



RT Box Digital Breakout Board

User Manual June 2023



How to Contact Plexim:

☎	+41 44 533 51 00	Phone
	+41 44 533 51 01	Fax
✉	Plexim GmbH Technoparkstrasse 1 8005 Zurich Switzerland	Mail
@	info@plexim.com	Email
	http://www.plexim.com	Web

Revision History:

HW rev. 1.0	First release
HW rev. 1.1	CAN interface no longer supported

RT Box Digital Breakout Board

© 2023 by Plexim GmbH

PLECS is a registered trademark of Plexim GmbH. Other product or brand names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.

Introduction

The PLECS RT Box is a powerful real-time simulator based on a Xilinx Zynq system on a chip (SOC). With its digital and analog I/O signals, the RT Box is well-equipped for hardware-in-the-loop (HIL) testing as well as rapid control prototyping (RCP).

If employed for HIL testing, the RT Box typically emulates the power stage of a power electronic system. The power stage could be a simple DC/DC converter, an AC drive system or a complex multi-level inverter system. The device under test (DUT) is the control hardware connected to the RT Box. In such a setup, the complete controller can be tested without the real power stage.

To simplify the connection of external hardware and to provide convenient access to the RT Box inputs and outputs, Plexim offers a set of RT Box accessories.

The **Digital Breakout Board** facilitates a simple access to the digital input and output channels of the RT Box via terminal blocks and pin headers. This board is typically used in conjunction with the Analog Breakout Board, which allows access to the analog I/Os of the RT Box via BNC connectors or jumper wires.

Onboard Voltage Supply

The board can supply either 5 V or 3.3 V at VCC. A jumper labeled *Select VCC* on the top section of the board can be used to obtain the desired voltage level. Two LEDs marked 3.3 V or 5 V indicate the selected power supply. VCC can be accessed at all the terminals labeled VCC on the center terminal block and the eight peripheral modules (PMODs).

Ground can be accessed at both digital input and digital output pin headers, at the central terminal block, and at the PMODs. The ground terminals are labeled *GND*.

Digital I/O

The 32 digital input and 32 digital output channels can be accessed through dedicated pin headers and terminal blocks labeled *Digital Inputs* and *Digital Outputs*, respectively. Individual pins are marked 0...31 representing the digital channel number of the RT Box.

Digital inputs 28...31 can also be accessed via four sliding switches provided on the board labeled *DI28...DI31*. Digital outputs 28...31 are connected to four LEDs on the bottom right section of the board labeled *DO28...DO31*. These switches and LEDs can be enabled or disabled using a jumper labeled *Enable Switches/LEDs*.

Additionally, digital channels can be accessed at PMODs as described in the sections below.

Peripheral Modules

Eight PMODs (DigiKey part number: S5520-ND) labeled *PMOD1...PMOD8* provide access to 32 digital input and 32 output channels, as well as VCC and ground signals. In all the eight modules, the pins furthest to the left, labeled VCC, are VCC terminals. The pins labeled *GND* are ground terminals. The pins on the top row of the modules labeled *Inputs* correspond to digital inputs. Similarly, the pins on the bottom row of the modules labeled *Outputs* correspond to digital outputs. The individual digital channels that can be obtained from a particular PMOD module are labeled on the board above the terminals. PMOD1 supplies digital channels 0,1,2,3; PMOD2 supplies digital channels 4,5,6,7; PMOD3 supplies digital channels 8,9,10,11 and so on.

Connectors

The following table contains the part numbers of the connectors and standoff assembly used on the digital breakout board. For dimensions of the front panel of the RT Box, refer to the RT Box manual.

Sl. No.	Manufacturer	Part Number	Description
1	Wuerth Elektronik	61306421121	Pin header
2	Phoenix Contact	1791813	Terminal Block
4	Sullins Connector Solutions	PPTC062LJBN-RC	PMOD
5	3M	961103-6404-AR	3-pin Header
6	Assmann WSW Components	ASUB-277-37TP25	37-pin D-Sub Stacked

Table 2.1: Connectors on the Digital Breakout Board

2 Breakout Board Description

Appendix

CAN Interface (Deprecated Functionality)

This function is no longer supported in HW rev 1.1, since the RT Box itself is now equipped with a CAN interface.

Two electrically isolated CAN transceivers provide CAN communication signals that can be accessed through two 9-pin D-SUB connectors (DigiKey part number: 626-1953-ND) labeled *CAN 26* and *CAN 27* on the top right corner of the board. DIP switch labeled *Enable CAN Transceivers* enables or disables the CAN transceivers.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 list the pin assignments of *CAN 26* and *CAN 27* respectively. The pin numbers of the 9-pin D-SUB connectors are labeled on the board.

RT Box Channel	CAN Transceiver		CAN 26
			1
DOUT 26	TXD	CAN_L	2
		GND	3
			4
			5
		GND	6
DI 26	RXD	CAN_H	7
			8
			9

Table 3.1: CAN 26 pin assignment

RT Box Channel	CAN Transceiver		CAN 27
			1
DOUT 27	TXD	CAN_L	2
		GND	3
			4
			5
		GND	6
DI 27	RXD	CAN_H	7
			8
			9

Table 3.2: CAN 27 pin assignment

Note CAN_L and CAN_H signals on pins 2 and 7 respectively on the 9-pin D-SUB connector can be terminated with a 120 Ω resistor using DIP switches labeled *Terminate CAN 26 (120 Ω)* and *Terminate CAN 27 (120 Ω)*.

plexim
electrical engineering software
