# **MCP4902/4912/4922 MICROCHIP**

## **8/10/12-Bit Dual Voltage Output Digital-to-Analog Converter with SPI Interface**

### **Features**

- MCP4902: Dual 8-Bit Voltage Output DAC
- MCP4912: Dual 10-Bit Voltage Output DAC
- MCP4922: Dual 12-Bit Voltage Output DAC
- Rail-to-Rail Output
- SPI Interface with 20 MHz Clock Support
- Simultaneous Latching of the Dual DACs with LDAC pin
- Fast Settling Time of 4.5 µs
- Selectable Unity or 2x Gain Output
- External Voltage Reference Inputs
- External Multiplier Mode
- 2.7V to 5.5V Single-Supply Operation
- Extended Temperature Range: -40°C to +125°C

## **Applications**

- Set Point or Offset Trimming
- Precision Selectable Voltage Reference
- Motor Control Feedback Loop
- Digitally-Controlled Multiplier/Divider
- Calibration of Optical Communication Devices



## **Related Products(1)**

**Note 1:** The products listed here have similar AC/ DC performances.

## **Description**

The MCP4902/4912/4922 devices are dual 8-bit, 10-bit, and 12-bit buffered voltage output Digital-to-Analog Converters (DACs), respectively. The devices operate from a single 2.7V to 5.5V supply with SPI compatible Serial Peripheral Interface. The user can configure the full-scale range of the device to be  $V_{REF}$  or 2  $*$   $V_{REF}$  by setting the Gain Selection Option bit (gain of 1 of 2).

The user can shut down both DAC channels by using SHDN pin or shut down the DAC channel individually by setting the Configuration register bits. In Shutdown mode, most of the internal circuits in the shutdown channel are turned off for power savings and the output amplifier is configured to present a known high resistance output load (500 k $\Omega$ , typical).

The devices include double-buffered registers, allowing synchronous updates of two DAC outputs, using the LDAC pin. These devices also incorporate a Power-on Reset (POR) circuit to ensure reliable powerup.

The devices utilize a resistive string architecture, with its inherent advantages of low DNL error and fast settling time. These devices are specified over the extended temperature range (+125°C).

The devices provide high accuracy and low noise performance for consumer and industrial applications where calibration or compensation of signals (such as temperature, pressure and humidity) are required.

The MCP4902/4912/4922 devices are available in the PDIP, SOIC and TSSOP packages.

## **Package Types**



# **MCP4902/4912/4922**

## **Block Diagram**



## <span id="page-2-2"></span>**1.0 ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

## **Absolute Maximum Ratings †**



**† Notice:** Stresses above those listed under "Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress rating only and functional operation of the device at those or any other conditions above those indicated in the operational listings of this specification is not implied. Exposure to maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

## **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**Electrical Specifications:** Unless otherwise indicated, V<sub>DD</sub> = 5V, V<sub>SS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>REF</sub> = 2.048V, Output Buffer Gain (G) = 2x, R<sub>L</sub> = 5 kΩ to GND,  $C_L$  = 100 pF T<sub>A</sub> = -40 to +85°C. Typical values are at +25°C.



<span id="page-2-1"></span><span id="page-2-0"></span>**Note 1:** Guaranteed monotonic by design over all codes.

## **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (CONTINUED)**

**Electrical Specifications:** Unless otherwise indicated, V<sub>DD</sub> = 5V, V<sub>SS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>REF</sub> = 2.048V, Output Buffer Gain (G) = 2x, R<sub>L</sub> = 5 kΩ to GND,  $C_L$  = 100 pF T<sub>A</sub> = -40 to +85°C. Typical values are at +25°C.



**Note 1:** Guaranteed monotonic by design over all codes.

## **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTIC WITH EXTENDED TEMPERATURE**

**Electrical Specifications:** Unless otherwise indicated, V<sub>DD</sub> = 5V, V<sub>SS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>REF</sub> = 2.048V, Output Buffer Gain (G) = 2x, R<sub>L</sub> = 5 k $\Omega$  to  $\boxed{\text{GND}, C_1 = 100 \text{ pF}. \text{ Typical values are at +125}^{\circ} \text{C} \text{ by characterization of simulation.}}$ 



**Note 1:** Guaranteed monotonic by design over all codes.

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## **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTIC WITH EXTENDED TEMPERATURE (CONTINUED)**

**Electrical Specifications:** Unless otherwise indicated, V<sub>DD</sub> = 5V, V<sub>SS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>REF</sub> = 2.048V, Output Buffer Gain (G) = 2x, R<sub>L</sub> = 5 kΩ to GND,  $C_{L}$  = 100 pF. Typical values are at +125°C by characterization or simulation.



**Note 1:** Guaranteed monotonic by design over all codes.

## **AC CHARACTERISTICS (SPI TIMING SPECIFICATIONS)**

**Electrical Specifications:** Unless otherwise indicated,  $V_{DD}$ = 2.7V – 5.5V, T<sub>A</sub>= -40 to +125°C.



<span id="page-6-0"></span>

<span id="page-6-1"></span>

## **TEMPERATURE CHARACTERISTICS**



<span id="page-7-0"></span>**Note 1:** The MCP4902/4912/4922 devices operate over this extended temperature range, but with reduced performance. Operation in this range must not cause  $T_J$  to exceed the maximum junction temperature of  $150^{\circ}$ C.

## **2.0 TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES**

**Note:** The graphs and tables provided following this note are a statistical summary based on a limited number of samples and are provided for informational purposes only. The performance characteristics listed herein are not tested or guaranteed. In some graphs or tables, the data presented may be outside the specified operating range (e.g., outside specified power supply range) and therefore outside the warranted range.

**Note:** Unless otherwise indicated,  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5V$ ,  $V_{SS} = 0V$ ,  $V_{REF} = 2.048V$ , Gain = 2x,  $R_L = 5 k\Omega$ ,  $C_L = 100$  pF.



*FIGURE 2-1: DNL vs. Code (MCP4922).*



*FIGURE 2-2: DNL vs. Code and Temperature (MCP4922).*



**FIGURE 2-3:** DNL vs. Code and V<sub>REF</sub> *Gain = 1 (MCP4922).*



*FIGURE 2-4: Absolute DNL vs. Temperature (MCP4922).*



*FIGURE 2-5: Absolute DNL vs. Voltage Reference (MCP4922).*



*FIGURE 2-6: INL vs. Code and Temperature (MCP4922).*

# **MCP4902/4912/4922**



*FIGURE 2-7: Absolute INL vs. Temperature (MCP4922).*



**FIGURE 2-8:** Absolute INL vs. V<sub>REF</sub> *(MCP4922).*



*(MCP4922).*

*FIGURE 2-9: INL vs. Code and V<sub>REF</sub>* 



<span id="page-9-0"></span>*FIGURE 2-10: INL vs. Code (MCP4922).*



*FIGURE 2-11: DNL vs. Code and Temperature (MCP4912).* 



*FIGURE 2-12: INL vs. Code and Temperature (MCP4912).*

# **MCP4902/4912/4922**







*FIGURE 2-14: INL vs. Code and Temperature (MCP4902).*



*FIGURE 2-15: I<sub>DD</sub> vs. Temperature and VDD.*



**FIGURE 2-16:**  $I_{DD}$  Histogram ( $V_{DD}$  = 2.7V).



*FIGURE 2-17:*  $I_{DD}$  Histogram (V<sub>DD</sub> = *5.0V).*



*FIGURE 2-18: Hardware Shutdown Current vs. Ambient Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.* 



*FIGURE 2-19: Software Shutdown Current vs. Ambient Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.* 



*FIGURE 2-20: Offset Error vs. Ambient Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.* 



*FIGURE 2-21: Gain Error vs. Ambient Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.* 



**FIGURE 2-22:** *V<sub>IN</sub>* High Threshold vs Ambient Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.



**FIGURE 2-23:** *V<sub>IN</sub> Low Threshold vs* Ambient Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.



*FIGURE 2-24: Input Hysteresis vs. Ambient Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.* 



*FIGURE 2-25: V<sub>REF</sub> Input Impedance vs.* Ambient Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.



**FIGURE 2-26:** *V*<sub>OUT</sub> High Limit vs. Ambient *Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.* 



*FIGURE 2-27: V*<sub>OUT</sub> Low Limit vs. Ambient *Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.* 



**FIGURE 2-28:** *I<sub>OUT</sub>* High Short vs. Ambient *Temperature and V<sub>DD</sub>.* 



**FIGURE 2-29:**  $I_{OUT}$  vs  $V_{OUT}$  Gain = 1x.

# **MCP4902/4912/4922**











 $\Delta: 1.040 \text{ V}$ <br> $\Delta: 3.70 \mu\text{s}$ <br> $\overline{00}: 1.548 \text{ V}$  $V_{OUT}$ **LDAC** m  $200m$ W1.00us Chi  $1.161$  $ch4 5.00V$ **Time (1 µs/div)** *FIGURE 2-33: V*<sub>OUT</sub> Rise Time.



*FIGURE 2-34:*  $V_{OUT}$  Rise Time Exit *Shutdown.*



*FIGURE 2-35: PSRR vs. Frequency.*

# **MCP4902/4912/4922**



*FIGURE 2-36: Multiplier Mode Bandwidth.*





*FIGURE 2-37: -3 db Bandwidth vs. Worst Codes.*



*FIGURE 2-38: Phase Shift.*

**NOTES:**

## **3.0 PIN DESCRIPTIONS**

The descriptions of the pins are listed in [Table 3-1.](#page-16-0)



## <span id="page-16-0"></span>**TABLE 3-1: PIN FUNCTION TABLE**

## **3.1** Supply Voltage Pins (V<sub>DD,</sub> V<sub>SS</sub>)

 $V<sub>DD</sub>$  is the positive supply voltage input pin. The input supply voltage is relative to  $V_{SS}$  and can range from 2.7V to 5.5V. The power supply at the  $V_{DD}$  pin should be as clean as possible for a good DAC performance. It is recommended to use an appropriate bypass capacitor of about 0.1 µF (ceramic) to ground. An additional 10 µF capacitor (tantalum) in parallel is also recommended to further attenuate high frequency noise present in application boards.

 $V_{SS}$  is the analog ground pin and the current return path of the device. The user must connect the  $V_{SS}$  pin to a ground plane through a low-impedance connection. If an analog ground path is available in the application Printed Circuit Board (PCB), it is highly recommended that the  $V_{SS}$  pin be tied to the analog ground path or isolated within an analog ground plane of the circuit board.

## **3.2 Chip Select (CS)**

CS is the Chip Select input, which requires an active low signal to enable serial clock and data functions.

## **3.3 Serial Clock Input (SCK)**

SCK is the SPI compatible serial clock input pin.

## **3.4 Serial Data Input (SDI)**

SDI is the SPI compatible serial data input pin.

## **3.5 Latch DAC Input (LDAC)**

LDAC (latch DAC synchronization input) pin is used to transfer the input latch registers to their corresponding DAC registers (output latches,  $V_{\text{OUT}}$ ). When this pin is low, both  $V_{\text{OUTA}}$  and  $V_{\text{OUTB}}$  are updated at the same time with their input register contents. This pin can be tied to low  $(V_{SS})$  if the  $V_{OUT}$  update is desired at the rising edge of the  $\overline{CS}$  pin. This pin can be driven by an external control device such as an MCU I/O pin.

## **3.6 Hardware Shutdown Input (SHDN)**

SHDN is the hardware shutdown input pin. When this pin is low, both DAC channels are shut down. DAC output is not available during the shutdown.

## **3.7** Analog Outputs (V<sub>OUTA</sub>, V<sub>OUTB</sub>)

 $V_{\text{OUTA}}$  is the DAC A output pin, and  $V_{\text{OUTB}}$  is the DAC B output pin. Each output has its own output amplifier. The DAC output amplifier of each channel can drive the output pin with a range of  $V_{SS}$  to  $V_{DD}$ .

## **3.8 Voltage Reference Inputs (VREFA, VREFB)**

 $V<sub>REFA</sub>$  is the voltage reference input for DAC channel A, and  $V_{REFB}$  is the reference input for DAC channel B. The reference on these pins is utilized to set the reference voltage on the string DAC. The input signal can range from  $V_{SS}$  to  $V_{DD}$ . These pins can be tied to V<sub>DD</sub>.

**NOTES:**

## **4.0 GENERAL OVERVIEW**

The MCP4902, MCP4912 and MCP4922 are dual voltage-output 8-bit, 10-bit and 12-bit DAC devices, respectively. These devices include input amplifiers, rail-to-rail output amplifiers, reference buffers for external voltage reference, shutdown and reset-management circuitry. The devices use an SPI serial communication interface and operate with a single supply voltage from 2.7V to 5.5V.

The DAC input coding of these devices is straight binary. [Equation 4-1](#page-18-0) shows the DAC analog output voltage calculation.

#### <span id="page-18-0"></span>**EQUATION 4-1: ANALOG OUTPUT VOLTAGE (V)**



The ideal output range of each device is:

#### **• MCP4902 (n = 8)**

- (a) 0 V to 255/256  $*$  V<sub>REF</sub> when gain setting =  $1 \times$ .
- (b) 0 V to 255/256  $*$  2  $*$  V<sub>RFF</sub> when gain setting =  $2x$ .

#### **• MCP4912 (n = 10)**

- (a) 0 V to 1023/1024  $*$  V<sub>RFF</sub> when gain setting =  $1 \times$ .
- (b) 0 V to 1023/1024  $*$  2  $*$  V<sub>RFF</sub> when gain setting =  $2x$ .

#### **• MCP4922 (n = 12)**

(a) 0 V to 4095/4096  $*$  V<sub>REF</sub> when Gain setting =  $1 \times$ . (b) 0 V to 4095/4096  $* 2 * V_{REF}$  when gain setting =  $2x$ .

#### **Note:** See the output swing voltage specification in **[Section 1.0 "Electrical Characteris](#page-2-2)[tics"](#page-2-2)**.

1 LSb is the ideal voltage difference between two successive codes. [Table 4-1](#page-18-1) illustrates the LSb calculation of each device.

#### <span id="page-18-1"></span>**TABLE 4-1: LSb OF EACH DEVICE**



## **4.1 DC Accuracy**

### 4.1.1 INL ACCURACY

Integral Non-Linearity (INL) error is the maximum deviation between an actual code transition point and its corresponding ideal transition point, after offset and gain errors have been removed. The two end points (from 0x000 and 0xFFF) method is used for the calculation. [Figure 4-1](#page-18-2) shows the details.

A positive INL error represents transition(s) later than ideal. A negative INL error represents transition(s) earlier than ideal.



<span id="page-18-2"></span>*FIGURE 4-1: Example for INL Error.*

## 4.1.2 DNL ACCURACY

A Differential Non-Linearity (DNL) error is the measure of variations in code widths from the ideal code width. A DNL error of zero indicates that every code is exactly 1 I Sh wide.



*FIGURE 4-2: Example for DNL Accuracy.*

#### 4.1.3 OFFSET ERROR

An offset error is the deviation from zero voltage output when the digital input code is zero.

#### 4.1.4 GAIN ERROR

A gain error is the deviation from the ideal output,  $V_{\text{RFF}}$ – 1 LSb, excluding the effects of offset error.

## **4.2 Circuit Descriptions**

#### 4.2.1 OUTPUT AMPLIFIERS

The DAC's outputs are buffered with a low-power, precision CMOS amplifier. This amplifier provides low offset voltage and low noise. The output stage enables the device to operate with output voltages close to the power supply rails. Refer to **[Section 1.0 "Electrical](#page-2-2) [Characteristics"](#page-2-2)** for the analog output voltage range and load conditions.

In addition to resistive load driving capability, the amplifier will also drive high capacitive loads without oscillation. The amplifier's strong outputs allow  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  to be used as a programmable voltage reference in a system.

Selecting a gain of 2 reduces the bandwidth of the amplifier in Multiplying mode. Refer to **[Section 1.0](#page-2-2) ["Electrical Characteristics"](#page-2-2)** for the Multiplying mode bandwidth for given load conditions.

#### 4.2.1.1 Programmable Gain Block

The rail-to-rail output amplifier has configurable gain, allowing optimal full-scale outputs for different voltage reference inputs. The output amplifier gain has two selections, a gain of 1x ( $\overline{\text{G}}$ A = 1) or a gain of 2x  $(**GA**>= 0).$ 

The default value is a gain of 2 ( $\overline{\text{GA}}$  = 0).

#### 4.2.2 VOLTAGE REFERENCE AMPLIFIERS

The input buffer amplifiers for the MCP4902/4912/4922 devices provide low offset voltage and low noise. A Configuration bit for each DAC allows the  $V_{REF}$  input to bypass the  $V_{REF}$  input buffer amplifiers, achieving a Buffered or Unbuffered mode. Buffered mode provides a very high input impedance, with only minor limitations on the input range and frequency response. Unbuffered  $($  <BUF> =  $0$ ) is the default configuration. Unbuffered mode provides a wide input range (0V to  $V_{DD}$ ), with a typical input impedance of 165 k $\Omega$  with 7 pF.

### 4.2.3 POWER-ON RESET CIRCUIT

The internal Power-on Reset (POR) circuit monitors the power supply voltage  $(V_{DD})$  during the device operation. The circuit also ensures that the DACs power-up with high output impedance  $(\leq$ SHDN $>$  = 0, typically 500 k $\Omega$ ). The devices will continue to have a high-impedance output until a valid write command is performed to either of the DAC registers and the LDAC pin meets the input low threshold.

If the power supply voltage is less than the POR threshold ( $V_{POR}$  = 2.0V, typical), the DACs will be held in their Reset state. The DACs will remain in that state until  $V_{DD}$  >  $V_{POR}$  and a subsequent write command is received.

[Figure 4-3](#page-19-0) shows a typical power supply transient pulse and the duration required to cause a reset to occur, as well as the relationship between the duration and trip voltage. A 0.1 µF decoupling capacitor, mounted as close as possible to the  $V_{DD}$  pin, can provide additional transient immunity.



<span id="page-19-0"></span>

#### 4.2.4 SHUTDOWN MODE

The user can shut down each DAC channel selectively by using a software command or shut down all channels by using the SHDN pin. During Shutdown mode, most of the internal circuits in the channel that was shut down are turned off for power savings. The serial interface remains active, thus allowing a write command to bring the device out of the Shutdown mode. There will be no analog output at the channel that was shut down and the  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  pin is internally switched to a known resistive load (500 k $\Omega$ , typical). [Figure 4-4](#page-20-0) shows the analog output stage during the Shutdown mode.

The condition of the Power-on Reset circuit during the shutdown is as follows:

- a) Turned-off, if the shutdown occurred by the SHDN pin;
- b) On, if the shutdown occurred by the software.

The device will remain in Shutdown mode until the SHDN pin is brought to high or a write command with  $\leq$ SHDN> bit = 1 is latched into the device. When a DAC is changed from Shutdown to Active mode, the output settling time takes less than 10 µs, but more than the standard active mode settling time (4.5 µs).



*Mode.*

<span id="page-20-0"></span>*FIGURE 4-4: Output Stage for Shutdown* 

**NOTES:**

## **5.0 SERIAL INTERFACE**

#### **5.1 Overview**

The MCP4902/4912/4922 devices are designed to interface directly with the Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) port, which is available on many microcontrollers and supports Mode 0,0 and Mode 1,1. Commands and data are sent to the device via the SDI pin, with data being clocked-in on the rising edge of SCK. The communications are unidirectional, thus the data cannot be read out of the MCP4902/4912/4922. The  $\overline{CS}$  pin must be held low for the duration of a write command. The write command consists of 16 bits and is used to configure the DAC's control and data latches. [Register 5-1](#page-23-0) to [Register 5-3](#page-23-1) detail the input register that is used to configure and load the  $\text{DAC}_A$  and  $\text{DAC}_B$ registers for each device. [Figure 5-1](#page-24-0) to [Figure 5-3](#page-24-1) show the write command for each device.

Refer to [Figure 1-1](#page-6-1) and SPI Timing Specifications Table for detailed input and output timing specifications for both Mode 0,0 and Mode 1,1 operation.

#### **5.2 Write Command**

The write command is initiated by driving the  $\overline{CS}$  pin low, followed by clocking the four Configuration bits and the 12 data bits into the SDI pin on the rising edge of SCK. The  $\overline{\text{CS}}$  pin is then raised, causing the data to be latched into the selected DAC's input registers. The MCP4902/4912/4922 utilizes a double-buffered latch structure to allow both  $DAC_A$ 's and  $DAC_B$ 's outputs to be synchronized with the LDAC pin, if desired. Upon the LDAC pin achieving a low state, the values held in the DAC's input registers are transferred into the DAC's output registers. The outputs will transition to the value and held in the  $DAC<sub>X</sub>$  register.

All writes to the MCP4902/4912/4922 are 16-bit words. Any clocks past the 16th clock will be ignored. The Most Significant 4 bits are Configuration bits. The remaining 12 bits are data bits. No data can be transferred into the device with  $\overline{\text{CS}}$  high. This transfer will only occur if 16 clocks have been transferred into the device. If the rising edge of  $\overline{CS}$  occurs prior to that, shifting of data into the input registers will be aborted.

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#### <span id="page-23-0"></span>**REGISTER 5-1: WRITE COMMAND REGISTER FOR MCP4922 (12-BIT DAC)**

#### **REGISTER 5-2: WRITE COMMAND REGISTER FOR MCP4912 (10-BIT DAC)**



#### <span id="page-23-1"></span>**REGISTER 5-3: WRITE COMMAND REGISTER FOR MCP4902 (8-BIT DAC)**



Where:



- $1 =$  Write to DAC<sub>B</sub>
- $0 =$  Write to DAC<sub>A</sub>
- bit 14 **BUF:** V<sub>REF</sub> Input Buffer Control bit
	- $1 =$ Buffered
	- $0 =$  Unbuffered
- bit 13 **GA:** Output Gain Selection bit
	- $1 = 1x (V_{OUT} = V_{REF} * D/4096)$
	- $0 = 2x (V_{OUT} = 2 * V_{REF} * D/4096)$
- bit 12 **SHDN:** Output Shutdown Control bit
	- $1 =$  Active mode operation. Vout is available.
	- 0 = Shutdown the selected DAC channel. Analog output is not available at the channel that was shut down. VOUT pin is connected to 500 k $\Omega$  (typical).
- bit 11-0 **D11:D0:** DAC Input Data bits. Bit x is ignored.





<span id="page-24-0"></span>*FIGURE 5-1: Write Command for MCP4922 (12-bit DAC).*



*FIGURE 5-2: Write Command for MCP4912 (10-bit DAC).*



<span id="page-24-1"></span>*FIGURE 5-3: Write Command for MCP4902 (8-bit DAC).*

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**NOTES:**

## **6.0 TYPICAL APPLICATIONS**

The MCP4902/4912/4922 family of devices are general purpose DACs intended to be used in applications where a precision with low-power and moderate bandwidth is required.

Applications generally suited for the devices are:

- Set Point or Offset Trimming
- Sensor Calibration
- Digitally-Controlled Multiplier/Divider
- Portable Instrumentation (Battery Powered)
- Motor Control Feedback Loop

## **6.1 Digital Interface**

The MCP4902/4912/4922 utilizes a 3-wire synchronous serial protocol to transfer the DAC's setup and output values from the digital source. The serial protocol can be interfaced to SPI or Microwire peripherals that is common on many microcontroller units (MCUs), including Microchip's PIC® MCUs and dsPIC® DSCs.

In addition to the three serial connections  $(CS, SCK)$ and SDI), the LDAC signal synchronizes the two DAC outputs. By bringing down the  $\overline{\text{LDAC}}$  pin to "low", all DAC input codes and settings in the two DAC input registers are latched into their DAC output registers at the same time. Therefore, both  $DAC<sub>A</sub>$  and  $DAC<sub>B</sub>$ outputs are updated at the same time. [Figure 6-1](#page-26-0) shows an example of the pin connections. Note that the LDAC pin can be tied low  $(V_{SS})$  to reduce the required connections from 4 to 3 I/O pins. In this case, the DAC output can be immediately updated when a valid 16-clock transmission has been received and CS pin has been raised.

## **6.2 Power Supply Considerations**

The typical application will require a bypass capacitor in order to filter high-frequency noise. The noise can be induced onto the power supply's traces from various events such as digital switching or as a result of changes on the DAC's output. The bypass capacitor helps to minimize the effect of these noise sources. [Figure 6-1](#page-26-0) illustrates an appropriate bypass strategy. In this example, two bypass capacitors are used in parallel: (a) 0.1 µF (ceramic) and (b) 10 µF (tantalum). These capacitors should be placed as close to the device power pin  $(V_{DD})$  as possible (within 4 mm).

The power source supplying these devices should be as clean as possible. If the application circuit has separate digital and analog power supplies,  $V_{DD}$  and  $V_{SS}$  should reside on the analog plane.



<span id="page-26-0"></span>*FIGURE 6-1: Typical Connection Diagram.*

## **6.3 Layout Considerations**

Inductively-coupled AC transients and digital switching noises can degrade the input and output signal integrity, and potentially reduce the device performance. Careful board layout will minimize these effects and increase the Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR). Bench testing has shown that a multi-layer board utilizing a low-inductance ground plane, isolated inputs and isolated outputs with proper decoupling, is critical for the best performance. Particularly harsh environments may require shielding of critical signals.

Breadboards and wire-wrapped boards are not recommended if low noise is desired.

## **6.4 Single-Supply Operation**

The MCP4902/4912/4922 family of devices are rail-torail voltage output DAC devices designed to operate with a  $V_{DD}$  range of 2.7V to 5.5V. Its output amplifier is robust enough to drive small-signal loads directly. Therefore, it does not require any external output buffer for most applications.

#### 6.4.1 DC SET POINT OR CALIBRATION

A common application for the DAC devices is digitally-controlled set points and/or calibration of variable parameters, such as sensor offset or slope. For example, the MCP4922 provides 4096 output steps. If the external voltage reference  $(V_{RFF})$  is 4.096V, the LSb size is 1 mV. If a smaller output step size is desired, a lower external voltage reference is needed.

#### 6.4.1.1 Decreasing Output Step Size

If the application is calibrating the bias voltage of a diode or transistor, a bias voltage range of 0.8V may be desired with about 200 µV resolution per step. Two common methods to achieve a 0.8V range is to either reduce  $V_{RFF}$  to 0.82V or use a voltage divider on the DAC's output.

Using a  $V_{REF}$  is an option if the  $V_{REF}$  is available with the desired output voltage range. However, occasionally, when using a low-voltage  $V_{RFF}$ , the noise floor causes SNR error that is intolerable. Using a voltage divider method is another option and provides some advantages when  $V_{RFF}$  needs to be very low or when the desired output voltage is not available. In this case, a larger value  $V_{REF}$  is used while two resistors scale the output range down to the precise desired level.

[Example 6-1](#page-27-0) illustrates this concept. Note that the bypass capacitor on the output of the voltage divider plays a critical function in attenuating the output noise of the DAC and the induced noise from the environment.

#### <span id="page-27-0"></span>**EXAMPLE 6-1: EXAMPLE CIRCUIT OF SET POINT OR THRESHOLD CALIBRATION**



#### 6.4.1.2 Building a "Window" DAC

When calibrating a set point or threshold of a sensor, typically only a small portion of the DAC output range is utilized. If the LSb size is adequate enough to meet the application's accuracy needs, the unused range is sacrificed without consequences. If greater accuracy is needed, then the output range will need to be reduced to increase the resolution around the desired threshold. If the threshold is not near  $V_{REF}$  or  $V_{SS}$ , then creating a "window" around the threshold has several advantages. One simple method to create this "window" is to use a voltage divider network with a pull-up and pull-down resistor. [Example 6-2](#page-28-0) and [Example 6-4](#page-30-0) illustrate this concept.

<span id="page-28-0"></span>



### **6.5 Bipolar Operation**

Bipolar operation is achievable using the MCP4902/ 4912/4922 family of devices by using an external operational amplifier (op amp). This configuration is desirable due to the wide variety and availability of op amps. This allows a general purpose DAC, with its cost and availability advantages, to meet almost any desired output voltage range, power and noise performance.

[Example 6-3](#page-29-0) illustrates a simple bipolar voltage source configuration.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  allow the gain to be selected, while  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  shift the DAC's output to a selected offset. Note that R4 can be tied to  $V_{REF}$  instead of  $V_{SS}$ , if a higher offset is desired. Also note that a pull-up to  $V_{REF}$  could be used instead of  $R_4$ , if a higher offset is desired.

<span id="page-29-0"></span>



#### <span id="page-29-1"></span>6.5.1 DESIGN EXAMPLE: DESIGN A BIPOLAR DAC USING EXAMPLE 6-3 WITH 12-BIT MCP4922 OR MCP4921

An output step magnitude of 1 mV with an output range of ±2.05V is desired for a particular application. The following steps show the details:

**Step 1:** Calculate the range: +2.05V – (-2.05V) = 4.1V.

- **Step 2:** Calculate the resolution needed: 4.1V/1 mV = 4100 Since  $2^{12}$  = 4096, 12-bit resolution is desired.
- **Step 3:** The amplifier gain  $(R_2/R_1)$ , multiplied by  $V_{RFF}$ , must be equal to the desired minimum output to achieve bipolar operation. Since any gain can be realized by choosing resistor values  $(R_1+R_2)$ , the  $V_{REF}$  source needs to be determined first. If a  $V_{REF}$  of 4.1V is used, solve for the gain by setting the DAC to 0, knowing that the output needs to be -2.05V. The equation can be simplified to:

$$
\frac{-R_2}{R_1} = \frac{-2.05}{V_{REF}} = \frac{-2.05}{4.1} \qquad \frac{R_2}{R_1} = \frac{1}{2}
$$
  
If R<sub>1</sub> = 20 kΩ and R<sub>2</sub> = 10 kΩ, the gain will be 0.5.

**Step 4:** Next, solve for  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  by setting the DAC to 4096, knowing that the output needs to be +2.05V.

$$
\frac{R_4}{(R_3 + R_4)} = \frac{2.05 V + 0.5 V_{REF}}{1.5 V_{REF}} = \frac{2}{3}
$$

If R<sub>4</sub> = 20 k $\Omega$ , then R<sub>3</sub> = 10 k $\Omega$ .

### **6.6 Selectable Gain and Offset Bipolar Voltage Output Using a Dual DAC**

In some applications, precision digital control of the output range is desirable. [Example 6-4](#page-30-0) illustrates how to use the MCP4902/4912/4922 to achieve this in a bipolar or single-supply application.

This circuit is typically used in Multiplier mode and is ideal for linearizing a sensor whose slope and offset varies. Refer to **[Section 6.9 "Using Multiplier Mode"](#page-33-0)** for more information on Multiplier mode.

The equation to design a bipolar "window" DAC would be utilized if  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are populated.

<span id="page-30-0"></span>



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### **6.7 Designing a Double-Precision DAC Using a Dual DAC**

[Example 6-5](#page-31-0) illustrates how to design a single-supply voltage output capable of up to 24-bit resolution from a dual 12-bit DAC. This design is simply a voltage divider with a buffered output.

As an example, if a application similar to the one developed in **[Section 6.5.1 "Design Example: Design](#page-29-1) [a Bipolar DAC Using Example 6-3 with 12-bit](#page-29-1) [MCP4922 or MCP4921"](#page-29-1)** required a resolution of 1 µV instead of 1 mV and a range of 0V to 4.1V, then 12-bit resolution would not be adequate.

- **Step 1:** Calculate the resolution needed:
	- 4.1V/1  $\mu$ V = 4.1x10<sup>6</sup>. Since  $2^{22}$  = 4.2x10<sup>6</sup>, 22bit resolution is desired. Since DNL =  $\pm 0.75$ LSb, this design can be attempted with the MCP4922.
- **Step 2:** Since DAC<sub>B</sub>'s V<sub>OUTB</sub> has a resolution of 1 mV, its output only needs to be "pulled" 1/1000 to meet the 1  $\mu$ V target. Dividing V<sub>OUTA</sub> by 1000 would allow the application to compensate for  $DAC_B$ 's DNL error.
- **Step 3:** If R<sub>2</sub> is 100 $\Omega$ , then R<sub>1</sub> needs to be 100 k $\Omega$ .
- **Step 4:**The resulting transfer function is not perfectly linear, as shown in the equation of [Example 6-5.](#page-31-0)



#### <span id="page-31-0"></span>**EXAMPLE 6-5: SIMPLE, DOUBLE-PRECISION DAC WITH MCP4922**

#### **6.8 Building Programmable Current Source**

[Example 6-6](#page-32-0) shows an example for building a programmable current source using a voltage follower. The current sensor (sensor resistor) is used to convert the DAC voltage output into a digitally-selectable current source.

Adding the resistor network from [Example 6-2](#page-28-0) would be advantageous in this application. The smaller  $R_{\text{sense}}$ is, the less power dissipated across it. However, this also reduces the resolution that the current can be controlled with. The voltage divider, or "window", DAC configuration would allow the range to be reduced, thus increasing resolution around the range of interest. When working with very small sensor voltages, plan on eliminating the amplifier's offset error by storing the DAC's setting under known sensor conditions.

## <span id="page-32-0"></span>**EXAMPLE 6-6: DIGITALLY-CONTROLLED CURRENT SOURCE**



## <span id="page-33-0"></span>**6.9 Using Multiplier Mode**

The MCP4902/4912/4922 family of devices use external reference, and these devices are ideally suited for use as a multiplier/divider in a signal chain. The common applications are: (a) Precision programmable gain/attenuator amplifiers and (b) Motor control feedback loop. The wide input range  $(0V - V_{DD})$  is in Unbuffered mode and near rail-to-rail range in Buffered mode: its bandwidth (> 400 kHz), selectable 1x/2x gain and low power consumption give maximum flexibility to meet the application's needs.

To configure the MCP4902/4912/4922 family of devices for multiple applications, connect the input signal to  $V_{REF}$  and serially configure the DAC's input buffer, gain and output value. The DAC's output can utilize any of Examples [6-1](#page-27-0) to [6-6,](#page-32-0) depending on the application requirements. [Example 6-7](#page-33-1) is an illustration of how the DAC can operate in a motor control feedback loop.

If the gain selection bit is configured for 1x mode  $(**GA**>=1)$ , the resulting input signal will be attenuated by  $D/2^n$ . With the 12-bit DAC (MCP4921 or MCP4922), if the gain is configured for  $2x$  mode ( $\leq$ GA $>$  = 0), the codes less than 2048 attenuate the signal, while the codes greater than 2048 gain the signal.

A DAC provides significantly more gain/attenuation resolution when compared to typical Programmable Gain Amplifiers. Adding an op amp to buffer the output, as illustrated in Examples [6-2](#page-28-0) to [6-6](#page-32-0), extends the output range and power to meet the precise needs of the application.

<span id="page-33-1"></span>



## **7.0 DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT**

#### **7.1 Evaluation and Demonstration Boards**

The Mixed Signal PICtail™ Demo Board supports the MCP4902/4912/4922 family of devices. Please refer to www.microchip.com for further information on this products capabilities and availability.

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**NOTES:**

## **8.0 PACKAGING INFORMATION**

## **8.1 Package Marking Information**











## 14-Lead Plastic Dual In-Line (P) – 300 mil Body [PDIP]

Note: r the most current package drawings, please see the Microchip Packaging Specification located at http://www.microchip.com/packaging





#### Notes:

1. Pin 1 visual index feature may vary, but must be located with the hatched area.

2. S Significant Characteristic.

3. Dimensions D and E1 do not include mold flash or protrusions. Mold flash or protrusions shall not exceed 010" per side.

4. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M.

BSC: Basic Dimension. Theoretically exact value shown without tolerances.

Microchip Technology Drawing C04-005B

### 14-Lead Plastic Small Outline (SL) – Narrow, 3.90 mm Body [SOIC]

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#### Notes:

1. Pin 1 visual index feature may vary, but must be located within the hatched area.

2. S Significant Characteristic.

3. Dimensions D and E1 do not include mold flash or protrusions. Mold flash or protrusions shall not exceed 0.15 mm per side.

4. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M.

BSC: Basic Dimension. Theoretically exact value shown without tolerances.

REF: Reference Dimension, usually without tolerance, for information purposes only.

Microchip Technology Drawing C04-065B

14-Lead Plastic Small Outline (SL) - Narrow, 3.90 mm Body [SOIC]

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## RECOMMENDED LAND PATTERN



Notes:

1. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M

BSC: Basic Dimension. Theoretically exact value shown without tolerances.

Microchip Technology Drawing No. C04-2065A

### 14-Lead Plastic Thin Shrink Small Outline (ST) – 4.4 mm Body [TSSOP]

Note: r the most current package drawings, please see the Microchip Packaging Specification located at http://www.microchip.com/packaging





#### Notes:

- 1. Pin 1 visual index feature may vary, but must be located within the hatched area.
- 2. Dimensions D and E1 do not include mold flash or protrusions. Mold flash or protrusions shall not exceed 0.15 mm per side.
- 3. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M.
	- BSC: Basic Dimension. Theoretically exact value shown without tolerances.
	- REF: Reference Dimension, usually without tolerance, for information purposes only.

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## 14-Lead Plastic Thin Shrink Small Outline (ST) - 4.4 mm Body [TSSOP]

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## RECOMMENDED LAND PATTERN



Notes:

1. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M

BSC: Basic Dimension. Theoretically exact value shown without tolerances.

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## **APPENDIX A: REVISION HISTORY**

## **Revision A (April 2010)**

• Original Release of this Document.

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**NOTES:**

## **PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

To order or obtain information, e.g., on pricing or delivery, refer to the factory or the listed sales office.



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**NOTES:**

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