



GPS / GNSS Receiver Master Development System

User's Guide

Wireless made simple[®]

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GPS / GNSS Master Development System

User's Guide

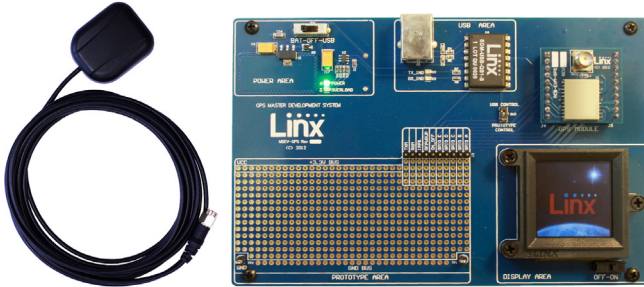


Figure 1: GPS / GNSS Master Development System

Introduction

The Linx GPS and GNSS modules offer a simple, efficient and cost-effective method of adding GPS or GNSS capabilities to any product. The Master Development System is intended to give a designer all the tools necessary to correctly incorporate the modules into an end product. The development boards themselves serve several important functions:

- **Rapid Module Evaluation:** The boards allow the performance of the modules to be evaluated quickly in a user's environment.
- **Application Development:** An onboard prototyping area allows for the development of custom circuits directly on the development board. All signal lines are available on a header for easy access.
- **Design Benchmark:** The boards provide a known benchmark against which the performance of a custom design may be judged.

The Master Development System includes one assembled development board, one receiver module on an evaluation board, one spare receiver module for use on your first prototype, one SH Series active GPS antenna, 4 AAA batteries and full documentation.

Ordering Information

Ordering Information	
Part Number	Description
MDEV-GPS-R4	R4 Series Master Development System
MDEV-GPS-F4	F4 Series Master Development System
MDEV-GPS-RM	RM Series Master Development System
MDEV-GPS-FM	FM Series Master Development System
MDEV-GNSS-GM	GM Series Master Development System
MDEV-GNSS-TM	TM Series Master Development System
EVM-GPS-R4	R4 Series Evaluation Module
EVM-GPS-F4	F4 Series Evaluation Module
EVM-GPS-RM	RM Series Evaluation Module
EVM-GPS-FM	FM Series Evaluation Module
EVM-GNSS-GM	GM Series Evaluation Module
EVM-GNSS-TM	TM Series Evaluation Module
RXM-GPS-R4-x	R4 Series GPS Receiver Module
RXM-GPS-F4-x	F4 Series GPS Receiver Module
RXM-GPS-RM-x	RM Series GPS Receiver Module
RXM-GPS-FM-x	FM Series GPS Receiver Module
RXM-GNSS-GM-x	GM Series GNSS Receiver Module
RXM-GNSS-TM-x	TM Series GNSS Receiver Module

Figure 2: Ordering Information

Receiver Development Board

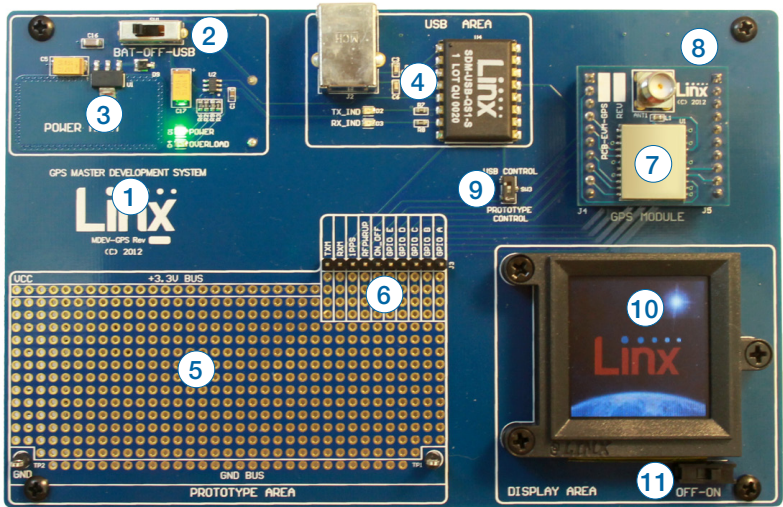


Figure 3: Receiver Development Board

Board Objects

- 1. Four AAA Batteries (on back)
- 2. Power Switch
- 3. Voltage Regulator
- 4. USB Interface Module
- 5. Prototype Area
- 6. Break-Out Header
- 7. Receiver Evaluation Board
- 8. CR2032 Backup Battery (on back)
- 9. Module Data Routing Switch
- 10. OLED Display
- 11. OLED Display Power Switch

Initial Setup

Unpack the development system and install the AAA and coin-cell batteries. Connect the external GPS antenna. The power switch selects between the battery pack or USB power if the board is plugged into a USB bus. To use the display, turn the OLED display power switch on. The development board is now ready for use. After turning on the power, the module determines its current position. Please note, the time required for an initial fix or after long periods of storage is considerably greater than in subsequent operation. Please refer to the module's data guide for complete information regarding Time-To-First-Fix (TTFF). To protect the display and extend its life, turn off the display before turning off the board.

Troubleshooting

If the boards fail to work out of the box, then try the following:

- Check the batteries to make sure they are not dead
- Check to make sure that the power switch is in the correct position
- Check that the antenna is installed correctly
- Check that the data routing switch is set appropriately

If all of these appear to be in order, please call +1 800 736 6677 or e-mail techsupport@linxtechnologies.com for technical support.

The Prototyping Area

In addition to its evaluation functions, the board may also be used for actual product development. It features a prototyping area to facilitate the addition of application-specific circuitry. The prototyping area contains a large area of plated through-holes so that external circuitry can be placed on the board. The holes are set at 0.100" on center with a 0.040" diameter, making it easy to add most industry-standard SIP and DIP packages.

External circuitry can be easily interfaced with the receiver through the breakout header (J3) on the upper right of the prototyping area. A switch controls the routing of data into the receiver module. By default the switch is set for operation with the on-board USB module. When communicating with the module from the prototyping area this switch should be set to Prototype Control. At the bottom of the prototyping area is a row connected to ground and at the top is a row connected to the 3.3V power supply.

Note: The on-board 3.3-volt regulator has approximately 300mA of headroom available for additional circuitry. If added circuitry requires a higher current, the user must add an additional regulator to the prototype area or power the board from an external supply.

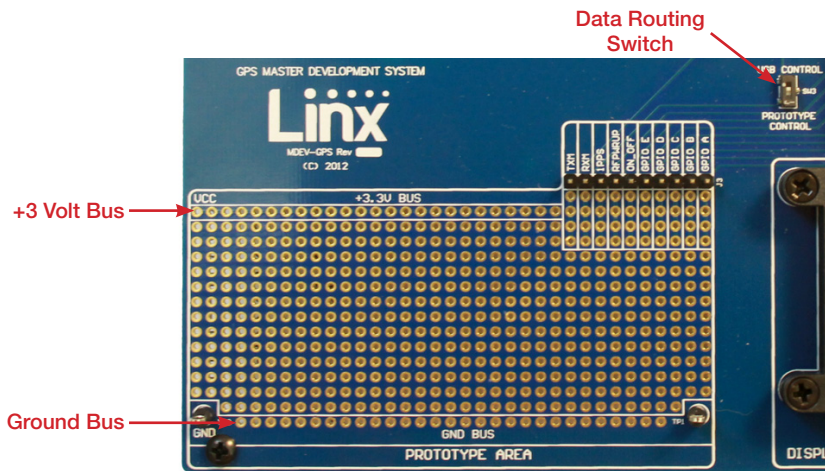


Figure 4: The Development Board Prototyping Area

The Receiver Section

The receiver module is mounted on an evaluation board which plugs into headers on the main development board. The evaluation board has an SMA antenna connector to allow the attachment of many different styles of GPS antennas, including the included SH Series active GPS antenna. Each receiver module has its own evaluation board, but all of them are designed to fit into the same socket on the main board.

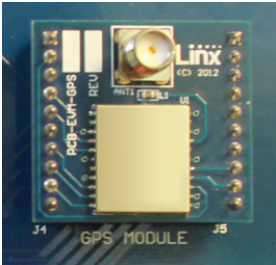


Figure 5: The Development Board Receiver Section

On the bottom of the main board is a CR2032 coin cell battery that provides power to the Real Time Clock (RTC) and SRAM when the receiver is powered down. This allows the receiver to start up and obtain a position fix faster. This cell provides about two years of operation.

The USB Section

The development board features a Linx QS Series USB module for interface to a PC. This allows the board to be used with the supplied development software or with custom software developed by the user.

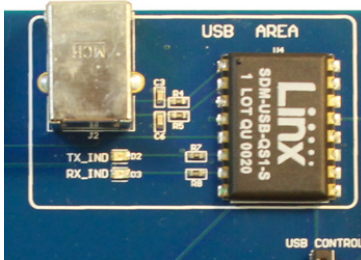


Figure 6: The Development Board USB Section

Drivers for the USB module are included on the software CD in the kit or may be downloaded from www.linxtechnologies.com. Additional information on using the QS Series USB module can also be found on the website.

The USB connection also allows the board to be powered by the USB bus instead of batteries. This can be convenient during development to eliminate the need for frequent battery replacement.

The Display Section

The Master Development System features an OLED screen that displays the navigation information from the receiver module. This allows the development board to act as a stand-alone evaluation system without the need for any additional software.

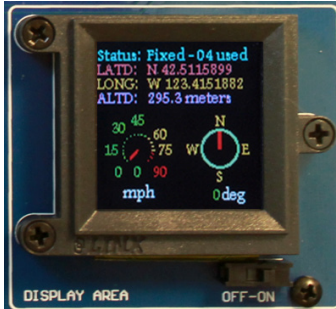


Figure 7: The Development Board Display Section

The display is driven by an on-board microcontroller located under the display. Data from the receiver module is connected directly to this microcontroller. The microcontroller receives data at the receiver's default 9,600bps.

Note: If the receiver's baud rate is changed, it will not be able to communicate with the microcontroller.

The display and microcontroller pull about 100mA when fully powered, so a power switch is supplied to deactivate the display area when not in use, saving battery life. To protect the display and extend its life, be sure to turn the display section off before turning off the main power to the board.

Master Development Software

The development system is supplied with Windows-based software that communicates with the development board through the USB module. This software displays the information from the receiver module in the different NMEA formats and the satellite information, signal strength, and positions are displayed graphically. If the PC is connected to the internet, the software plots the current location on Google Maps. Full details are in the software's User's Guide.

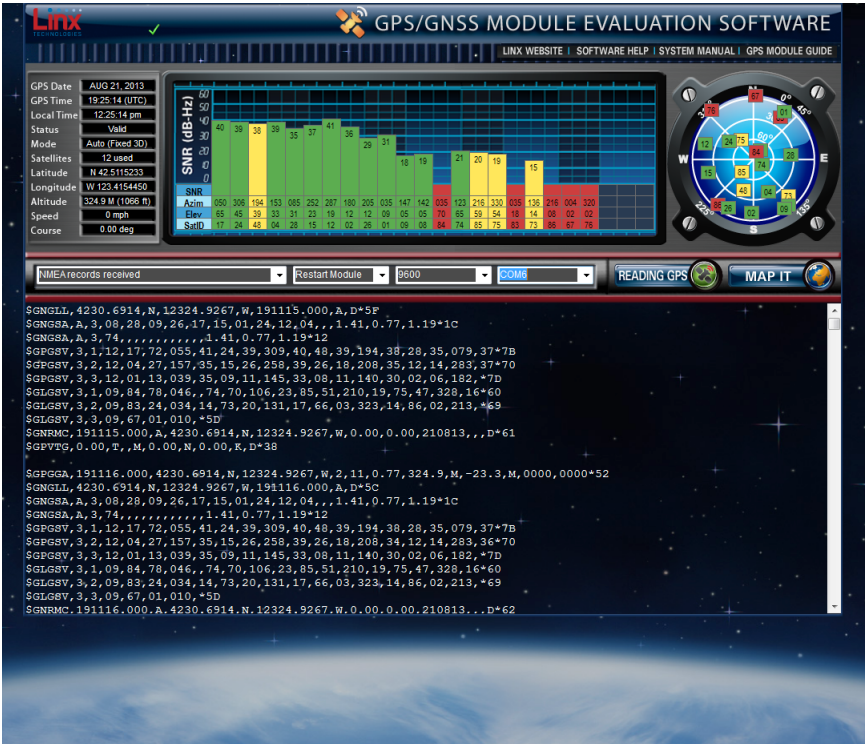


Figure 8: Master Development Software

Schematics

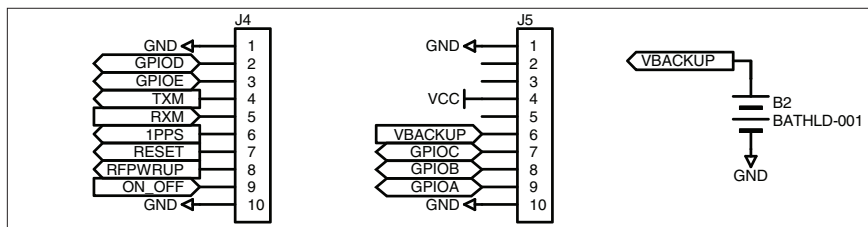


Figure 9: Receiver Section Schematic

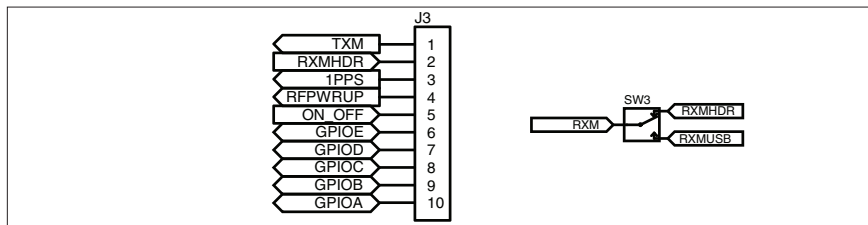


Figure 10: Header Section Schematic

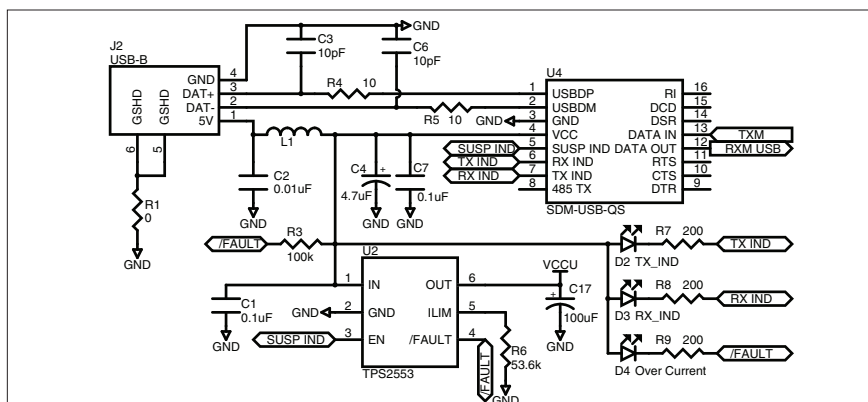


Figure 11: USB Section Schematic

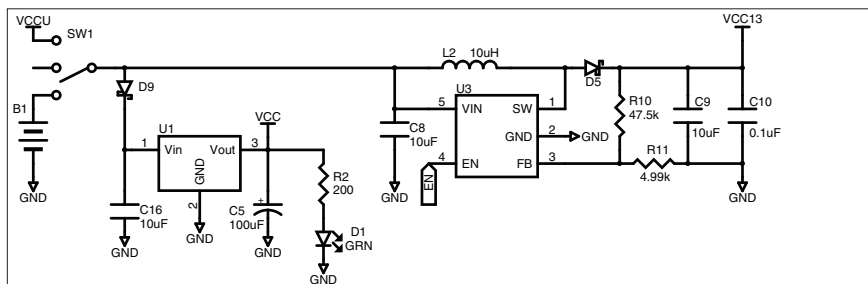


Figure 12: Power Supply Schematic

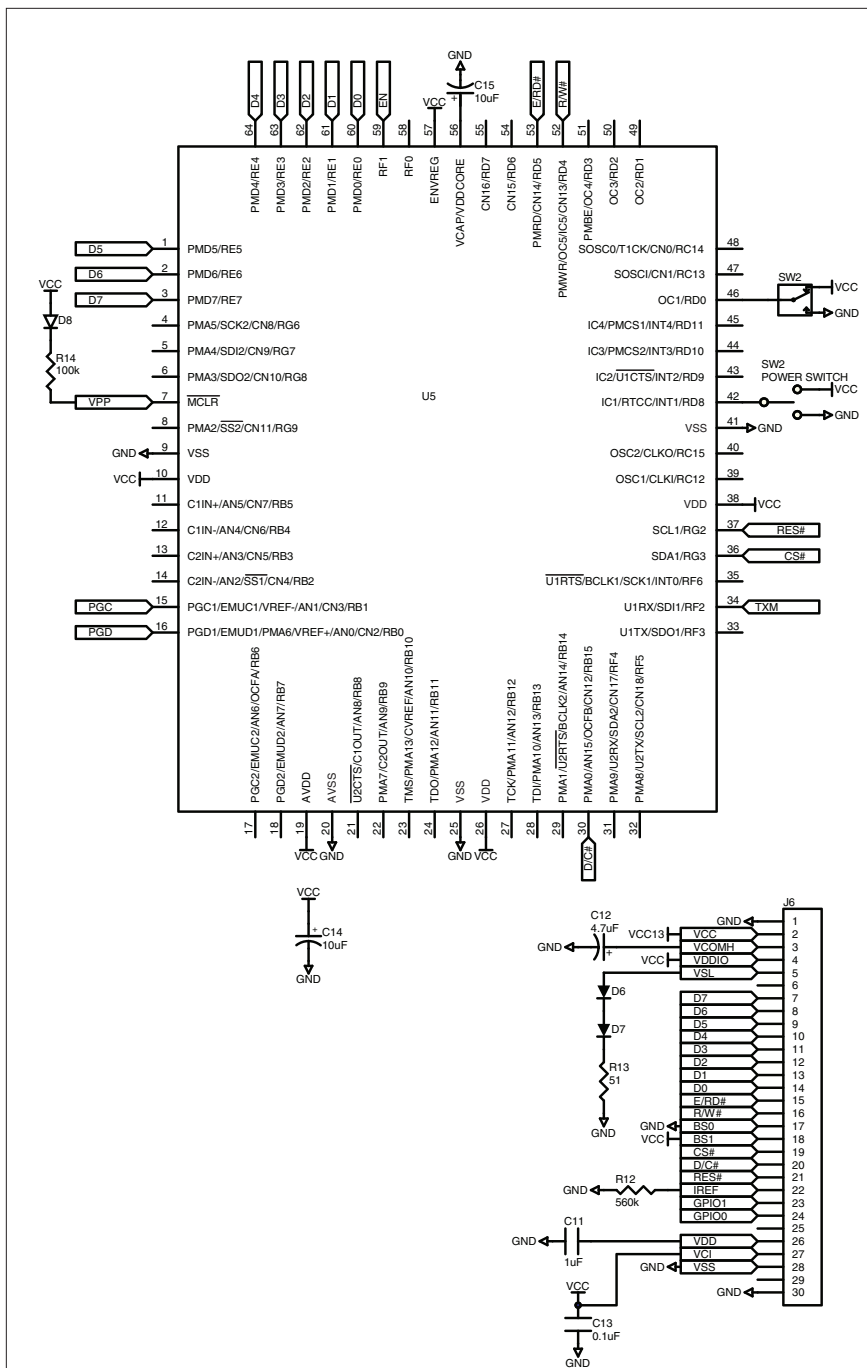


Figure 13: Display Section Schematic



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