AS6501-QF_DK

Development Kit User Guide

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Content Guide

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1 Introduction

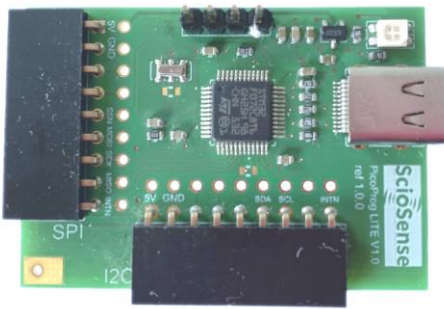The AS6501-DK development kit allows customers a quick and intuitive approach to using the AS6501 2-channel time-to-digital converter.

The kit includes of four elements:

AS6501-QF_DK_RB reference board V1.0, based on AS6501-FLQM in QFP48 package
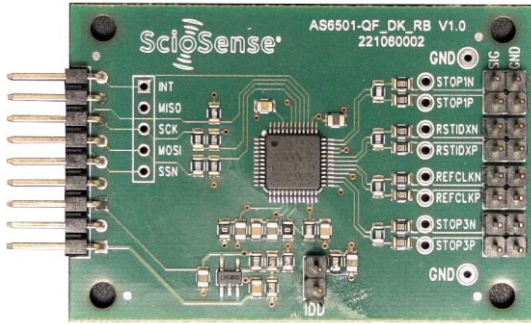
PicoProg Lite interface

USB-C data cable

Figure 1: Functional Blocks

Please download the latest software for the kit from
https://www.downloads.sciosense.com/AS6501

1.1 Ordering Codes

Table 1: Pin description

Ordering code	Part Number	Description
AS6501-QF_DK	221060003	AS6501 Development kit including PicoProg Lite and cable
AS6501-QF_DK_RB	221060002	AS6501 reference board

2 Quick Start Guide

This section describes how to set up the AS6501 development kit, establish basic operation and make measurements quickly.

2.1   Install the Software

Please download the latest software for the kit from: Link: https://downloads.sciosense.com/as6501

- Unzip the package to the desired directory.
- Open "setup.exe" from the unzipped directory.
- Follow the instructions on the screen.

2.2   Install the Hardware

- Connect the PicoProg Lite PCB to the computer by means of the USB cable. The green LED should be on.
- Connect the AS6501 reference board to the PicoProg Lite. Select the connector for SPI communication and one for I2C communication. They are marked accordingly.

2.3   Start Software

- Execute the AS6501 front panel Software. The communication status should be green
- The software starts with an initial configuration, that can be opened the default configuration file config_default.cfg.
- Press "Power On Reset" – "Write Config" – "Init Reset"
- Press "Start Measurement"

The measurement should run and results should be displayed now.

3   Hardware Description

The AS6501-QF_DK_RB board, shown in Figure 2, is a basic board for the 2-channel time-to-digital converter AS6501. The reference clock can be applied from external via pin or from the on-board 5 MHz quartz oscillator (X1).
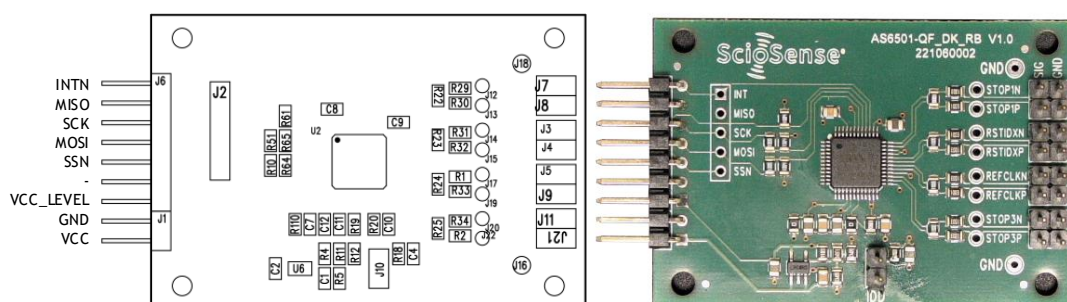

Figure 2: Reference board

The board is connected to the PC via the PicoProg Lite, a USB-to-SPI converter. The PicoProg Lite is registered by the operating system under "Other devices" as "PicoProg LITE V1.0". It comes with the appropriate firmware for each board on chip by default.

The flat connector connecting the PicoProg Lite and the AS6501-QF_DK_RB includes the power lines and the SPI communication lines. VCC_LEVEL is the voltage feedback but not used with PicoProg Lite.

4   Software Description

This section describes how to quickly set up the AS6501-DK, establish basic operation and make measurements.

4.1   Main Window

The main windows show two pages, one for configuration and one for results display.

4.1.1   Stop Page

On this window major settings are made:

1. Select the input pins that are used in the application.
2. Enable the internal measurement channels. Each pin refers to minimum one internal channel. Two will be needed in case of channel combination.
3. Select the resolution. High resolution achieves a betters single-shot rms noise, but at the cost of pulse-pair resolution.
4. Select an optional channel combination. This may be for better pulse-pair resolution or for pulse width measurement. Both options demand internally two channels per stop pin.
5. Having done the settings, download the configuration and initialize the chip.
6. Start the measurement.
7. At the bottom the results for the four stop channels are displayed. They show the time versus the reference clock.
8. In many cases the differences between the channels are of interest. This can be activated here.
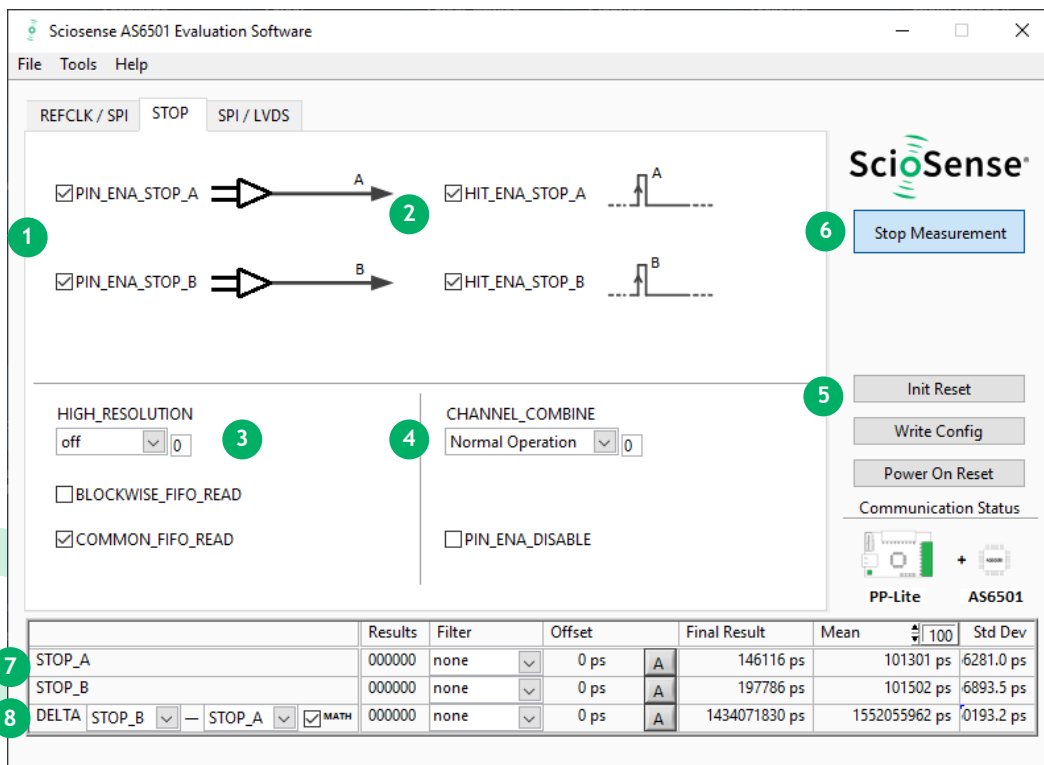

Figure 3: Stop page

4.1.2   REFCLK/SPI Page

1.   The pin for the reset of the index needs to be enabled if in use. Otherwise, it can be off for power savings.
2.   Parameter REFCLK_DIVISIONS has to be set so that the frequency calculated is the same of the reference clock used (5 MHz for the on-board reference). Then the output data will come with 1 LSB = 1 ps.
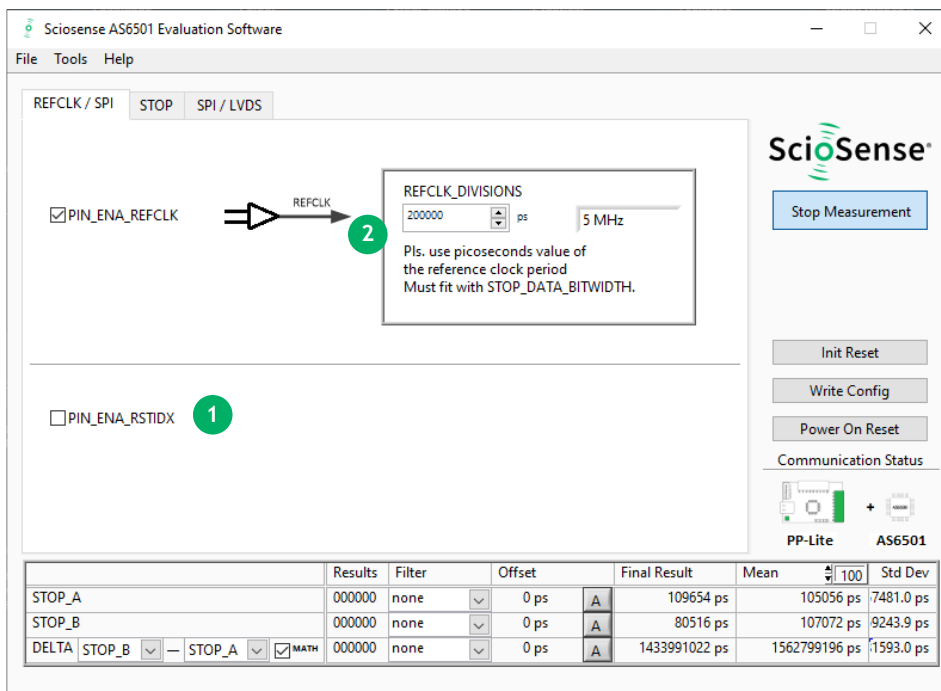

Figure 4: REFCLK page

4.1.3   SPI/LVDS Page

On this page the communication as well as the output data format is defined. With the AS6501 reference board it is possible only to communicate via SPI.

1.   Setting the communication interface to SPI is mandatory for the kit.
2.   For the inputs the user has the choice between CMOS and LVDS input buffers (see Figure 6).
3.   The detailed settings for LVDS outputs are not relevant for the kit as only SPI is available.

Note: The read-out speed of the evaluation software is much less than the TDC sample rate. Therefore, in most cases BLOCKWISE_FIFO_READ will give more reasonable display. In addition, often the difference between channels is of interest only and DELTA should be used for display. To have this calculated correctly, Math should be enabled. COMMOM_FIFO_READ helps if the same number of data from several channels is expected.
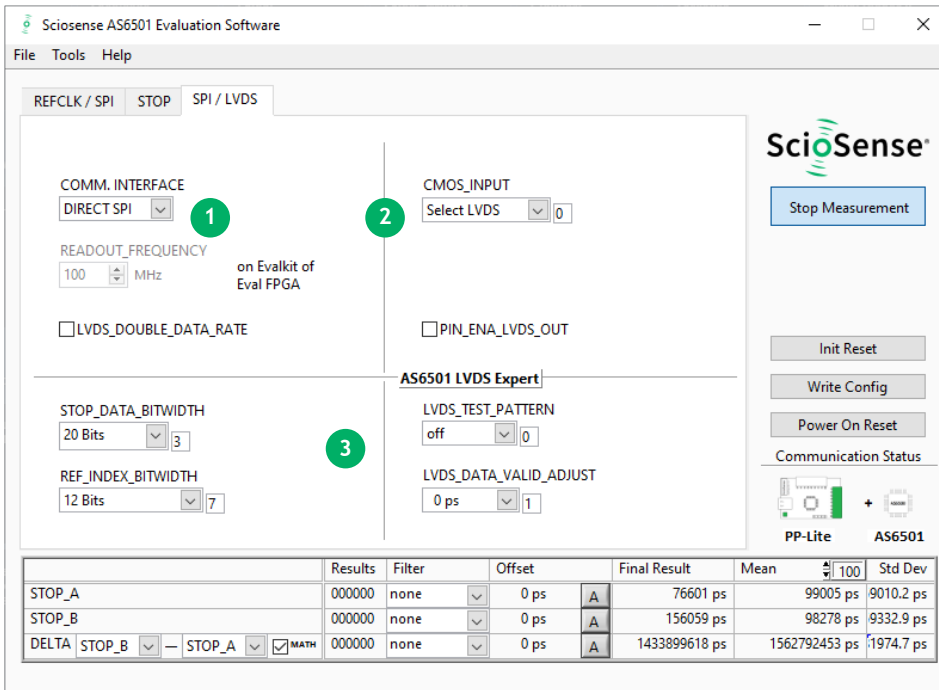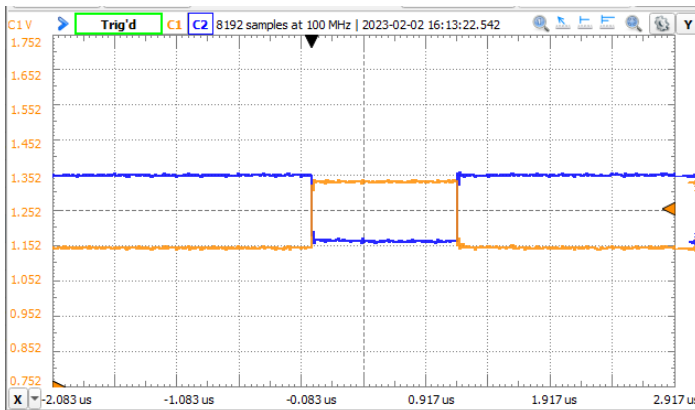
Figure 5: SPI / LVDS page

Figure 6: Typical LVDS signal

4.2   Menu & Support Windows

Beside main window, the software menu allows the opening of other windows. There are some menu items which are redundant to available buttons of main window.

4.2.1   File

- Load Config
  This dialog box allows the path selection of a configuration file, covering the register settings, necessary for a proper configuration of the AS6501. After opening this file, the control settings are updated in the GUI.
- Save Config
  This menu item allows the saving of the current GUI control settings into a configuration file.

- Save Graph Data
  Allows to store the measurement data as they are stored in the data buffer for the graphical display. It is possible to store the STOP data only or the STOP together with the reference numbers.
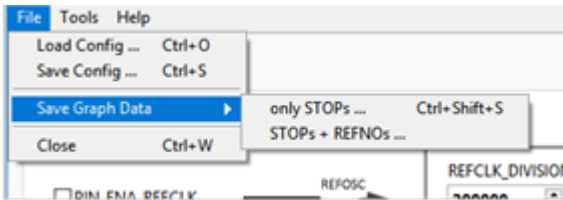

Figure 7: Menu

- Close
  Close all open windows of the AS6501-QF_DK Evaluation software.

4.2.2   Tools

- Run Measurement
  Same function as "Start/Stop Measurement" button in "Measurement" tab of main window.
- Graph
  Opens the window for a graphical display of the measurement data.

Figure 8: Menu

- **Registers**
  Opens a separate window for the display and setting of the configuration registers and the display of the read registers.
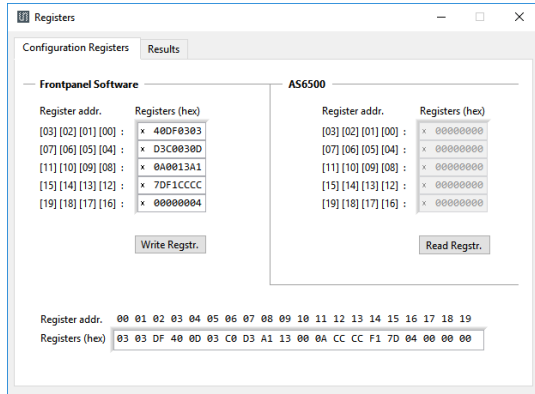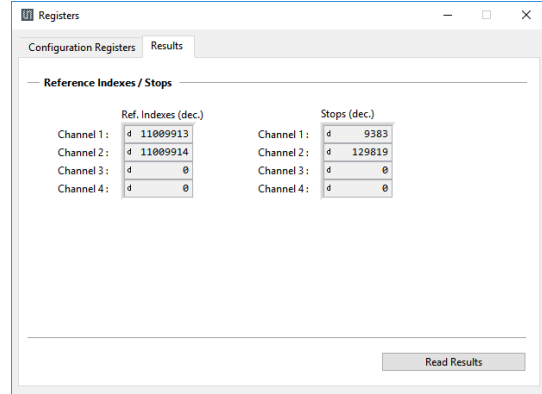

Figure 9: Configuration registers

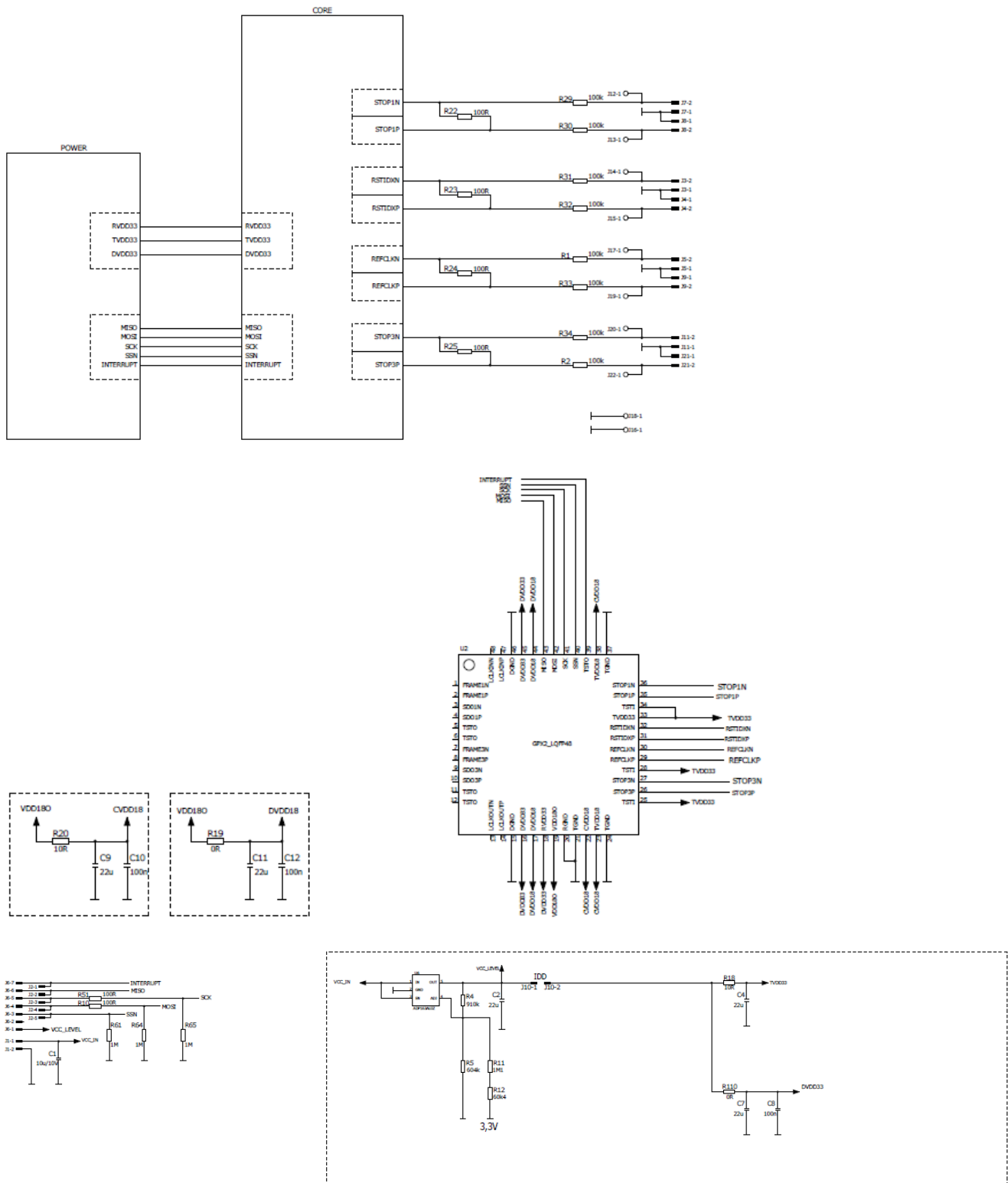*Figure 10: Result registers*

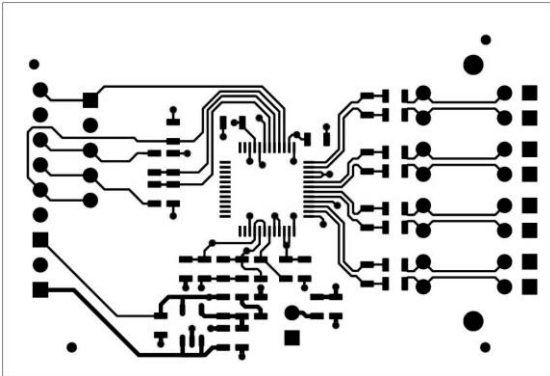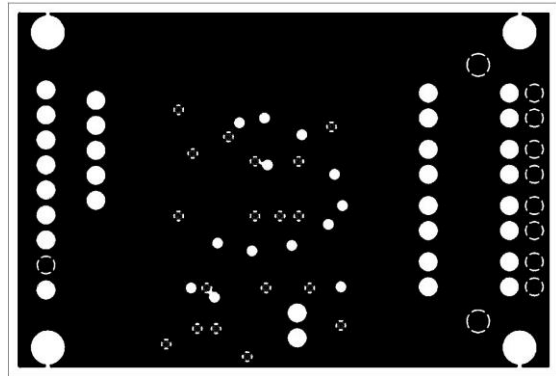# 5 Schematics, Layers & BOM
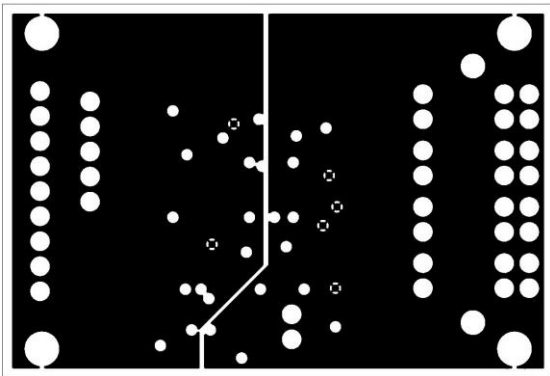

Figure 11: AS6501-QF_DK_RB schematics, Version 1.0

Top

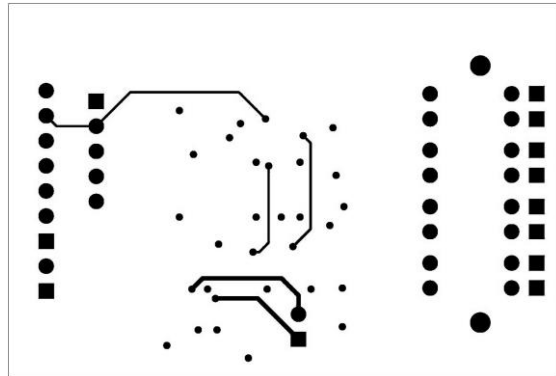Inner Layer 2

Inner Layer 3

Bottom

Figure 12: AS6501-QF_DK_RB layout, version 1.2
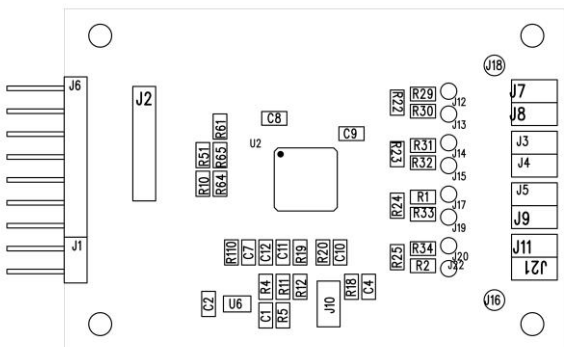
Figure 13: AS6501-QF_DK_RB assembly

Table 2: Bill of materials for AS6501-QF_DK_RB

Quantity	Designator	Value	Comment	Footprint
1	U2		AS6500	LQFP48
1	U6	3.0 V	ADP163AUJZ Analog Devices	
3	C8, C10, C12	100 nF	Chip capacitor	0805
2	C1	10 µF / 10 V	Chip capacitor	0805
5	C2,C4,C7,C9,C11	22 µF / 6.3 V	Chip capacitor	0805
2	R19,R110	0 Ω	Chip resistor	0805
2	R18,R20	10 Ω	Chip resistor	0805
6	R10,R22-25,R51	100 Ω	Chip resistor	0805
1	R12	60.4 kΩ	Chip resistor	0805
8	R1-2,R29-34	100 kΩ	Chip resistor	0805
1	R5	604 kΩ	Chip resistor	0805
1	R4	910 kΩ	Chip resistor	0805
3	R61,R64-65	1 MΩ	Chip resistor	0805
1	R11	1.1 MΩ	Chip resistor	0805
1	J6	7 x 1 x 90°	Connector	2.54
1	J1	2 x 1 x 90°	Connector	2.54
9	J3-5,J7-11,J21	2 x 1 x 180°	Connector	2.54

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8 Revision information

Table 3: Revision history

Revision	Date	Comment	Page
1	May 2023	First release	All

Note(s) and/or Footnote(s):

1. Page and figure numbers for the previous version may differ from page and figure numbers in the current revision.
2. Correction of typographical errors is not explicitly mentioned.