

Nonvolatile, l²C®-Compatible 64-Position, Digital Potentiometer

Data Sheet **[AD5258](www.analog.com/AD5258)**

FEATURES

Nonvolatile memory maintains wiper settings 64-position digital potentiometer Compact MSOP-10 (3 mm × 4.9 mm) I ²C-compatible interface VLOGIC pin provides increased interface flexibility End-to-end resistance 1 kΩ, 10 kΩ, 50 kΩ, 100 kΩ Resistance tolerance stored in EEPROM (0.1% accuracy) Power-on EEPROM refresh time <1 ms Software write protect command Address Decode Pin AD0 and Address Decode Pin AD1 allow four packages per bus 100-year typical data retention at 55°C Wide operating temperature −40°C to +85°C 3 V to 5 V single supply

APPLICATIONS

LCD panel VCOM adjustment LCD panel brightness and contrast control Mechanical potentiometer replacement in new designs Programmable power supplies RF amplifier biasing Automotive electronics adjustment Gain control and offset adjustment Fiber to the home systems Electronics level settings

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The AD5258 provides a compact, nonvolatile 3 mm \times 4.9 mm packaged solution for 64-position adjustment applications. These devices perform the same electronic adjustment function as mechanical potentiometers¹ or variable resistors, but with enhanced resolution and solid-state reliability.

The wiper settings are controllable through an $I²C$ -compatible digital interface that is also used to read back the wiper register and EEPROM content in addition, resistor tolerance is stored within EEPROM, providing an end-to-end tolerance accuracy

FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAMS

Figure 2. Block Diagram Showing Level Shifters

of 0.1%. There is also a software write protection function that ensures data cannot be written to the EEPROM register.

A separate VLOGIC pin delivers increased interface flexibility. For users who need multiple parts on one bus, Address Bit AD0 and Address Bit AD1 allow up to four devices on the same bus.

¹ The terms digital potentiometer, VR (variable resistor), and RDAC are used interchangeably.

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REVISION HISTORY

$1/13$ —Rev. C to Rev. D

3/07-Rev. 0 to Rev. A

3/05—Revision 0: Initial Version

SPECIFICATIONS ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

 $V_{DD} = V_{LOGIC} = 5 V \pm 10\%$, or 3 V $\pm 10\%$; $V_A = V_{DD}$; $V_B = 0 V$; $-40°C < T_A < +85°C$, unless otherwise noted.

¹ Typical values represent average readings at 25°C and V_{DD} = 5 V.

TIMING CHARACTERISTICS

 $V_{DD} = V_{\text{LOGIC}} = 5$ V \pm 10%, or 3 V \pm 10%; $V_A = V_{DD}$; $V_B = 0$ V; $-40^{\circ}\text{C} < T_A < +85^{\circ}\text{C}$, unless otherwise noted.

Table 2.

l,

¹ During power-up, the output is momentarily preset to midscale before restoring EEPROM content.

² Delay time after power-on preset prior to writing new EEPROM data.

3 Endurance is qualified to 100,000 cycles per JEDEC Std. 22 Method A117 and is measured at −40°C, +25°C, and +85°C; typical endurance at +25°C is 700,000 cycles. 4 Retention lifetime equivalent at junction temperature (T $_{\rm J}$ = 55°C per JEDEC Std. 22, Method A117. Retention lifetime based on an activation energy of 0.6 eV derates with junction temperature.

Figure 3. ^PC Interface Timing Diagram

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

 $T_A = 25$ °C, unless otherwise noted.

Table 3.

¹ Maximum terminal current is bounded by the maximum current handling of the switches, maximum power dissipation of the package, and maximum applied voltage across any two of the A, B, and W terminals at a given resistance.

² Package power dissipation = $(T_{JMAX} - T_A)/\theta_{JA}$.

Stresses above those listed under Absolute Maximum Ratings may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress rating only; functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions above those indicated in the operational section of this specification is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

ESD CAUTION

ESD (electrostatic discharge) sensitive device. Charged devices and circuit boards can discharge without detection. Although this product features patented or proprietary protection circuitry, damage may occur on devices subjected to high energy ESD. Therefore, proper ESD precautions should be taken to avoid performance degradation or loss of functionality.

PIN CONFIGURATION AND FUNCTION DESCRIPTIONS

Figure 4. Pin Configuration

Pin No. Mnemonic **Description** 1 W W Terminal, $\text{GND} \leq V_W \leq V_{DD}$. 2 AD0 Programmable Pin 0 for Multiple Package Decoding. State is registered on power-up. 3 AD1 Programmable Pin 1 for Multiple Package Decoding. State is registered on power-up. 4 SDA Serial Data Input/Output. 5 SCL SCL Serial Clock Input. Positive edge triggered. 6 VLOGIC **VECUS VLOGIC POWER SUPPLY.** 7 GND GND Digital Ground. 8 V_{DD} V_{DD} Positive Power Supply. 9 B B B B B B B Terminal, $GND \le V_B \le V_{DD}$. 10 A A Terminal, GND ≤ VA ≤ VDD.

Table 4. Pin Function Descriptions

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

 $V_{DD} = V_{LOGIC} = 5.5$ V, $R_{AB} = 10$ k Ω , $T_A = 25$ °C, unless otherwise noted.

Figure 7. INL vs. Code vs. Temperature

Figure 10. DNL vs. Code vs. Supply Voltages

Figure 17. Rheostat Mode Tempco (ΔRAB × 10⁶)/(RAB × ΔT) vs. Code

Figure 18. Potentiometer Mode Tempco ($\Delta V_W \times 10^6$)/($V_W \times \Delta T$) vs. Code

Figure 19. R_{WB} vs. Temperature

Figure 22. Gain vs. Frequency vs. Code, $R_{AB} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$

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05029-027

Figure 29. Large-Signal Settling Time

Figure 28. Midscale Glitch, Code 0×7F to Code 0×80

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TEST CIRCUITS

[Figure 30](#page-12-1) throug[h Figure 35](#page-12-2) illustrate the test circuits that define the test conditions used in the product specification tables.

Figure 30. Test Circuit for Potentiometer Divider Nonlinearity Error (INL, DNL)

Figure 31. Test Circuit for Resistor Position Nonlinearity Error (Rheostat Operation; R-INL, R-DNL)

Figure 32. Test Circuit for Wiper Resistance

Figure 33. Test Circuit for Power Supply Sensitivity (PSS, PSSR)

Figure 34. Test Circuit for Gain vs. Frequency

Figure 35. Test Circuit for Common-Mode Leakage Current

THEORY OF OPERATION

The AD5258 is a 64-position digitally controlled variable resistor (VR) device. The wipers default value prior to programming the EEPROM is midscale.

PROGRAMMING THE VARIABLE RESISTOR

Rheostat Operation

The nominal resistance (RAB) of the RDAC between Terminal A and Terminal B is available in 1 kΩ, 10 kΩ, 50 kΩ, and 100 kΩ. The nominal resistance of the VR has 64 contact points accessed by the wiper terminal. The 6-bit data in the RDAC latch is decoded to select one of 64 possible settings.

Figure 36. Rheostat Mode Configuration

The general equation determining the digitally programmed output resistance between Wiper W and Terminal B is

$$
R_{WB}(D) = \frac{D}{64} \times R_{AB} + 2 \times R_W \tag{1}
$$

where:

D is the decimal equivalent of the binary code loaded in the 6-bit RDAC register.

RAB is the end-to-end resistance.

 R_W is the wiper resistance contributed by the on resistance of each internal switch.

Figure 37. AD5258 Equivalent RDAC Circuit

Note that in the zero-scale condition, there is a relatively low value finite wiper resistance. Care should be taken to limit the current flow between Wiper W and Terminal B in this state to a maximum pulse current of no more than 20 mA. Otherwise, degradation or destruction of the internal switch contact may occur.

Similar to the mechanical potentiometer, the resistance of the RDAC between Wiper W and Terminal A produces a digitally controlled complementary resistance, R_{WA}. The resistance value setting for R_{WA} starts at a maximum value of resistance and decreases as the data loaded in the latch increases in value. The general equation for this operation is

$$
R_{WA}(D) = \frac{64 - D}{64} \times R_{AB} + 2 \times R_W
$$
 (2)

Typical device-to-device matching is process lot dependent and may vary by up to ± 30 %. For this reason, resistance tolerance is stored in the EEPROM such that the user will know the actual RAB within 0.1%.

PROGRAMMING THE POTENTIOMETER DIVIDER Voltage Output Operation

The digital potentiometer easily generates a voltage divider at Wiper W-to-Terminal B and Wiper W-to-Terminal A proportional to the input voltage at Terminal A-to-Terminal B. Unlike the polarity of V_{DD} -to-GND, which must be positive, voltage across Terminal A-to-Terminal B, Wiper W-to-Terminal A, and Wiper W-to-Terminal B can be at either polarity.

Figure 38. Potentiometer Mode Configuration

If ignoring the effect of the wiper resistance for approximation, connecting the A terminal to 5 V and the B terminal to ground produces an output voltage at Wiper W-to-Terminal B starting at 0 V up to 1 LSB less than 5 V. The general equation defining the output voltage at V_W with respect to ground for any valid input voltage applied to Terminal A and Terminal B is

$$
V_W(D) = \frac{D}{64} V_A + \frac{64 - D}{64} V_B
$$
 (3)

A more accurate calculation, which includes the effect of wiper resistance (V_W) is

$$
V_{W}(D) = \frac{R_{WB}(D)}{R_{AB}}V_{A} + \frac{R_{WA}(D)}{R_{AB}}V_{B}
$$
(4)

Operation of the digital potentiometer in the divider mode results in a more accurate operation over temperature. Unlike the rheostat mode, the output voltage is dependent mainly on the ratio of internal resistors $(R_{WA}$ and $R_{WB})$ and not the absolute values.

I ²C INTERFACE

Note that the wiper's default value prior to programming the EEPROM is midscale.

The master initiates a data transfer by establishing a start condition when a high-to-low transition on the SDA line occurs while SCL is high (se[e Figure 3\)](#page-4-2). The next byte is the slave address byte, which consists of the slave address (first seven bits) followed by an R/\overline{W} bit (se[e Table 6\)](#page-15-3). When the R/\overline{W} bit is high, the master reads from the slave device. When the R/\overline{W} bit is low, the master writes to the slave device.

The slave address of the part is determined by two configurable address pins, AD0 and AD1. The state of these two pins is registered upon power-up and decoded into a corresponding I²C 7-bit address (see [Table 5\)](#page-15-4). The slave address corresponding to the transmitted address bits responds by pulling the SDA line low during the ninth clock pulse (this is termed the slave acknowledge bit).

At this stage, all other devices on the bus remain idle while the selected device waits for data to be written to or read from its serial register.

WRITING

In the write mode, the last bit (R/\overline{W}) of the slave address byte is logic low. The second byte is the instruction byte. The first three bits of the instruction byte are the command bits (see [Table 6\)](#page-15-3). The user must choose whether to write to the RDAC register or EEPROM register or to activate the software write protect (see [Table 7](#page-15-5) to [Table 10\)](#page-15-6). The final five bits are all zeros (see [Table 13](#page-16-2) and [Table 14\)](#page-16-3). The slave again responds by pulling the SDA line low during the ninth clock pulse.

The final byte is the data byte MSB first. Don't cares can be left either high or low. In the case of the write protect mode, data is not stored; rather, a logic high in the LSB enables write protect. Likewise, a logic low disables write protect. The slave again responds by pulling the SDA line low during the ninth clock pulse.

STORING/RESTORING

In this mode, only the address and instruction bytes are necessary. The last bit (R/\overline{W}) of the address byte is logic low. The first three bits of the instruction byte are the command bits (see [Table 6\)](#page-15-3). The two choices are transfer data from RDACto-EEPROM (store) or from EEPROM-to-RDAC (restore). The final five bits are all zeros (see [Table 13](#page-16-2) and [Table 14\)](#page-16-3). In addition, users should issue an NOP command immediately after restoring the EEMEM setting to RDAC, thereby minimizing supply current dissipation.

READING

Assuming the register of interest was not just written to, it is necessary to write a dummy address and instruction byte. The instruction byte will vary depending on whether the data that is wanted is the RDAC register, EEPROM register, or tolerance register (se[e Table 11](#page-16-4) t[o Table 16\)](#page-17-1).

After the dummy address and instruction bytes are sent, a repeat start is necessary. After the repeat start, another address byte is needed, except this time the R/W bit is logic high. Following this address byte is the readback byte containing the information requested in the instruction byte. Read bits appear on the negative edges of the clock. Don't cares may be in either a high or low state.

The tolerance register can be read back individually (see [Table 15\)](#page-17-2) or consecutively (se[e Table 16\)](#page-17-1). Refer to the [Read](#page-16-0) [Modes](#page-16-0) section for detailed information on the interpretation of the tolerance bytes.

After all data bits have been read or written, a stop condition is established by the master. A stop condition is defined as a lowto-high transition on the SDA line while SCL is high. In write mode, the master pulls the SDA line high during the 10th clock pulse to establish a stop condition (see [Table 8\)](#page-15-7). In read mode, the master issues a no acknowledge for the ninth clock pulse (that is, the SDA line remains high). The master then brings the SDA line low before the $10th$ clock pulse and raises SDA high to establish a stop condition (se[e Table 11\)](#page-16-4).

A repeated write function provides the user with the flexibility of updating the RDAC output multiple times after addressing and instructing the part only once. For example, after the RDAC has acknowledged its slave address and instruction bytes in the write mode, the RDAC output is updated on each successive byte until a stop condition is received. If different instructions are needed, the write/read mode must restart with a new slave address, instruction, and data byte. Similarly, a repeated read function of the RDAC is also allowed.

I ²C BYTE FORMATS

The following generic, write, read, and store/restore control registers for the AD5258 refer to the device addresses listed in [Table 5,](#page-15-4) and following is the mode/condition reference key.

- $S = Start Condition$
- $P = Stop Condition$
- SA = Slave Acknowledge
- MA = Master Acknowledge
- NA = No Acknowledge
- \overline{W} = Write
- $R = Read$
- $X = Don't Care$
- AD1 and AD0 are two-state address pins.

GENERIC INTERFACE

Table 6. Generic Interface Format

Table 7. RDAC-to-EEPROM Interface Command Descriptions

¹ This command leaves the device in the EEMEM read power state, which consumes power. Issue the NOP command to return the device to its idle state.

WRITE MODES

Table 8. Writing to RDAC Register

Table 9. Writing to EEPROM Register

The wiper's default value prior to programming the EEPROM is midscale.

Table 10. Activating/Deactivating Software Write Protect

To activate the write protection mode, the WP bit in [Table 10](#page-15-6) must be logic high. To deactivate the write protection, the command must be resent except with the WP in logic zero state.

Table 5. Device Address Lookup

READ MODES

Read modes are referred to as traditional because the first two bytes for all three cases are dummy bytes that function to place the pointer toward the correct register. This is the reason for the repeat start. In theory, this step can be avoided if the user is

interested in reading a register that was previously written to. For example, if the EEPROM was just written to, the user can skip the two dummy bytes and proceed directly to the slave address byte followed by the EEPROM readback data.

Table 11. Traditional Readback of RDAC Register Value

Table 12. Traditional Readback of Stored EEPROM Value

Repeat Start

STORE/RESTORE MODES

Table 13. Storing RDAC Value to EEPROM

Table 14. Restoring EEPROM to RDAC¹

¹ User should issue an NOP command immediately after this command to conserve power.

TOLERANCE READBACK MODES

(Unit is Percent; Only Data Bytes are Shown)

The AD5258 features a patented RAB tolerance storage in the nonvolatile memory. Tolerance is stored in the memory during factory production and can be read by users at any time. The knowledge of stored tolerance allows users to accurately calculate RAB. This feature is valuable for precision, rheostat mode, and open-loop applications where knowledge of absolute resistance is critical.

The stored tolerance resides in the read-only memory and is expressed as a percentage. The tolerance is stored in two memory location bytes in sign magnitude binary form (see [Figure 39\)](#page-17-3). The two EEPROM address bytes are 11110 (sign + integer) and 11111 (decimal number). The two bytes can be individually accessed with two separate commands (see [Table 15\)](#page-17-2). Alternatively, readback of the first byte followed by the second byte can be done in one command (see [Table 16\)](#page-17-1). In the latter case, the memory pointer automatically increments from the first to the second EEPROM location (increments from 11110 to 11111) if read consecutively.

In the first memory location, the MSB is designated for the sign $(0 = +$ and $1 = -)$ and the seven LSBs are designated for the integer portion of the tolerance. In the second memory location, all eight data bits are designated for the decimal portion of tolerance. Note that the decimal portion has a limited accuracy of only 0.1%. For example, if the rated $R_{AB} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$ and the data readback from Address 11110 shows 0001 1100 and from Address 11111 shows 0000 1111, the tolerance can be calculated as

```
MSB: 0 = +Next 7 MSB: 001 1100 = 28 
8 LSB: 0000 1111 = 15 \times 2^{-8} = 0.06Tolerance = 28.06\%Rounded Tolerance = 28.1% and therefore
R_{AB\text{ ACTUAL}} = 12.810 \text{ k}\Omega
```
ESD PROTECTION OF DIGITAL PINS AND RESISTOR TERMINALS

The AD5258 V_{DD}, V_{LOGIC}, and GND power supplies define the boundary conditions for proper 3-terminal and digital input operation. Supply signals present on Terminal A, Terminal B, and Terminal W that exceed V_{DD} or GND are clamped by the internal forward-biased ESD protection diodes (se[e Figure 40\)](#page-18-4). Digital Input SCL and Digital Input SDA are clamped by ESD protection diodes with respect to VLOGIC and GND as shown in [Figure 41.](#page-18-5)

Figure 40. Maximum Terminal Voltages Set by V_{DD} and GND

Figure 41. Maximum Terminal Voltages Set by VLOGIC and GND

POWER-UP SEQUENCE

Because the ESD protection diodes limit the voltage compliance at Terminal A, Terminal B, and Terminal W (see [Figure 40\)](#page-18-4), it is important to power $GND/V_{DD}/V_{LOGIC}$ before applying any voltage to Terminal A, Terminal B, and Terminal W; otherwise, the diode is forward-biased such that V_{DD} and V_{LOGIC} are powered unintentionally and may affect the user's circuit. The ideal power-up sequence is in the following order: GND, V_{DD}, VLOGIC, digital inputs, and then V_A, V_B, V_W. The relative order

of powering V_A , V_B , V_W and the digital inputs is not important as long as they are powered after GND, V_{DD}, and V_{LOGIC}.

LAYOUT AND POWER SUPPLY BYPASSING

It is good practice to employ compact, minimum lead length layout design. The leads to the inputs should be as direct as possible with minimum conductor length. Ground paths should have low resistance and low inductance.

Similarly, it is also good practice to bypass the power supplies with quality capacitors for optimum stability. Supply leads to the device should be bypassed with disc or chip ceramic capacitors of 0.01 μ F to 0.1 μ F. In addition, low ESR 1 μ F to 10 μ F tantalum or electrolytic capacitors should be applied at the supplies to minimize any transient disturbance and low frequency ripple (see [Figure 42\)](#page-18-6). As well, the digital ground should be joined remotely to the analog ground at one point to minimize the ground bounce.

Figure 42. Power Supply Bypassing

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MULTIPLE DEVICES ON ONE BUS

The AD5258 has two configurable address pins, AD0 and AD1. The state of these two pins is registered upon power-up and decoded into a corresponding I²C-compatible 7-bit address (see [Table 5\)](#page-15-4). This allows up to four devices on the bus to be written to or read from independently.

DISPLAY APPLICATIONS **CIRCUITRY**

A special feature of the AD5258 is its unique separation of the V_{LOGIC} and V_{DD} supply pins. The reason for doing this is to provide greater flexibility in applications that do not always provide the needed supply voltages.

In particular, LCD panels often require a V_{COM} voltage in the range of 3 V to 5 V. The circuit i[n Figure 43](#page-19-2) is the rare exception in which a 5 V supply is available to power the digital potentiometer.

Figure 43. V_{COM} Adjustment Application

More commonly, only analog 14.4 V and digital logic 3.3 V supplies are available (see [Figure 44\)](#page-19-3). By placing discrete resistors above and below the digital potentiometer, V_{DD} can be tapped off the resistor string itself. Based on the chosen resistor values, the voltage at V_{DD} in this case equals 4.8 V, allowing the wiper to be safely operated up to 4.8 V. The current draw of V_{DD} will not

affect that node's bias because it is only on the order of microamps. V_{LOGIC} is tied to the microcontroller's (MCU) 3.3 V digital supply because V_{LOGIC} will draw the 35 mA that is needed when writing to the EEPROM. It would be impractical to try to source 35 mA through the 70 k Ω resistor; therefore, VLOGIC is not connected to the same node as VDD.

For this reason, V_{LOGIC} and V_{DD} are provided as two separate supply pins that can either be tied together or treated independently; VLOGIC supplies the logic/EEPROM with power, and V_{DD} biases up the A, B, and W terminals for added flexibility.

Figure 44. Circuitry When a Separate Supply Is Not Available for V_{DD}

For a more detailed look at this application, refer to the article, "Simple V_{COM} Adjustment uses any Logic-Supply Voltage" in the September 30, 2004, issue of EDN magazine.

OUTLINE DIMENSIONS

Dimensions shown in millimeters

ORDERING GUIDE

 $1 Z =$ RoHS Compliant Part.

² The evaluation board is shipped with the 10 kΩ R_{AB} resistor option; however, the board is compatible with all available resistor value options.

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

I ²C refers to a communications protocol originally developed by Philips Semiconductors (now NXP Semiconductors).

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