



## General Description

The MAX5890 advanced 14-bit, 600Msps, digital-toanalog converter (DAC) meets the demanding performance requirements of signal synthesis applications found in wireless base stations and other communications applications. Operating from 3.3V and 1.8V supplies, the MAX5890 DAC supports update rates of 600Msps using high-speed LVDS inputs while consuming only 297mW of power and offers exceptional dynamic performance such as 80dBc spurious-free dynamic range (SFDR) at  $f_{OUT} = 30$ MHz.

The MAX5890 utilizes a current-steering architecture that supports a 2mA to 20mA full-scale output current range, and produces -2dBm to -22dBm full-scale output signal levels with a double-terminated 50<sup>Ω</sup> load. The MAX5890 features an integrated 1.2V bandgap reference and control amplifier to ensure high-accuracy and low-noise performance. A separate reference input (REFIO) allows for the use of an external reference source for optimum flexibility and improved gain accuracy.

The MAX5890 digital inputs accept LVDS voltage levels, and the flexible clock input can be driven differentially or single-ended, AC- or DC-coupled. The MAX5890 is available in a 68-pin QFN package with an exposed paddle (EP) and is specified for the extended (-40°C to +85°C) temperature range.

Refer to the MAX5891 and MAX5889 data sheets for pin-compatible 16-bit and 12-bit versions of the MAX5890.

## Applications

Base Stations: Single/Multicarrier UMTS, CDMA, GSM

Communications: Fixed Broadband Wireless Access, Point-to-Point Microwave

Direct Digital Synthesis (DDS)

Cable Modem Termination Systems (CMTS)

Automated Test Equipment (ATE)

Instrumentation



## Selector Guide

# **MAXIM**

### Features

- ♦ **600Msps Output Update Rate**
- ♦ **Low Noise Spectral Density: -162dBFS/Hz at fOUT = 36MHz**
- ♦ **Excellent SFDR and IMD Performance SFDR = 80dBc at fOUT = 30MHz (to Nyquist) SFDR = 68dBc at fOUT = 130MHz (to Nyquist)**  $IMD = -95dBc$  at  $f_{OUT} = 30MHz$ **IMD = -70dBc at fOUT = 130MHz**
- ♦ **ACLR = 73dB at fOUT = 122.88MHz**
- ♦ **2mA to 20mA Full-Scale Output Current**
- ♦ **LVDS-Compatible Digital Inputs**
- ♦ **On-Chip 1.2V Bandgap Reference**
- ♦ **Low 297mW Power Dissipation at 600Msps**
- ♦ **Compact (10mm x 10mm) QFN-EP Package**
- ♦ **Evaluation Kit Available (MAX5891EVKIT)**

## Ordering Information

Functional Diagram



\*EP = Exposed paddle.

 $D = Drv$  pack.

+Denotes lead-free package.



**Pin Configuration appears at end of data sheet.**

**For pricing, delivery, and ordering information, please contact Maxim/Dallas Direct! at 1-888-629-4642, or visit Maxim's website at www.maxim-ic.com.**

## **ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS**

AV<sub>DD1</sub> 8, DV<sub>DD1</sub> 8 to AGND, DGND, DACREF,





**Note 1:** Thermal resistance based on a multilayer board with 4 x 4 via array in exposed-paddle area.

Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

## **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

(AVDD3.3 = DVDD3.3 = AVCLK = 3.3V, AVDD1.8 = DVDD1.8 = 1.8V, external reference VREFIO = 1.2V, output load 50<sup>Ω</sup> double-terminated, transformer-coupled output,  $I_{\text{OUT}} = 20 \text{mA}$ ,  $T_A = -40^{\circ}\text{C}$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Specifications at  $T_A \geq +25^{\circ}\text{C}$  are guaranteed by production testing. Specifications at  $T_A < +25^{\circ}$ C are guaranteed by design and characterization. Typical values are at  $T_A$  $= +25^{\circ}C.$ 



## **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)**

 $(AV_{DD3.3} = DV_{DD3.3} = AV_{CLK} = 3.3V$ ,  $AV_{DD1.8} = DV_{DD1.8} = 1.8V$ , external reference  $V_{REFIO} = 1.2V$ , output load 50Ω double-terminated, transformer-coupled output,  $I_{\text{OUT}} = 20 \text{mA}$ ,  $T_A = -40^{\circ}\text{C}$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Specifications at  $T_A \geq +25^{\circ}\text{C}$  are guaranteed by production testing. Specifications at  $T_A < +25^{\circ}$ C are guaranteed by design and characterization. Typical values are at  $T_A$  $= +25^{\circ}C.$ 



# **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)**

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## **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)**

 $(AV_{DD3.3} = DV_{DD3.3} = AV_{CLK} = 3.3V$ ,  $AV_{DD1.8} = DV_{DD1.8} = 1.8V$ , external reference  $V_{REFIO} = 1.2V$ , output load 50Ω double-terminated, transformer-coupled output,  $I_{\text{OUT}} = 20 \text{mA}$ ,  $T_A = -40 \degree \text{C}$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Specifications at  $T_A \geq +25 \degree \text{C}$  are guaranteed by production testing. Specifications at  $T_A < +25^{\circ}$ C are guaranteed by design and characterization. Typical values are at  $T_A$  $= +25^{\circ}C.$ 



**Note 2:** This parameter does not include update-rate-dependent effects of sin(x)/x filtering inherent in the MAX5890.

**Note 3:** Parameter measured single-ended with 50<sup>Ω</sup> double-terminated outputs.

**Note 4:** Not production tested. Guaranteed by design.

Note 5: Parameter defined as the change in midscale output caused by a ±5% variation in the nominal supply voltages.

**Note 6:** Not production tested. Guaranteed by design.

**Note 7:** Differential input voltage defined as V<sub>D</sub> P - V<sub>D</sub> <sub>N</sub>.

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**Note 8:** Combination of logic-high/-low and common-mode voltages must not exceed absolute maximum rating for D\_P/D\_N inputs.

MAX5890

**0689XVW** 

# MAX5890

## Typical Operating Characteristics

(AVDD3.3 = DVDD3.3 = AVCLK = 3.3V, AVDD1.8 = DVDD1.8 = 1.8V, external reference VREFIO = 1.2V, output load 50<sup>Ω</sup> double-terminated, transformer-coupled output,  $I_{\text{OUT}} = 20 \text{mA}$ ,  $T_A = +25 \degree \text{C}$ , unless otherwise noted.)



SPURIOUS-FREE DYNAMIC RANGE vs. OUTPUT FREQUENCY (f<sub>CLK</sub> = 600MHz)



SPURIOUS-FREE DYNAMIC RANGE vs. OUTPUT FREQUENCY



## Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

(AV<sub>DD3.3</sub> = DV<sub>DD3.3</sub> = AV<sub>CLK</sub> = 3.3V, AV<sub>DD1.8</sub> = DV<sub>DD1.8</sub> = 1.8V, external reference V<sub>REFIO</sub> = 1.2V, output load 50 $\Omega$  double-terminated, transformer-coupled output,  $I_{\text{OUT}} = 20 \text{mA}$ ,  $T_A = +25 \degree \text{C}$ , unless otherwise noted.)







SPURIOUS-FREE DYNAMIC RANGE vs. TEMPERATURE (f<sub>CLK</sub> = 500MHz)









MAX5890 toc11 DIGITAL INPUT CODE DNL (LSB) 12,2884096 8192 0 16,384 -0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0.2  $0.4$ 0 0.8 0.6 1.0 -1.0

DIFFERENTIAL NONLINEARITY

MAX5890 **0689XVW** 

**MAXIM** 

Pin Description



**8 \_**

## Detailed Description

#### **Architecture**

The MAX5890 high-performance, 14-bit, current-steering DAC (see the Functional Diagram) operates with DAC update rates up to 600Msps. The current-steering array generates differential full-scale currents in the 2mA to 20mA range. An internal current-switching network, in combination with external  $50Ω$  termination resistors, converts the differential output currents into a differential output voltage with a 0.1V to 1V peak-topeak output voltage range. The analog outputs have a -1.0V to +1.1V voltage compliance. For applications requiring high dynamic performance, use the differential output configuration and limit the output voltage swing to ±0.5V at each output. An integrated 1.2V bandgap reference, control amplifier, and user-selectable external resistor determine the data converter's full-scale output range.

Reference Architecture and Operation

The MAX5890 operates with the internal 1.2V bandgap reference or an external reference voltage source. REFIO serves as the input for an external, low-impedance reference source or as a reference output when the DAC operates in internal reference mode. For stable operation with the internal reference, bypass REFIO to AGND with a 0.1µF capacitor. The REFIO output resistance is 10kΩ. Buffer REFIO with a high-inputimpedance amplifier when using it as a reference source for external circuitry.

The MAX5890's reference circuit (Figure 1) employs a control amplifier to regulate the full-scale current, IOUTFS, for the differential current outputs of the DAC. Calculate the output current as follows:

$$
I_{\text{OUTFS}} = 32 \times \frac{V_{\text{REFIO}}}{R_{\text{SET}}} \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{14}}\right)
$$

where  $I_{\text{OUTFS}}$  is the full-scale output current of the DAC. RSET (located between FSADJ and DACREF) determines the amplifier's full-scale output current for the DAC. See Table 1 for a matrix of different IOUTFS and RSFT selections.

## **Table 1. IOUTFS and RSET Selection Matrix Based on a Typical 1.200V Reference Voltage**





Figure 1. Reference Architecture, Internal Reference **Configuration** 

#### Analog Outputs (OUTP, OUTN)

The complementary current outputs (OUTP, OUTN) can be connected in a single-ended or differential configuration. A load resistor converts these two output currents into complementary single-ended output voltages. A transformer or a differential amplifier converts the differential voltage existing between OUTP and OUTN to a single-ended voltage. When not using a transformer, terminate each output with a 25<sup>Ω</sup> resistor to ground and a 50<sup>Ω</sup> resistor between the outputs.

To generate a single-ended output, select OUTP as the output and connect OUTN to AGND. Figure 2 shows a simplified diagram of the internal output structure of the MAX5890.





Figure 2. Simplified Analog Output Structure

#### Clock Inputs (CLKP, CLKN)

To achieve the best possible jitter performance, the MAX5890 features flexible differential clock inputs (CLKP, CLKN) that operate from a separate clock power supply (AV<sub>CLK</sub>). Drive the differential clock inputs from a single-ended or a differential clock source. For highest dynamic performance, differential clock source is required. For single-ended operation, drive CLKP and bypass CLKN to CGND.

CLKP and CLKN are internally biased at AV<sub>CLK</sub> / 2, allowing the AC-coupling of clock sources directly to the device without external resistors to define the DC level. The input resistance from CLKP and CLKN to ground is approximately 5kΩ.

#### Data-Timing Relationship

Figure 3 shows the timing relationship between digital LVDS data, clock, and output signals. The MAX5890 features a 2ns hold, a -1.2ns setup, and a 2.5ns propagation delay time. There is a 5.5 clock-cycle latency between data write operation and the corresponding analog output transition.

#### LVDS Data Inputs

The MAX5890 has 14 pairs of LVDS data inputs (offset binary format) and can accept data rates up to 600MWps. Each differential input pair is terminated with an internal 110 $\Omega$  resistor. The common-mode input resistance is 3.2kΩ.

#### Power-Down Operation (PD)

The MAX5890 features a power-down mode that reduces the DAC's power consumption. Set PD high to power down the MAX5890. Set PD low or leave unconnected for normal operation.

When powered down, the MAX5890 overall power consumption is reduced to less than 13µW. The MAX5890 requires 350µs to wake up from power-down and enter a fully operational state if the external reference is used. If the internal reference is used, the power-down recovery time is 10ms. The PD internal pulldown circuit sets the MAX5890 in normal mode when PD is left unconnected.



Figure 3. Timing Relationship Between Clock, Input Data, and Analog Output

## Applications Information

#### Clock Interface

To achieve the best possible jitter performance, the MAX5890 features flexible differential clock inputs (CLKP, CLKN) that operate from a separate clock power supply (AVCLK). Use a low-jitter clock to reduce the DAC's phase noise and wideband noise. To achieve the best DAC dynamic performance, the CLKP/CLKN input source must be designed carefully. The differential clock (CLKN and CLKP) input can be driven from a single-ended or a differential clock source. Use differential clock drive to achieve the best dynamic performance from the DAC. For single-ended operation, drive CLKP with a low noise source and bypass CLKN to CGND with a 0.1µF capacitor.

Figure 4 shows a convenient and quick way of applying a differential signal created from a single-ended source using a wideband transformer. Alternatively, drive CLKP/CLKN from a CMOS-compatible clock source. Use sinewave or AC-coupled differential ECL/PECL drive for best dynamic performance.



Figure 4. Differential Clock-Signal Generation

#### Differential Output Coupling Using a Wideband RF Transformer

Use a pair of transformers (Figure 5) or a differential amplifier configuration to convert the differential voltage existing between OUTP and OUTN to a single-ended voltage. Optimize the dynamic performance by using a differential transformer-coupled output and limit the output power to < 0dBm full scale. To achieve the best dynamic performance, use the differential transformer configuration. Terminate the DAC as shown in Figure 5, and use  $50\Omega$  termination at the transformer singleended output. This will provide double 50<sup>Ω</sup> termination for the DAC output network. With the double-terminated output and 20mA full-scale current, the DAC will produce a full-scale signal level of approximately -2dBm. Pay close attention to the transformer core saturation characteristics when selecting a transformer for the MAX5890. Transformer core saturation can introduce strong 2nd-order harmonic distortion especially at low output frequencies and high signal amplitudes. For best results, connect the center tap of the transformer to ground. When not using a transformer, terminate each DAC output to ground with a 25<sup>Ω</sup> resistor. Additionally, place a 50 $\Omega$  resistor between the outputs (Figure 6).

For a single-ended unipolar output, select OUTP as the output and connect OUTN to AGND. Operating the MAX5890 single-ended is not recommended because it degrades the dynamic performance.

The distortion performance of the DAC depends on the load impedance. The MAX5890 is optimized for 50<sup>Ω</sup> differential double termination. Using higher termination impedance degrades distortion performance and increases output noise voltage.



Figure 5. Differential-to-Single-Ended Conversion Using a Wideband RF Transformer



Figure 6. Differential Output Configuration

MAX5890

#### Grounding, Bypassing, and Power-Supply Considerations

Grounding and power-supply decoupling strongly influence the MAX5890 performance. Unwanted digital crosstalk coupling through the input, reference, power supply, and ground connections affects dynamic performance. High-speed, high-frequency applications require closely followed proper grounding and powersupply decoupling. These techniques reduce EMI and internal crosstalk that can significantly affect the MAX5890 dynamic performance.

Use a multilayer PCB with separate ground and powersupply planes. Run high-speed signals on lines directly above the ground plane. Keep digital signals as far away from sensitive analog inputs and outputs, reference input sense lines, common-mode inputs, and clock inputs as practical. Use a symmetric design of clock input and the analog output lines to minimize 2nd-order harmonic-distortion components, thus optimizing the DAC's dynamic performance. Keep digital signal paths short and run lengths matched to avoid propagation delay and data skew mismatches.

The MAX5890 requires five separate power-supply inputs for analog  $(AV_{DD1.8}$  and  $AV_{DD3.3}$ , digital (DVDD1.8 and DVDD3.3), and clock (AVCLK) circuitry. Decouple each AV<sub>DD3.3</sub>, AV<sub>DD1.8</sub>, AV<sub>CLK</sub>, DV<sub>DD3.3</sub>, and DV<sub>DD1.8</sub> input with a separate 0.1µF capacitor as close to the device as possible with the shortest possible connection to the respective ground plane (Figure 7). Connect all of the 3.3V supplies together at one point with ferrite beads to minimize supply noise coupling. Decouple all five power-supply voltages at the point they enter the PCB with tantalum or electrolytic capacitors. Ferrite beads with additional decoupling capacitors forming a pi network can also improve performance. Similarly, connect all 1.8V supplies together at one point with ferrite beads.

The analog and digital power-supply inputs AV<sub>DD3.3</sub>, AVCLK, and DVDD3.3 allow a 3.135V to 3.465V supply voltage range. The analog and digital power-supply inputs  $AV<sub>DD1.8</sub>$  and  $DV<sub>DD1.8</sub>$  allow a 1.71V to 1.89V supply voltage range.

The MAX5890 is packaged in a 68-pin QFN-EP package with exposed paddle, providing optimized DAC AC performance. The exposed pad must be soldered to the ground plane of the PCB. Thermal efficiency is not the key factor, since the MAX5890 features low- power operation. The exposed pad ensures a solid ground connection between the DAC and the PCB's ground layer.

The data converter die attaches to an EP lead frame with the back of this frame exposed at the package bottom surface, facing the PCB side of the package. This allows for a solid attachment of the package to the PCB with standard infrared (IR) reflow soldering techniques. A specially created land pattern on the PCB, matching the size of the EP (6mm x 6mm), ensures the proper attachment and grounding of the DAC. Place vias into the land area and implement large ground



Figure 7. Recommended Power-Supply Decoupling and Bypassing Circuitry



planes in the PCB design to ensure the highest dynamic performance of the DAC. Connect the MAX5890 exposed paddle to the common connection point of DGND, AGND, and CGND. Vias connect the top land pattern to internal or external copper planes. Use as many vias as possible to the ground plane to minimize inductance. The vias should have a diameter greater than 0.3mm.

#### Static Performance Parameter **Definitions**

#### **Integral Nonlinearity (INL)**

Integral nonlinearity is the deviation of the values on an actual transfer function from a line drawn between the end points of the transfer function, once offset and gain errors have been nullified. For a DAC, the deviations are measured at every individual step.

#### **Differential Nonlinearity (DNL)**

Differential nonlinearity is the difference between an actual step height and the ideal value of 1 LSB.

#### **Offset Error**

The offset error is the difference between the ideal and the actual offset current. For a DAC, the offset point is the average value at the output for the two midscale digital input codes with respect to the full scale of the DAC. This error affects all codes by the same amount.

#### **Gain Error**

A gain error is the difference between the ideal and the actual full-scale output voltage on the transfer curve, after nullifying the offset error. This error alters the slope of the transfer function and corresponds to the same percentage error in each step.

#### **Settling Time**

The settling time is the amount of time required from the start of a transition until the DAC output settles its new output value to within the converter's specified accuracy.

#### **Glitch Impulse**

A glitch is generated when a DAC switches between two codes. The largest glitch is usually generated around the midscale transition, when the input pattern transitions from 011...111 to 100...000. The glitch impulse is found by integrating the voltage of the glitch at the midscale transition over time. The glitch impluse is usually specified in pV•s.

#### Dynamic Performance Parameter **Definitions**

#### **Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)**

For a waveform perfectly reconstructed from digital samples, the theoretical maximum SNR is the ratio of the full-scale analog output (RMS value) to the RMS quantization error (residual error). The ideal, theoretical maximum can be derived from the DAC's resolution (N bits):

$$
SNR = 6.02 \times N + 1.76
$$

However, noise sources such as thermal noise, reference noise, clock jitter, etc., affect the ideal reading; therefore, SNR is computed by taking the ratio of the RMS signal to the RMS noise, which includes all spectral components minus the fundamental, the first four harmonics, and the DC offset.

#### **Noise Spectral Density**

The DAC output noise floor is the sum of the quantization noise and the output amplifier noise (thermal and shot noise). Noise spectral density is the noise power in 1Hz bandwidth, specified in dBFS/Hz.

#### **Spurious-Free Dynamic Range (SFDR)**

SFDR is the ratio of RMS amplitude of the carrier frequency (maximum signal components) to the RMS value of their next-largest distortion component. SFDR is usually measured in dBc and with respect to the carrier frequency amplitude or in dBFS with respect to the DAC's full-scale range. Depending on its test condition, SFDR is observed within a predefined window or to Nyquist.

#### **Two-Tone Intermodulation Distortion (IMD)**

The two-tone IMD is the ratio expressed in dBc (or dBFS) of the worst 3rd-order IMD differential product to either output tone. The two-tone IMD performance of the MAX5890 is tested with the two individual output tone levels set to at least -6.5dBFS.

#### **Adjacent Channel Leakage Power Ratio (ACLR)** Commonly used in combination with wideband codedivision multiple-access (WCDMA), ACLR reflects the leakage power ratio in dB between the measured

power within a channel relative to its adjacent channel. ACLR provides a quantifiable method of determining out-of-band spectral energy and its influence on an adjacent channel when a bandwidth-limited RF signal passes through a nonlinear device.



## Package Information

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information, go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**.)



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## Revision History

Pages changed at Rev 1: 1–7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 16

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