

High-Speed Data Converter Evaluation Platform (HSDCEP) User Guide

Evaluates: RF-DACs ($\geq 1.5\text{Gps}$) and DUCs

General Description

The high-speed data converter evaluation platform (HSDCEP) is a PC-based platform that provides a comprehensive tool for evaluating Maxim's RF digital-to-analog converters (RF-DACs) that have update rates $\geq 1.5\text{Gps}$ and Maxim's digital upconverters (DUCs). The HSDCEP generates test patterns at rates of up to 1.25Gbps per data pin pair, on up to four parallel 16-bit LVDS buses. A data pattern with a maximum length of 64 mega-words (Mw), with each word being 16 bits wide, can be uploaded to the HSDCEP memory over a USB 2.0 port. The HSDCEP uses a high-speed Xilinx® Virtex®-5 FPGA to play back the data pattern to the DAC or DUC under evaluation.

The HSDCEP operates from a single 5V, 6A supply.

The HSDCEP software runs on PCs using the Windows XP® (SP2 or later) operating system with a USB 2.0 port.

Ordering Information appears at end of data sheet.

Features

- ◆ Evaluates Maxim RF-DACs ($\geq 1.5\text{Gps}$) and DUCs
- ◆ Four Parallel 16-Bit Output Buses (LVDS)
- ◆ Eight Clock-Capable Ports (LVDS)
- ◆ Output Rate Up to 1.25Gwps (LVDS) Per Output Bus
- ◆ 64M x 16-Bit Words Pattern Storage
- ◆ FPGA Configuration Stored on the PC and Downloaded Through the USB Port
- ◆ USB 2.0 Communication (480Mbps)
- ◆ Single 5V Supply Operation (Power Supply Included)
- ◆ LEDs to Display DUT and FPGA Status
- ◆ Simple Command-Prompt Software Interface (Enables Scripting to Run Command Sequences)
- ◆ FPGA Temperature Monitoring

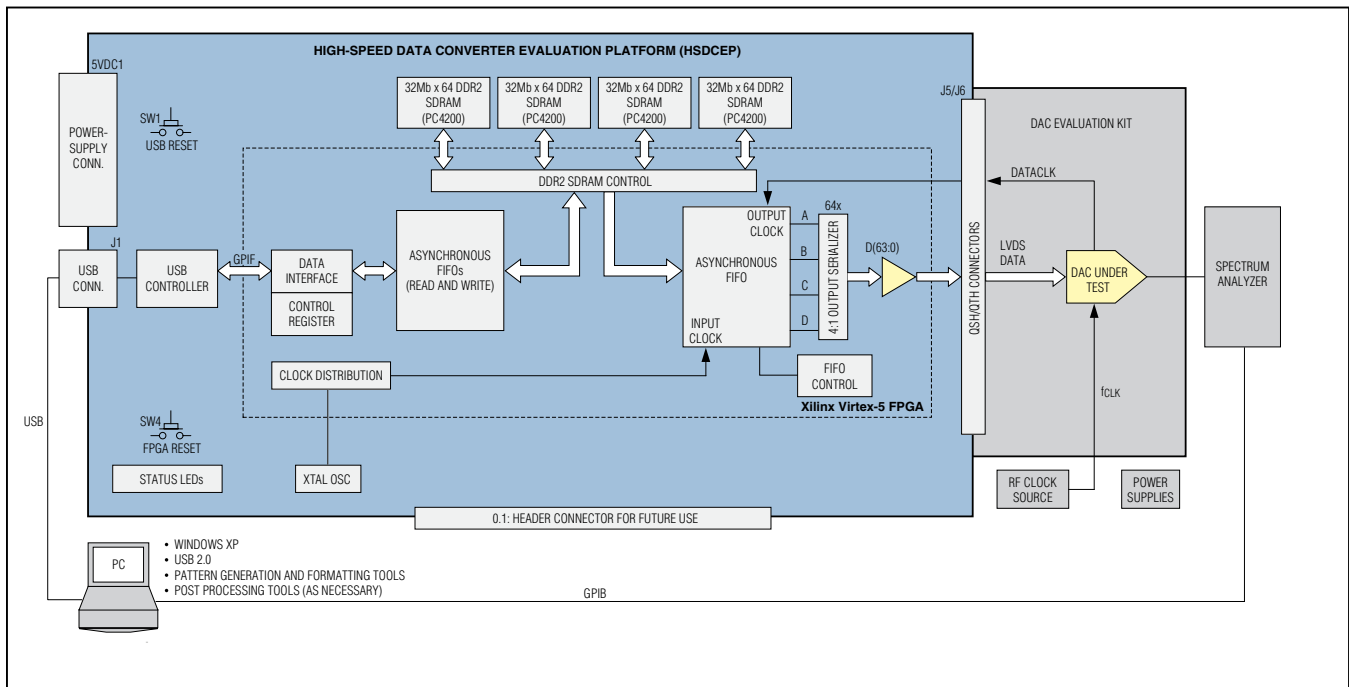


Figure 1. HSDCEP Block Diagram (Showing Functionality of the Board) and DAC Evaluation Kit

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ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

5V _{DC1}5.5V	Operating Temperature Range..... 0°C to +35°C
Continuous Power Dissipation (T _A = +25°C).....33W	Storage Temperature Range..... -60°C to +125°C

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

(5V_{DC1} = 5V, data output word rate = 4.6Gwps.)

PARAMETER	SYMBOL	CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Minimum DATACLK Rate					120	MHz
Maximum DATACLK Rate			625			MHz
Maximum Output Word Rate		4 port	5.0			Gwps
Output Bus Width				16		Bits
Pattern Length			256		64M	Words
Pattern Block Resolution				256		Words
Output Data Jitter				200		psp-p
Supply Voltage Range	5V _{DC1}		4.75	5.0	5.25	V
Supply Current		(Note 1)		5.2		A

Note 1: HSDCEP-powered, Maxim-supplied FPGA firmware loaded, and active heat sink operating.

Table 1. Board Connector and Switch Description

DESIGNATION	DESCRIPTION
5V _{DC1}	External 5.0V power-supply connection. Connect a 5V, 6A power supply to this connector.
J1	USB 2.0 port.
J2, J3, J8–J13	Do not connect—for future use.
J5, J6	High-speed output bus connector. The pinout of this connector is EV Kit/FPGA-firmware specific.
SW1	USB communications reset.
SW4	FPGA reset. Memory patterns must be reloaded after reset.

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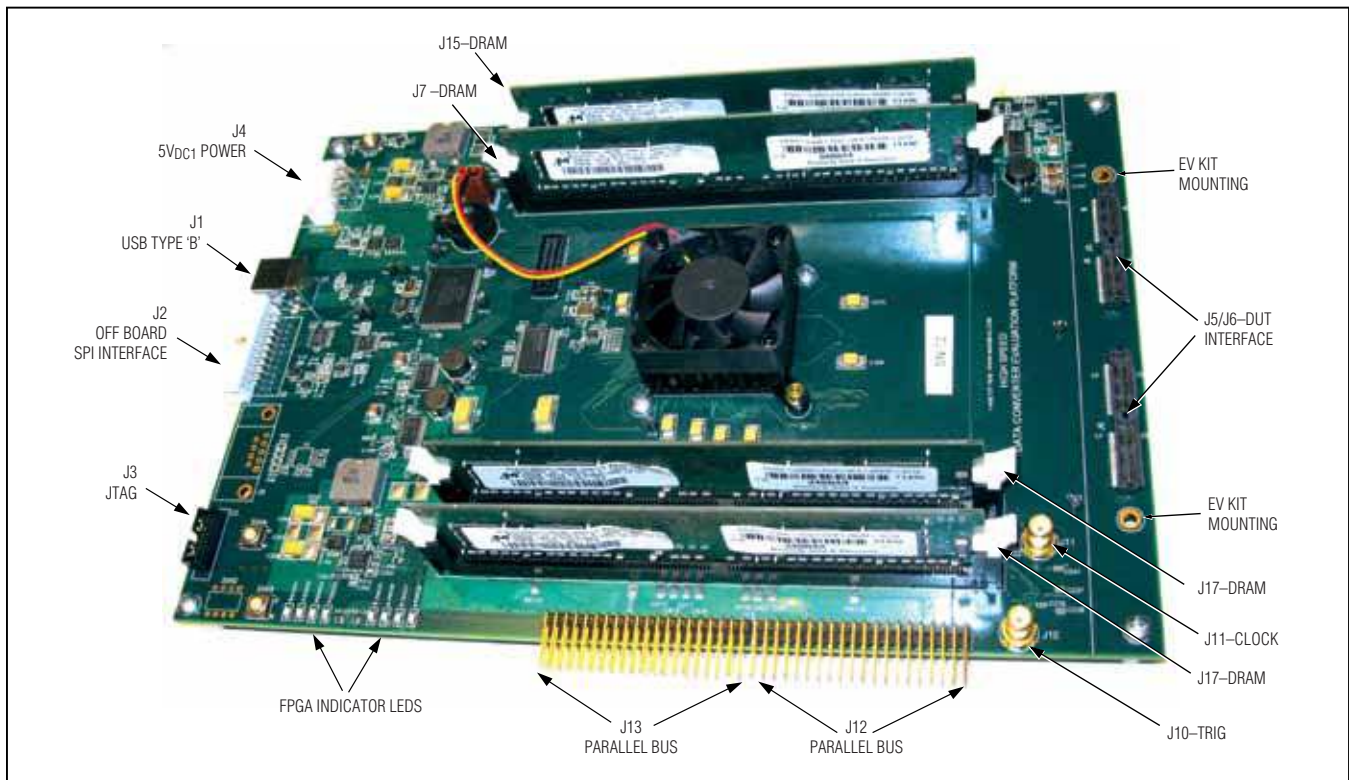


Figure 2. High-Speed Data Converter Evaluation Platform (PCB Photo)

Quick Start

Required Equipment

- HSDCEP board
- 5V, 6A DC power supply (included)
- User-supplied PC running Windows XP (SP2 or later) with a spare USB 2.0 port

The HSDCEP kit is a pattern source for Maxim's RF digital-to-analog converters (RF-DACs) that have update rates $\geq 1.5\text{Gps}$ and Maxim's digital upconverters (DUCs).

Note: In the following sections, software-related items are identified by bolding. Text in **bold** refers to items directly from the HSDCEP software. Text in **bold and underlined** refers to items from the Windows operating system.

Hardware Installation Procedure

Follow the steps below to verify board operation. **Caution:** Do not apply power to the board until all connections have been established.

- 1) Complete software installation. See the *Software Installation* section.
- 2) Connect the supplied power supply with supplied cable to connector $5V_{DC1}$.
- 3) Connect a USB cable to the PC and J1 of the HSDCEP. The PC displays **Maxim Data Converter Evaluation** indicating the HSDCEP has been connected, and requests to install the hardware driver (see the *Driver Installation* section for guidance).
- 4) Connect the DAC/DUC-specific daughter card to the HSDCEP at J5 and J6. Refer to the respective DAC/DUC EV kit data sheet for proper connections.
- 5) Apply power to the DAC/DUC EV kit.
- 6) Apply power to the HSDCEP board.
- 7) The board is now ready for commands to test the specific DAC/DUC.

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Basic DAC Command-Line Control

The minimum command set necessary to use the HSDCEP with a Maxim RF DAC is shown in Figure 3. The commands shown include powering up the board, loading the FPGA configuration, uploading the test pattern, and starting the playback.

Detailed Description of Hardware

The HSDCEP interfaces to Maxim's high-speed DAC EV kits using an LVDS data interface and Maxim's DUC EV kits using a CMOS interface.

The HSDCEP is controlled by a PC running Windows XP SP2 (or compatible operating system) with a USB 2.0 port and Maxim's proprietary software. The software uses a simple command-line interface that enables users to write DOS-style batch files or make system calls from a scripting or compiled programming language, such as MATLAB® or C++. Each HSDCEP is distributed with installation software that includes the drivers for the USB port and the command-line software.

A single 5V, 6A power supply is required. The HSDCEP software controls the programming of the on-board voltage levels. The output bus can be independently powered up and down through software to allow switching of DAC evaluation boards without removing power to the HSDCEP.

Product-specific FPGA firmware is distributed for use with the HSDCEP. The firmware sets up the interfaces for pattern storage from the PC and pattern playback to the DAC.

Figure 2 shows the locations of connectors, switches, and status LEDs on the HSDCEP. Main board power is supplied through the connector labeled $5V_{DC1}$. J1 is the USB cable connector and J5 and J6 are the DUT interface headers.

Output Interface Connector

J5 and J6 connect the HSDCEP to the DAC/DUC under test. The output interface contains four banks of 18 LVDS pairs from the FPGA. Each set of signals includes two clock-capable pairs for a clock input or clock outputs.

J5 and J6 are Samtec QTH-060-01-L-D-A connectors. Through holes for mechanically securing the HSDCEP and the DAC/DUC evaluation board together are provided. For direct and reliable interfacing, mechanical fastening is recommended. The mating connector is Samtec QSH-060-01-L-D-A.

USB Interface Connector

The HSDCEP communicates through the PC's USB 2.0 port for high-speed data transport. The USB port on the HSDCEP is connector J1 (a type-B USB connector). The HSDCEP draws less than 100mA of current from J1 to power the HSDCEP's USB interface circuitry.



```
Command Prompt
D:\HSDCEP_Test>hsdcep /powerup
D:\HSDCEP_Test>echo off
D:\HSDCEP_Test>hsdcep /lfpga MAX5881_DDR.bit
D:\HSDCEP_Test>echo off
D:\HSDCEP_Test>hsdcep /lm hsdcep_test.txt
D:\HSDCEP_Test>echo off
D:\HSDCEP_Test>hsdcep /start
D:\HSDCEP_Test>echo off
D:\HSDCEP_Test>hsdcep /stop
D:\HSDCEP_Test>echo off
D:\HSDCEP_Test>hsdcep /powerdown
D:\HSDCEP_Test>echo off
D:\HSDCEP_Test>
```

Figure 3. Screen Capture of Commands Needed for Running a DAC

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5V_{DC1} Power Connector

Main board power is supplied through the power connector labeled 5V_{DC1}. The nominal power-supply voltage is 5V. Current draw through the connector is dependent on the FPGA firmware loaded, and the speed at which the FPGA is clocked. Typical current for the HSDCEP, when fully powered and running at 4.6Gwps, is 5.2A.

Switches

There are four switches on the HSDCEP. SW1 resets the USB communication circuits and SW4 resets the FPGA (firmware dependent). Test patterns must be reloaded after the FPGA has been reset.

SW2 and SW3 perform DAC-specific functions (refer to the respective DAC IC data sheet for details).

Status LEDs

The HSDCEP contains two sets of LEDs that are used to indicate the status of the FPGA. The definition depends on the firmware. Table 2 provides a basic description (refer to the respective DAC-firmware documentation for the specifics).

Detailed Description of Software

Software Installation

The HSDCEP is distributed with two setup files. The HSDCEP.msi setup file contains the hardware drivers and HSDCEP program. When executed, the setup file runs the software installation routine that loads the software to the local computer and sets system environment variables. The MAXyyyyy.msi setup file contains the FPGA firmware to be placed in the HSDCEP setup directory (MAXyyyyy is Maxim Part Number under test).

Follow typical installation instructions for the program and FPGA firmware installation.

Note: Upon first-time use, a **New Hardware Wizard** installs the drivers. See the *Driver Installation* section.

Driver Installation

Windows requests to install the hardware driver the first time the HSDCEP is connected to the computer. See Figures 4, 5, and 6 for driver installation procedure and follow instructions in each figure.

Table 2. Basic LED Definitions

LED LABEL	FUNCTION		
DIAG1	Vector-done status (normally on), except when the patterns are being loaded into memory.		
DIAG2	Data destination.		
DIAG3, DIAG4	DIAG3	DIAG4	DRAM STATUS
	Off	Off	NOP
	Off	On	FPGA write mode
	On	Off	FPGA read mode
DIAG5	DAC clock error. The FPGA's DCM has not locked to the DAC data clock. Stop and restart the data pattern after verification of data clock to FPGA.		
DIAG6–DIAG8	Internal FPGA error. Reset FPGA with SW4 and reload data pattern.		

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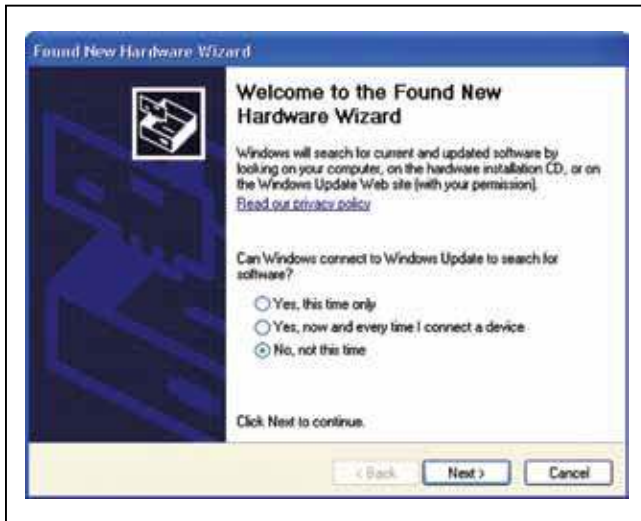


Figure 4. Found New Hardware Wizard—Start Hardware Driver Installation (select **No, not this time**, and click **Next** to continue) Allow Windows to install the software automatically.



Figure 6. Driver Warning Message (click **Continue Anyway** to complete installation)

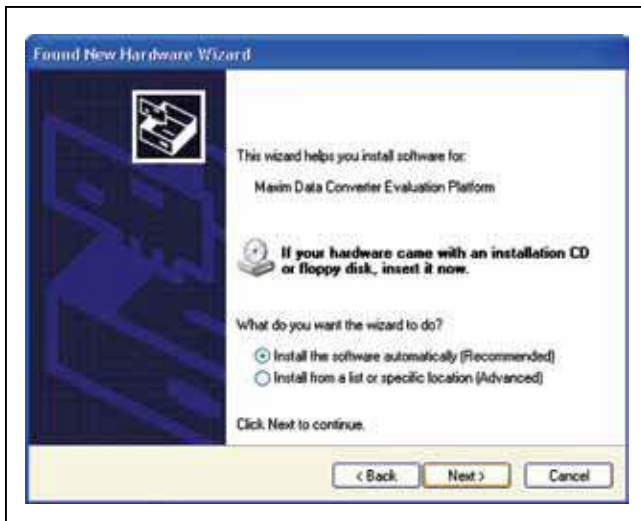


Figure 5. Install Software Automatically (click **Next** to continue)
Note: The driver is not registered with Microsoft; therefore, a warning message appears next.

Software Control

This section describes the software interface to the HSDCEP. The interface to the HSDCEP board is command-line driven using the Windows command prompt. Use simple commands such as **hsdcep / lfpga MAXyyyyy DDR.bit** to load the FPGA firmware file. Control of the HSDCEP can be enabled from other applications by making system calls.

The results of the command, FPGA, and board status are reported in the status.txt file. This file is located in the directory from which the HSDCEP command was executed and reports the status from the last call.

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HSDCEP Program Command Listing

The commands for the HSDCEP are listed in Table 3. The command is listed in **bold** format. Required command parameters are listed in **bold italic** format. Optional command parameters are listed in *italic* format. Examples of select commands are provided at the bottom of the list.

Example (Using MAX5882)

The following sequence is used to initialize the HSDCEP, load the FPGA configuration, load a test pattern, and start the pattern running:

HSDCEP /powerup	(Power up HSDCEP)
HSDCEP /lfpga <i>MAX5882_DDR_rev00.bit</i>	(Load FPGA configuration)
HSDCEP /lm <i>MAX5882EVK_8C_399920141_fs_4.604701Gps.txt</i>	(Load pattern file)
HSDCEP /setreg 6 6	(Enable MAX5882 DLL)
HSDCEP /start	(Start looping test pattern)

Table 3. HSDCEP Programming Commands

COMMAND	FUNCTION
/powerup	Powers on the HSDCEP board.
/lfpga <i>fw_file</i>	Loads the FPGA firmware file. This allows the user to specify which configuration to download to the FPGA. <i>fw_file</i> is the name of the file that contains the FPGA configuration. The status/success of the command is written to status.txt.
/lm <i>pattern_file</i>	Writes a data pattern to the HSDCEP DRAM modules. The pattern is read from <i>pattern_file</i> , which must be in the current directory or include the path to the file. For example, <i>pattern_file</i> can be <i>MyTestPattern.txt</i> or <i>C:/MyTestPattern.txt</i> , or similar. The pattern length must be an integer multiple of 256 16-bit words. The maximum pattern length is 64Mvectors. See the <i>Data Pattern File Format</i> section for details on the pattern file requirements.
/start	Starts the playback of the pattern to the DAC.
/stop	Stops the playback of the pattern to the DAC.
/lopowerdown	Powers down only the output interface. Use this command when switching DUTs.
/lopowerup	Powers up only the output interface. Use this command when switching DUTs.
/powerdown	Powers down the FPGA and DRAM supplies on the HSDCEP.
/powerupset <i>VIOSupply</i>	Sets the FPGA I/O supply level to <i>VIOSupply</i> . Valid values for <i>VIOSupply</i> are 1.5, 1.8, 2.5, and 3.3. LVDS interfaces require 2.5V, which is the default (<i>VIOSupply = 2.5</i>). Typical CMOS levels use 1.8V.
/ldm <i>output_file</i>	Reads from the HSDCEP the contents of the DRAM and writes the value in decimal format to <i>output_file</i> . The first line of the file contains the number of words downloaded. The status/success of the command is written to status.txt.
/swreset	Executes the FPGA's software reset. The /lm command must be executed after this command prior to executing a /start command.
/status	Reads the status of the HSDCEP and writes the results to the local file status.txt.
/setreg <i>RegAdd RegVal</i>	Sets the contents of register address <i>RegAdd</i> to <i>RegVal</i> .

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Data Pattern File Format

The first line of the pattern file used for loading and downloading the memory contains the number of words in the file. The number of words written to the memory must be an integer multiple of 256. The subsequent lines after the first line are the individual integer words for the pattern. Each word is an integer representation of the offset binary value of the desired bit pattern (MSB justified for 16-bit word width), so when the HSDCEP is used with a 12-bit device, each data word is shifted left by 4 bits (multiplied by 16). Each line must also be terminated with a carriage return and linefeed.

DATA IN FILE	FILE LINE NO. (Line numbers are not part of file)
4096	1 (number of words)
0	2
16	3
32	4
.	.
.	.
.	.
16,520	4097 (last line of file)

Example of a file containing ramp data for a 12-bit MSB-justified output:

Example code for a MATLAB routine write data to file:

```
function success=HSDCEP_File (filename,data,datawidth)
% Function to write data file for loading into HSDCEP
% using command
% line programs.
% Input:
%   Filename: Name of file to be written.
%   data: Data vector to be written.
%   datawidth: Width of the data vector. This is used to
%   MSB justify the
%   data for proper format from the FPGA/DUT interface
% Output:
%   Function returns a 1 if the datafile was properly written.
%
success=0;
fid=fopen(filename,'w');
dataLen=length(data);
if (mod(dataLen,256) == 0)
    if (fid ~= -1) % Success in opening file
        fprintf(fid,'%d\n',length(data));
        % Shift for MSB justification
        fprintf(fid,'%d\n',data*2^(16-datawidth));
        fclose(fid);
        success=1;
    else
        disp(['Can not open output file: ' filename]);
    end
else
    disp(['Data length must be a multiple of 256']);
end
```


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Ordering Information

PART	TEMP RANGE	PIN-PACKAGE
HSDCEP	0°C to +35°C	BOARD

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Revision History

REVISION NUMBER	REVISION DATE	DESCRIPTION	PAGES CHANGED
0	12/12	Initial release	—



Maxim Integrated cannot assume responsibility for use of any circuitry other than circuitry entirely embodied in a Maxim Integrated product. No circuit patent licenses are implied. Maxim Integrated reserves the right to change the circuitry and specifications without notice at any time. The parametric values (min and max limits) shown in the Electrical Characteristics table are guaranteed. Other parametric values quoted in this data sheet are provided for guidance.

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