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USB-6251

Externally Powered USB

This document provides basic installation instructions for National Instruments externally powered USB DAQ devices. Refer to the documentation specific to your DAQ device for more information.

Unpacking the Kit



Caution To prevent electrostatic discharge (ESD) from damaging the device, ground yourself using a grounding strap or by holding a grounded object, such as your computer chassis.

1. Touch the antistatic package to a metal part of the computer chassis.
2. Remove the device from the package and inspect the device for loose components or any other sign of damage.



Caution Never touch the exposed pins of connectors.



Note Do not install a device if it appears damaged in any way.

3. Unpack any other items and documentation from the kit.

Store the device in the antistatic package when the device is not in use.

Installing the Software

Back up any applications before upgrading your software. You must be an Administrator to install NI software on your computer. Refer to the *NI-DAQmx Readme* on the software media for supported application software and versions.

1. If applicable, install an application development environment (ADE), such as LabVIEW, Microsoft Visual Studio®, or LabWindows™/CVI™.
2. Install the NI-DAQmx driver software.

Connecting the Device

Complete the following steps to set up an externally powered USB DAQ device.

1. Connect the power supply to an electrical outlet and your device.



Note Verify that the voltage on the external power supply matches the voltage in your area (for example, 120 V AC or 230 V AC) and the voltage required by your device.

2. Connect the cable from the computer USB port or from any other hub to the USB port on the device.
3. Power on the device.

After the computer detects your device (this can take 30 to 45 seconds), the LED on the device blinks or lights.

Windows recognizes any newly installed devices the first time the computer reboots after hardware is installed. On some Windows systems, the Found New Hardware wizard opens with a dialog box for every NI device installed. **Install the software automatically** is selected by default. Click **Next** or **Yes** to install the software for the device.



Note If your device is not recognized and the LED does not blink or light, make sure that you installed NI-DAQmx as outlined in the [Installing the Software](#) section.



Note After Windows detects newly installed NI USB devices, NI Device Monitor launches.

4. If applicable, install accessories and/or terminal blocks as described in the installation guides.
5. Attach sensors and signal lines to the device, terminal block, or accessory terminals. Refer to the documentation for your DAQ device or accessory for terminal/pinout information.

Configuring the Device in NI MAX

Use NI MAX, installed automatically with NI-DAQmx, to configure your National Instruments hardware.

1. Launch NI MAX.
2. In the Configuration pane, double-click **Devices and Interfaces** to see the list of installed devices. The module is nested under the chassis.

If you do not see your device listed, press <F5> to refresh the list of installed devices. If the device is still not listed, disconnect and reconnect the USB cable to the device and computer.

3. Right-click the device and select **Self-Test** to perform a basic verification of hardware resources.
4. (Optional) Right-click the device and select **Configure** to add accessory information and configure the device.
5. Right-click the device and select **Test Panels** to test device functionality.

Click **Start** to test the device functions, and then **Stop** and **Close** to exit the test panel. If the test panel displays an error message, refer to ni.com/support.

6. If your device supports Self-Calibration, right-click the device and select **Self-Calibrate**.

A window reports the status of the calibration. Click **Finish**. For more information about Self-Calibration, refer to the device user manual.



Note Remove all sensors and accessories from your device before Self-Calibrating.

Programming

Complete the following steps to configure a measurement using the DAQ Assistant from NI MAX.

1. In NI MAX, right-click **Data Neighborhood** and select **Create New** to open the DAQ Assistant.
2. Select **NI-DAQmx Task** and click **Next**.
3. Select **Acquire Signals** or **Generate Signals**.
4. Select the I/O type, such as analog input, and the measurement type, such as voltage.
5. Select the physical channel(s) to use and click **Next**.
6. Name the task and click **Finish**.
7. Configure individual channel settings. Each physical channel you assign to a task receives a virtual channel name. Click **Details** for physical channel information. Configure the timing and triggering for your task.
8. Click **Run**.

Troubleshooting

For software installation problems, go to ni.com/support/daqmx.

For hardware troubleshooting, go to ni.com/support and enter your device name, or go to ni.com/kb.

Find device terminal/pinout locations in MAX by right-clicking the device name in the Configuration pane and selecting **Device Pinouts**.

To return your National Instruments hardware for repair or device calibration, go to ni.com/info and enter `rdseenn`, which starts the Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) process.

Where to Go Next

Additional resources are online at ni.com/gettingstarted and in the *NI-DAQmx Help*. To access *NI-DAQmx Help*, launch NI MAX and go to **Help»Help Topics»NI-DAQmx»NI-DAQmx Help**.

Examples

NI-DAQmx includes example programs to help you get started developing an application. Modify example code and save it in an application, or use examples to develop a new application or add example code to an existing application.

To locate LabVIEW, LabWindows/CVI, Measurement Studio, Visual Basic, and ANSI C examples, go to ni.com/info and enter the Info Code `daqmxexp`. For additional examples, refer to ni.com/examples.

Related Documentation

To find the documentation for your DAQ device or accessory—including safety, environmental, and regulatory information documents—go to ni.com/manuals and enter the model number.

Worldwide Support and Services

The National Instruments website is your complete resource for technical support. At ni.com/support, you have access to everything from troubleshooting and application development self-help resources to email and phone assistance from NI Application Engineers.

Visit ni.com/services for NI Factory Installation Services, repairs, extended warranty, and other services.

Visit ni.com/register to register your National Instruments product. Product registration facilitates technical support and ensures that you receive important information updates from NI.

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