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### Evaluating the ADF4372 Microwave Wideband Synthesizer with Integrated VCO

#### **FEATURES**

Self contained board, including ADF4372 frequency synthesizer with integrated VCO, loop filter (180 kHz), USB interface, and voltage regulators Windows-based software allows control of synthesizer functions from a PC

Externally powered by 6 V

#### **EVALUATION KIT CONTENTS**

EV-ADF4372SD2Z evaluation board

#### **EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

Windows<sup>®</sup>-based PC with USB port for evaluation software System demonstration platform, serial only (SDP-S) EVAL-SDP-CS1Z controller board

Power supply (6 V) Spectrum analyzer 50 Ω terminators Low noise REF<sub>IN</sub> source (optional)

#### **DOCUMENTS NEEDED**

ADF4372 data sheet EV-ADF4372SD2Z user guide

#### **REQUIRED SOFTWARE**

ACE software, Version 1.10 or newer ADF4372 plugin, latest version

#### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The EV-ADF4372SD2Z evaluates the performance of the ADF4372 frequency synthesizer with an integrated voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) for phase-locked loops (PLLs). A photograph of the evaluation board is shown in Figure 1. The evaluation board contains the ADF4372 frequency synthesizer with an integrated VCO, a USB interface, power supply connectors, and subminiature Version A (SMA) connectors.

The EV-ADF4372SD2Z requires an SDP-S board (not supplied with the kit). The SDP-S allows software programming of the EV-ADF4372SD2Z.

Full specifications for the ADF4372 frequency synthesizer are available in the product data sheet, which must be consulted in conjunction with this user guide when working with the evaluation board.



EV-AD4372SD2Z EVALUATION BOARD PHOTOGRAPH

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### **REVISION HISTORY**

4/2019—Revision 0: Initial Version

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### **GETTING STARTED** SOFTWARE INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

To install the ACE software and ADF4372 plugin, perform the following steps:

- 1. Install the latest version of the ACE software platform.
- 2. If the ADF4372 plugin appears automatically, proceed to Step 4.
- Double click the ADF4372 plugin file, Board.ADF4372.1.2019.12300.acezip or the latest version.
- 4. Check that the ADF4372 plugin appears when the EV-ADF4372SD2Z board is attached through the system demonstration platform (SDP-S) connector to the PC.

### **EVALUATION BOARD SETUP PROCEDURES**

To run the software, perform the following steps:

- 1. Select Start > All Programs > Analog Devices > ACE.
- 2. On the **Start** tab, choose **ADF4372** and the **ADF4372 board** appears under **Attached Hardware**.
- 3. When connecting the EV-ADF4372SD2Z board, allow 5 sec to 10 sec for the label on the status bar to change.

### **EVALUATION BOARD HARDWARE**

The EV-ADF4372SD2Z requires the SDP-S platform that uses the EVAL-SDP-CS1Z. The SDP-B is not recommended.

The EV-ADF4372SD2Z schematics are shown in Figure 9, Figure 10, Figure 11, and Figure 12. The silkscreens for the evaluation board are shown in Figure 13 and Figure 14.

### **POWER SUPPLIES**

The EV-ADF4372SD2Z board is powered by a 6 V power supply connected to the VSUPPLY SMA, or the red banana plug, P2. Connect GND to the black banana plug, P4.

The power supply circuitry has two LT3045, high performance, low noise, and low dropout (LDO) regulators.

One LT3045 is used to generate 5 V to drive the VCO supply pins. The remaining supplies are powered from the other LT3045, which is set to 3.3 V voltage.

Use Switch S1 to switch the 6 V to the EV-ADF4372SD2Z on and off.

### **RF OUTPUT**

The EV-ADF4372SD2Z has three pairs of SMA, 3.5 mm output connectors: RF8P/RF8N, RFAUX8P/RFAUX8N, and RF16P/RF16N (differential outputs). Because these ports are sensitive to impedance mismatch, connect the radio frequency (RF) outputs to equal load impedances.

If only one port of a differential pair is used, terminate the complementary port with an equal load terminator (in general, a 50  $\Omega$  terminator).

### LOOP FILTER

The loop filter schematic is included in the board schematic in Figure 9. Figure 2 shows the loop filter component placement. The loop filter on the evaluation board is optimized for fractional mode performance with a phase frequency detector (PFD) frequency of 100 MHz and 1.8 mA charge pump current. The values of the loop filter components are as follows:

- Resistors: RCPOUT = 91 Ω, R2 = 400 Ω, R4 = 200 Ω, R15 = 0 Ω
- Capacitors: C20 = 220 pF, C19 = 0.018 μF, C23 = 330 pF





The lowest rms jitter is achieved in integer mode by using a high PFD frequency. This jitter can be tested by using the same filter with a PFD frequency of 200 MHz (enabling the doubler) and 2.4 mA charge pump current. Additional optimization is still possible depending on target frequency and integration limits.

In general, narrower loop filter bandwidths have lower spurious signals. Wide loop filters in Integer N mode can achieve <50 fs jitter with very clean reference frequency input ( $\text{REF}_{\text{IN}}$ ) signals.

### ADDITIONAL OPTIMIZATION ON LOOP FILTER

The PLL loop bandwidth can be optimized for different parameters like reference spurs or VCO noise, depending on the system requirements.

#### Reducing $\Sigma$ - $\Delta$ Modulator (SDM) Noise

In fractional mode, SDM noise becomes apparent and starts to contribute to overall phase noise. This noise can be reduced to insignificant levels by using a series resistor between the CPOUT pin and the loop filter. Place this resistor close to the CPOUT pin. Select a reasonable resistor value that does not affect the loop bandwidth and phase margin of the designed loop filter. In most cases, a 91  $\Omega$  resistor value produces the best results. This resistor is not required in Integer N mode (SDM not enabled) or when a narrow-band loop filter (SDM noise attenuated) is used. This resistor is labeled as RCPOUT in schematics.

#### **Optimizing Spurious Signals**

The loop filter is placed at the secondary side of the EV-ADF4372SD2Z to create a more compact layout and so that the board is more tolerant to external signals. Using a capacitor on the same side with the ADF4372 (the primary side) results in higher isolation on internally generated spurious signals. For this purpose, a small valued capacitor (C26 = 10 pF) is placed close to the VTUNE pin on the primary side.

### **REFERENCE SOURCE**

The EV-ADF4372SD2Z board is supplied with a low noise 100 MHz crystal oscillator (XO) from Crystek (CCHD-575-50-100.000).

To use an external single-ended REF<sub>IN</sub>, connect a low noise reference source to the REFP SMA connector. Remove Resistor R19 (0  $\Omega$ ) and Resistor R20 (0  $\Omega$ ) to remove power from the crystal and break the connection to the REFP input.

### **DEFAULT CONFIGURATION**

All components necessary for local oscillator (LO) generation are inserted on the EV-ADF4372SD2Z board. The EV-ADF4372SD2Z board is shipped with a 100 MHz XO, the ADF4372 synthesizer with an integrated VCO, and a 180 kHz loop filter (charge pump current ( $I_{\rm CP}$ ) = 1.8 mA).

### **DOUBLER OUTPUT**

The ADF4372 contains a frequency doubler to double the 4 GHz to 8 GHz VCO signal on RF16P and RF16N.



Figure 3. Evaluation Board Setup Diagram

### **EVALUATION BOARD SOFTWARE**

The ACE software is the main platform that is used to control the EV-ADF4372SD2Z. The ADF4372 plugin includes user interfaces that relate to the ADF4372 and allow evaluation of the device. Use the following steps to open the main control window for ADF4372:

1. Launch the ACE application. With the SDP-S board connected to the EV-ADF4372SD2Z, the attached hardware

appears in the graphical user interface (GUI) as shown in Figure 4.

- 2. Double click the **ADF4372 Board** icon, and the tab shown in Figure 5 appears.
- 3. Double click the **ADF4372** icon that appears on the **ADF4372 Board** tab to open the main control window shown in Figure 7.



Figure 4. ACE Start Page, Attached Hardware (ADF4372 Evaluation Board)



Figure 5. ACE Board Page, Device Selection

### **MAIN CONTROLS**

The main controls are available in the high level register map shown in Figure 7. To modify registers, perform the following steps:

- 1. Click **Write All Registers** / **Initialize** to load all registers and initialize the device.
- 2. Modify the registers as desired.
- 3. Click **Apply Changes** to load the modified settings to the device. This action loads the updated registers only. All registers can be reloaded using the **Write All Registers / Initialize** button.

#### **OUTPUT CONTROLS**

For the main, auxiliary, and doubler outputs, the optimal harmonic performance is achieved by using the automatic filter outputs. If desired, disable the automatic filter and change the filter settings manually. The settings are available in the **RF16** section (shown in Figure 6). The output settings include the **Filter Mode** box that can be set to automatic or manual, the **x2 Bias** box that varies from the lowest setting 0 to the highest of 3, and the **x2 Filter** box that varies from 0 to 7.

The bias and filter settings in Table 1 are recommended for doubler output.

Frequency (GHz)	Bias	Filter
≤8.4	3	7
>8.4 to ≤9.4	3	6
>9.4 to ≤10	3	5
>10 to ≤11.5	3	4
>11.5 to ≤12.2	3	3
>12.2 to ≤13.7	3	2
>13.7 to ≤14.5	3	1
>14.5	3	0

The recommended settings for doubler frequencies greater than 14.5 GHz are shown in Figure 6.

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	RF	16	
	x2 En	able	
	X2 On	*	
Harmonic Filter			
	Auto	•	
х З	2 Bias	x2 Filter 0  ◀	20393-006

Figure 6. Recommended Doubler Filter Settings, 16 GHz to 18 GHz



Figure 7. Software Front Panel Display, Main Controls

### **EVALUATION AND TEST**

To evaluate and test the performance of the ADF4372, prepare the hardware and software setup as explained in the Evaluation Board Hardware section and the Evaluation Board Software section. Run the software and set the **VCO Fundamental Output** box to 5 GHz (see Figure 7). Measure the output spectrum and single sideband phase noise on a spectrum analyzer. Figure 8 shows a phase noise plot of the SMA RF8P pin equal to 5 GHz.



Figure 8. Single Sideband Phase Noise

## **EVALUATION BOARD SCHEMATICS AND ARTWORK**







Figure 10. Evaluation Board Schematic, 5 V LDO Regulator

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### EV-ADF4372SD2Z User Guide



Figure 11. Evaluation Board Schematic, 3.3 V LDO Regulator

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Figure 17. Evaluation Board Layer 3, Power

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Figure 18. Evaluation Board Layer 4, Secondary

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## ORDERING INFORMATION

### **BILL OF MATERIALS**

### Table 2.

Reference Designator	Description	Value	Manufacturer	Part Number
RFAUX8N.	Printed circuit boards (PCBs), SMA, right angle	32K243-40MI 5	Rosenberger	32K243-40MI 5
RFAUX8P, RF8N, RF8P, RF16N, RF16P	jack connectors			
C1, C3, C8, C9, C12, C17, C24	Capacitors, ceramic, X6S	1 μF	TDK	C1005X6S1C105K050BC
C10, C11, C28, C29, C30, C35	Ceramic capacitors, C0G (NP0), general-purpose	10 pF	Murata	GRM0335C1E100JA01D
C4, C6, C7, C13, C14, C21	Ceramic capacitors, X5R, general-purpose	10 μF	Murata	GRM21BR61C106KE15L
C2, C5, C15, C16	Ceramic capacitors, X7R, general-purpose	0.01 μF	Murata	GRM155R71E103KA01D
C18, C25	Ceramic capacitors, X5R, general-purpose	4.7 μF	Murata	GRM21BR61E475KA12L
C19	Ceramic capacitor, X7R 0603	0.018 μF	AVX	06033C183JAT2A
C20	Chip capacitor, C0G, 0603	220 pF	TDK	C1608C0G1H221J
C23	Capacitor, ceramic, NP0	330 pF	TDK	CGJ3E3C0G2D331J080AA
C26	Ceramic capacitors, COG (NP0), general-purpose	10pF	Murata	GJM1555C1H100GB01D
C32, C33	Multilayer ceramic capacitors (MLCCs), NP0, RF and microwave	10 pF	American Technical Ceramics	400Z100FT16T
C39, C41, C42	Ceramic capacitors, C0G (NP0), general-purpose	1000 pF	Murata	GRM1555C1H102JA01
CSB, LE2, MUX, SCLK, SDIO, TP2	PCB test point connectors	Yellow	Components Corporation	TP-104-01-04
CV37	Tantalum solid electrolytic ceramic	22 uF	AVX	TCJC226M025R0100
E1	Chip ferrite bead	80 Ω at 100 MHz	Murata	BLM15PX800SN1D
J1, J4, REFP, VSUPPLY, VTUNE	PCBs, coaxial, SMA, end launch connectors	142-0701-801	Cinch Connectivity Solutions	142-0701-801
J3	PCB, SMA, right angle jack connector	02K243-40M	Rosenberger	02K243-40M
L1, L2, L3, L4	Chip inductors	7.4 nH	Coilcraft	0302CS-7N4XJLU
P1	PCB, vertical type receptacle, surface-mount device (SMD) connector	FX8-120S-SV(21)	Hirose	FX8-120S-SV(21)
P2	PCB, single socket connector	Red	Deltron	571-0500
P4	PCB, single socket connector	Black	Deltron	571-0100
R1, R7, R9, R11, R14, R16, R17, R18, R19, R20, R32	Thick film, chip resistors	0 Ω	Multicomp	MC00625W040210R
R12	Thick film, chip resistor	33.2 kΩ	Vishay	CRCW040233K2FKED
R15, R44	Film, SMD resistors, 0603	0Ω	Multicomp	MC0603WG00000T5E-TC
R2	Precision, thin film, chip resistor	400 Ω	Vishay	PAT0603E4000BST1
R27	High frequency, thin film, chip resistor	100 Ω	Vishay	FC0402E1000BST1
R4	Thick film, chip resistor	200 Ω	Multicomp	MC 0.063W 0603 1% 200R
R42, R43, R45, R46, R84	Thick film, chip resistors	1.5 kΩ	Multicomp	MC 0.063W 0603 1% 1K5
R6	Antisurge, high power, thick film, chip resistor	49.9 kΩ	Vishay	RCS040249K9FKED
R74, R79	Thick film, chip resistors	100 kΩ	Multicomp	MC 0.063W 0603 1% 100K
RCPOUT	Thick film, chip resistor	91 Ω	Yageo	RC0603FR-0791RL
S1	Single-pole, single-throw, momentary switch	TT11AGPC104	TE Connectivity	TT11AGPC104

Reference Designator	Description	Value	Manufacturer	Part Number
TP3, TP5	PCB test point connectors	Red	Keystone Electronics	5000
TP4	PCB test point connector	Black	Keystone Electronics	5006
U1	Microwave, wideband synthesizer with integrated VCO	ADF4372BCCZ	Analog Devices, Inc.	ADF4372BCCZ
U2, U3	20 V, 500 mA, ultralow noise, ultrahigh power supply rejection ratio (PSRR), linear regulators	LT3045EDD#PBF	Analog Devices, Inc.	LT3045EDD#PBF
U6	32 kB, serial electronically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM)	24LC32A-I/MS	Microchip Technology	24LC32A-I/MS
Y1	Ultralow, phase noise XO, high density, complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (HCMOS)	100 MHz	Crystek	CCHD-575-50-100.000
ZD1	BZX84C 6.8 V, Zener, SOT-23 diode	BZX84-C6V8	Philips	BZX84-C6V8



#### ESD Caution

ESD (electrostatic discharge) sensitive device. Charged devices and circuit boards can discharge without detection. Although this product features patented or proprietary protection circuitry, damage may occur on devices subjected to high energy ESD. Therefore, proper ESD precautions should be taken to avoid performance degradation or loss of functionality.

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