PLL lock which requires clocks present on I2S_SCK and I2S_WC pins.

The NERR pin can be used as an interrupt flag for an external host control device, e.g. a system microcontroller. Alternatively, the err_pin register can be used to monitor the NERR pin as well. Once an error has been detected by the host, the error type can be identified by reading the error registers. Connect a 51 k Ω resistor from NERR to VDD‧IO.

General device errors:

- ' Low temperature warning
- I2S input error
- ' PLL error
- ' PVDD over‑voltage
- ' PVDD under‑voltage
- ' Over‑temperature error
- ' Over‑temperature warning

The errors above can be read as individual bits in the following registers:

• errVect now.errVector all 0 (instantaneous)

• errVect_acc.errVector_all_0 (accumulated/sticky)

Individual channel errors:

- ' DC error
- ' Flying capacitor error
- ' Over‑current error

The errors above can be read as individual bits in the following registers:

- errVect_acc.errVector_ch0 (Channel 0 accumulated / sticky errors
- · errVect_acc.errVector_ch1 (Channel 1 accumulated / sticky errors

Clearing errors

Errors can be cleared by toggling the reg.errTrig_reset register from 0 to 1 and then back to 0 .

Error handling:

It is generally recommended to use to accumulated error registers for error detection and handling. Normal error handling procedure:

- ' Disregard errors during start‑up of the device defined by T_{[ENABLE](#page-8-0)}.
- Clear errors immediately after start-up.
- Monitor accumulated error registers (general + channel) and take appropriate action if an error occurs.
- • Clear error register(s) after action has been taken to again monitor for new errors.

Figure 11.7: NERR/NCLIP schematic

11.5.2 Output DC Protection (DCP)

The amplifier output can detect if a DC voltage is present at the output terminals. If the output voltage stays above the DCP threshold for too long, corresponding to a 1 Hz sinusoid, the power stage will shut down, a DC error will be reported to the [channel error register](#page-37-2) and the power stage will attempt to restart and resume operation. Each output channel is monitored separately.

11.5.3 Over-Current Protection (OCP)

Over-current (OC) events can be triggered by e.g. driving low impedance loads with high PVDD and shorting speaker terminals to each other or to ground. The current flowing in each internal MOSFET in the output stage is monitored. If the threshold is exceeded (refer to [BTL threshold](#page-7-1) and [PBTL](#page-7-2) [threshold](#page-7-2)) the power stage will shut down, an OCP error will be reported to the error register and the power stage will attempt to restart and resume operation.

11.5.4 PVDD Over/Under-Voltage Protection

PVDD features over-voltage (OVP) and under-voltage (UVP) protection as well as under-voltage lockout (UVLO). Threshold voltages can be found in [specifications](#page-9-0). Refer to Figure 11.8 for an overview of the voltage protection on PVDD.

Figure 11.8: PVDD voltage protection overview

OVP protects the MOSFETs in the output power stage against permanent damage due to over‑voltage. If PVDD voltage rises above [OVP](#page-9-1)_{PVDD} the power stage will stop switching and the output will effectively be muted (overrid-ing NMUTE pin). PVDD voltage must fall below OVP_{[PVDD,CLR](#page-9-2)} voltage before the device exits muted state. OVP will not protect the device against PVDD voltages rising above the [absolute maximum value](#page-6-4).

UVP behaves similarly and also mutes the output (without audio artifacts) by stopping all switching in the output power stage if PVDD voltage drops below the [recommended](#page-6-5) [operating conditions.](#page-6-5) In UVP state it is still possible to communicate with the device but mute is sustained. UVP should be considered a warning for low and/or unstable PVDD.

If PVDD is reduced further, falling below the [UVLO](#page-9-0)_{PVDD} threshold, the device shuts down. Power‑on reset is applied when raising PVDD above the rising threshold again. When shut down, the device is not functional.

11.5.5 Over Temperature Protection (OTP)

An internal temperature sensor efectively safeguards the device against a thermally induced failure due to overloading and/or insufficient cooling. A high die temperature initially causes an Over Temperature Warning (OTW). During an OTW event, the device will continue to operate normally but if the temperature rises further, the device will reach Over Temperature Error (OTE). An OTE event will cause the device to stop all output switching activity in order to avoid permanent damage. The device will resume switching when the temperature has dropped suficiently. Both OTW and OTE will report to the NERR pin and the error reg‑ isters. Refer to [specifications](#page-9-3) for OTE and OTW trigger and clear temperatures.

11.5.6 PLL Error and I2S Input Error

PLL error will occur in case of lost clock signals on the I2S SCK and I2S WC. The MA2304PNS relies on these clock signals to operate properly and if they are not present or faulty, the core will come to a halt state, reporting to the error system that the PLL is not locked. When the clock signals return, operation is resumed. In the event of bad audio input an error will also be reported to the error register on a separate bit.

11.5.7 Flying Capacitor Over/Under-Voltage Protec**tion**

The flying capacitors connected to the VFCxxx pins are essential for MERUS™ multilevel switching to function properly. During normal operation an internal voltage balancing circuit will generate a virtual PVDD/2 supply across the external flying capacitor. To protect the internal MOSFETs against permanent damage the MA2304PNS features over/under-voltage protection (OVP/UVP) in case of loop instability or flying capacitor balancing errors. The flying capacitor voltage is monitored and OVP/UVP is triggered if the voltage over the flying capacitors is deviating too far from PVDD/2. In this event, the output stage stops switching (output muted). When the flying capacitor voltage has again been balanced the device starts switching automatically (output unmuted).

Note that flying capacitor over/under-voltage protection will not trigger if the PVDD voltage is below 13 V. The reason is that the feature is designed to protect the internal MOS-FETs against over-voltage conditions that could cause permanent damage to the IC, and at lower PVDD voltages the MOSFETs are no longer prone to this condition.

Figure 11.9: Flying capacitor protection behaviour

11.5.8 NCLIP Pin

The NCLIP works as a clipping indicator and starts pulsing from high to low at higher levels and becomes constant low when near clipping. A system microcontroller can use this pin as an indicator to decrease volume/gain if desired when clipping occurs. Alternatively, the integrated DSP features a configurable output limiter that can be used to prevent clipping. Triggering NCLIP does not register as an error, but the clip pin register can be used monitor the state of NCLIP. Connect a 51 k Ω resistor from NCLIP to VDD IO as shown in Figure 11.7 .

11.6 Power Supplies

11.6.1 Supplies for Internal Analog/Digital Circuitry **VDD‱VDD‧IO**

MA2304PNS generates its own internal analog/digital supplies from VDD with the use of external capacitors and the AVDD‧REG, DVDD‧REG and CD‧DIG pins. AVSS is the ground reference pin for the internal analog circuitry. MA2304PNS is designed to work with common power supply voltages, 1.8 V / 3.3 V, which are typically found in applications powering the host device already. When VDD is power cycled, the MA2304PNS register settings are reset to default. All VDD decoupling capacitors should be placed as close as possible to the supply pins. The recommended capacitor specifications are shown in Figure 11.10 .

VDD_IO is used for pull-up resistors to I/O pins on the south side of MA2304PNS (pins $11-18$). These are NERR (11) , NCLIP (12), I2S_DO (13), I2S_WC (14), I2S_SCK (15), I2S_DI (16), I2C_SDA (17), I2C_SCL (18), NMUTE (19) and ENABLE (20). Note that the serial audio data output pin I2S_DO is internally driven by the VDD_IO supply.

For simplicity, VDD‧IO and VDD can be tied to the same low voltage supply in the application.

11.6.2 Flying Capacitors

The MA2304PNS power stage uses flying capacitors to generate a ½PVDD supply voltage for multilevel operation. Each output switch node pin OUTxx has a corresponding

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Figure 11.10: Decoupling/supply capacitor schematic with recommended specifications

flying capacitor, with a positive and a negative terminal, VCFxxP and VCFxxN pins. The fly-cap pins are high power pins and care must be taken to reduce inductance/resistance in the PCB layout as the full output current will flow through pins/caps. Keep the flying capacitors as close to the device as possible with as short and wide PCB traces as possible. Refer to Section 12 for more information.

Figure 11.11: Flying capacitor schematic with recommended specifications

When choosing flying capacitors, it is necessary to keep capacitance derating vs. DC bias voltage in mind if multilayer ceramic capacitors (MLCC) are used. The fly-caps are constantly charged to ½PVDD, which will derate the expected capacitance. In general, high quality 10 μF 25V X5R/X7R 0805 MLCCs are recommended (example: C2012X5R1E106K125AB). The minimum effective capacitance should be 4.0 μ F at ½PVDD for correct operation.

11.6.3 Power Stage Supply (PVDD)

PVDD supplies current to the output power stage to drive the load. A bulk decoupling capacitor is recommended on the PCB to keep the supply stable, e.g. aluminium elec‑ trolytic type capacitor. Capacitance value will depend on the application (lowest playback frequency, ripple voltage and maximum peak power requirements). In general, a 470 μF aluminium electrolytic capacitor will be suficient for most applications.

Figure 11.12: Typical derating for multi-layer ceramic capacitors (MLCC) with different package sizes

To decouple fast transitents, it can be beneficial to place two low ESR capacitors with smaller capacitance value, e.g. 1 $μF$ and 10 $μF$, close to the PVDD pins on each opposing side of the MA2304PNS. Figure 11.13 shows the recommended PVDD decoupling schematic.

Figure 11.13: Typical derating for multi-layer ceramic capacitors (MLCC) with different package sizes

11.7 Clock System

MA2304PNS generates its own internal clock through a PLL in the presence of a serial audio bit clock (I2S_SCK) and a word clock (I2S_WC).

The frequency of the audio bit clock is auto-detected and clock frequencies up to 24.576 MHz are supported. The audio bit clock frequency will depend on sampling frequency, slot size (frame width) and the number of channels in the audio stream according to Equation 1.

$$
f_{SCK} = f_s \cdot \text{slot_size} \cdot N_{CH} \le 24.576 MHz \tag{1}
$$

11.8 Audio Interface

11.8.1 Digital Serial Audio Input

MA2304PNS has a single serial data audio input port that consists of the pins I2S_WC (word clock), I2S_SCK (bit clock) and I2S_DI (data in). The input port supports two-channel I2S and multi-channel TDM audio formats with sampling rates of 32, 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4 and 192 kHz with datawords of 16, 24 or 32 bits in length. The format alignment is configured in the data_alignment register. MA2304PNS is always configured as an audio sink device (receiver). TDM format is capable of up to 16 audio channels on a single

data line, making it ideal for multi-channel applications with multiple ICs.

By default, the internal audio receiver in MA2304PNS will look for starting edge on the word clock and receive packages based on the package slot size (also known as frame width, see slot size register), irrelevant of the frame midpoint transition on the word clock. This means that I2S (2-channel) and TDM (multichannel) are processed similarly by the receiver, the diference being the amount of slot size packages received between two starting edges of the word clock. For example, a 2-channel 32 bit I2S audio stream will have a 64 bit audio frame cycle between word clock starting edges, whereas a 4-channel 32 bit TDM audio stream will have 128 bit between starting edges (refer to audio data configuration examples in Figures 11.15 and 11.16). In this way, MA2304PNS can automatically detect if the format is 2-channel or multichannel (IZS/TDM) as long as slot_size, data_size (bit depth), data_alignment, sck_pol, ws_fs_rising and lsb_first registers are configured to match for both the external transmitter (source) and the MA2304PNS (sink).

To configure the input channel routing, refer to the tdm input map register.

11.8.2 Digital Serial Audio Output

MA2304PNS features a serial audio data output (pin 13: I2S_DO) with the same audio format properties as the serial audio input. To enable the audio output, the tx enable register must be enabled. By default (refer to [ROM code](#page-16-6)), the DSP output channels 1 and 2 (the signals received by the amplifier) are routed to I2S_DO, but this can be configured using the tdm_output_map0-15 registers.

11.8.3 Input-to-Output Audio Propagation Delay

MA2304PNS offers a very low propagation delay from audio input to amplified output, making it ideal for delay sensitive applications such as echo-cancelling speaker phones and conference equipment. Refer to [specifications](#page-8-2) for more info.

11.9 Digital Signal Processor (DSP)

11.9.1 ROM Code / Static Memory

The MA2304PNS contains ROM code (static memory) with a preconfigured DSP program that includes volume control and peak limiters. The ROM code is applied to the DSP by default when MA2304PNS is reset.

Figure 11.15: Audio data configuration/timing for two channels

The ROM code can be disabled by disabling the DSP entirely in the dsp_enable register. Alternatively, the DSP can be bypassed with the dsp_bypass register. The output signal would be identical using either method, but the power consumption is slightly reduced by disabling the DSP instead of bypassing.

11.9.2 Volume Control

Volume can be controlled with the volume ch register. The audio volume is not applied instantly but ramped to avoid audible click/pop artifacts. Volume ramping can be disabled by enabling the vol_instant register.

11.9.3 Peak Limiter (ROM Code)

The peak limiters in the ROM code can be configured with attack ch, release ch and threshold ch registers, which control the attack and release times as well as the threshold for limiting. The attack and release times are sample rate dependent in the way that a higher register value should be chosen for higher sample rates to achieve an equivalent attack/release time.

11.10 Auxiliary ADC

MA2304PNS features an 8-bit auxiliary ADC. The ADC can sample from the power stage supply PVDD, the internal

Figure 11.16: Audio data configuration/timing for four channels. Note that choosing 'I2S' in data_alignment for MA2304PNS does not restrict the data stream to only two channels. 'I2S' in data_alignment just refers to the data being aligned to the left and delayed by one bit.

temperature sensor or a voltage on the ADC‧IN pin from an external source. The sampled data is available in registers pvdd chip, temp chip and adc pin. The ADC IN pin voltage range is $0 \vee (min)$ to $1 \vee (max)$.

The ADC can be useful for general purpose monitoring, e.g. keeping temperature below a specified point by adjusting [volume](#page-33-9) if temperature readings become too high according to the application specification. The ADC is not designed for tasks with high precision.

11.11 I2C Serial Control Interface

MA2304PNS offers a serial control interface through the standard 2-wire I2C protocol using I2C SDA (data) and I2C_SCL (clock) lines. An application host device may then access the register map to configure the MA2304PNS.

Figure 11.18: I2C serial control interface block diagram

MA2304PNS uses 16 bit register adresses for its internal register map (example: 0x0001). The SDA line is sampled on the rising edge of the SCL line and the I2C command is shifted/sampled with MSB first.

Communicating properly with the MA2304PNS to access a single register must contain the following I2C sequence:

Please see Section 11.11.2 and 11.11.3 for device addressing and write/read commands.

The SDA and SCL lines must be pulled high once per application to the voltage supplying VDD_IO through a resistor, e.g. 2.2 k Ω , to ensure correct I2C functionality. The minimum and maximum recommended pull‑up resistor value is shown in [specifications.](#page-9-4)

Please refer to the original I2C bus specification and user manual provided by NXP Semiconductors for more detailed information on I2C communication.

11.11.1 Device Address

Device addresses for I2C communication can be set by pulling the I2C_AD0 (pin 36) and I2C_AD1 (pin 35) pins to VDD 10 (high) or ground (low). This gives four unique device addresses for applications with up to eight BTL channels. The pin configuration on I2C_AD0 and I2C_AD1 are only read once during start‑up of the device.

If four device addresses are not sufficient, hardware resistor programming can be used for the I2C AD0 and I2C AD1 pins to enable up to 64 unique device addresses. The pins must be connected to ground through a resistor of a spe-

cific value as shown in Figure 11.19 . Table 11 illustrates the combination of resistors to yield a specific address.

Figure 11.19: Resistor programming schematic

Table 11: Device addresses using resistor programming. Addresses are shown in decimal format

11.11.2 I2C Write Operation

Each I2C transaction is initiated from an I2C transmitter by sending an I2C start condition followed by the 7-bit I2C device address and the read/write bit (bit 8, write=0).

If the transmitted I2C address matches the configured address of the device, the device will acknowledge the request by pulling the SDA line to ground (bit 9). The I2C transmitter samples the acknowledged bit from the device on the next rising edge of SCL.

To complete the write operation, the I2C transmitter must continue transmitting the address and at least one data byte. The device continues to acknowledge each byte received on the 9th SCL rising edge. Each additional data byte written to the device is written to the next address in the register bank.

The write transaction is terminated when the I2C transmitter sends a stop condition to the device (rising edge on SDA during SCL kept high.

Block writing large amounts of data is also supported.

Refer to Figure 11.20 for write sequence.

11.11.3 I2C Read Operation

To read data from the device register bank, the read transaction is started by the I2C transmitter, sending a write command to the I2C address (bit 8, write=1), followed by the device address to read from.

The device will acknowledge the two bytes and data can now be read from the device by sending a repeated start, followed by an I2C read command (bit 8, read=1).

The device will acknowledge the read request and start to drive the SDA bus with the bits from the requested register bank address.

If the user tries to read in a non-existing address, acknowledge will be sent anyway but read will be ignored internally (0x00 will be sent to the I2C read requester).

The read transaction continues until the I2C source does not acknowledge the 9th bit of the data read byte transaction and sends a stop condition (rising edge on SDA during SCL kept high).

Refer to Figure 11.20 for read sequence.

Read Operation without Write Start

To read data from the device register bank, the I2C source can send a read transaction without write command first, meaning an I2C read command consisting of a byte with the device I2C address and the R/W bit set. The device will acknowledge the read request and start to drive the SDA bus with the bits from the last requested register bank address+1.

11.12 EMI Mitigation

In addition to the inherently low EMI levels from the MERUS™ multilevel switching output, MA2304PNS features ways to mitigate EMI further, which can be useful for applications with multiple devices.

11.12.1 Configurable Switching Edge

Fast square wave switching transients usually increase the amount of unwanted high frequency EMI. The switching edge steepness (slew rate) can be controlled in the gd_dVdt register which can be used as a tool for tuning applications for EMI compliance. The compromise is eficiency, as slower transients will result in higher switching losses). Additional EMI suppression can be achieved by reducing the switching edge steepness (tested using the MA2304PNS EVK).

11.12.2 PWM Synchronization for EMI Reduction

In multi-channel systems with multiple MA2304PNS devices, it can be increasingly necessary to suppress EMI. The NCLIP pin (12) can be used as an input/output to synchronize PWM signals of multiple devices and allow them to be driven out of phase which can have an influence on EMI performance. PWM sync is configured according to Figure 11.23 as follows:

I2C w**r ite single byte:**

I2C wr ite multiple bytes:

I2C re ad single byte:

I2C re ad multiple byte s:

Figure 11.20: I2C write and read sequences

Figure 11.21: Configurable PWM switching edges to reduce high frequency EMI content

- 1. Configure NCLIP pin to act as PWM input/output [gpio‧sync‧zclip](#page-34-9)
- 2. Configure PWM source device by setting sync_out_enable
- 3. Configure PWM sink devices by setting sync_in_enable
- 4. Control PWM phase relationship in either source or

sink devices by setting time lag in reg.pwm_phase

NCLIP must be pulled up to VDD_IO through a 10 k Ω resistor. The clock signals I2S_SCK and I2S_WC in the audio stream must be the same for all devices.

11.13 Post-Ferrite Filter Feedback

MA2304PNS can include an output filter ferrite in the internal control loop to compensate for the non-linearities in the ferrite material and as such improve audio performance in terms of THD+N. This relaxes the requirements for high quality ferrites and can therefore minimize cost of the output filter.

The feedback pins (FBXA and FBXB) must always be connected for loop stability. If post-ferrite feedback is not desired, the feedback pins must be directly connected to the OUTXA and OUTXB pins, respectively as shown in Figure 11.25.

Figure 11.24: Example of the post-ferrite filter feedback efect on distortion characteristics

Figure 11.25: Post-ferrite filter feedback schematic

It is not recommended to use an LC filter with post-ferrite filter feedback because the phase introduced by the LC filter can cause loop instability. If an LC filter is desired in the application, pre‑ferrite feedback should be used.

12 Application Information

12.1 EMC Ferrite Output Filter

The MA2304PNS allows for inductor-less operation while achieving EMI compliance. This is mainly due to the MERUS[™] multilevel switching technology which reduces the magnitude of the switching waveform at all output levels. A simple and inexpensive ferrite‑capacitor output filter can be used to suppress the emissions from the amplifier output. The filter schematic is shown in Figure 12.1 and recommended filter component values are shown in Table 12.

Figure 12.1: EMC ferrite output filter

Table 12: EMC ferrite filter recommendation

PCB layout for the output filter should be tight and with the smallest possible current return path for optimal EMI performance. In an application, cables connected from speaker terminals to the PCB should be twisted if possible for the same reason.

12.1.1 Capacitor Value Impact on Power Consumption

The filter capacitor can have a significant impact on the MA2304PNS power consumption and must be of relatively low capacitance value, e.g. 100-220 pF for minimal impact. For a 220 pF capacitor on each output channel in a BTL configuration results in approximately 10-20 mW additional power consumption at idle operation. Higher capacitance values will increase power consumption further, but also provide a lower corner frequency with improved suppression of EMI. The capacitor value should be balanced for the target application, however, no more than 1 nF should be used.

Please refer to MA2304PNS application notes for more information and EMI measurement results.

12.1.2 Ferrite Filter Selection

The most important factor in EMI suppression is the output filter ferrite bead. Ferrite bead performance may vary greatly in terms of efective frequency region and suppres‑ sion magnitude. This means that one ferrite part cannot necessarily replace another directly, and must be tested at an EMC lab for verification of compliance with regulations. An important characteristic is saturation current of ferrite material, which must comply with the maximum application output current in order to be efective at high output levels. Ferrites in 0805/1206 SMD packages will usually provide suficient specifications. The NFZ‑series from Murata yields good results, e.g. NFZ2MSD301SZ10L and NFZ2MSD150SN10L.

12.1.3 Ferrite Filter Stability Under Light Loads

Operating the MA2304PNS under very light output loads above 500 Ω can result in the amplifier's feedback loop becoming unstable, which can be a real scenario if the load is planned to be disconnected from time to time. If the load is planned to be disconnected during normal operation, it is recommended to use an RC damping network (snubber) similar to the damping network using an LC filter (Refer to Section 12.1.4). Starting point RC values can be R<500 Ω and C=22 nF but they need to be tuned to the specific application. The RC network will help maintain loop stability when the load is removed.

12.1.4 LC filter options

MA2304PNS can also operate with a LC filter for even higher EMI suppression. An LC filter can provide additional suppression of EMI, but will usually be higher cost and footprint size on board than a ferrite filter.

Table 13: LC filter schematic

The LC filter has to be carefully designed and tested to properly avoid instability with MA2304PNS. Stability issues can occur if the filter corner frequency is too low and non‑suficient EMI suppression may occur if the corner frequency is too high. The LC filter should consist of a filtering part (L and Cf) and a damping network (Cd and Rd) as shown in Figure 13. Typical recommended LC filter component values are shown in Table 14.

Table 15 shows the difference in output noise (A-weighted) and idle power consumption as a function of the LC filter components and Power Mode Profile. All characteristics shown in the table are derived from the same device on the same board (EVK).

Please refer to MA2304PNS application notes for more information and EMI measurement results.

Table 15: Power and noise performance characteristics for recommended LC filter designs.

‵Ref: Reference using no filter. Same device and board (EVK) was used to test all filter designs including reference. ‵‵LPC mode was not applicable with high capacitance filter components.

12.2 Thermal Design

The MA2304PNS is designed to be used in applications without external heatsink. A well-designed 4-layer PCB can act as a heatsink. The bottom thermal pad (EPAD) of the IC package should be thermally well‑connected to the top layer copper with as many vias as possible to the other layers. It is recommended to keep routed traces in the middle layers to a minimum, avoiding any routing at all if possible. Let the bottom layer only be used for routing traces between layers. Deadspace in all layers should be filled with copper connected to ground to maintain unhindered thermal flow away from the IC. Refer to Figure 12.8 for PCB layout reference.

Heat is generated primarily in the on-resistance of the internal MOSFETs, as well as the bond wires from the silicon to the IC pins, and will be dependent on load current. The losses due to heat will be more severe with lower load impedances, as conduction losses in the IC will dominate with increasing current. A comparison between load and output configuration (BTL/PBTL) is shown in Figure 13.12 and 13.13 .

12.3 Start-up Procedure

The recommended procedure for proper start-up of the device:

- 1. Keep the device disabled and muted: ENABLE = 0 , $NMUTE = 0.$
- 2. Ensure MSEL, AD0 and AD1 pins are configured correctly.
- 3. Enable VDD, VDD_IO and PVDD supplies and wait for them to become stable.
- 4. Ensure I2S bit clock and frame clock are present.
- 5. Enable device: ENABLE = 1.
- 6. Wait T_{ENABLE} T_{ENABLE} T_{ENABLE} until the device has started up in order to read the NERR pin status and start communicating with $12C$.
- 7. Program/initialize the device via I2C (if needed)

- 8. Unmute device: NMUTE = 1. When [NMUTE time](#page-8-1) has elapsed, the device is ready for audio playback.
- 9. The device is now in normal operation state (idle) and ready to play audio.

12.4 Procedure for handling discontinuous **audio clock**

In some applications the audio clocks may be stopped by the transmitter side from time to time, which will also halt the MA2304PNS audio playback. When the clocks return, MA2304PNS will continue operation once the PLL has locked again. MA2304PNS is designed to handle loss of clocks without any audio artifacts without muting. For op‑ timal performance, it is recommended to follow this proce‑ dure:

- 1. The device is in normal operation and audio clocks are present.
- 2. Mute the device: NMUTE=0. Alternatively, put the device in [standby](#page-33-4) mode.
- 3. Disable the audio clocks from the transmitting side. The device is now only operational through I2C. PLL error is reported to the error register internally.
- 4. When audio playback is required again, enable the audio clocks, wait for the PLL to lock and the device to be fully operational again (see timing for T_{ENABLE} T_{ENABLE} T_{ENABLE})
- 5. Unmute the device: NMUTE=1. Alternatively, put the device out of [standby](#page-33-4) mode.
- 6. The device is now in normal operation again and ready to play audio.

12.5 Power-down Procedure

The recommended procedure for proper power-down described below:

- 1. The device is in normal operation state.
- 2. Mute device: NMUTE = 0 .
- 3. Disable device: ENABLE = 0 .
- 4. The device is now in power-down state.
- 5. (Optional: Bring down VDD, VDD_IO and PVDD supplies.

12.6 Recommended Layout

The recommended application/PCB layout is shown in Figure 12.8 :

• **Decoupling:** Decoupling capacitors for power supplies VDD, AVDD‧REG, DVDD‧REG, CD‧DIG, PVDD and VDD_IO must be kept as close to the device as possible. The smallest value capacitors should be placed closest to the device to handle fast transients.

- ' **Fly‑caps:** Flying capacitors for VFCxxx pins must be kept as close to the device as possible and care must be taken to keep the current loop tight and short to ensure multilevel switching stability.
- ' **PCB layers:** A PCB with four layers is recommended to achieve power output performance stated in the electrical characteristics. Via stitching/array between board layers is encouraged on the ground net (GND), especially below the bottom thermal pad of the device which uses the PCB as a heatsink to dissipate heat. In general, the unused copper (deadspace) in all layers should be connected to ground for optimal thermal and EMI performance. Avoid breaking up the ground planes with any routing traces in all layers as much as possible to ensure good thermal connection throughout all PCB layers.
- ' **Output filter:** The traces from the output to the filter should be kept as short as possible for optimal EMI performance.
- **RC filter on I2S:** Digital audio/control lines (I2S/I2C) can have an impact on EMI performance. It is suggested to implement a RC first order lowpass filter close to the source on these lines to slow the transients and hence avoiding high frequency EMI. Values for the resistor and capacitor in the lowpass filter will be application dependent, but a good starting point could be 33 Ω and 180 pF.
- ' **Output cables placement:** Keep output speaker ter‑ minals/cables on the opposite side of the PCB from PVDD for EMI reasons. Radiated emission from the output switching waveform can couple from the output cables to the PVDD traces/cables and influence conducted emission performance significantly.

12.7 Evaluation Board as Reference

The EVAL_AUDIO_MA2304PNS evaluation board can be used as reference when designing an application. The evaluation board layout has specifically been optimized to achieve best possible thermal performance without an external heatsink. Refer to Figures 12.2 through 12.7 and/or refer to design files on [infineon.com](https://www.infineon.com/)

Figure 12.4: Top Layer **Figure 12.5:** Mid Layer 1

Figure 12.2: Evaluation board top side **Figure 12.3:** Evaluation board bottom side

Figure 12.6: Mid Layer 2 **Figure 12.7:** Bottom Layer

Figure 12.8: Recommended application/PCB layout for best performance

13 Typical Characteristics

Note that some characteristics are based on interpolated/averaged data.

13.1 Efficiency and power consumption

MA2304PNS

13.2 Thermal performance

13.3 Audio performance

14 Register map

Legend:

Red: Bits in the register which correspond to the specific Name/Function.

15 Package Information

Dimensions are in millimeter unless otherwise specified.

Figure 15.1: QFN pad-down 40-pin MA2304PNS package dimensions. Left: Top view. Middle: Side view. Right: Bottom view.

Figure 15.3: Recommended land pattern

16 Tape and Reel Information

Figure 16.1: Tape reel information

The drawing is in compliance with ISO 128-30, Projection Method 1 [\rightleftharpoons] All dimensions are in units mm

Figure 16.2: Carrier tape information

Revision-History

MA2304PNS

Revision:-2022-08-23,-Rev.-2.2

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