CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

SCXI™-1125

For NI-DAQ™mx

This document contains information and instructions for calibrating the National Instruments SCXI-1125 signal conditioning module.

Contents

Conventions

The following conventions are used in this document:

»

The » symbol leads you through nested menu items and dialog box options to a final action. The sequence **File»Page Setup»Options** directs you to pull down the File menu, select the Page Setup item, and select Options from the last dialog box.

Note This icon denotes a note, which alerts you to important information.

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bold	Bold text denotes items that you must select or click in the software, such as menu items and dialog box options. Bold text also denotes parameter names.
italic	Italic text denotes variables, emphasis, a cross-reference, or an introduction to a key concept. Italic text also denotes text that is a placeholder for a word or value that you must supply.
`monospace`	Text in this font denotes text or characters that you should enter from the keyboard, sections of code, programming examples, and syntax examples. This font is also used for the proper names of disk drives, paths, directories, programs, subprograms, subroutines, device names, functions, operations, variables, filenames, and extensions.
`monospace italic`	Italic text in this font denotes text that is a placeholder for a word or value that you must supply.

Software

The SCXI-1125 calibration procedure requires the NI-DAQmx driver. NI recommends using the latest driver that supports both your development environment and the SCXI-1125. NI-DAQmx includes high-level function calls to simplify the task of writing software to calibrate devices. NI-DAQmx supports many programming languages, including LabVIEW, LabWindows™/CVI™, C/C++, C#, and Visual Basic .NET.

Documentation

The following documents are the primary references for writing your calibration utility:

- The *NI-DAQmx Help* includes information about creating applications that use NI-DAQmx.
- The *NI-DAQmx C Reference Help* includes information about the functions in NI-DAQmx.
- The *DAQ Getting Started* guides include information about installing and configuring NI-DAQ devices.

You can access these documents by selecting **Start»All Programs» National Instruments»NI-DAQmx** after installing NI-DAQmx.

For more information about the SCXI-1125, refer to the *SCXI-1125 User Manual*. For information about installing and configuring SCXI modules, refer to the *SCXI Quick Start Guide*.

Calibration Interval

Calibrate the SCXI-1125 at a regular interval as defined by the measurement accuracy requirements of your application. NI recommends that you perform a complete calibration at least once every year. You can shorten this interval based on the accuracy requirements of your application.

Password

The default password for password-protected operations is `NI`.

Test Equipment

NI recommends that you use the equipment in Table 1 to calibrate the SCXI-1125. If these instruments are not available, use the requirements listed in Table 1 to select a suitable substitute.

Table 1. Test Equipment

Equipment	Recommended Model	Requirements
Calibrator	Fluke 5700A	50 ppm
DAQ Device	NI 6281	16-bit minimum
DMM	NI 4070 or Agilent 34401A	6 1/2 digit, 15 ppm
Terminal Block	SCXI-1320	—

Test Conditions

Follow these guidelines to optimize the connections and the environment during calibration:

- Keep connections to the SCXI-1125 as short as possible. Long cables and wires can act as antennas, picking up extra noise and thermal offsets that affect measurements.
- Use shielded copper wire for all cable connections to the SCXI-1125. Use twisted-pair wire to eliminate noise and thermal offsets.
- Maintain the ambient temperature between 18 °C and 28 °C.
- Keep relative humidity below 80%.
- Allow a warm-up time of at least 15 minutes for the SCXI-1125 and 30 minutes for the DAQ device to ensure that the measurement circuitry is at a stable operating temperature.

Calibration Process

The calibration process has the following steps:

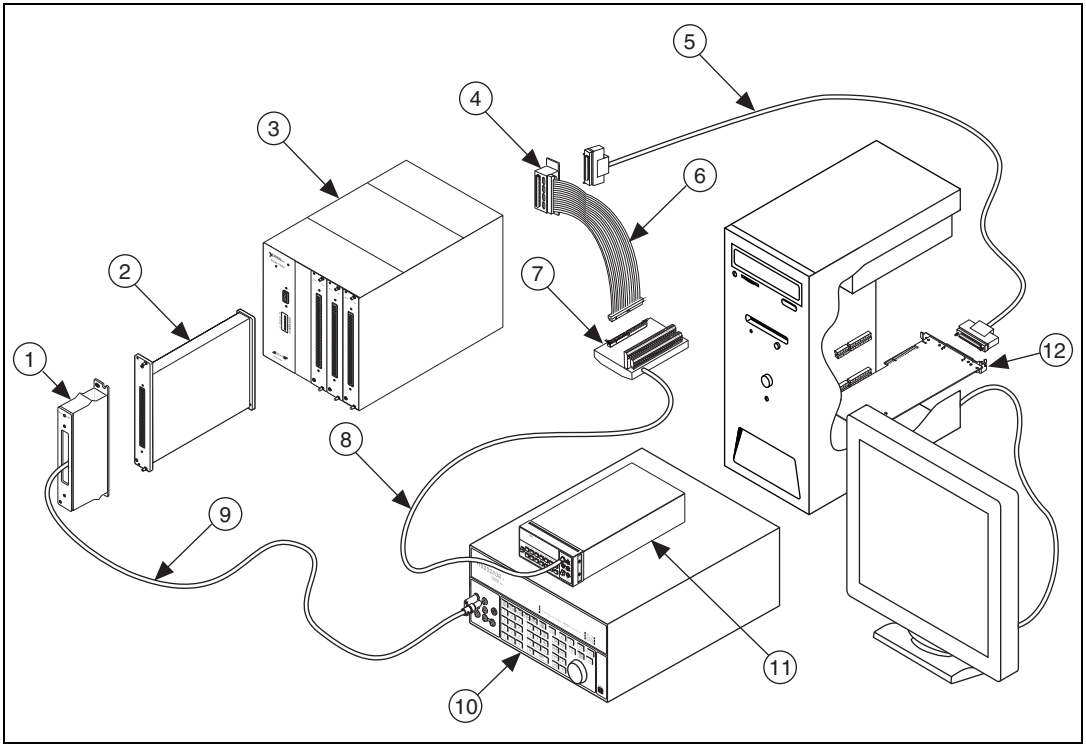
1. *Initial Setup*—Configure the SCXI-1125 for calibration.
2. *Verification Procedure*—Verify the existing operation of the SCXI-1125. This step determines whether the SCXI-1125 is operating within its test limits.
3. *Adjustment Procedure*—Perform an external calibration that adjusts the SCXI-1125 calibration constants with respect to a known voltage source.
4. *Verifying Adjusted Values*—Perform another verification to ensure that the SCXI-1125 is operating within its test limits after adjustments.

Initial Setup

Complete the following steps to configure the SCXI-1125 for calibration:

1. Make sure that all the appropriate driver and application software is installed.
2. Make sure all components involved in the calibration procedure are powered off.

3. Assemble the SCXI-1125, SCXI chassis, terminal blocks, and DAQ device as shown in Figure . You must cable the SCXI-1125 directly to the DAQ device.



1	SCXI-1320 Terminal Block	7	CB-50 Connector Block
2	SCXI-1125 Module	8	Cable to DMM
3	SCXI Chassis	9	Cable to Calibrator
4	SCXI-1349 Cable Adapter	10	Calibrator
5	Shielded 68-Pin Cable	11	DMM
6	NB1 Cable (50-Pin Ribbon Cable)	12	DAQ Device

Figure 1. Calibration Connections

4. Power on the SCXI chassis and the external computer.
5. You must configure the hardware properly with Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX). Refer to the *SCXI Quick Start Guide* for details about configuring the SCXI chassis.

Note When you configure a device in MAX, the device is assigned a device identifier. In this calibration document, the functions used for demonstrating the calibration process use the device identifiers `Dev1` for the DAQ device and `SC1Mod1` for the SCXI-1125.

Verification Procedure

The verification procedure determines how well the SCXI-1125 is meeting its test limits. You can use this information to select the appropriate calibration interval for your application.

The SCXI-1125 stores gain and offset calibration constants for each gain setting per analog input channel. A complete verification of the inputs involves measuring the accuracy at all possible gain settings on all channels of the SCXI-1125.

To view the calibration VIs in LabVIEW, select **Measurement I/O»DAQmx - Data Acquisition»DAQmx Advanced»DAQmx Calibration** on the Functions palette. You can also use the **Search** button, shown in Figure , to look for a specific VI.

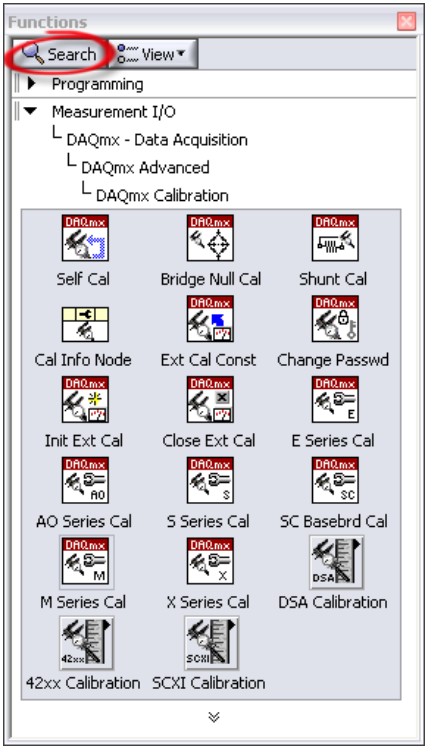


Figure 2. DAQmx Calibration Palette and the Search Button

Complete the following steps to verify the accuracy of each SCXI-1125 analog input channel:

1. Use the DAQmx Self Calibrate VI to verify the DAQ device. This VI measures the onboard reference voltage of the DAQ device and adjusts the self-calibration constants to account for any errors caused by short-term fluctuations in the operating environment.

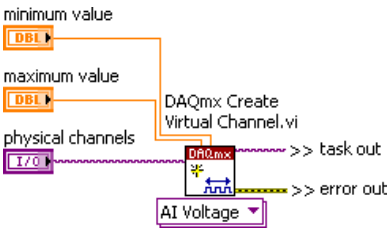
Note Throughout the verification procedure, refer to the function call parameters for the LabVIEW input values.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxSelfCal` with the following parameter: **deviceName**: `"Dev1"`

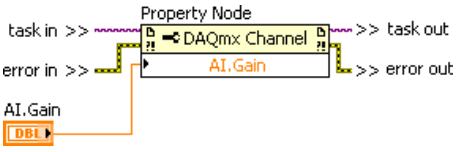
2. Connect the calibrator output to pins AI- and AI+ for all channels. Refer to the *SCXI-1320 High-Voltage Terminal Block Installation Guide and Specifications* for connection instructions. If you are not using the recommended SCXI-1320, refer to Table 4 for the front signal pin assignments of the SCXI-1125. If the calibration signal source is floating, connect AI- to the SCXI chassis ground using the ground lug available on the SCXI terminal block.
3. Set the calibrator voltage to the desired test point indicated in Table 2.
4. Create a task using `DAQmxCreateTask`.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
LabVIEW does not require this step.	Call `DAQmxCreateTask` with the following parameters: **taskName**: `"AIVerificationTask"` **taskHandle**: `&taskHandle`

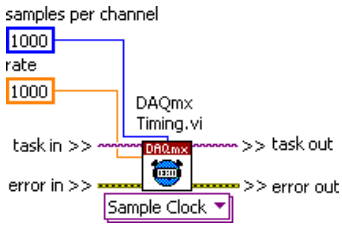
5. Add a voltage channel using the DAQmx Create Virtual Channel VI.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxCreateAIVoltageChan` with the following parameters: **taskHandle**: `taskHandle` **physicalChannel**: `"SC1Mod1/aiX"`† **nameToAssignToChannel**: `"myVoltageChannel"` **terminalConfig**: `DAQmx_Val_Cfg_Default` **minVal**: -5 V **maxVal**: 5 V **units**: `DAQmx_Val_Volts` **customScaleName**: `""` † Where *X* refers to the channel you are verifying.

6. Set the SCXI-1125 to a gain setting that corresponds to the current test point in Table 2 using the DAQmx Channel Property Node. You can find the AI.Gain property by selecting **Analog Input»General Properties»Advanced»Gain**.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxSetAIGain` with the following parameters: **taskHandle**: `taskHandle` **channel**: `""` **data**: `(gain value for particular test point) float64`

7. Configure timing for the voltage acquisition using the DAQmx Timing VI.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxCfgSampClkTiming` with the following parameters: **taskHandle**: `taskHandle` **source**: `" "` **rate**: `1000.0` **activeEdge**: `DAQmx_Val_Rising` **sampleMode**: `DAQmx_Val_FiniteSamps` **sampsPerChanToAcquire**: `1000`

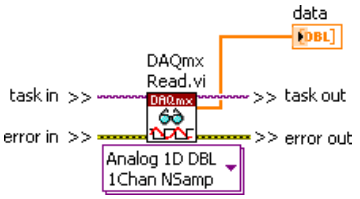
8. Commit the verification changes using the DAQmx Control Task VI.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxTaskControl` with the following parameters: **taskHandle**: `taskHandle` **action**: `DAQmx_Val_Task_Commit`

9. For each new test point, use the Time Delay Express VI to account for the 5 second settling time.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	Function Call
	Call a `sleep` or `wait` function to suspend execution for the necessary settling time. **Delay Time**: `5`

10. Acquire 1000 points of voltage data using the Analog 1D DBL 1Chan NSamp instance of the DAQmx Read VI.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxReadAnalogF64` with the following parameters: **taskHandle**: `taskHandle` **numSampsPerChan**: `-1` **timeout**: `10.0` **fillMode**: `DAQmx_Val_GroupByChannel` **readArray**: `data` **arraySizeInSamples**: `1000` **sampsPerChanRead**: `&read` **reserved**: `NULL`

11. Compute the mean of the 1000 voltage values that you acquired.
12. Compare the resulting average to the upper and lower limits listed in Table 2. If the result is between the upper and lower limits, the SCXI-1125 passes the test.
13. Clear the acquisition using the DAQmx Clear Task VI.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxClearTask` with the following parameter: **taskHandle**: `taskHandle`

14. Repeat steps 4 through 13 for the remaining channels.
15. Repeat steps 3 through 14 for all test points in Table 2.

You have finished verifying the analog input accuracy of the SCXI-1125.

Adjustment Procedure

The adjustment procedure adjusts the gain and offset calibration constants on the SCXI-1125. Complete the *Verification Procedure* prior to the adjustment procedure to determine the pre-calibration accuracy and whether adjustments are necessary.

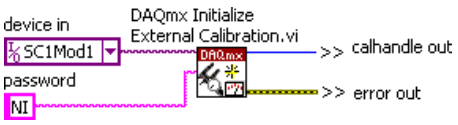
Complete the following steps to adjust the gain and offset of the SCXI-1125:

1. Connect the DMM to AO 0+ and AO 0- (pin 3 and 4) on the rear connector. Refer to Table 5 for rear signal pin assignments of the SCXI-1125.

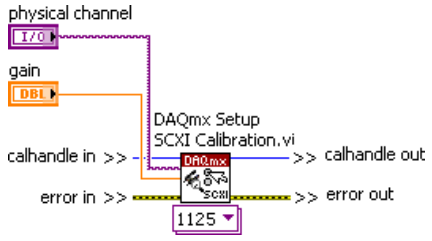
Note You can access these pins using a 50-pin cable connected to an SCXI-1349.

2. Connect the calibration output to pins AI- and AI+ for all channels. Refer to the *SCXI-1320 High-Voltage Terminal Block Installation Guide and Specifications* for connection instructions. If you are not using the recommended SCXI-1320, refer to Table 4 for the front signal pin assignments of the SCXI-1125. If the calibration signal source is floating, connect AI- to the SCXI chassis ground using the ground lug available on the SCXI terminal block.
3. Start an external calibration session using the DAQmx Initialize External Calibration VI.

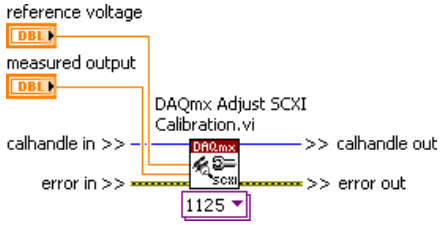
Note Throughout the adjustment procedure, refer to the function call parameters for the LabVIEW input values.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxInitExtCal` with the following parameters: **deviceName**: `"SC1Mod1"` **password**: `"NI"` **calHandle**: `&calHandle`

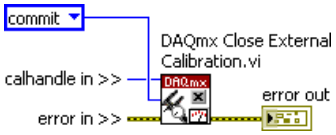
4. Set the SCXI-1125 to a gain value listed in Table 3 using the DAQmx Setup SCXI Calibration VI.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxSetup1125Cal` with the following parameters: **calHandle**: `calHandle` **channelNames**: `"SC1Mod1/ai`*X*`"`† **gain**: `(gain value found in Table 3) float64` †Where *X* refers to the channel you are calibrating.

5. Set the calibrator to a set point for the gain value you set in step 4. Refer to Table 3 for appropriate voltage set points.
6. Wait for 5 second settling time to elapse and then record the measured output from the DMM.
7. Adjust the external calibration constants using the DAQmx Adjust SCXI Calibration VI.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxAdjust1125Cal` with the following parameters: **calHandle**: `calHandle` **refVoltage**: `(calibrator output voltage) float64` **measOutput**: `(voltage measured by DMM) float64`

8. Repeat steps 5 through 7 for all voltage set points at the current gain value in Table 3.
9. Commit the calibration changes you made in the session using the DAQmx Close External Calibration VI. The data is written to the hardware in this step.

LabVIEW Block Diagram	NI-DAQmx Function Call
	Call `DAQmxCloseExtCal` with the following parameters: **calHandle**: `calHandle` **action**: `DAQmx_Val_Action_Commit`

10. Repeat steps 3 through 9 for all gain values in Table 3.
11. Repeat steps 2 through 10 for the remaining channels.

You have finished adjusting the gain and offset of the SCXI-1125.

Verifying Adjusted Values

After calibrating the SCXI-1125, NI recommends that you verify the analog input operation by repeating the steps listed in the *Verification Procedure* to ensure that the SCXI-1125 is operating within its test limits.

Test Limits

Refer to the *SCXI-1125 User Manual* for the specifications of the SCXI-1125.

Gain and Offset

Table 2 contains the test limits to use when verifying the gain and offset of the SCXI-1125. Table 3 contains the set points for the adjustment. If the SCXI-1125 was calibrated within the last year, the test point value should fall between the Lower Limit and Upper Limit values found in Table 2.

Note The values in Table 2 do not include DAQ device errors.

Table 2. Upper and Lower Limit Channel Settings

Gain	Range	Test Point	Upper Limit (V)	Lower Limit (V)
1	5	4.950000	4.982047	4.917953
1	0	0.000000	0.006802	-0.006802
1	-5	-4.950000	-4.917953	-4.982047
2	2.5	2.475000	2.491123	2.458877
2	0	0.000000	0.003426	-0.003426
2	-2.5	-2.475000	-2.458877	-2.491123
5	1	0.990000	0.996498	0.983502
5	0	0.000000	0.0014	-0.0014
5	-1	-0.990000	-0.983502	-0.996498
10	0.5	0.495000	0.49825	0.49175
10	0	0.000000	0.000701	-0.000701
10	-0.5	-0.495000	-0.49175	-0.49825
20	0.25	0.247500	0.249139	0.245861
20	0	0.000000	0.000364	-0.000364
20	-0.25	-0.247500	-0.245861	-0.249139
50	0.1	0.099000	0.099669	0.098331
50	0	0.000000	0.000159	-0.000159

Table 2. Upper and Lower Limit Channel Settings (Continued)

Gain	Range	Test Point	Upper Limit (V)	Lower Limit (V)
50	-0.1	-0.099000	-0.098331	-0.099669
100	0.05	0.0495000	0.049846	0.049154
100	0	0.000000	0.000091	-0.000091
100	-0.05	-0.049500	-0.049154	-0.049846
200	0.025	0.024750	0.024936	0.024564
200	0	0.000000	0.000058	-0.000058
200	-0.025	-0.024750	-0.024564	-0.024936
250	0.02	0.019800	0.019954	0.019646
250	0	0.000000	0.000051	-0.000051
250	-0.02	-0.019800	-0.019646	-0.019954
500	0.01	0.009900	0.009989	0.009811
500	0	0.000000	0.000038	-0.000038
500	-0.01	-0.009900	-0.009811	-0.009989
1000	0.005	0.00495	0.005007	0.004893
1000	0	0.000000	0.000031	-0.000031
1000	-0.005	-0.004950	-0.004893	-0.005007
2000	0.0025	0.002475	0.002515	0.002435
2000	0	0.000000	0.000027	-0.000027
2000	-0.0025	-0.002475	-0.002435	-0.002515

Limits valid for 4 Hz or 10 kHz filter settings.
Valid when using an MIO device after performing an MIO internal calibration.
Valid for both filter settings with 1,000 point averaging at 1,000 samples per second.

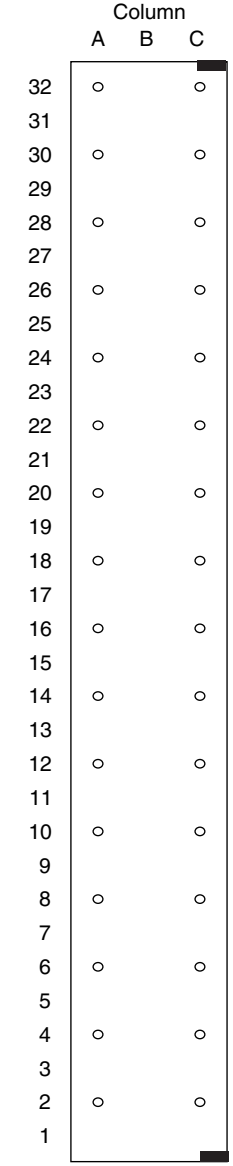
Table 3. Adjustment Set Points

Gain	Set Points (V)						
1	4.5	3	1.5	0	-1.5	-3	-4.5
2	2.25	1.5	0.75	0	-0.75	-1.5	-2.25
5	0.9	0.6	0.3	0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9
10	0.45	0.3	0.15	0	-0.15	-0.3	-0.45
20	0.225	0.15	0.075	0	-0.075	-0.15	-0.225
50	0.09	0.06	0.03	0	-0.03	-0.06	-0.09
100	0.045	0.03	0.015	0	-0.015	-0.03	-0.045
200	0.0225	0.015	0.0075	0	-0.0075	-0.015	-0.0225
250	0.018	0.012	0.006	0	-0.006	-0.012	-0.018
500	0.009	0.006	0.003	0	-0.003	-0.006	-0.009
1000	0.0045	0.003	0.0015	0	-0.0015	-0.003	-0.0045
2000	0.00225	0.0015	0.00075	0	-0.00075	-0.0015	-0.00225

SCXI-1125 Front and Rear Panel Diagrams

Table 4 shows the pin assignments for the SCXI-1125 front panel connector. Table 5 shows the pin assignments for the SCXI-1125 rear signal connector.

Table 4. Front Signal Pin Assignments

Front Connector Diagram	Pin Number	Column A	Column B	Column C
	32	AI 0 +	—	AI 0-
	31	—	—	—
	30	AI 1 +	—	AI 1-
	29	—	—	—
	28	NC	—	NC
	27	—	—	—
	26	AI 2 +	—	AI 2-
	25	—	—	—
	24	AI 3 +	—	AI 3-
	23	—	—	—
	22	NC	—	NC
	21	—	—	—
	20	AI 4 +	—	AI 4-
	19	—	—	—
	18	AI 5 +	—	AI 5-
	17	—	—	—
	16	NC	—	NC
	15	—	—	—
	14	AI 6 +	—	AI 6-
	13	—	—	—
	12	AI 7 +	—	AI 7-
	11	—	—	—
	10	NC	—	NC
	9	—	—	—
	8	RSVD	—	RSVD
	7	—	—	—
	6	RSVD	—	RSVD
	5	—	—	—
	4	+5 V	—	CJ TEMP
	3	—	—	—
	2	CHS GND	—	RSVD
	1	—	—	—

RSVD—Reserved
NC—no connection
— no pin

Table 5. Rear Signal Pin Assignments

Rear Connector Diagram	Signal Name	Pin Number	Pin Number	Signal Name
	AO GND	1	2	AO GND
	AO 0 +	3	4	AO 0-
	AO 1 +	5	6	AO 1-
	AO 2 +	7	8	AO 2-
	AO 3 +	9	10	AO 3-
	AO 4 +	11	12	AO 4-
	AO 5 +	13	14	AO 5-
	AO 6 +	15	16	AO 6-
	AO 7 +	17	18	AO 7-
	OUT REF	19	20	—
	—	21	22	—
	—	23	24	D GND
	SER DAT IN	25	26	SER DAT OUT
	DAQ D*/A	27	28	—
	SLOT 0 SEL*	29	30	—
	—	31	32	—
	D GND	33	34	—
	—	35	36	AI HOLD COMP, AI HOLD
	SER CLK	37	38	—
	—	39	40	—
	—	41	42	—
	—	43	44	—
	—	45	46	SYNC
	—	47	48	—
	—	49	50	—

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