

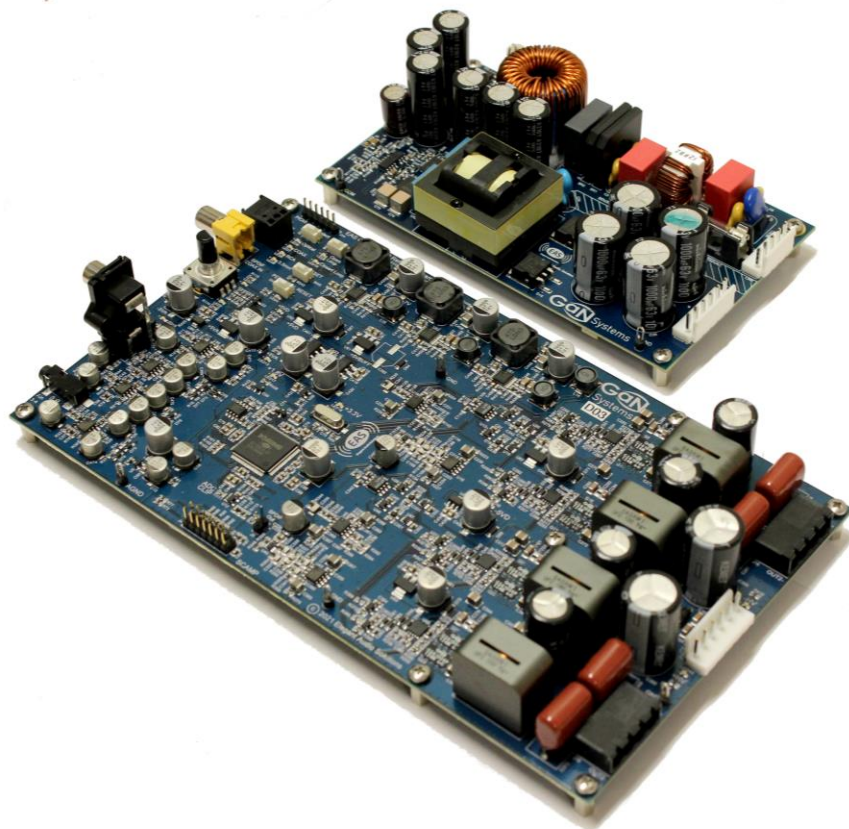
High-Efficiency 200W Stereo Class-D Amplifier & LLC Switched-Mode Power Supply w/PFC

Technical Manual

GS-EVB-AUD-BUNDLE₂-GS

GS-EVB-AUD-AMP₂-GS

GS-EVB-AUD-SMPS₂-GS



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1) Introduction

This technical manual highlights the performance, benefits, and design considerations of an audio evaluation bundle (GS-EVB-AUD-BUNDLE2-GS), which includes a 400W (200W Stereo) Class-D Amplifier (GS-EVB-AUD-AMP2-GS) and companion Switched-Mode Power Supply (SMPS) with PFC (GS-EVB-AUD-SMPS2-GS). The high-performance Class-D Stereo Amplifier is configured to allow for both ‘open-loop’ and ‘closed-loop’ operations, with various standard Audio Source Inputs. The Class-D Output Stage of the Audio Amplifier is implemented with 100V GaN enhancement mode HEMT (E-HEMT) devices. The SMPS is controlled by advanced digital control methods coupled with 650V GaN enhancement mode E-HEMTs. This fanless design solution achieves extremely high efficiency. It has high power density, reliable start-up, high efficiency, no heat sinking, low THD, and low EMI.

The latest generation Renesas D2Audio 24-bit, 300MHz Digital Control Processor with embedded Digital Signal Processor (DSP) facilitates solutions that leverage the performance benefits of the ‘open-loop’ and ‘closed-loop’ topologies. This Amplifier design implements both ‘open-loop’ direct PWM control with programmable dead-time adjustment and PWM DAC-driven ‘closed-loop’ control with optimized and fixed dead-time to provide the optimum trade-off between efficiency and performance over a wide operating range. The D2Audio DAE-3 integrated hardware accelerators and PWM Modulation engine allow the switching control and Fault recovery to be implemented in hardware and allow MCU resources to be utilized for low-frequency control, housekeeping, and user interface functionality. In this reference design, Renesas’ D2Audio DSP uses less than 25% of its available MIPs, including all processing, optimization, and protection features.

GaN Systems’ E-HEMTs are implemented in both the Class-D Amplifier and the SMPS design with patented Island Technology® cell layout to reduce the device size and cost while delivering substantially higher current and better performance than other GaN devices. GaN_{PX}® packaging product GS61008P enables low inductance and thermal resistance in a small package. The PDFN package products, GS-065-030-2-L and GS-065-011-2-L, offer low junction-to-case thermal resistance. Both devices provide exceptionally low total Gate Charge, Q_G , and Output Capacitance, C_{OSS} , resulting in low switching losses and providing very high efficiency.

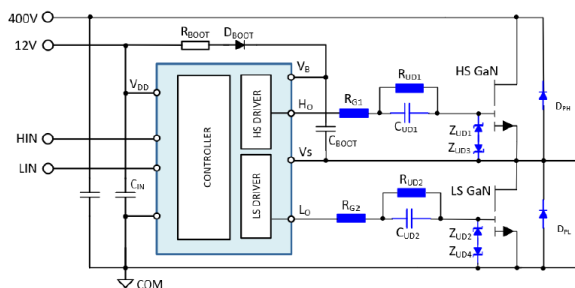


Figure 1. 1 EZDrive® GaN E-HEMT Gate Drive Circuit

The GaN Systems GS-065-030-2-L and GS-065-011-2-L transistors, implemented in the SMPS, are bottom-side cooled 650V E-HEMTs that are easy to drive from standard PFC and LLC Controllers, using the simple EZDrive® circuit illustrated below.

The GaN Systems' EZDrive® circuit is a low-cost, easy way to implement a GaN E-HEMT Drive circuit. It is adaptable to any power level, switching frequency, and LLC and/or PFC Controller. The EZDrive® circuit provides design control for the optimization of efficiency and EMI. The EZDriver® circuit allows the use of a standard MOSFET Controller with an integrated Driver to drive GaN Systems' E-HEMT devices.

The GaN Systems GS61008P, implemented in the Class-D Amplifier, is a bottom-side cooled 100V, 90A E-HEMT that can be easily driven directly from a variety of GaN Drivers. The Driver used in this Class-D Amplifier design is the Texas Instruments LM5113 Half-Bridge GaN Driver.

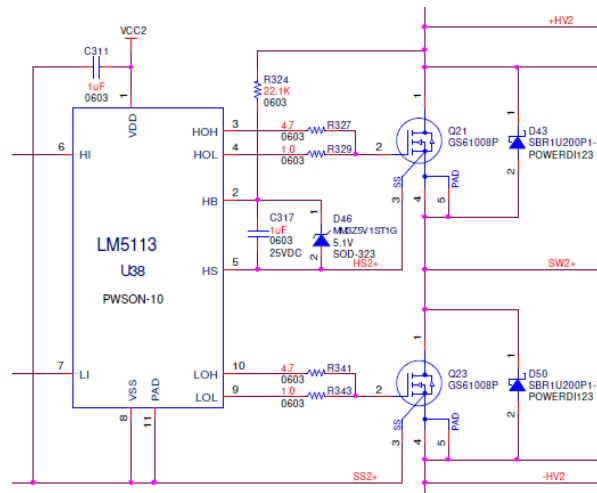


Figure 1. 2 Class-D Amplifier GaN Gate Drive Circuitry

1.1 Solution Overview

The GS-EVB-AUD-AMP2-GS provides the basis for a complete Stereo Class-D Audio Amplifier design achieving:

- 200W per Channel into 8 ohms
- 300W per Channel into 4 ohms
- 400W Continuous Output Power
- Power can be easily scaled by providing proper heatsinking and thermal management
- Full load efficiency > 96%
- Low THD+N < 0.03% can be further optimized in product development

The GS-EVB-AUD-SMPS2-GS provides the basis for a complete LLC Power Supply design, with Power Factor Correction (PFC), achieving:

-
- Universal AC line input voltage (85 V - 264 V)
 - +/-32 V_{DC} Regulated Output Voltage
 - 400W Continuous Output Power
 - Power can be easily scaled by redesigning the magnetic components and providing proper heatsinking and thermal management
 - Full load efficiency > 90%

Solution Benefits

- Fanless, self-powered (from AC Line Input) design with no external DC supplies required
- Minimal external components due to high level of integration with D2Audio Controller/DSP
- High efficiency across a wide load range is achieved using GaN E-HEMTs and advanced control techniques
- Easily scaled to higher power with Magnetics and GaN device selection

Renesas D2Audio DAE-3 Digital Control Processor

- 24-bit Fixed-Point DSP with 40K Words of Data RAM and 16K Words of Program RAM
- On-chip Hardware Accelerators, Asynchronous Sample Rate Converters, Fault Recovery and Protection Systems, and Multiple Clock Domains provide for a graceful performance while supporting switching frequencies up to 768kHz
- Integrated high-performance PWM Engines support both 'Direct Drive' of Open-Loop architectures and high-performance PWM DACs to eliminate the need for external DACs to drive the Closed-Loop architectures
- On-chip low-jitter PLL allows for extremely low noise performance while eliminating the 'jitter' from relatively poor external audio sources
- Variable frequency control minimizes EMI/RFI vs. fixed frequency PWM method
- Adaptive and programmable control of Dead-band timing to optimize audio and EMI/EMC performance
- Communication via SPI and I2C Ports for control flexibility

GS61008P 100V, 90A E-HEMT

- GaN_{PX}® packaging enables low inductance and thermal resistance in high power density applications
- Easy gate drive requirements (0 V- 6 V)
- Transient tolerant gate drive (-20 V / +10 V)
- Very high switching frequency (> 10 MHz)
- Bidirectional current flow
- Zero reverse recovery loss

GS-065-011-2-L 650V, 11A E-HEMT and GS-065-030-2-L 650V, 30A E-HEMT

- 8x8 mm PDFN package offers low junction-to-case thermal resistance in high power density applications

- Very high switching frequency (> 1 MHz)
- Increased creepage distance
- Better cost-performance
- Easier dual source design for customers
- JEDEC Qualification for consumer, enterprise, and industrial applications

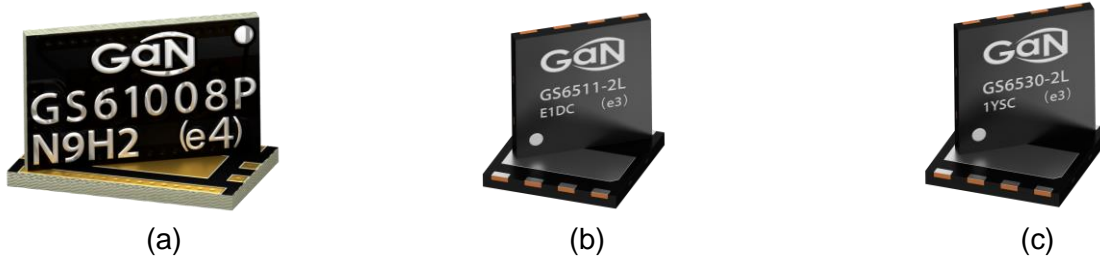


Figure 1. 3 (a) GS61008P (b) GS-065-011-2-L (c) GS-065-030-2-L

2) Design Example

The GaN Systems Evaluation Platform provides a complete GaN-based Audio System solution.

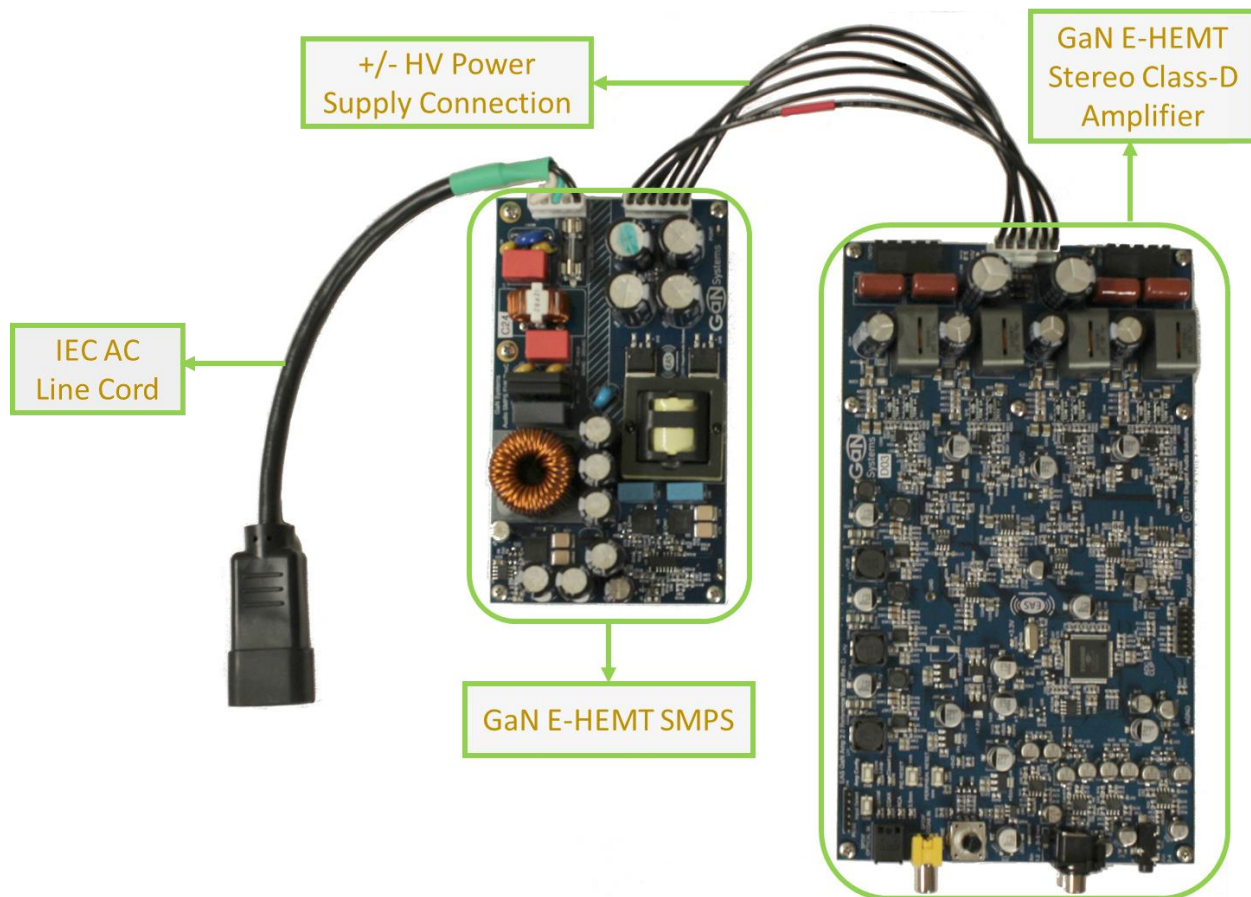


Figure 2. 1 Complete GaN Systems Audio Amplifier Platform GS-EVB-AUD-AMP2-GS

The Evaluation Kit Bundle (GS-EVB-AUD-BUNDLE2-GS) includes both a high-efficiency GaN-based LLC SMPS with PFC (GS-EVB-AUD-SMPS2-GS) and a high-performance, high-efficiency GaN-based Class-D Stereo Amplifier (GS-EVB-AUD-AMP2-GS). All discrete power devices are implemented as GaN Systems' E-HEMTs, allowing for the best possible trade-offs between efficiency, EMI/EMC performance, and audio performance.

The GS-EVB-AUD-SMPS2-GS is shown below, with all major components highlighted and described.

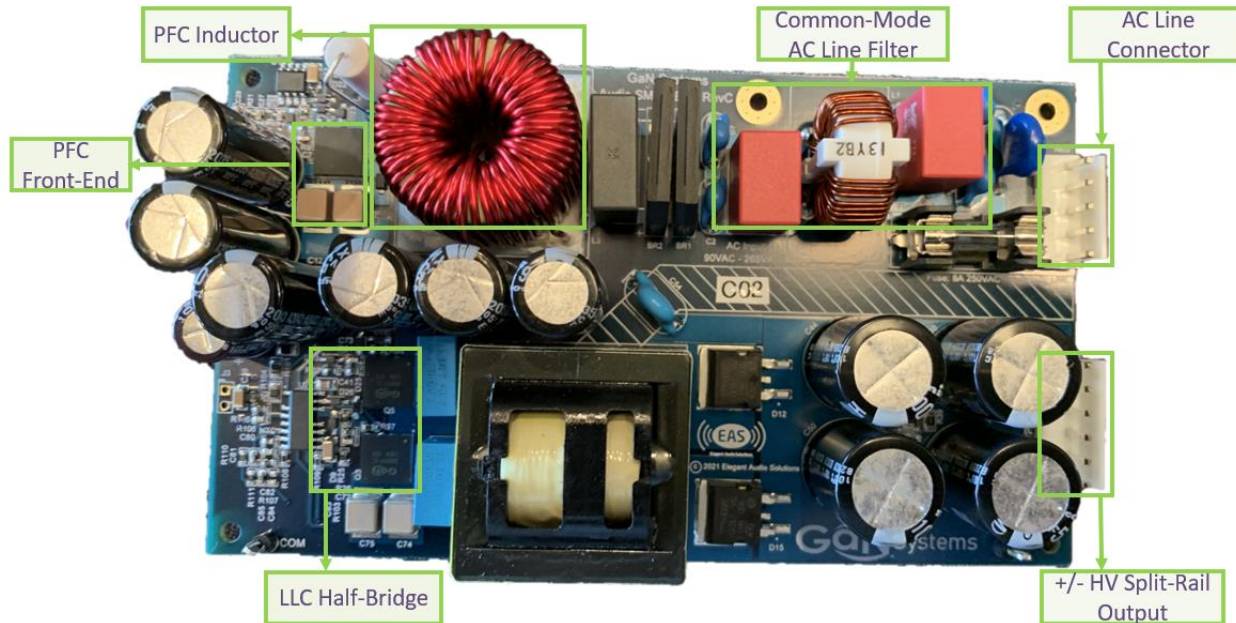


Figure 2. 2 GaN-based LLC w/PFC power supply GS-EVB-AUD-SMPS2-GS

The GS-EVB-AUD-SMPS2-GS includes all required components and subsystems for a complete and compliant High-Voltage Power Supply. The SMPS PCBA provides a “Universal Input” Front-End with PFC and a Half-Bridge LLC Back-End for the highest efficiency in the smallest physical size.

- 1) AC Line Input Filter
 - a) Dual Common-Mode Choke
 - b) EMI/EMC Filter
 - c) Fuse
- 2) Parallel Diode Bridge
- 3) Universal Voltage Power Factor Correction (PFC)
 - a) NCP1654-133kHz PFC Controller
 - b) Single GaN Systems GS-065-030-2-L E-HEMT
 - c) EZDrive® Circuit
 - d) 8A, 500uH PFC Inductor
- 4) Regulated LLC Resonant DC/DC Converter
 - a) NCP1399 LLC Controller

- b) GaN Systems GS-065-011-2-L E-HEMT Half-Bridge
- c) LLC Transformer w/Integrated Inductor
- d) Full-Wave Output Bridge
- e) +/- 32VDC Split-Rail Output

The Stereo Class-D Amplifier GS-EVB-AUD-AMP2-GS is configured as a Dual Bridge-Tied-Load Output Topology to allow for the highest possible Power Output with the lowest possible Voltage Rails and allow for a Ground-Referenced Output (no DC Level on + or – Outputs).

The Stereo Class-D Amplifier GS-EVB-AUD-AMP2-GS provides a variety of the standard Audio Source Inputs, which are selectable with an on-board MCU:

- 1) Coaxial Digital (S/PDIF)
- 2) Optical Digital (TOSLINK – S/PDIF)
- 3) Stereo RCA Phono Analog
- 4) 3.5mm Stereo Analog

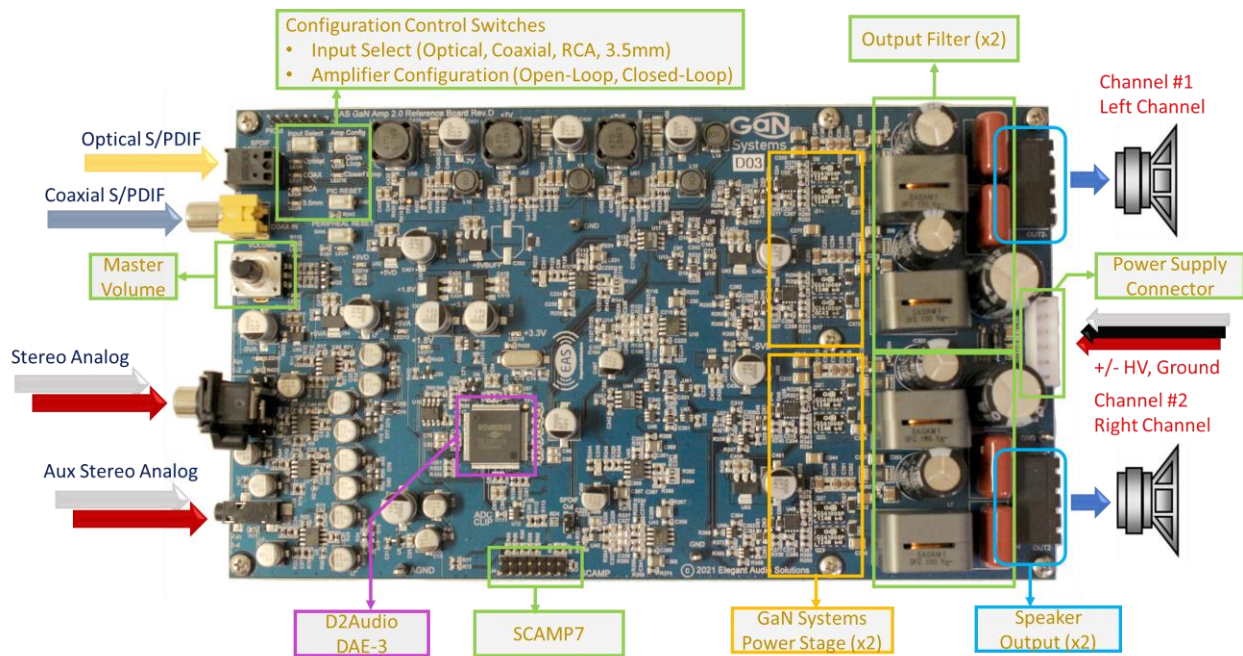
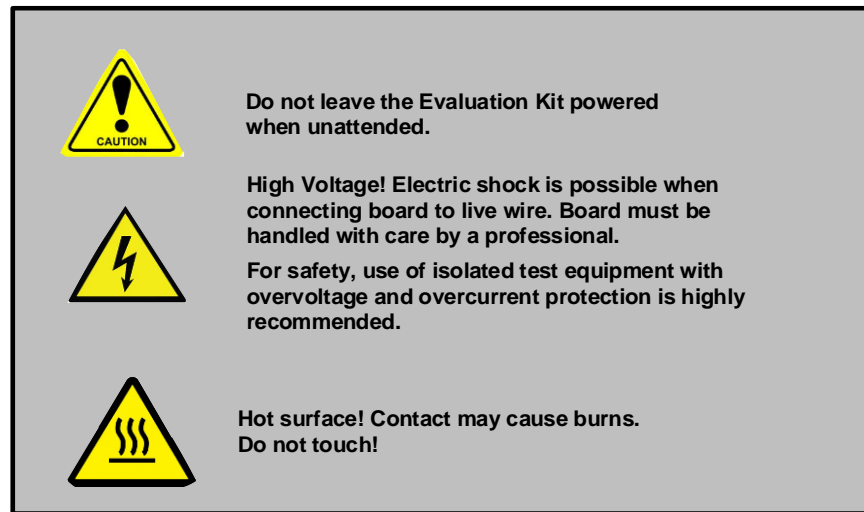


Figure 2. 3 Stereo Class-D GaN E-HEMT Audio Amplifier GS-EVB-AUD-AMP2-GS

The Amplifier PCBA provides a universal Evaluation Platform for Open-Loop and Closed-Loop GaN Systems Audio Amplifier configurations for measured and listening performance assessment and comparison.

3) Evaluation Board Test Bench Set-up and Configuration



The following procedure should be used to Set-up and Configure the Basic GaN Systems Evaluation Board for assessment and comparison:

High-Performance Set-up

- 1) Connect the desired Audio Source Input to the corresponding Audio Input Connectors
 - Coaxial Digital RCA Input (Default)
 - Optical Digital TOSLINK Input
 - Left/Right Analog RCA Phono Inputs
 - 3.5mm Stereo Auxiliary Analog Input
- 2) Connect the corresponding Audio Input Cable to the Audio Source (or Pre-Amp)
- 3) (If not already connected) Connect the GaN Systems SMPS to the GaN Systems Amplifier with the Supplied Cables (+/-32VDC supplied)
- 4) Connect the AC Line Adapter to a Standard AC Line Cord
- 5) Plug the AC Line Cord into a 'Switchable' AC Line Input or Multi-Outlet Strip
- 6) Connect the GaN Systems Amplifier Left and Right Loudspeaker Outputs to the Loudspeaker of Choice

NOTE: While both Loudspeaker Outputs are Ground-Referenced, NEITHER is connected to Ground. **DO NOT CONNECT EITHER OF THESE LOUDSPEAKER OUTPUTS TO ANY SYSTEM OR TEST EQUIPMENT GROUND!!**

- 7) Power On the +/-32VDC SMPS
- 8) Using the "Input Select" Switch, select the desired Audio Source Input
- 9) Rotate the Volume Control Knob 'Counter-clockwise' a couple of complete rotations
- 10) Using the "Open-Loop/Closed-Loop" Switch, select the desired Configuration

11) Play Audio Source

12) For Connecting to Audio Canvas III and Controlling the Audio Signal Flow and Hardware, please refer to Appendix A and Appendix B

CRITICAL NOTE: When using Audio Canvas III, **DO NOT CHANGE** any of the Audio Signal Flow, as it will result in a corresponding change in the Register Set API, which the on-board MCU uses. This could potentially render any or all of the on-board controls unusable, or at a minimum – with unexpected results. The same is true of any Hardware Settings that involve functionality. This could also perturb the Register Set API and affect MCU control operation.

However, any Parameter in the Audio Signal Flow and Parameter in the Hardware Settings can be changed without fear of altering the Register Set API. One way to determine if the Register Set API has been changed is to view the Register Set ‘plug-in’ and check to see if any of the latter Parameter Locations have moved or shifted from the ‘default’ locations.

4) Evaluation Board Test and Validation

The initial Evaluation Boards were tested and validated using industry-standard measurements, with recognized techniques and equipment. The Test Bench was set up with the following equipment for bring-up, test, and validation:

- Audio Precision AP2700 System Two Cascade w/AES-17 Filter
- Audio Precision AUX0025 Passive Output Filter

The standard set of industry performance and validation tests were run using this Test Bench.

- Performance Specification Testing
 - Power Output (200W into 8 ohms)

- Performance Characterization Testing
 - THD+N vs. Power/Level
 - THD+N vs. Frequency
 - Frequency Response (8-ohm, 4-ohm)
 - Limited by Audio Precision AES-17 Brick-Wall Filter
 - Noise Floor (SNR)

5) Base Test Results and Characterization

The following are the results of the initial Characterization performed on the Class-D Amplifier platforms. Unless otherwise noted, the Characterization was conducted under the Power Supply conditions that allow for the specified Target Market specification of 200W/8-ohms. This requirement resulted in Power Supply Voltage rails of +/-32VDC. This selected Power Supply definition provides up to 200W of clean power into 8 ohms (as captured in Figure 5.1 below).

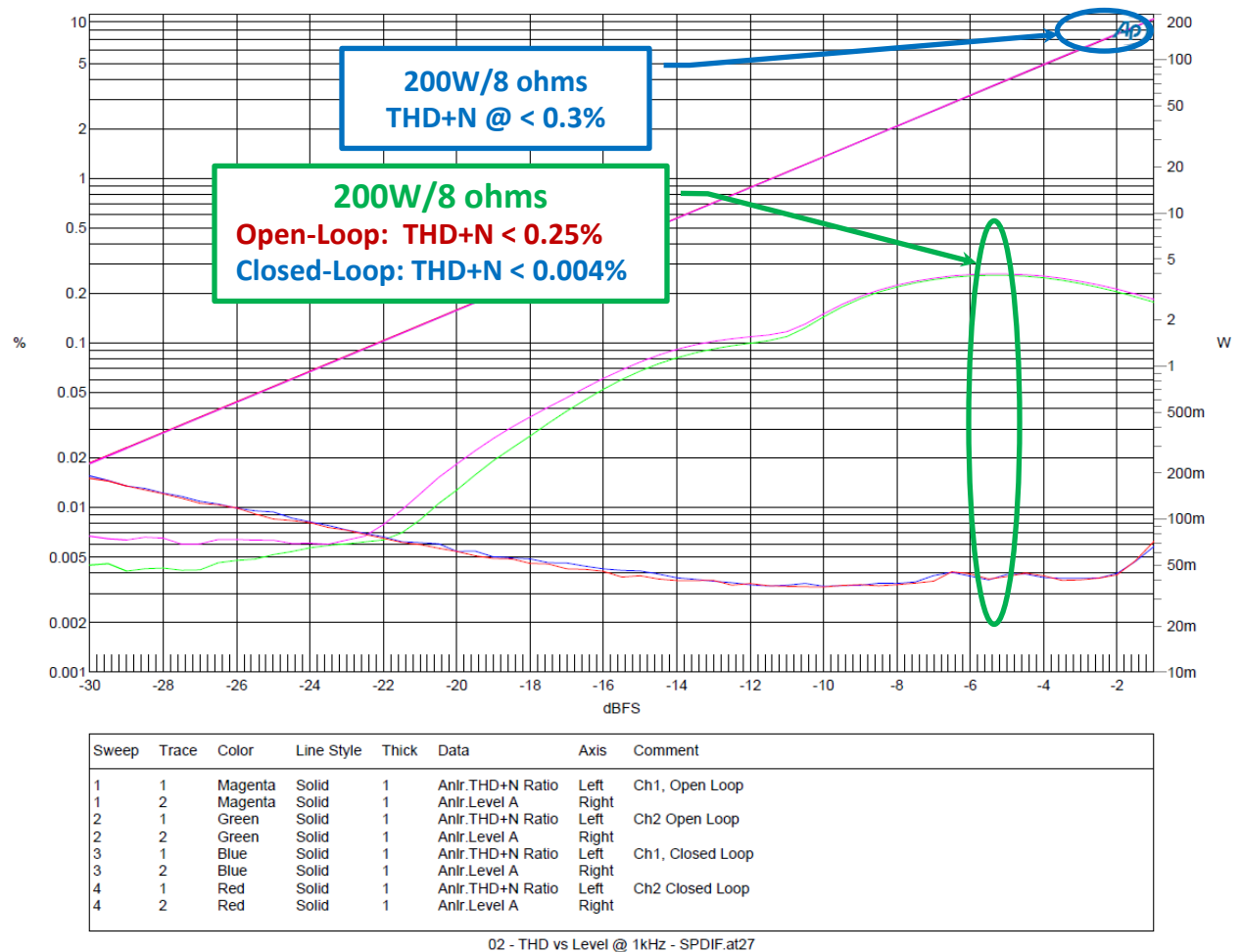


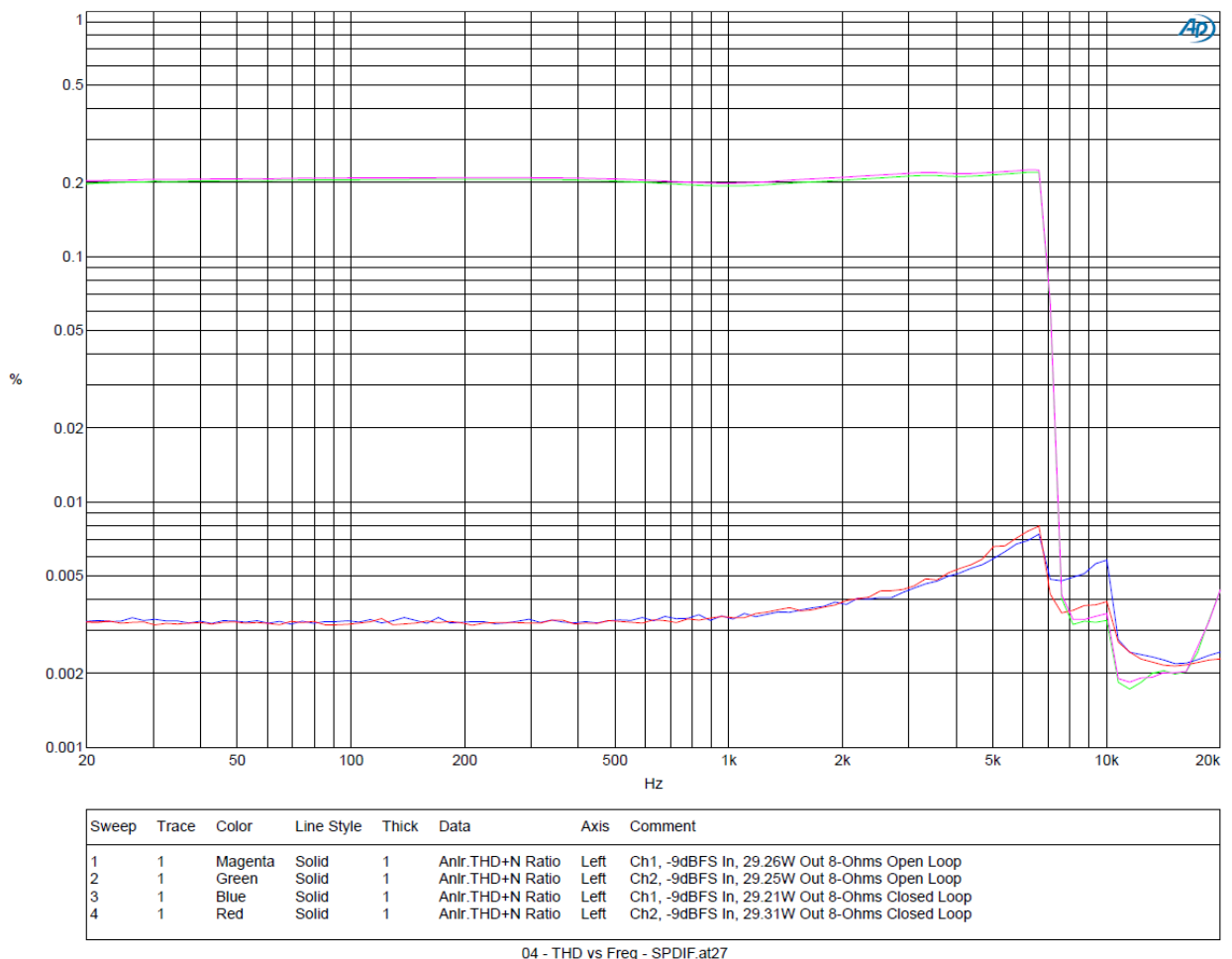
Figure 5. 1 THD+N vs. Power into 8 Ohms @ +/-32VDC

From the THD+N vs. Level (Power) plot, it can be readily determined that the low signal-level THD performance for the Open-Loop Amplifier exceeds the Closed-Loop approach. This is mainly due to the increased Noise contribution of the Feedback and

can easily be understood by comparing this snapshot to the Noise Floor performance illustrated below in Figure 5.3.

As the audio signal level increases, and hence the output power increases, the benefit of the Closed-Loop architecture is evident. However, the THD+N of the Open-Loop architecture compares very favorably, mainly due to the excellent switch characteristics of the GaN EE-HEMT in the Output Stage. By using an Open-Loop architecture to tightly control the Dead-band timing, near Closed-Loop THD performance can be achieved.

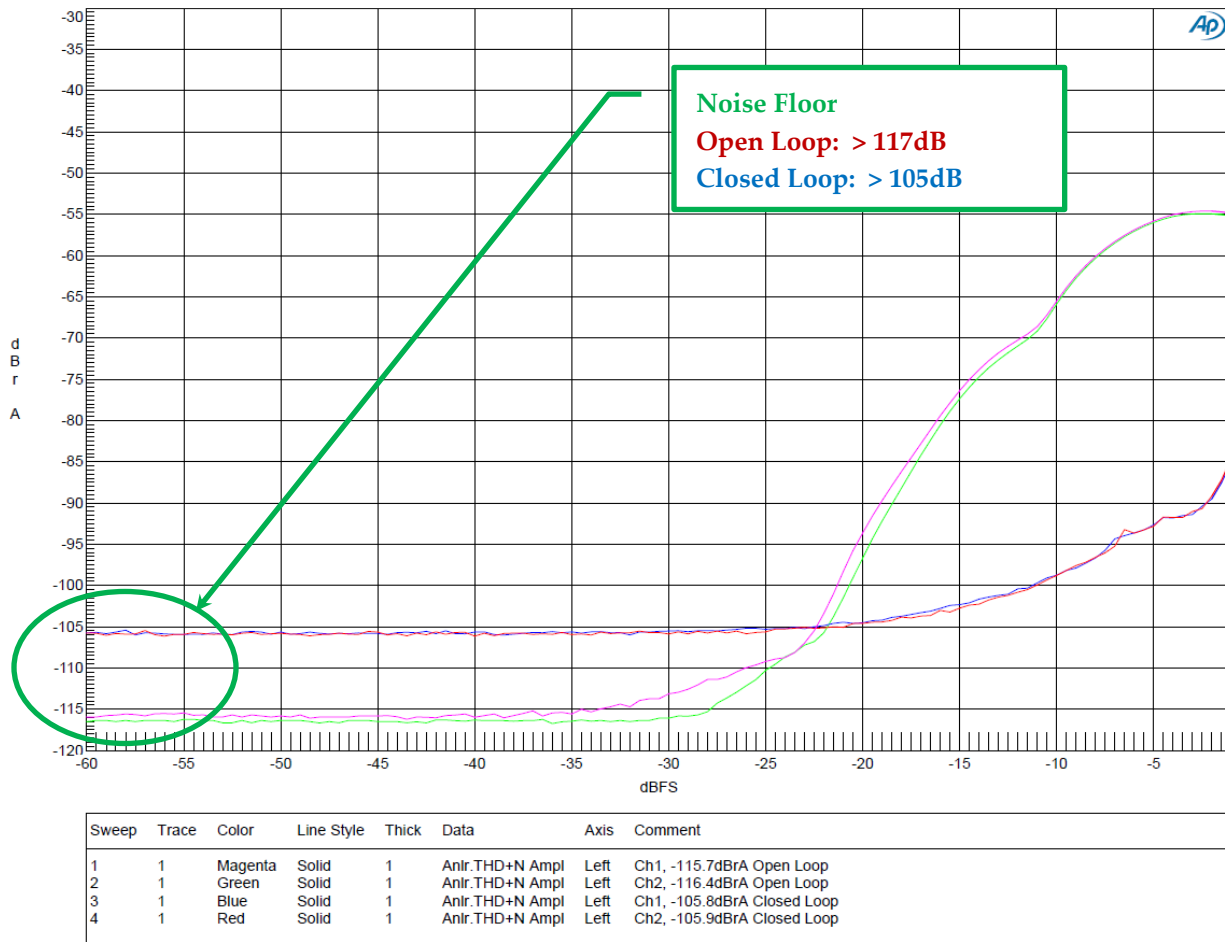
This is also readily perceived in the THD+N vs. Frequency plots below. The increase in THD+N with the Open-Loop architecture and at the lower frequencies is mainly due to the lack of Power Supply rejection and the contribution to the system-level performance by the SMPS.



04 - THD vs Freq - SPDIF.at27

Figure 5. 2 THD+N vs. Frequency

However, as with the THD+N vs. Level measurements, the Open-Loop architecture very quickly approaches the performance of the Closed-Loop architecture in the upper-mid-range.



03 - Noise Floor - SPDIF.at27

Figure 5. 3 Noise Floor

As mentioned above, this huge (12dB) difference in Noise Floor ultimately affects the low-signal-level performance of all audio measurements.

6) Conclusion

In summary, this Reference design provides the basis for customers to quickly develop a complete Class-D Amplifier design and companion Power Supply design, including heatsinking, thermal management, and appropriate operating points.

7) Appendix

This Section captures the methodology and procedures for connecting to a DAE-3 Controller-based platform, launching Audio Canvas III, Version 3.2.6. It also includes a capture of the Schematics of both the GaN-based Class-D Amplifier and the GaN-based SMPS.

7.1 Audio Canvas III Installation

It is critical that Version 3.2.6 of the Audio Canvas III Control Surface GUI be installed and used for this described procedure.

For “first time” installation of Audio Canvas III, refer to Appendix A of this document.

For “first time” attachment to D2Audio Hardware, refer to Appendix B of this document.

Appendix A

First-Time Installation of Audio Canvas III

To install Audio Canvas III for the first time on a PC/Laptop, please follow this procedure.

1. Uninstall any previous or earlier versions of Audio Canvas
2. Unzip the Audio Canvas Version 3.2.6 File to a convenient location on your PC/Laptop
3. From the Audio Canvas III Folder, locate the “Setup” program in the “InstallerDisk_Std” Folder as shown below in Figure A1. When installing under Windows 8 or Windows 10, right-click on the “Setup” program and select “Run as Administrator” as in Figure A2. If asked whether you wish to continue with the installation, select “Yes.”

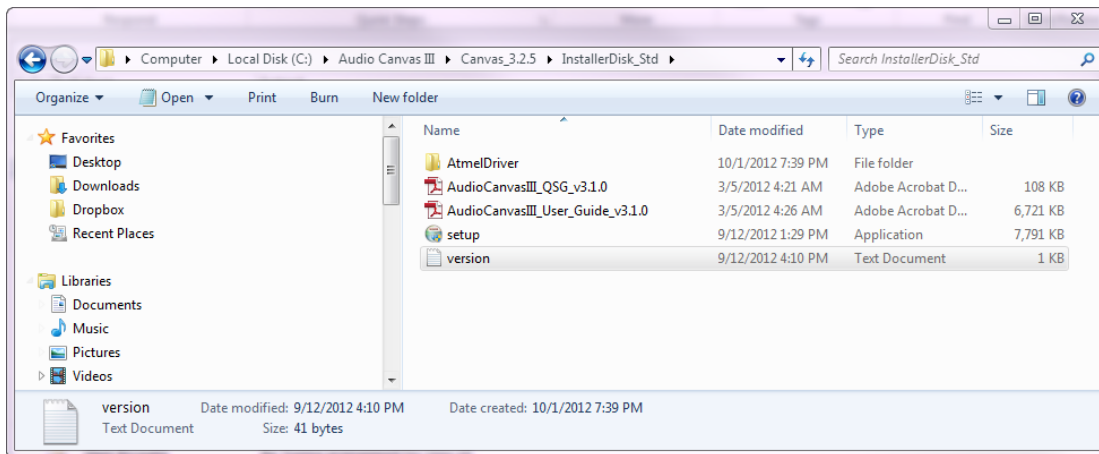


Figure A1: InstallerDisk_Std Folder Contents

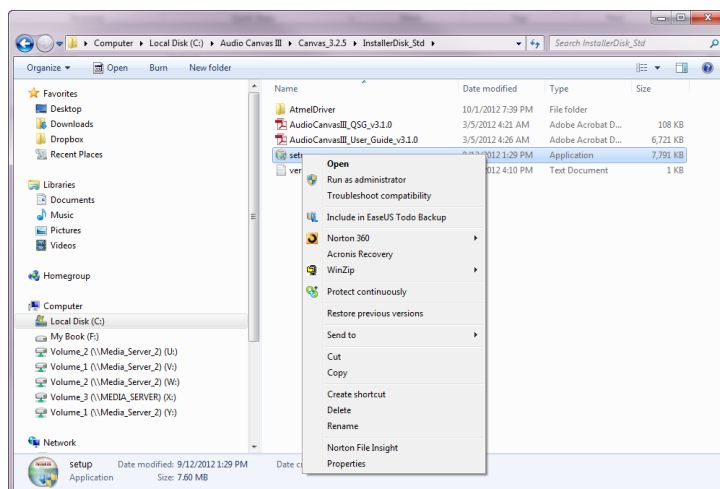


Figure A2: Right-Click and Select “Run as Administrator”

4. The “Welcome” Screen will appear

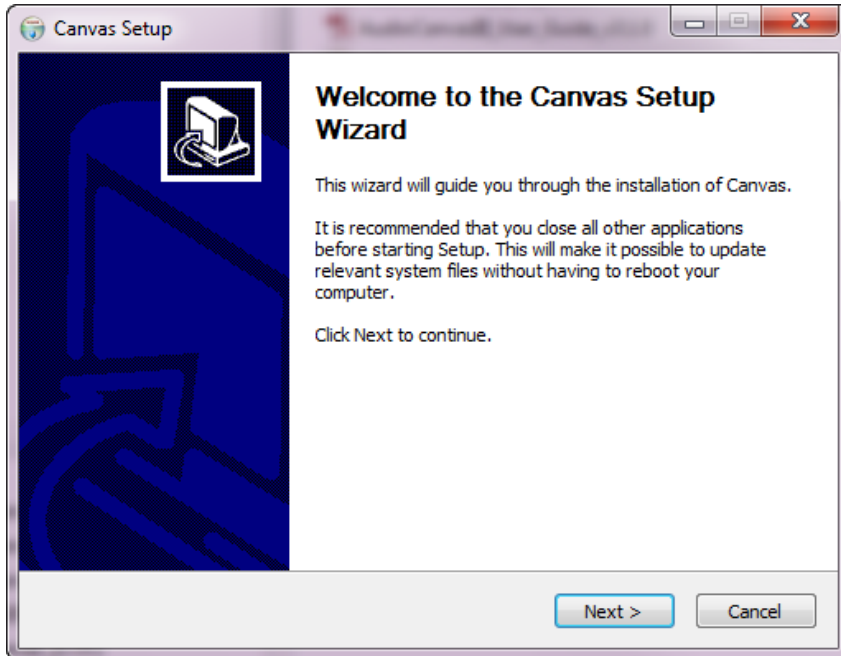


Figure A3: Audio Canvas III Installation “Welcome” Screen

5. Select “Next”

6. The License Agreement will be displayed

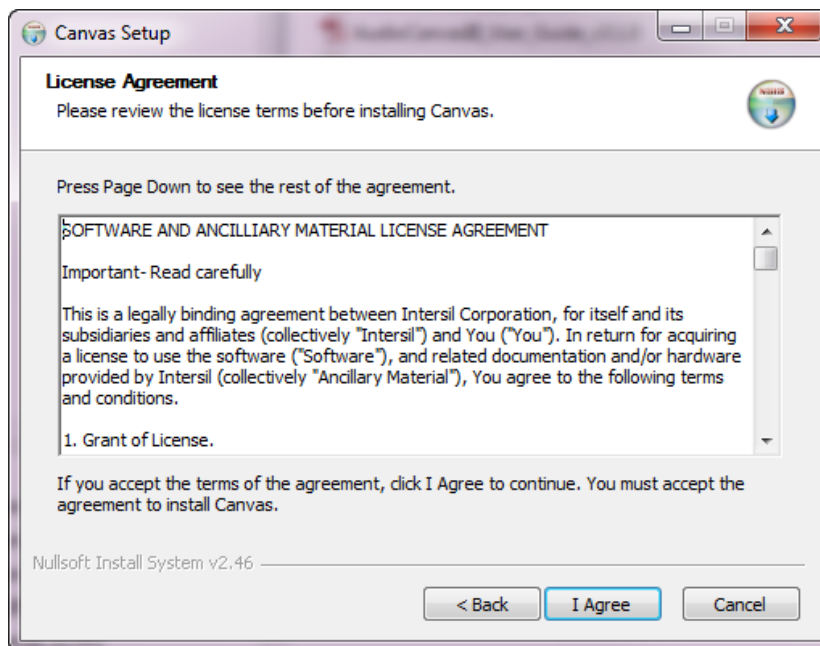


Figure A4: Audio Canvas III License Agreement

7. Select “I Agree”
8. Select the Components for Installation and Click “Install”

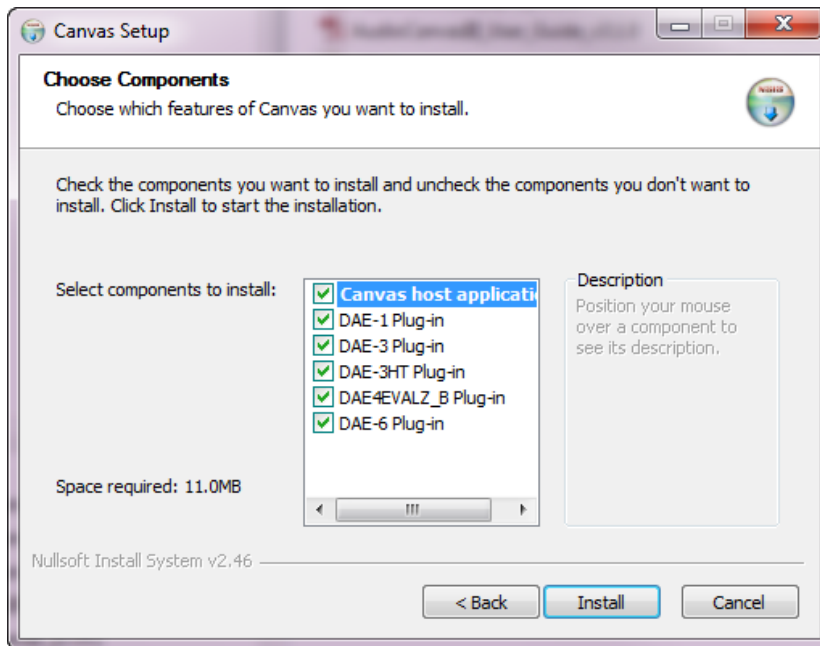


Figure A5: Audio Canvas III Component “Plug-in” Selection

9. This completes the Audio Canvas III Setup

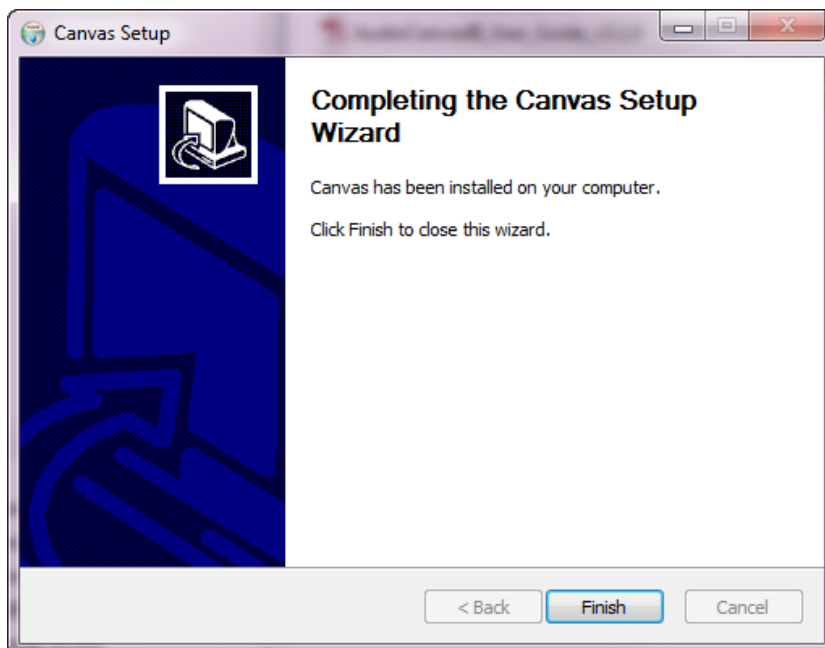


Figure A6: Successful Installation Screen

10. Select “Finish” to complete the Installation

Appendix B

First Time Attachment to Hardware (or SCAMP7 Dongle)

After installing the Audio Canvas III Control Surface GUI programs and enhancements, the SCAMP-7EVALZ or SCAMP-8EVALZ USB programming/tuning “Dongle” can be attached to the PC USB Port using the following procedure. This same procedure is used when connecting directly to any D2Audio ‘Target Hardware’ (Customer Board):

1. With the ‘Target Hardware’ turned “Off,” connect the SCAMP-7/8 Dongle Cable to the ‘Target Hardware’
2. Turn “On” the ‘Target Hardware’
3. Connect the SCAMP7/8 Dongle to the USB Port on the PC/Laptop using the standard USB mini-plug connector
4. The procedure is similar for both Windows 8 and Windows 10

NOTE: For installations on Windows 8.1 and Windows 10, please be sure that you are installing the supplied “Signed Driver.”

5. Observe the LEDs on the SCAMP7/8 Dongle board. Assuming the ‘Target Hardware’ is running, the “red” RESET LED should be off, the “green” USB ACTIVE LED should be blinking
6. After attaching the SCAMP7/8 to the USB Port of the PC/Laptop, the SCAMP7/8 Dongle will appear as an “Unknown device” in the Device Manager of the Windows Control Panel

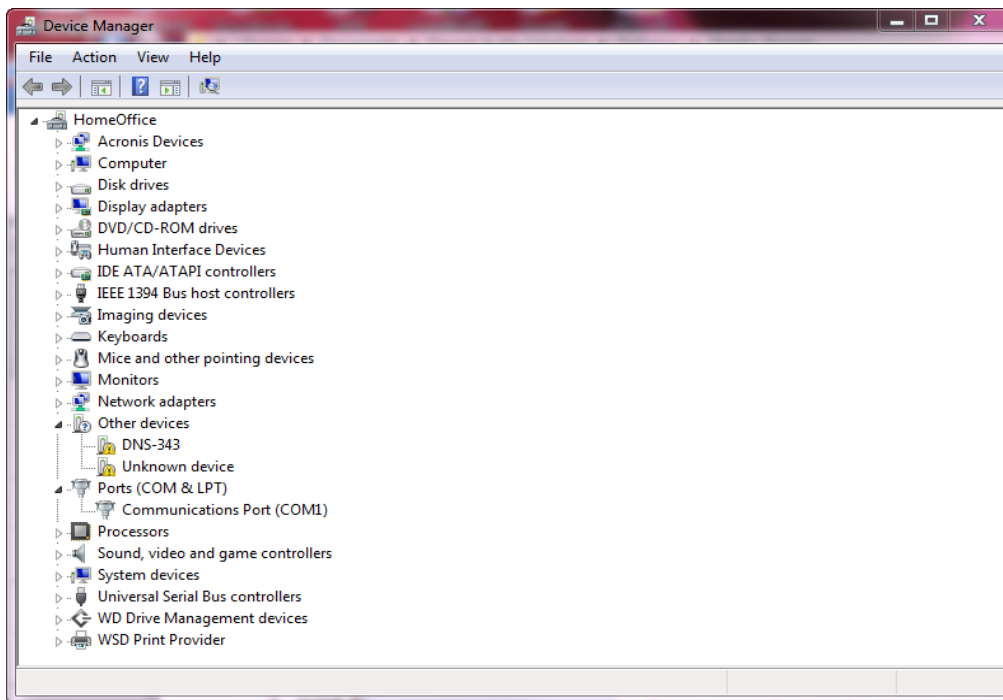


Figure B1: Windows Control Panel Device Manager

7. Right Click on the “Unknown device” and Select “Update Driver” from the “Properties” page as illustrated in Figure B2 below

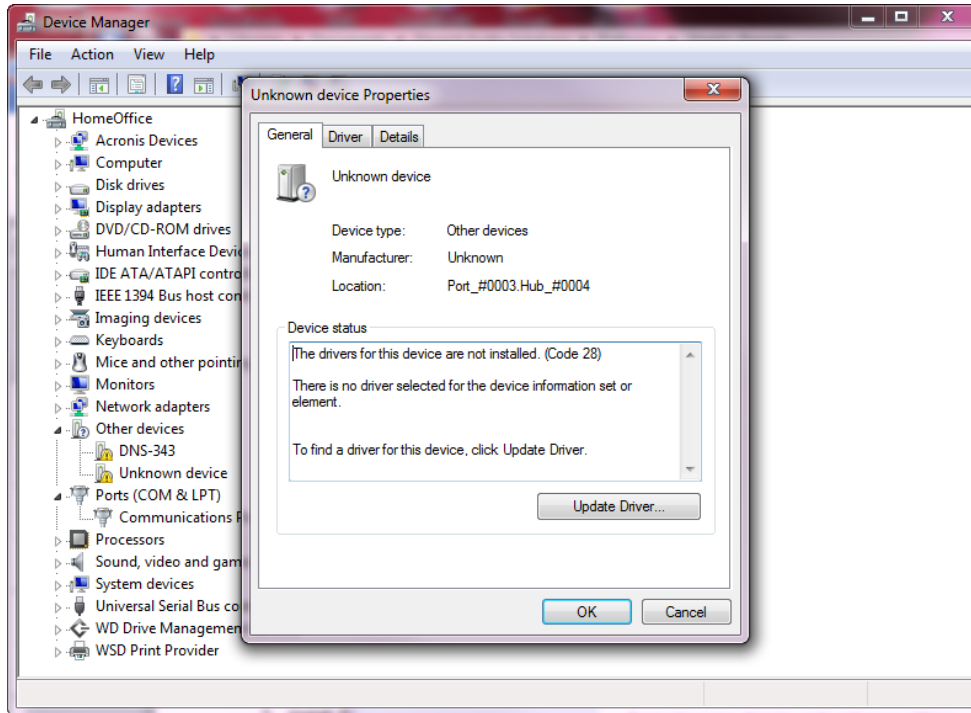


Figure B2: “Unknown device” Properties Page

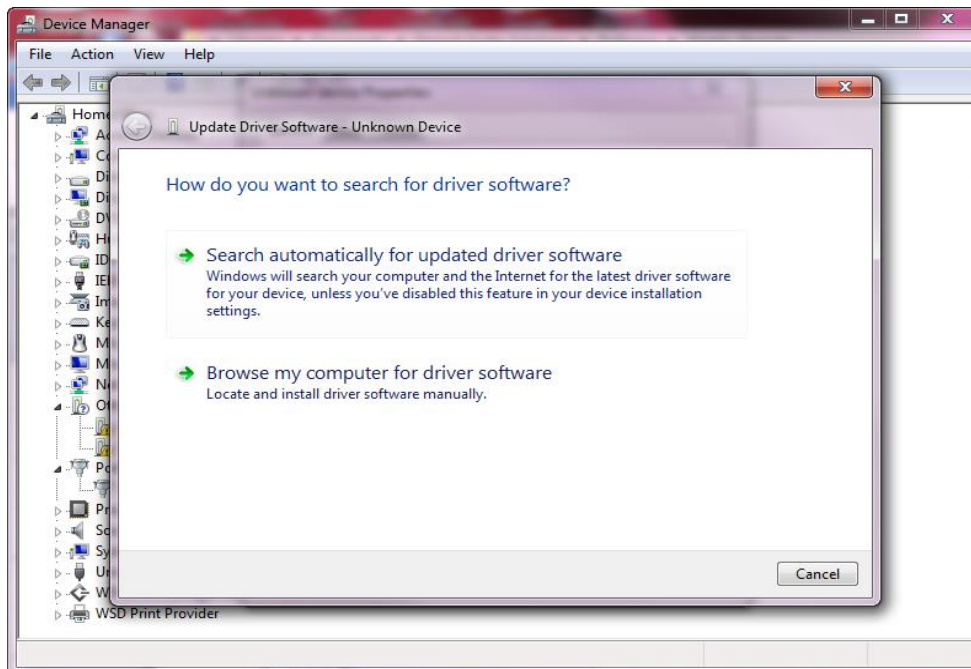


Figure B3: Update Driver Software Selection Menu

8. Select “Browse my computer for Driver software”
9. The correct Driver for the SCAMP7/8 Dongle is found in the “Signed Driver” Folder of the InstallerDisk_Std, and is named “ISL_D2_USB.inf” as shown in Figure B4

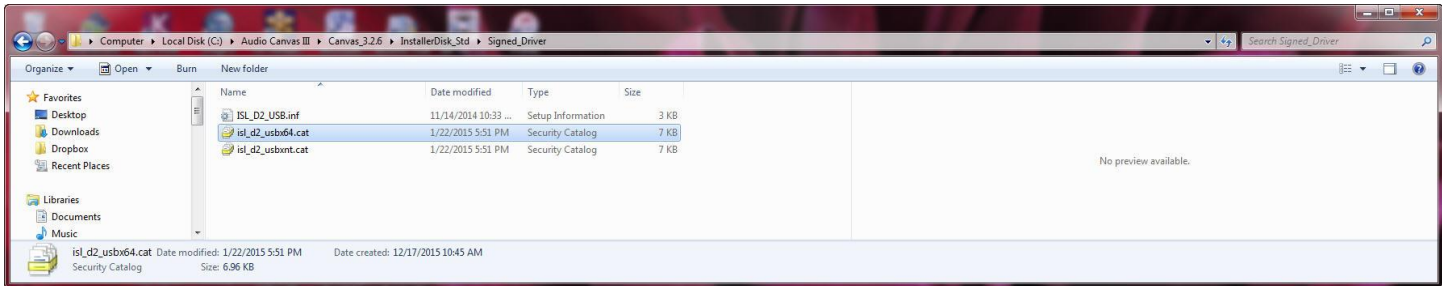


Figure B4: SCAMP7/8 (D2Audio Hardware) Driver

10. After selecting the “Browse” option, the following page will appear
11. Navigate to the Folder location of the Driver described in Figure B4

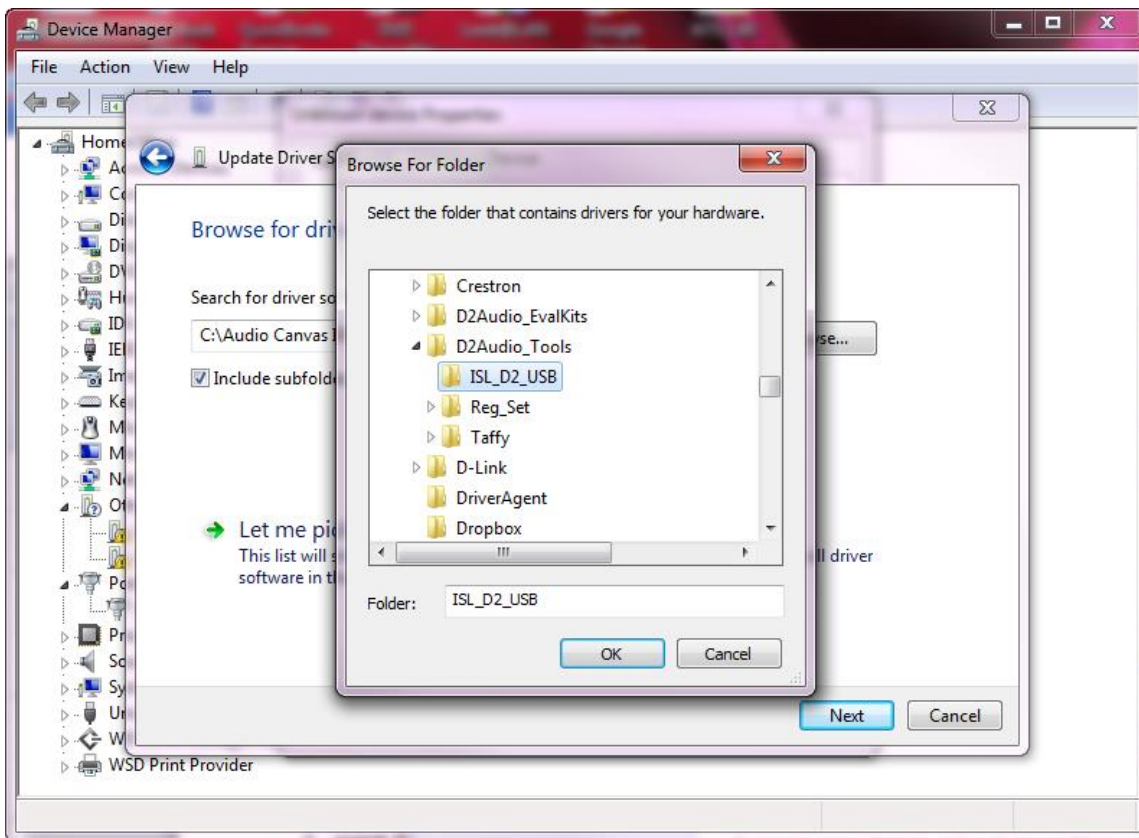


Figure B5: Browse for Driver Folder Menu

12. Select the Driver Folder location (NOTE: It might be a different Folder than the one shown in Figure B5)
13. Select “OK”
14. This location will be placed in the “Driver location” as shown in Figure B6

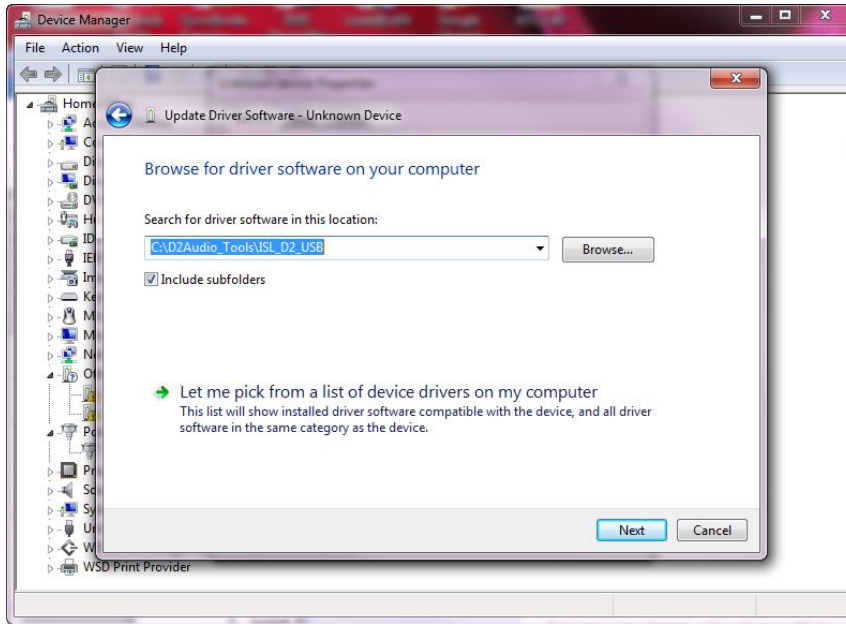


Figure B6: Driver Browse page

15. Select “Next”

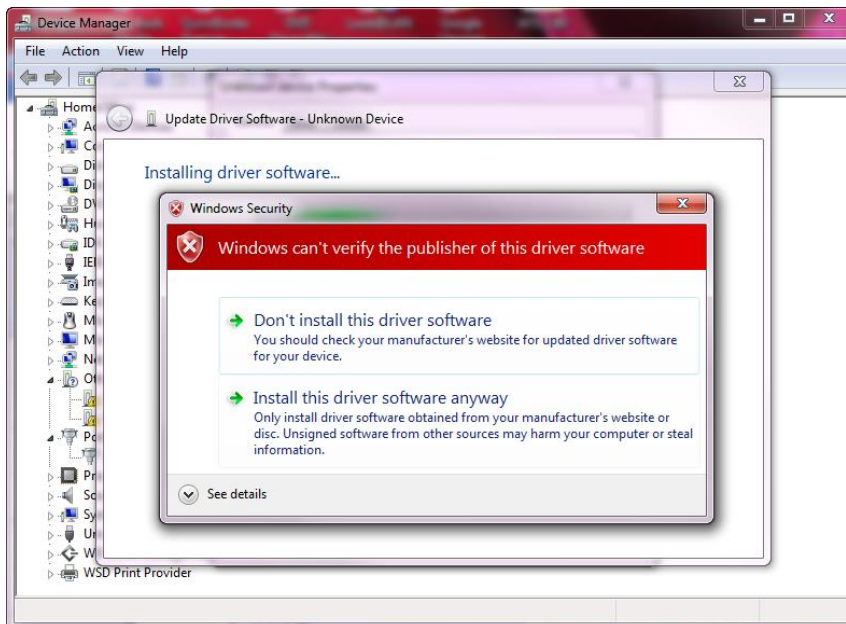


Figure B7: Windows Security Warning

16. Select “Install this driver software anyway”

17. The successful installation window should appear as shown below in Figure B8

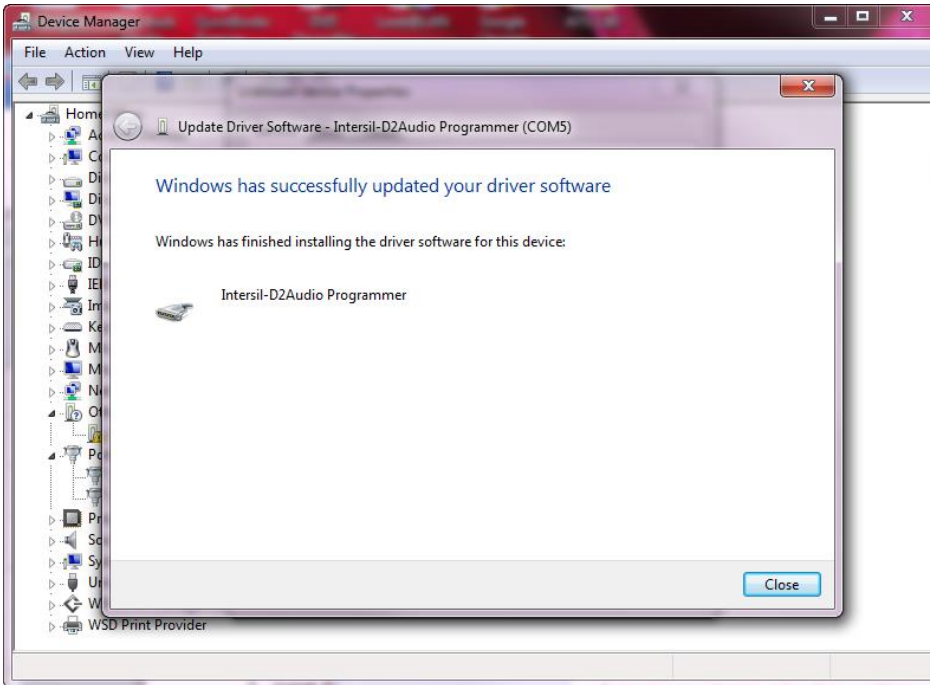


Figure B8: Successful Installation Window

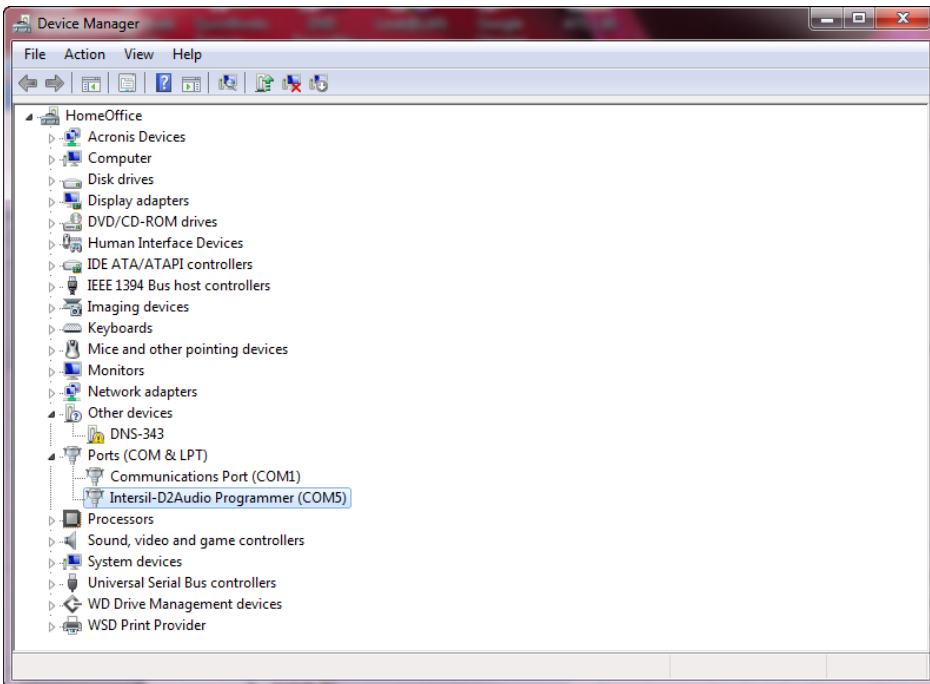


Figure B9: Correctly Instantiated COM Port for D2Audio Hardware Interface

Evaluation Board/kit Important Notice

GaN Systems Inc. (GaN Systems) provide the enclosed product(s) under the following **AS IS** conditions:

This evaluation board/kit being sold or provided by GaN Systems is intended for **ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, DEMONSTRATION, and OR EVALUATION PURPOSES ONLY** and is not considered by GaN Systems to be a finished end-product fit for general consumer use. As such, the goods being sold or provided are not intended to be complete in terms of required design-, marketing-, and/or manufacturing-related protective considerations, including but not limited to product safety and environmental measures typically found in end products that incorporate such semiconductor components or circuit boards. This evaluation board/kit does not fall within the scope of the European Union directives regarding electromagnetic compatibility, restricted substances (RoHS), recycling (WEEE), FCC, CE, or UL, and therefore may not meet the technical requirements of these directives, or other related regulations.

If this evaluation board/kit does not meet the specifications indicated in the Technical Manual, the board/kit may be returned within 30 days from the date of delivery for a full refund. **THE FOREGOING WARRANTY IS THE EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY MADE BY THE SELLER TO THE BUYER AND IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED, IMPLIED, OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT OF THIS INDEMNITY, NEITHER PARTY SHALL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER FOR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.**

The user assumes all responsibility and liability for proper and safe handling of the goods. Further, the user indemnifies GaN Systems from all claims arising from the handling or use of the goods. Due to the open construction of the product, it is the user's responsibility to take all appropriate precautions concerning electrostatic discharge.

No License is granted under any patent right or other intellectual property right of GaN Systems whatsoever. **GaN Systems assumes liability for applications assistance, customer product design, software performance, or infringement of patents or any other intellectual property rights of any kind.**

GaN Systems currently services a variety of customers for products around the world, and therefore this transaction **is not exclusive.**

Please read the Technical Manual and, specifically, the Warnings and Restrictions notice in the Technical Manual before handling the product. Persons handling the product(s) must have electronics training and observe good engineering practice standards.

This notice contains important safety information about temperatures and voltages. For further safety concerns, please contact GaN Systems' Engineering Team.