DAC39RF20 Evaluation Module



Description

The DAC39RF20EVM is an evaluation board for evaluating the DAC39RF20 family of digital-to-analog converters (DAC) from Texas Instruments. The EVM can be used to evaluate the performance of the DAC up to 22-GSPS sampling rate. The EVM is designed to work with the FPGA-based pattern generator card TSW14J59EVM. The available FMC connector on the EVM also makes interfacing the DAC to FPGA development boards from third-party vendors possible. An easy-to-use software interface GUI to control the DAC and an onboard LMK04828 clock chip through SPI are also available.

Features

- Two balun-coupled output networks per DAC output allowing singled ended signal evaluation
- A 5MHz to 10GHz low band balun for first Nyquist evaluation
- A 2GHz to 18GHz high band balun for second and third Nyquist evaluation
- A LMK04828 clock distribution chip for distributing FPGA reference clocks and SYSREF for subclass 1 operation
- A balun-coupled clock input network to test the DAC performance with an external low-noise clock source
- An FMC+ with high-speed serial data connections for full JESD204C testing of all 16 lanes
- A USB to serial chip to allow programming of the DAC or LMK with a simple USB connection
- The ability to program the DAC or LMK from an FPGA using the FMC+ connector
- Device register programming through USB connector and FTDI USB-to-SPI bus translator with option to program from FGPA using SPI through FMC+ connector



DAC39RF20EVM



1 Evaluation Module Overview

1.1 Introduction

This user's guide contains information and support documentation for the DAC39RF20EVM evaluation module (EVM), included are the circuit description, jumper settings, and required connections of the DAC39RF20EVM. This document describes the DAC39RF20EVM hardware and the software GUIs that are associated with the EVM to change, configure and evaluate the DAC in the various modes and features. Throughout this document, the terms evaluation board, evaluation module, and EVM are synonymous with the DAC39RF20EVM.

1.2 Kit Contents (Required Equipment)

The following equipment and documents are included in the DAC39RF20EVM kit:

- Evaluation board (EVM)
- USB-C® to USB-A cable
- Power cable

The following equipments are **not** included in the DAC39RF20EVM kit, but are required for evaluation of this product:

- TSW14J59EVM data capture board and related items
- PC computer running Microsoft® Windows® 10 or higher
- Low phase-noise signal generator for DEVCLK (Sampling clock).
- Additional signal generator for FPGA reference clock generation.
 - Both signal generators need to be 10MHz reference locked.
- Two low noise power supplies: 12V/5A (TSW14J59EVM) and 12V/3A (DAC39RF20EVM)
- Three SMA type low loss cables

1.3 Specification

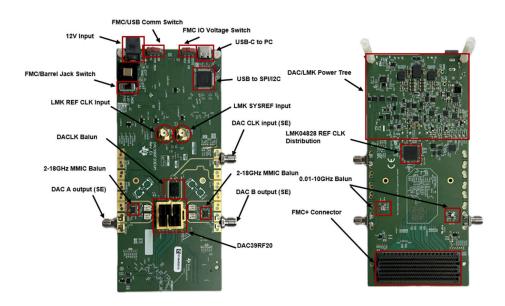


Figure 1-1. DAC39RF20EVM Key Components - Top View and Bottom View

The DAC39RF20EVM is paired with the TSW14J59EVM data capture and pattern generator card. If the DAC39RF20EVM is only used in DDS mode, then data capture EVM is not required.

To improve signal routing quality, serial lane polarity is inverted with respect to the standard FMC VITA-57 signal mapping. Signal mapping and polarity is shown in Section 2.3).



1.4 Device Information

The DAC39RF20 is a family of single and dual channel DACs with 16-bit resolution. The devices can be used in noninterpolation modes (real) as well as interpolation modes (complex IQ). At 22GSPS, single channel 16-bit real data is supported. In addition, 21GSPS, dual channel 12-bit real data is supported. Up to 4.4GHz of complex bandwidth is also supported.

2 Hardware

2.1 Setup Procedure

This section describes how to setup the DAC and TSW14J59 EVMs on the bench with the proper equipment to evaluate the performance of the DAC device.

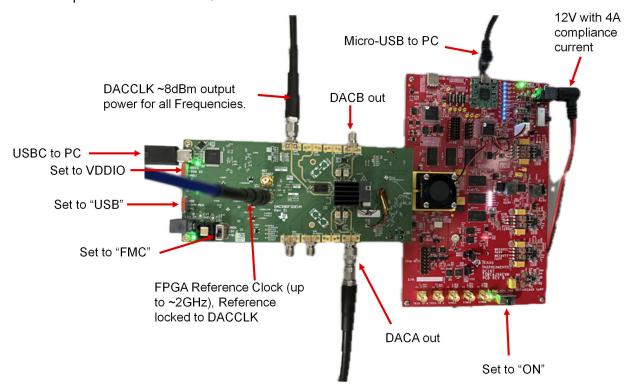


Figure 2-1. DAC39RF20EVM Test Setup



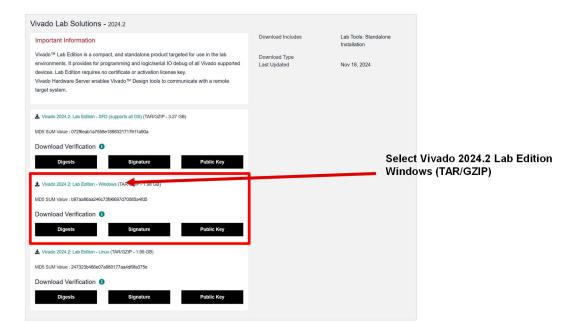
2.1.1 Installing the DAC39RF20EVM Configuration GUI Software

- Download the DAC39RF20EVM Configuration GUI software from the EVM tool folder at DAC39RF12EVM GUI.
 - a. The GUI download includes the following:
 - DAC39RF20EVM GUI
 - ii. J59 Commander
 - 1. DAC WaveGen
 - iii. J59 Server
- 2. Run the executable file (DAC39RF20EVM_SW_Package_vXXXX.exe).
- Install Vivado Lab Tools.
 - a. Go to the next section for instructions on how to install the Xilinx[™] tools and add environment variables path to the desktop PC.

2.1.1.1 Installing and Setting Up Vivado™ Lab Tools

For the DAC39RF20EVM, Vivado™ Lab Tools needs to be installed. Follow the steps outlined in this section.

- 1. Create a user account for AMD and sign in.
 - a. Fill out the appropriate information before downloading.
 - b. When complete, click the download button.
- 2. The download file type is a .tar file. In Windows, open the .tar file and explore.
- 3. Next, find <xsetup.exe> in the Vivado_Lab_Win_2024.2_1113_1001 folder.
 - a. Right-click and execute. Operating systems with Windows need consent to Extract All.
- 4. Once the files are extracted, open the folder and find xsetup.exe.
 - a. Right-click on this file and install. Operating systems with Windows need permissions.
- 5. Follow the sequence of steps in the figures below to finish the Xilinx Lab Tools installation.





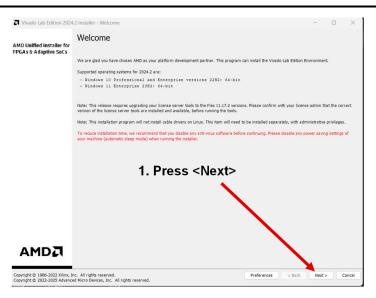
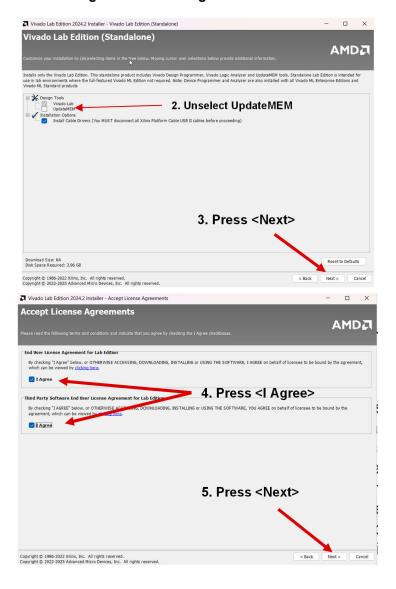


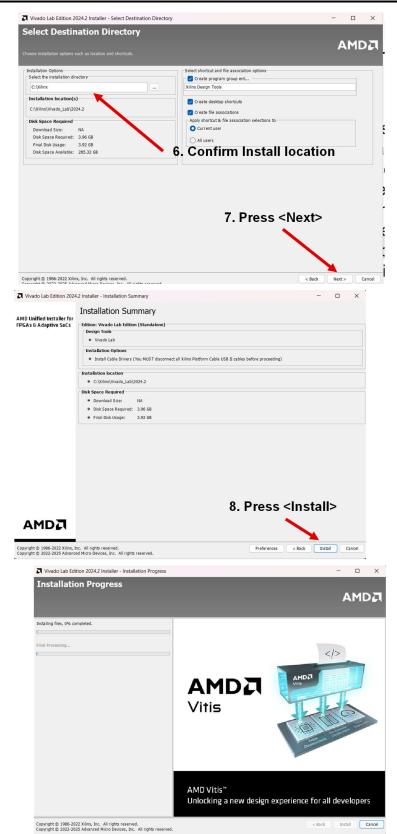
Figure 2-2. Installing Vivado Lab Tools

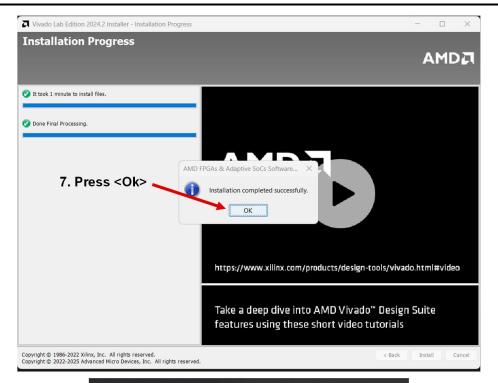




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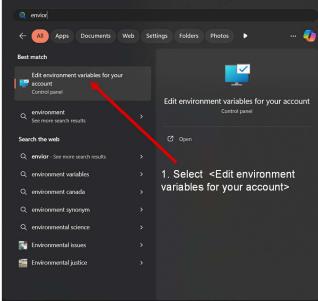
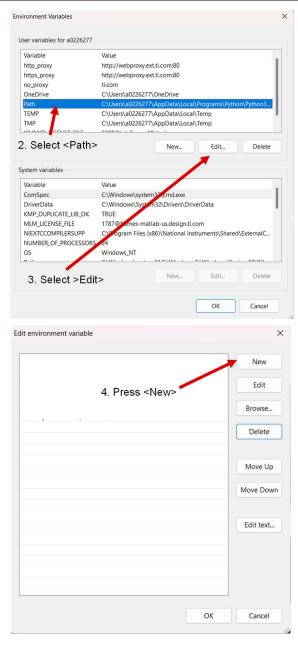


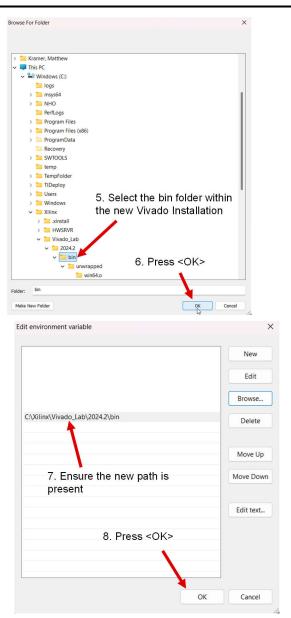
Figure 2-3. Adding Vivado Lab Tools to the Windows PATH



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Once this is complete, the J59_Server can run.

2.1.2 Connect the DAC39RF20EVM and TSW14J59EVM

With the power off, connect the DAC39RF20EVM to the TSW14J59EVM through the FMC+ connector as shown in Section 2.1.

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2.1.3 Connect the Power Supplies to the Boards (Power Off)

 Confirm the power switch on the TSW14J59EVM is in off position. Connect the power cable to a 12V DC (minimum 5A) power supply. Make sure the proper supply polarity by confirming the outer surface of the barrel connector is GND and the inner portion of the connector is 12V. Connect the power cable to the TSW14J59EVM power connector.

2. DAC39RF20EVM can be powered with 12V DC (minimum 3A) though the connector jack (J2) on the DAC39RF20EVM, or the EVM can be powered from the TSW14J59EVM by FMC+ connector. There is a switch (SW1) which can be used to select power from the barrel jack on the DAC EVM, or from TSW14J59EVM through FMC+ connector. Confirm that the power switch for the DAC39RF20EVM power supply is set to the opposite position (jack) from where the EVM is drawing power. If using barrel jack option, then connect the power cable to a 12V DC (minimum 3A) power supply. Make sure the proper supply polarity by confirming that the outer surface of the barrel connector is GND and the inner portion of the connector is 12V. Connect the power cable to the EVM power connector. Table 2-1 is used as a reference to power the DAC39RF12EVM.

DAC39RF20 Powered From	DAC39RF20 Power Switch Position	TSW14J59EVM FMC Switch Position	Power Supply Needed
TSW14J59EVM by FMC+ connector	FMC	ON	12V 5A for TSW14J59EVM
External supply with jack on DAC39RF20EVM	JACK	OFF	12V 3A for TSW14J59 and 12V 3A for DAC39RF20EVM

CAUTION

Make sure the power connections to the EVMs are the correct polarity. Failure to do so can result in immediate damage. Leave the power switches in the off position until directed later.

2.1.4 Connect the Spectrum Analyzer to the EVM

Connect a spectrum analyzer to the OUTAp (J15) SMA connector of the DAC39RF20EVM.

- The FPGA REF clock frequency can be obtained from the DAC39RF20EVM GUI once the DAC39RF20EVM GUI is configured to the desired JMODE mode and clock rate. The reference clock frequency required by the EVM is shown in Figure 1-1.
- 2. Make sure that the DEVCLK and reference clock sources are frequency-locked using a common 10MHz reference to for functionality.
- 3. Do not turn on the RF output of any signal generator at this time.
- 4. In all of these examples, the FPGA REF clock = 1250MHz, the DAC sampling clock = 20.0GHz.

2.1.5 Turn On the TSW14J59EVM Power and Connect to the PC

- 1. Turn on the power switch to the TSW14J59EVM.
- 2. Connect a micro-USB cable from the PC to the TSW14J59EVM.

2.1.6 Turn On the DAC39RF20EVM Power Supplies and Connect to the PC

- 1. The default option uses the power from FMC+ connector on TSW14J59EVM. For this option, the FMC power switch on the TSW14J59EVM must be set to the on position, and power switch on the DAC39RF20EVM must be set to FMC(default). If external power supply is used to power the DAC EVM. Then turn on the 12V power supply connected to the barrel jack on the DAC EVM and set the power switch position on DAC39RF20EVM to JACK position.
- 2. Connect the DAC EVM to the PC with the USB-C cable to the EVM.

2.1.7 Turn On the Signal Generators

1. Turn on the output of the low phase noise RF signal generator and connect to DAC CLKp (J7) by SMA cable. Set the signal generator to 20GHz at a +6dBm output level.

- 2. Turn on the output of the RF signal generator and connect to REF_CLK (J5) by SMA cable.
- 3. Set the signal generator to 1250MHz at a +6dBm output level. Using another SMA cable, connect to OUTAp (J15), which is the output of the DAC to a spectrum analyzer.

Note

The max clock rate supported by DAC39RF20EVM is 22GHz.

2.1.8 Launching the DAC39RF20EVM GUI and Programming the DAC EVM - JMODE 0 (Bypass Mode)

The configuration example of DAC39RF20EVM in JMODE 0, (bypass mode) is shown below.

- 1. JMODE 0 is considered bypass mode or real data mode, interpolate x1.
 - a. Configuration details:
 - i. 20GSPS at +6dBm
 - ii. 20.625Gbps SERDES rate
 - iii. 16 lanes
 - iv. JESD M = 1
- 2. Follow the steps in the following figures to launch the DAC GUI. Following the steps as shown to configure the EVM.

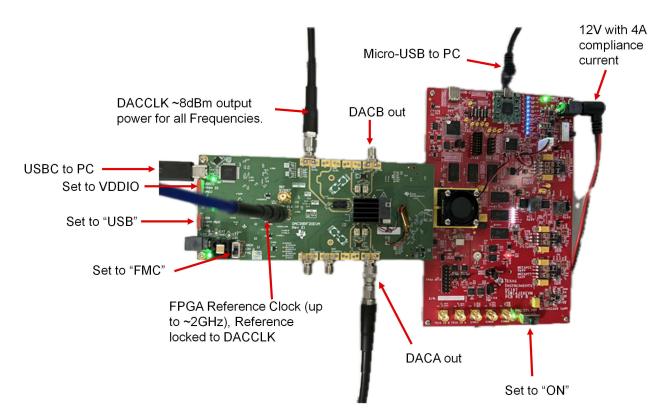


Figure 2-4. DAC39RF20EVM EVM Hardware Setup, JMODE 0



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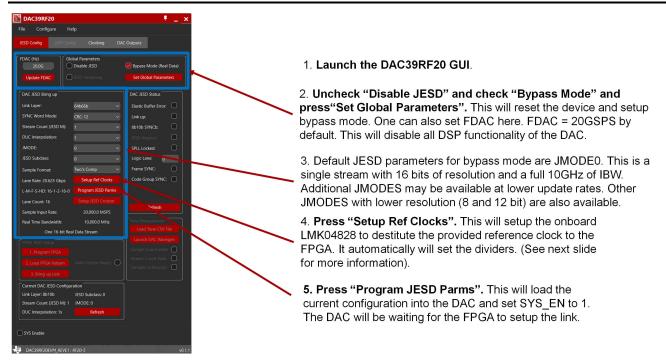


Figure 2-5. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 0 - JESD Config Tab

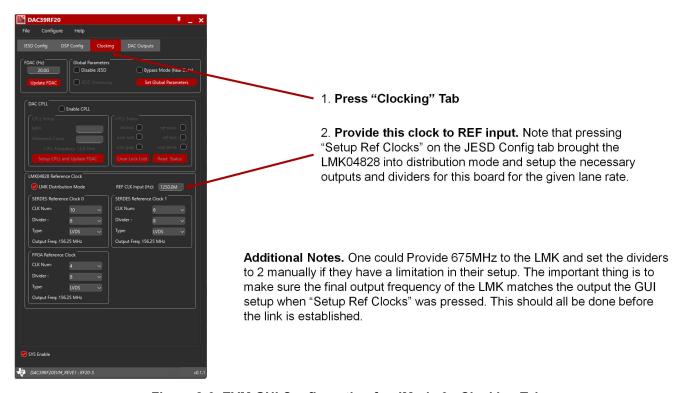
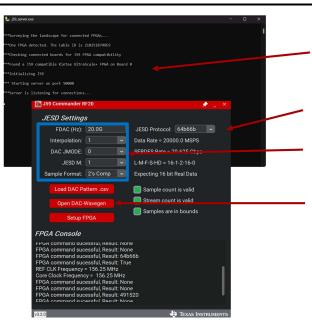


Figure 2-6. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 0 - Clocking Tab

- 1. Then, launch the J59 Server.exe as shown in the figure.
- 2. Next, launch the J59 Commander.
- 3. Then, open the DAC Wavegen GUI.





- 1. Launch J59_server.exe. If the FPGA is connected to the PC and necessary Xilinx drivers are installed the server should output the following.
- **2. Launch J59-Commander-v3.2.0.exe.** It will default to the same configuration as the DAC EVM GUI.
- **3.** Adjust JESD parameters. Set the DAC Interpolation to 1. This should automatically set the JMODE to 0 and JESD_M to 1. Note that the Parameters listed should match the DAC GUI.
- **4. Launch DAC-Wavegen.** If a .csv file has been saved with enough streams in it one can also Load the DAC pattern .csv file

Figure 2-7. J59 Server.exe and J59 Commander, Setup Part 1

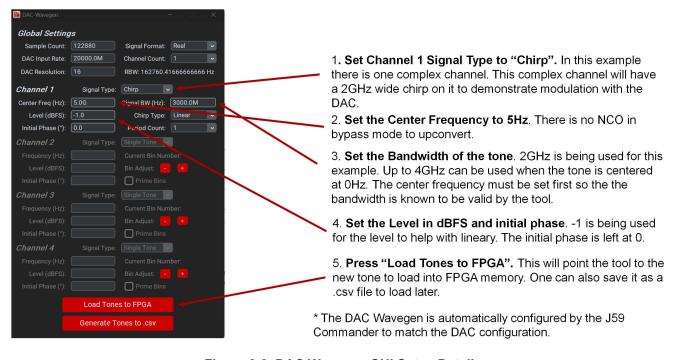


Figure 2-8. DAC Wavegen GUI Setup Details

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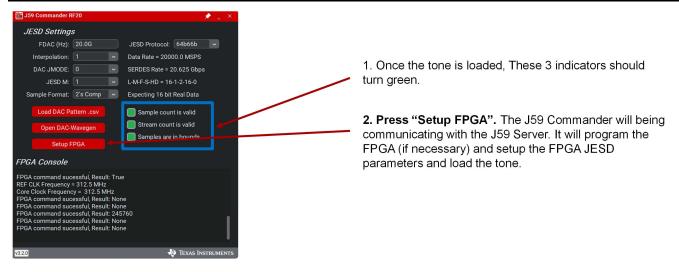
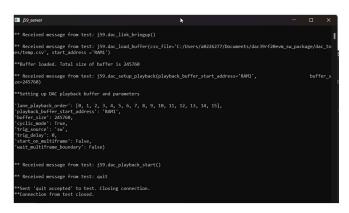


Figure 2-9. J59 Commander Setup Details, Part 2



Once the FPGA is setup the J59 server should show dac_playback_start() followed by quit.



The J59 Commander will show the following once the FPGA is setup

Figure 2-10. J59 Server.exe and J59 Commander, Setup Part 2



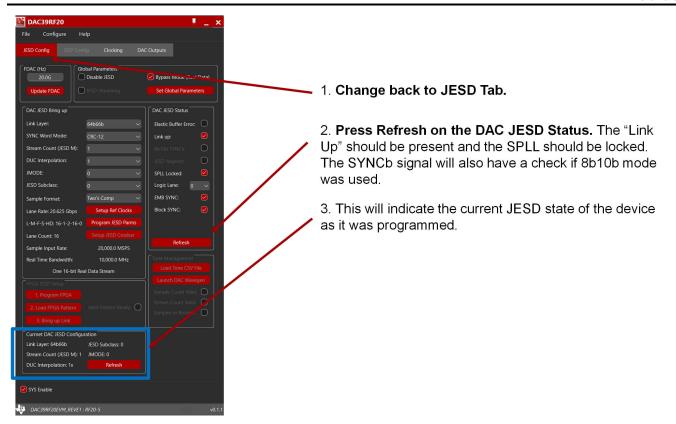


Figure 2-11. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 0 - JESD Config Tab, Checking Status

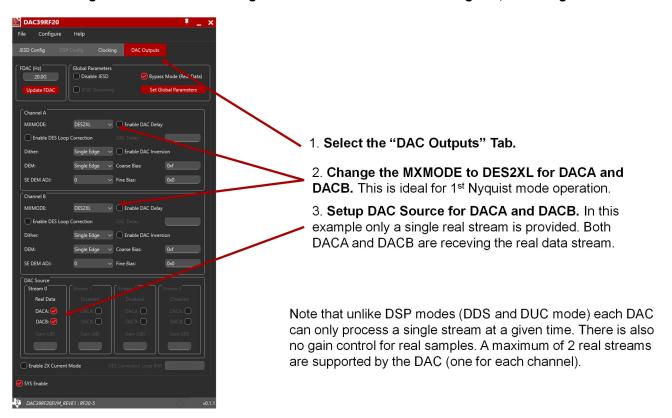


Figure 2-12. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 0 - Setup DAC Outputs Tab

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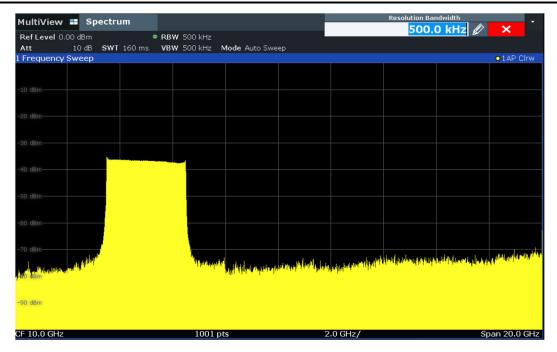


Figure 2-13. DAC Output Spectrum, JMODE 0, Single Stream at 20GSPS

A 3GHz wide LMF can be seen in the output spectrum. Note, that no NCO was used and this chirp was synthesized as a single real data stream.

2.1.9 Launching the DAC39RF20EVM GUI and Programming the DAC EVM - JMODE 1 (DUC Mode)

The configuration example of DAC39RF20EVM in JMODE 1 is shown below.

- 1. JMODE 1: complex data, interpolate x4.
 - a. Configuration details:
 - i. 20GSPS at +6dBm
 - ii. 10.3125Gbps SERDES rate
 - iii. 16 lanes
 - iv. $JESD_M = 2$
- 2. Follow the steps in the following figures to launch the DAC GUI. Follow the steps as shown to configure the EVM.

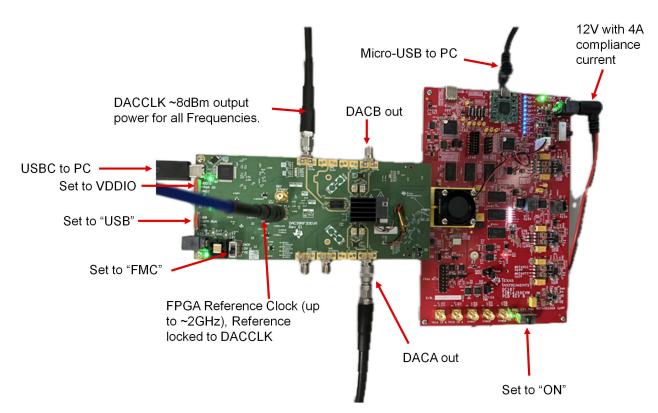


Figure 2-14. DAC39RF20EVM EVM Hardware Setup, JMODE 1



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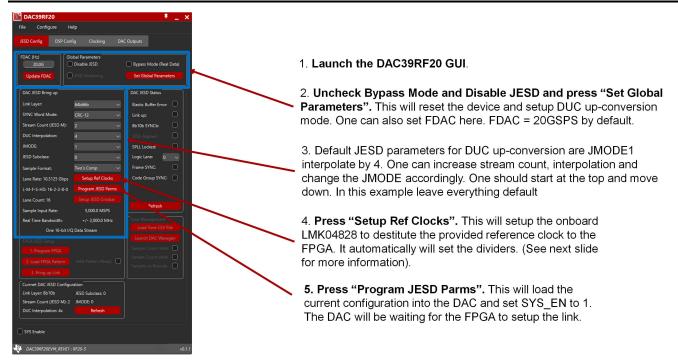


Figure 2-15. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 1- JESD Config Tab

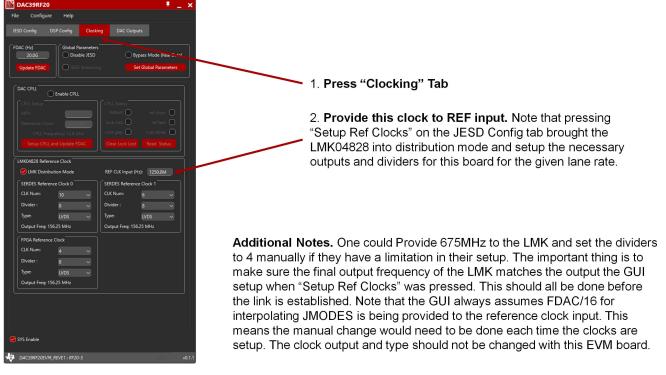
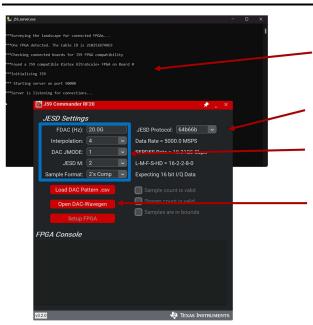


Figure 2-16. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 1- Clocking Tab





- 1. Launch J59_server.exe. If the FPGA is connected to the PC and necessary Xilinx drivers are installed the server should output the following.
- **2. Launch J59-Commander-v3.2.0.exe.** It will default to the same configuration as the DAC EVM GUI.
- **3. Adjust JESD parameters.** If the parameters were changed in in the DAC GUI for different interpolation, JMODE and JESDM, adjust the J59 commander to match these settings.
- **4. Launch DAC-Wavegen.** If a .csv file has been saved with enough streams in it one can also Load the DAC pattern .csv file.

Figure 2-17. J59 Server.exe and J59 Commander, Setup Part 1

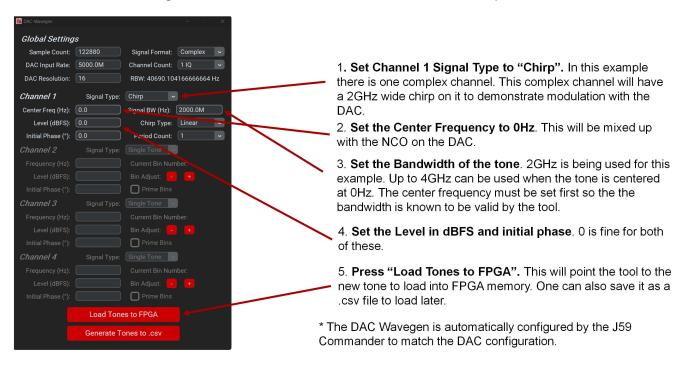


Figure 2-18. DAC Wavegen GUI Setup Details

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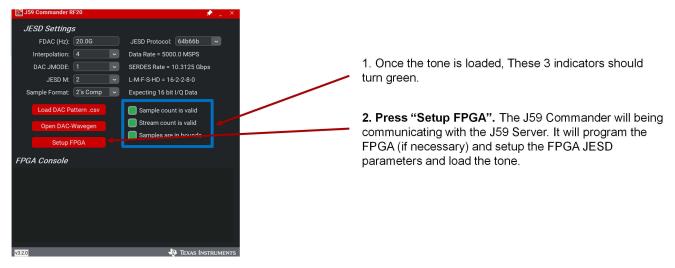
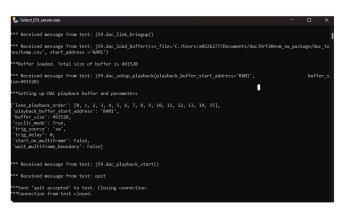


Figure 2-19. J59 Commander Setup Details, Part 2



Once the FPGA is setup the J59 server should show dac_playback_start() followed by quit.



The J59 Commander will show the following once the FPGA is setup

Figure 2-20. J59 Server.exe and J59 Commander, Setup Part 2



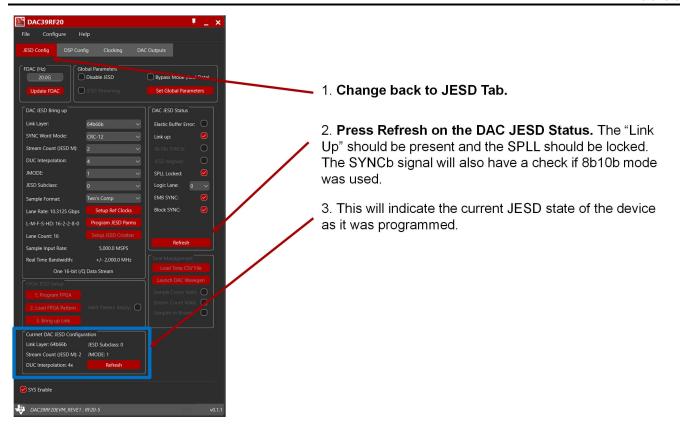


Figure 2-21. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 1- JESD Config Tab, Checking Status

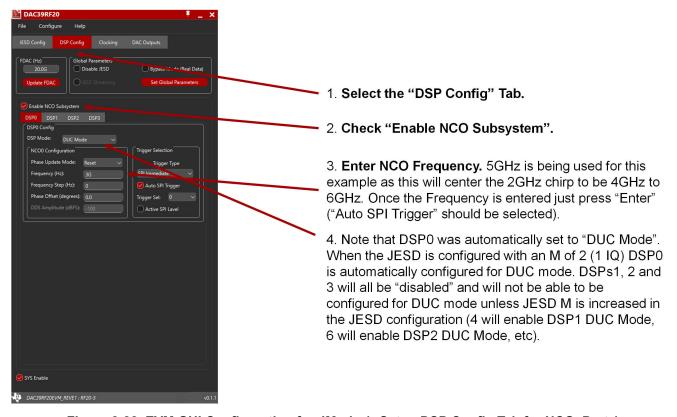


Figure 2-22. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 1- Setup DSP Config Tab for NCO, Part 1

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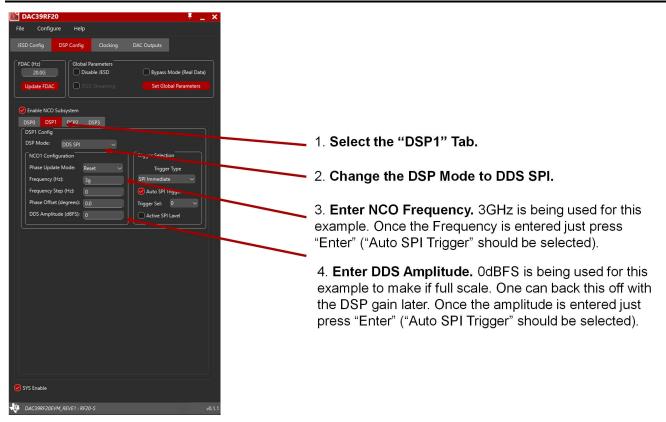


Figure 2-23. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 1- Setup DSP Config Tab for NCO, Part 2

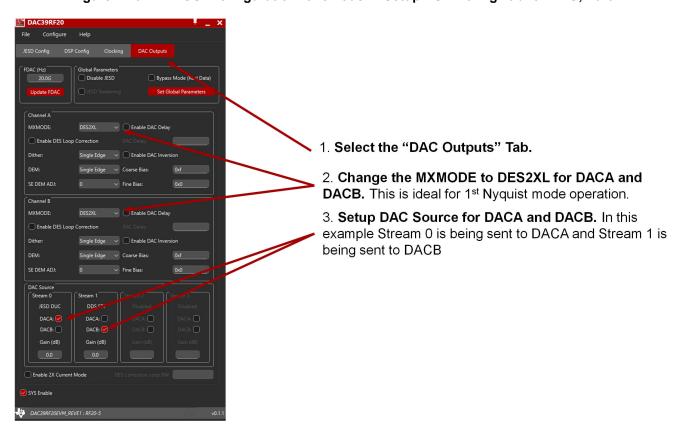


Figure 2-24. EVM GUI Configuration for JMode 1- Setup DAC Outputs Tab

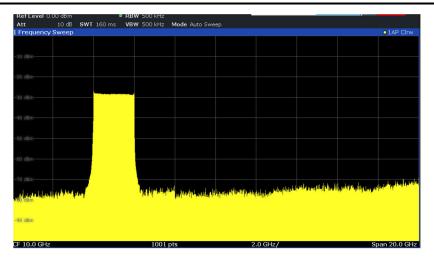


Figure 2-25. DAC Output CHA Spectrum, JMODE 1, Interpolate by 4 at 20GSPS

DACA is getting the modulated LFM chirp. A full 20GHz span is shown (two Nyquist zones). The second Nyquist image suppression is provided by DES2XL mode.

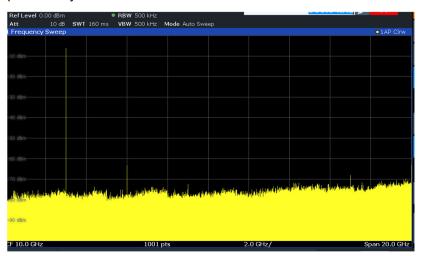


Figure 2-26. DAC Output CHB Spectrum, JMODE 1, Interpolate by 4 at 20GSPS

DACB is generating a sinlge 3GHz tone by DDS. A full 20GHz span is shown (two Nyquist zones). A second Nyquist image suppression is provided by DES2XL mode.

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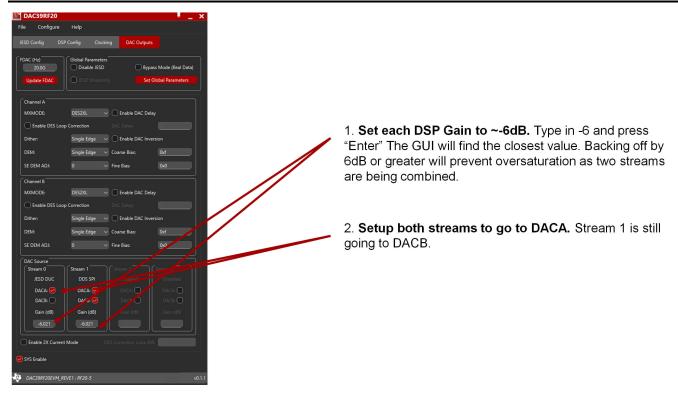


Figure 2-27. Example of DAC39RF20 GUI in JMODE 1 Placing Multiple Streams on a Single DAC Output

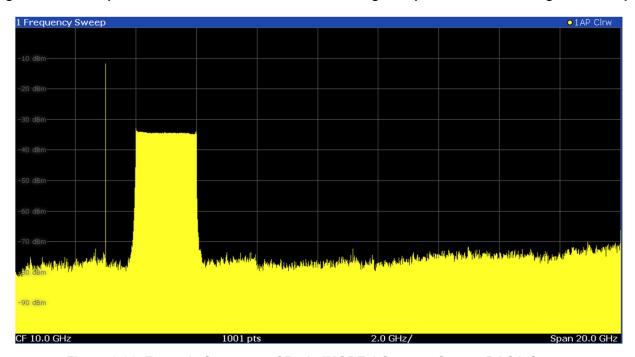


Figure 2-28. Example Spectrum of Both JMODE 1 Streams Sent to DACA Output

Both the single tone and the 2GHz modulated LFM are present on a single DACA output. All four streams can be mapped to either or both DACs when configured.

2.1.10 Configuration Example of DAC39RF20EVM in DDS Mode

- 1. Enable DDS ModeConfiguration details:
 - a. 20GSPS
 - b. No Reference clock is required for DDS mode
 - c. No TSW14J59EVM is required for DDS mode

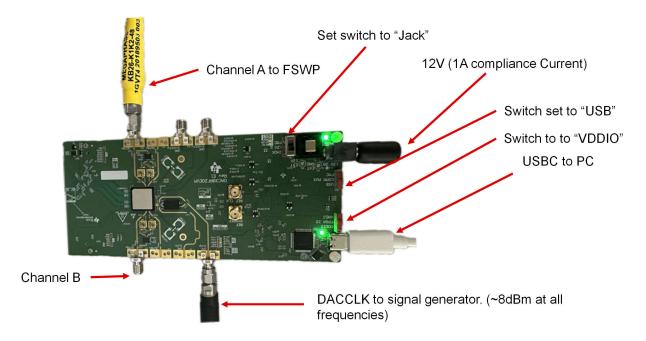


Figure 2-29. DAC EVM Setup in DDS Mode

2. Follow the steps in the figures below after launching the DAC GUI.

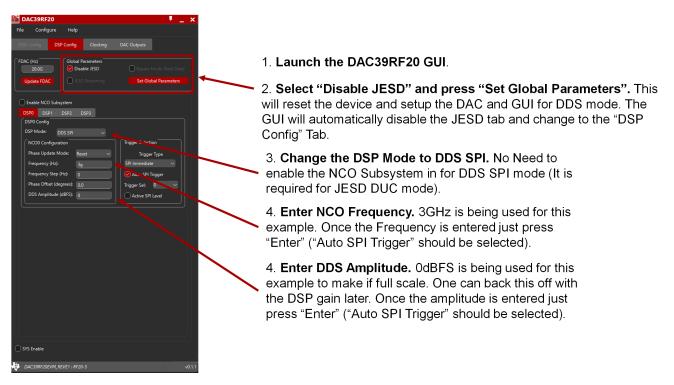


Figure 2-30. EVM GUI Configuration for DDS Mode - DSP Config Tab

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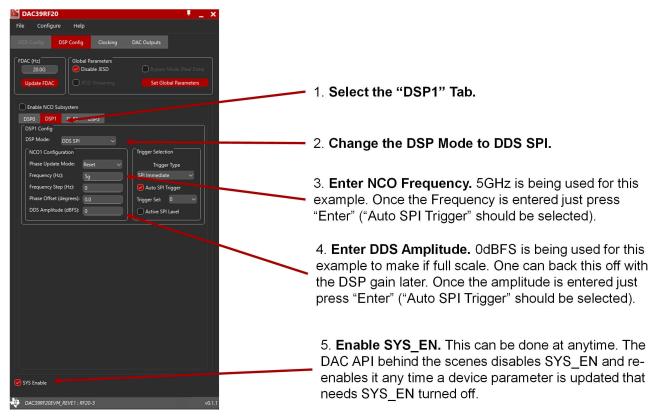


Figure 2-31. EVM GUI Configuration for DDS Mode - DSP Config Tab

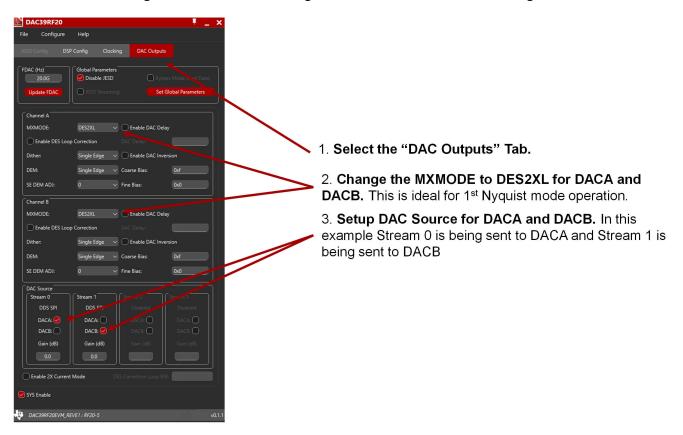


Figure 2-32. EVM GUI Configuration for DDS Mode - DAC Outputs Tab

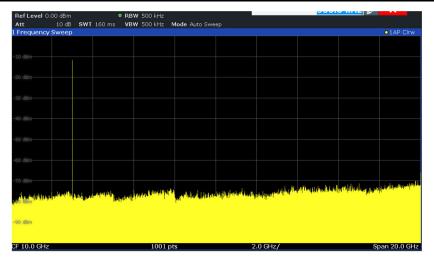


Figure 2-33. DACA Output Getting the DDS0 Stream

A full 20GHz span is shown (two Nyquist zones). A second Nyquist image suppression is provided by DES2XL mode.

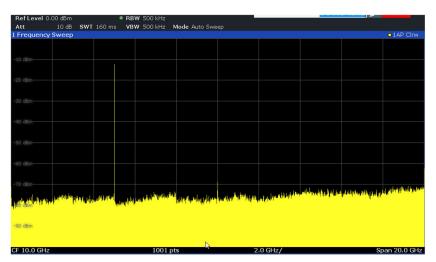


Figure 2-34. DACB Output Getting DDS1 Stream

A full 20GHz span is shown (two Nyquist zones). A second Nyquist image suppression is provided by DES2XL mode.

Update the DAC Outputs Tab as followed.

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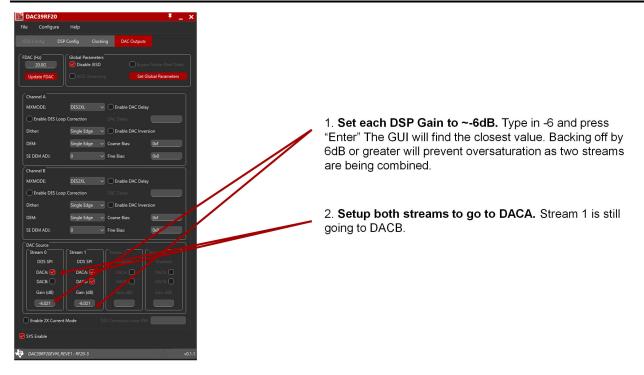


Figure 2-35. Example of DAC39RF20 GUI Placing Multiple Streams on a Single DAC Output

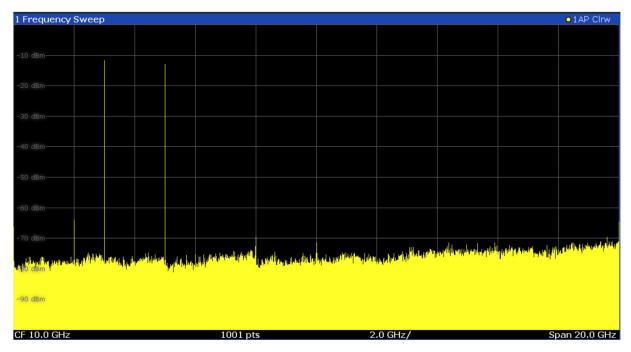


Figure 2-36. Example Spectrum of Both DDS Streams Sent to DACA Output

Note

All four streams can be mapped to either or both DACs when configured.

2.2 Evaluation Board Details: Analog Outputs

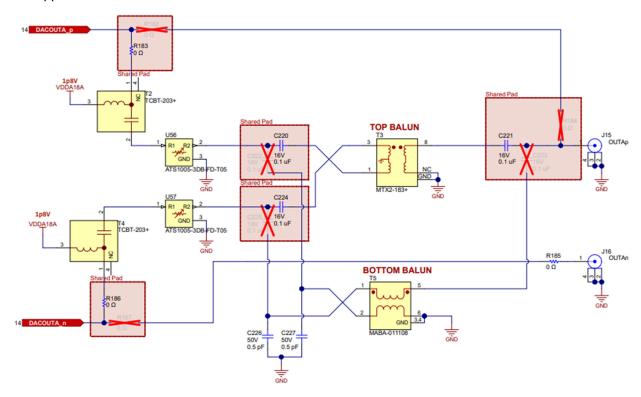
The analog output path can be configured for both a high frequency path (MTX2-183+ balun from mini-circuits) and low frequency path (MABA-011108 balun from Macom). The high frequency path is default on CHA and CHB, and the low frequency path requires some component modifications. See Table 2-2.

Each analog output path also has the ability to bypass both balun options entirely and allow the user to access the outputs differentially. To enable this feature, some components must be changed. See Table 2-3.

Table 2-2. Component Changes to Modify DAC EVM Output Paths

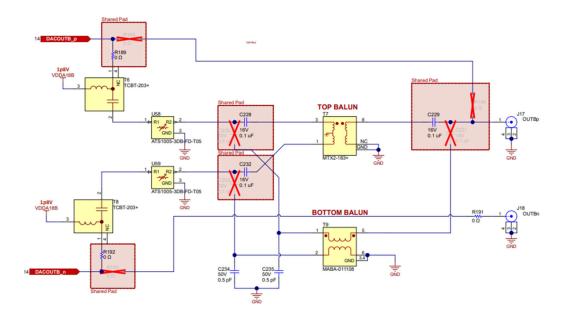
DAC Output Channel	Components to Remove	Components to Populate
CHA - Single-ended (MABA-011108)	C220, C224, C221	C222, C225, C223 = 0.1µF
CHA - Differential (balun bypass)	R183, R186	R182, R184, R187 = 0Ω
CHB - Single-ended (MABA-011108)	C228, C229, C232	C230, C231, C233 = 0.1µF
CHB - Differential (balun bypass)	R189, R192	R168, R190, R193 = 0Ω

Each analog output path has a wideband biasT on each output P/N pin to bias the outputs appropriately across the DAC supported bandwidth.



A. DACA output stage. By default, the MTX2-183+ balun is used for this channel (2GHz to 18GHz).

Figure 2-37. Analog Output Path - CHA



A. DACB output stage. By default, the MTX2-183+ balun is used for this channel (2GHz to 18GHz).

Figure 2-38. Analog Output Path - CHB

2.3 FMC Signal Routing

Table 2-3 provides the signal routing details for the DAC39RF20EVM.

All signal routing is handled by the DAC with the internal JESD crossbar feature.

This is also featured in the JESD crossbar dialogue box within the DAC39RF20EVM GUI.

Table 2-3. Signal Routing

DAC JESD Resource	Inverted	FMC Resource	FMC Pins	TSW14J59 FPGA Resource
Lane 9	Yes	DP0_C2M	C2, C3	Q224 MGTYTXN0
Lane 11	Yes	DP1_C2M	A22, A23	Q224 MGTYTXN1
Lane 15	Yes	DP2_C2M	A26, A27	Q224 MGTYTXN2
Lane 5	Yes	DP3_C2M	A30, A31	Q224 MGTYTXN3
Lane 3		DP4_C2M	A34, A35	Q225 MGTYTXN0
Lane 0	Yes	DP5_C2M	A38, A39	Q225 MGTYTXN1
Lane 1	Yes	DP6_C2M	B36, B37	Q225 MGTYTXN2
Lane 2	Yes	DP7_C2M	B32, B33	Q225 MGTYTXN3
Lane 7	Yes	DP8_C2M	B28, B29	Q226 MGTYTXN0
Lane 13	Yes	DP9_C2M	B24, B25	Q226 MGTYTXN1
Lane 12	Yes	DP10_C2M	Z24, Z25	Q226 MGTYTXN2
Lane 14	Yes	DP11_C2M	Y26, Y27	Q226 MGTYTXN3
Lane 6	Yes	DP12_C2M	Z28, Z29	Q227 MGTYTXN0
Lane 4	Yes	DP13_C2M	Y30, Y31	Q227 MGTYTXN1
Lane 10	Yes	DP20_C2M ⁽¹⁾	Z8, Z9	Q227 MGTYTXN2
Lane 8	Yes	DP21_C2M ⁽¹⁾	Y6, Y7	Q227 MGTYTXN3

(1) DP20_C2M and DP21_C2M can be rerouted to DP14_C2M and DP15_C2M to meet VITA compliance with other FPGA boards.

www.ti.com Hardware Design Files

3 Hardware Design Files

The design files can be downloaded from the DAC39RF20EVM tools page on TI.com.

4 Additional Information

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3 Regulatory Notices:

3.1 United States

3.1.1 Notice applicable to EVMs not FCC-Approved:

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3.1.2 For EVMs annotated as FCC – FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Part 15 Compliant:

CAUTION

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

FCC Interference Statement for Class A EVM devices

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference when the equipment is operated in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instruction manual, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause harmful interference in which case the user will be required to correct the interference at his own expense.

FCC Interference Statement for Class B EVM devices

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- · Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

3.2 Canada

3.2.1 For EVMs issued with an Industry Canada Certificate of Conformance to RSS-210 or RSS-247

Concerning EVMs Including Radio Transmitters:

This device complies with Industry Canada license-exempt RSSs. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) this device may not cause interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

Concernant les EVMs avec appareils radio:

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Under Industry Canada regulations, this radio transmitter may only operate using an antenna of a type and maximum (or lesser) gain approved for the transmitter by Industry Canada. To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that necessary for successful communication. This radio transmitter has been approved by Industry Canada to operate with the antenna types lated in the user guide with the maximum permissible gain and required antenna impedance for each antenna type indicated. Antenna types not included in this list, having a gain greater than the maximum gain indicated for that type, are strictly prohibited for use with this device.

Concernant les EVMs avec antennes détachables

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3.3 Japan

- 3.3.1 Notice for EVMs delivered in Japan: Please see http://www.tij.co.jp/lsds/ti_ja/general/eStore/notice_01.page 日本国内に輸入される評価用キット、ボードについては、次のところをご覧ください。
 - https://www.ti.com/ja-jp/legal/notice-for-evaluation-kits-delivered-in-japan.html
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