General Description

The MAX2986 powerline transceiver utilizes state-of-theart CMOS design techniques to deliver the highest level of performance and flexibility. This highly integrated design combines the media access control layer (MAC) and the physical layer (PHY) in a single chip. The MAX2986 digital baseband and its companion device, the MAX2980* analog front-end (AFE), offer a complete high-speed powerline communication solution that is fully compatible with third-party HomePlug[®] 1.0 devices.

The MAX2986 digital transceiver utilizes Maxim's advanced OFDM powerline engine with adaptive data rates up to 14Mbps. The MAX2986's open architecture allows extensive programmability, feature enhancement capability, and improved testability in the MAC for optimum performance. Hence, this device is aimed at applications such as local area networks (LANs), audio, voice, home automation, industrial automation, and broadbandover-powerline (BPL), as well as spectral shaping and tone notching capability, providing an unparalleled level of flexibility to conform to the disparate local regulatory bodies. Maxim's modified OFDM technique allows shaping of power spectral density of the transmitted signal arbitrarily to accommodate any desired subcarrier set and to place spectral nulls at any unwanted frequency location. The automatic channel adaptation and interference rejection features of the MAX2986 guarantee outstanding performance. Privacy is provided by a 56-bit DES encryption with key management.

The MAX2986 operates with IEEE 802.03 standard media independent interface (MII), reduced media independent interface (rMII), buffered FIFO data communication, IEEE 802.03 compatible 10/100 Ethernet MAC, or USB 1.1 interfaces. These interfaces allow the MAX2986 to be paired with almost any data communication devices to use in a variety of information appliances.

Applications

- Broadband-Over-Powerline Industrial Automation
- Local Area Networks (LANs)
- (Remote Monitoring and Control)
- Multimedia-Over-Powerline Home Automation ● Voice-Over-Powerline
	- Security and Safety
- **Future product—contact factory for availability.*

HomePlug is a registered trademark of HomePlug Powerline Alliance, Inc.

Features

- Single-Chip Powerline Networking Transceiver
- Up to 14Mbps Data Rate
- 4.49MHz to 20.7MHz Frequency Band
- Upgradeable/Programmable MAC
	- Spectral Shaping Including Bandwidth and Notching Capability
	- Programmable Preamble
	- Access to Application Protocol Interface (API)
	- 128kB Internal SRAM
- JTAG Interface
- Large Bridge Table: Up to 512 Addresses
- 56-Bit DES Encryption with Key Management for Secure Communication
- Advanced Narrowband Interference Rejection **Circuitry**
- OFDM-Based PHY
	- 84 Carriers
	- Automatic Channel Adaptation
	- FEC (Forward Error Correction)
	- DQPSK, DBPSK, ROBO
- On-Chip Interfaces
	- 10/100 Ethernet
	- USB 1.1
	- MII/rMII/FIFO
- Compatible with HomePlug 1.0 Standard

Ordering Information

Pin Configuration and Typical Application Circuit appear at end of data sheet.

Absolute Maximum Ratings

CAUTION! ESD SENSITIVE DEVICE

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 in *device reliability.*

Electrical Characteristics

(V_{DD33} = +3.3V, V_{DD18} = DV_{DD} = AV_{DD} = +1.8V, AV_{SS} = DV_{SS} = DGND = 0, T_A = 0°C to +70°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at T_A = +25°C.)

Pin Description

Pin Description (continued)

Pin Description (continued)

Pin Description (continued)

Figure 1. MAX2986 Functional Diagram

Figure 2. Powerline Chipset System Block Diagram

Detailed Description

The MAX2986 powerline transceiver IC is a state-of-theart CMOS device, which delivers high performance at reduced cost. This highly integrated design combines the MAC layer with the PHY layer in a single chipset. The MAX2986 and the companion device, the MAX2980 AFE, form a complete HomePlug-compatible solution with a substantially reduced system cost.

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MII/rMII/FIFO Interface

The MII/rMII/FIFO block is the interface layer of the MAX2986 transceiver. This layer is designed to operate with IEEE 802.3 standard MII, rMII, or any other devices using the FIFO interface.

The interface is a data channel that transfers data in packets, with flow controlled by the carrier sense (MIICRS) signal. This signal controls the half-duplex transmission between the external host and the MAC. While a frame reception is in progress, (MIICRS and MIIRXDV are

high), the external host must wait until the completion of reception and the deassertion of MIICRS before starting a transmission. When sending two consecutive frames, the minimum time the external host needs to wait is the oneframe transfer time plus an interframe gap.

Note: For information such as signal timing characteristics and electrical characteristics, refer to the IEEE 802.3u.

Note: The MII signals MIICOL and MIITXER are not used, as the powerline networking device is able to detect and manage all transmission failures. The signals MIITXCLK and MIIRXCLK have the same source and are referred to as MIICLK in this document.

In MII mode, the data is transferred synchronously with a 2.5MHz/25MHz clock. Data transmission in MII is in nibble format so the data transmission rate is 10Mbps/100Mbps. In rMII mode, the data is transferred synchronously with a 5MHz/50MHz clock. Data transmission in rMII is in 2-bit format so the data transmission rate is 10Mbps/100Mbps.

In FIFO mode, data is read and written in byte format on each positive edge of BUFRD and BUFWR. The only limitation in this mode is that BUFRD and BUFWR must be low for at least three pulses of MIICLK to be considered a valid signal.

The upper layer interface can be selected according to the settings shown in Table 1.

MII Interface Signals

Table 2 describes the signals that provide data, status, and control to and from the MAX2986 in MII mode.

Table 1. Upper Layer Interface-Selection Pin Settings

Table 2. MII Signal Description

MII MAC and PHY Connections

Figure 3 illustrates the connections between MAC and PHY in MII mode. Although the Tx and Rx data paths are full duplex, the MII interface is operated in halfduplex mode. MIIRXDV is never asserted at the same time as MIITXEN.

On transmit, the MAX2986 asserts MIICRS some time after MIITXEN is asserted, and drops MIICRS after MIITXEN is deasserted and when the MAX2986 is ready to receive another packet. When MIICRS falls, the Ethernet MAC times out an interframe gap (IFG) (0.96μs typ) and asserts MIITXEN again if there is another packet to send. This differs from the nominal behavior of MIICRS in that MIICRS can extend past the end of the packet by an arbitrary amount of time, while the MAX2986 is gaining access to the channel and transmitting the packet.

MACs in 10Mbps mode do not use a jabber timeout, so there is no timing restriction on how long MIICRS can assert (other than timeouts the MAX2986 may implement).

Transmissions are modulated onto the wire as soon as the transfer begins, as the MII fills the MAX2986 buffer faster than data needs to be made available to the modulator. When a packet arrives at the MAX2986, it attempts to gain access to the channel. This may not happen before the entire packet is transferred across the MII interface, so the MAX2986 buffers at least one Ethernet packet to perform this rate adaptation.

On receive, when the MAX2986 anticipates that it will have a packet demodulated, it raises MIICRS to seize the half-duplex MII channel, waits a short time (an IFG), then possibly defers to MIITXEN (which may just have been asserted) plus an IFG, and then raises MIIRXDV to transfer the packet. At the end of the transfer, it drops MIICRS unless the transmit buffer is full or there is another receive packet ready to transfer. This is illustrated in Figure 4, where one receive transfer is followed by a second, which defers to MIITXEN. Data reception needs to have priority over transmission to ensure that the buffer empties faster than packets arrive off the wire. The longest the receiver needs to wait is the time to transfer one Tx frame plus an IFG or approximately 134μs. However, minimum size frames can arrive at a peak rate of one every 65μs, so the receive-side buffer must accommodate multiple frames (but only a little more than one Ethernet packet of data).

Figure 4. Receive Defer in MII Mode

Figure 3. MAC and PHY Connection in MII Mode

MII Signal Timing—Transmitting

When a frame in the external host is ready to transmit and MIICRS is not high (the previous transmission has finished), the external host asserts MIITXEN, while data is ready on MIIDAT[3:0]. In response, the MAX2986 asserts MIICRS.

While the external host keeps MIITXEN high, data is sampled synchronously with respect to MIICLK into the MAX2986 through MIIDAT.

After transmission of the last byte of data and before the next positive edge of the MIICLK, MIITXEN is reset by the external host.

The transmission timing of the MII interface is illustrated in Figure 5, with details in Figure 6 and Table 3.

Figure 5. Transmission Behavior of the MII Interface

Figure 6. MII Interface—Detailed Transmit Timing

Table 3. MII Interface—Detailed Transmit Timing*

**Per IEEE 802.3u standard.*

MII Signal Timing—Receiving

When a frame is ready to send from the MAX2986 to the external host, the MAX2986 asserts MIIRXDV after IFG (which is about 0.96μs), while there is no transmission session in progress (with respect to MIICRS).

Note: The receive process cannot start while a transmission is in progress.

While the MAX2986 keeps MIIRXDV high, data is sampled synchronously with respect to MIICLK from the MAX2986 through MIIDAT. After the last byte of data is received, the MAX2986 resets MIIRXDV.

Receive timing of the MII interface is illustrated in Figure 7, with details in Figure 8 and Table 4.

Figure 7. Receive Behavior of the MII Interface

*Figure 8. MII Interface—Detailed Receive Timing *Per IEEE 802.3u standard.*

Table 4. MII Interface—Detailed Receive Timing*

Reduced Media Independent Interface (rMII)

Table 5 describes the signals that provide data, status, and control to the MAX2986 in rMII mode. In this mode, data is transmitted and received in bit pairs. The rMII mode connections are shown in Figure 9.

In case of an error in the received data, to eliminate the requirement for MIIRXER and still meet the requirement for undetected error rate, MIIDAT[5:4] replaces the decoded data in the receive stream with 10 until the end of carrier activity. By this replacement, the CRC check is guaranteed to detect an error and reject the packet.

Table 5. rMII Signal Description

Figure 9. MAC-PHY Connection in rMII Mode

rMII Signal Timing

rMII transmit and receive timing are the same as for MII, except that the data are sent and received in 2-bit format and MIICRS is removed.

FIFO Interface Signals

Table 6 describes signals that provide data, status, and control to and from the MAX2986 in buffering (FIFO) mode. The FIFO buffering interface is operated in halfduplex mode. MIIRXDV is never asserted at the same time as MIITXEN, but it is able to start transmission while receive is in progress. It is highly recommended to give reception a higher priority to avoid data loss.

On transmit, the MAX2986 asserts MIICRS after MIITXEN is asserted, and drops it after MIITXEN is deasserted and when the MAX2986 is ready to get another packet. When MIICRS falls, it can be asserted again if there is another packet to send.

Transmissions are modulated onto the wire as soon as the transfer begins, as the interface fills the MAX2986 buffer faster than data needs to be made available to the modulator. When a packet arrives at the MAX2986, it attempts to gain access to the channel. Since this may not happen before the entire packet is transferred across the interface, the MAX2986 buffers at least one Ethernet packet to perform this rate adaptation.

On receive; when the MAX2986 anticipates that it will have a packet demodulated, it raises MIIRXDV to identify the upper layer that a packet is ready to transmit. MIIRXDV drops when the last byte is transmitted.

Receive direction transfers have priority over the transmit direction to ensure that the buffer empties faster than packets arrive. The minimum receive time is one Tx frame plus an IFG.

Table 6. FIFO Signal Description

FIFO Signal Timing—Transmitting

When the external host is ready to transmit a frame and MIICRS is low (the previous transmission is finished), it asserts MIITXEN. The external host must assert MIITXEN if MIIRXDV is not high to avoid data loss. In response, MIICRS is asserted by the MAX2986. While the external host keeps MIITXEN high, 1 byte of data is transmitted into the MAX2986 through MIIDAT for each positive edge

Figure 10. Buffering Transmission Process from the External Host View

of BUFWR. After transmission of the last byte of data, the external host resets MIITXEN. Interactions between the external host and the MAX2986 baseband chip are shown in Figure 10.

The overall transmission timing of the FIFO interface is illustrated in Figure 11 with detailed timing shown in Figure 12 and Table 7.

Figure 12. FIFO Interface—Detailed Transmit Timing

Table 7. FIFO Interface—Transmit Timing*

**Per IEEE 802.3u standard.*

***The default value of the debounce parameter is 3.*

Figure 11. Transmission Timing of the Buffering (FIFO) Interface

FIFO Signal Timing—Receiving

When a frame is ready to send from the MAX2986 to the external host, the MAX2986 asserts MIIRXDV after an IFG (which is about 0.96μs), while there is no transmission session in progress (with respect to MIICRS). A receive process cannot start while a transmission is in progress.

While the MAX2986 keeps MIIRXDV high, it sends 1 byte of data on MIIDAT for each positive edge on BUFRD. The

Figure 13. Buffering (FIFO) Interface Receive Process from the External Host View

first 2 bytes represent frame length in MSB-first format. After the last byte of data is received, the MAX2986 resets MIIRXDV. The direction of bidirectional data pins is controlled through BUFCS and BUFRD pins. The MAX2986 enables data output drivers when BUFCS = 0 and BUFRD = 0. The interactions between the external host and the MAX2986 baseband is shown in Figure 13 and the overall receive timing of the buffering interface is illustrated in Figure 14, with details in Figure 15 and Table 8.

Figure 15. FIFO Interface—Detailed Receive Timing

Table 8. FIFO Interface—Receive Timing*

**Per IEEE 802.3u standard.*

***The default value of the debounce parameter is 3.*

Figure 14. Receive Timing of the Buffering (FIFO) Interface

Management Data Unit MDU

The MIIMDIO pin is a bidirectional data pin for the management data interface. The MIIMDC signal is a clock reference for the MIIMDIO signal. The write behavior of the management data unit is illustrated in Figure 16. The read behavior of the management data unit is illustrated in Figure 17.

Ethernet Interface

The upper layer interface can be selected according to the pin settings shown in Table 9.

Figure 16. Write Behavior of the Management Data Unit

Figure 17. Read Behavior of the Management Data Unit

Table 9. Upper Layer Interface-Selection Pin Settings

Figure 18 shows the transmit timing. t_{TXDV} is the time that data must be valid for after a low-to-high transition on ETHTXCLK. t_{TXDH} is the time that data must be held after a low-to-high transition on ETHTXCLK. Figure 19 shows the receive timing. t_{RXS} is the setup time prior to the positive edge of ETHRXCLK. t_{RXH} is the hold time after the positive edge of ETHRXCLK. For further information on the Ethernet MAC interface, refer to the IEEE 802.3 specification.

USB Interface

Figure 20 shows the structure of a USB cable. The two pins USBD+ and USBD- are the data pins used in the USB interface, and correspond to D+ and D- in Figure 20. V_{BUS} is nominally +5V at the source. Figure 10 shows

Figure 18. Transmit Timing for Ethernet MAC Interface to the MAX2986

Figure 20. USB Cable

the upper layer interface pin setting to select USB. Refer to the Universal Serial Bus Specification, Revision 1.1 for more details on the USB interface.

UART Interface

A serial asynchronous communication protocol using the UART standard interface is implemented in the MAX2986 baseband chip for the purpose of download/debugging MAC software. To communicate with the current MAC software, the UART interface must be configured as shown in Table 11.

To download and debug HomePlug MAC software, a null modem cable is required to make a serial connection as shown in Figure 21. The MAX3221 is used as UART driver.

Figure 21. MAX2986 UART Interface with Driver and DB9 Connector

Table 10. Upper Layer Interface-Selection Pin Settings

Table 11. UART Interface Configuration

Applications Information

Terminating Interfaces

To terminate either of the interfaces, the corresponding I/O pins should be configured as shown in Tables 12–15.

Table 12. Disabling USB Interface

Table 13. Disabling Ethernet Interface

Table 14. Disabling MII/rMII/FIFO Interface

Table 15. Disabling UART

Note: Disabling the UART interface disables the MAC code update and FLASH programming features of the chip.

Interfacing the MAX2986 to the MAX2980 Analog Front End (AFE)

The interface to the MAX2980 AFE chip uses a bidirectional bus to pass the digital data to and from the DAC and ADC. Handshake lines help accomplish the data transfer as well as operation of the AFE. Figure 22 shows the interface signals. For AFE pin configuration/description, refer to the MAX2980 data sheet.

Figure 22. MAX2980 AFE Interface to the MAX2986

Table 16. MAX2986 to AFE Signal Interface Description

AFE Timing

Figure 23 illustrates the relationship of the AFE input clock and the data into the DAC and out of the ADC.

AFE Serial Interface

The AFE configuration signals GPIO[4], GPIO[5], and GPIO[6] are used to program the AFE internal registers. GPIO[4] is the serial clock; GPIO[5] is the bidirectional data line for register reprogramming and reading, and when GPIO[6] is asserted HIGH, the registers are in write mode. Drive these lines low if not used. Refer to the MAX2980 data sheet for more information on the AFE serial interface timing.

Upgrading and Programming MAC

There are wide ranges of boot options that provide good flexibility in running code applications on the MAX2986 through different chip interfaces. The selection of different boot modes is possible through boot pins and flash type pins, which are sensed during the MAX2986 startup process. There are two boot modes:

1) Downloading encrypted flash-resident code:

 The image can be downloaded into flash memory using either an I2C™ or SPI™ interface. The code image address is stored at the start of flash memory. The encrypted code image in flash can be updated using TFTP protocol.

2) Simple code downloaded through UART:

 The MAX2986 is configurable to accept code image from the UART. The first 4 bytes of the image specify the memory location in SSRAM to which the binary image should be copied (0x2020000–0x203FFFF). The next 4 bytes specify the length of the image (excluding 8 header and 4 tail bytes), in terms of words. The specified length cannot be greater than 128kB (size of SSRAM) and must be nonzero, otherwise the boot will restart simple code downloaded through the UART after issuing an appropriate error message to the host. The last 4 bytes of image are the checksum. After the image is loaded and checksum is valid, the image is launched by jumping to the target (destination) address, otherwise, the boot restarts simple code downloaded through the UART.

Five pins are used to determine the boot mode. Table 17 shows the corresponding settings (PU: pulled up, PD: pulled down, X: don't care). Pullup and pulldown resistors are 10kΩ. GPIO[8] and GPIO[10] are two pins that are used for flash operations. These two pins are output in flash operations but they would be input in the system boot process.

If an error occurs during the boot process, the error code is indicated on the LED pins: GPIO[21] (LED0_ BP0), GPIO[22] (LED1_BP1), and GPIO[23] (LED2_BP2)

Figure 23. AFE ADC and DAC Timing Diagram

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according to Table 18. Pullup/pulldown resistors for LEDs are 1kΩ or less.

The states of GPIO pins and initialization pins during the boot process are shown in Table 17. See the *Pin Description* for more information.

Clocks and Reset

The MAX2986 has a built-in oscillator that requires an external crystal. Use a 30MHz crystal with stability of ±25ppm max over operating temperature. All other necessary clocks are generated internally by means of two integrated PLLs. Figure 24 illustrates how to connect a crystal to the MAX2986. If the external clock oscillator is used, leave XOUT unconnected as shown in Figure 25.

Since the reset signal RESET is used in PLL modules, it must be activated after the PLL clock generation delay, which is about 0.5ms.

GPIO Pin Usage

The MAX2986 firmware makes special use of GPIO pins as described in Table 19. GPIO pins are utilized in input, output, or both directions.

Table 17. Boot Modes

X = Don't care.

**PU: If pin GPIO[10] is pulled down instead of pulled up, it indicates that there is no flash device connected to the chip. If this is the case and if LED0_BP0 = LED1_BP1 = 0, then the GPIO[8] line must be pulled up.*

Table 18. Boot Error Codes

Figure 24. Connecting a Crystal to the MAX2986 Figure 25. Connecting a Clock Oscillator to the MAX2986

Table 19. GPIO Pin Usage by the MAX2986 Firmware

Figure 26. Powerline Baseband to MII Application Block Diagram

Figure 27. Powerline Baseband to USB Application Block Diagram

Figure 28. Powerline Baseband to FIFO Application Block Diagram

Typical Application Circuit

Chip Information

PROCESS: CMOS

Pin Configuration

Package Information

For the latest package outline information and land patterns (footprints), go to **www.maximintegrated.com/packages**. Note that a "+", "#", or "-" in the package code indicates RoHS status only. Package drawings may show a different suffix character, but the drawing pertains to the package regardless of RoHS status.

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