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REVISION HISTORY

6/11—Revision 0: Initial Version

SETTING UP THE EVALUATION BOARD

INPUT CONFIGURATION

A pair of 2-pin, 0.100" headers (H2 and H3) on the left side of the board feed the audio signal into the board (see Figure 1). If the input audio signal is differential, three header pins are used: INL+, INL–, and either GND terminal for input signal ground. For a single-ended audio input, use INL+ and GND for input signal and ground, respectively. Use a jumper to short INL– to GND. If the opposite input polarity is required, use INL– and GND for input signal and ground, respectively.

SHUTDOWN MODE

J1, the 3-pin header labeled ACTIVE, is used to turn the [SSM2377](#) amplifier on and off. Placing a jumper between the SD and VDD header pins places the [SSM2377](#) in normal operation. Placing the jumper between the SD and GND header pins shuts down the [SSM2377](#) so that only a minimum current (approximately 20 nA) is drawn from the power supply. Because there is no internal pull-up or pull-down, do not omit the jumper; leaving the SD pin floating puts the part in an indeterminate state.

GAIN CONFIGURATION

A 3-pin header, J2, controls the analog gain of the [SSM2377](#). By placing a jumper across two pins of J2, the amplifier GAIN pin can be connected to GND or VDD. Two jumper settings are used: between the center pin and the right pin (GND), or between the center pin and the left pin (VDD). See Table 1 for configuration instructions.

Table 1. Gain Configuration

Gain Setting (dB)	J2 Configuration
6	Tie center pin to VDD
12	Tie center pin to GND

OUTPUT CONFIGURATION

Two output headers, H4 and H5, are located on the right side of the board before and after a ferrite bead output filter (see Figure 1). Either header can be connected to a loudspeaker; the loudspeaker impedance should be no less than 4 Ω.

Because the [SSM2377](#) does not typically require any external LC output filters due to a low noise modulation scheme, no output filter is installed on the evaluation board. In this case, use thick wire to short across the pads marked B1 and B2, leave the capacitor pads unpopulated, and connect the speaker to H5. To minimize trace lengths, use H4 instead of H5.

If the speaker cable length exceeds 50 cm, place ferrite beads B1 and B2 in the output paths and use capacitors C6 and C7 to couple the output terminals to ground, as shown in the schematic in Figure 3. In this case, Header H5 must be used for the output terminals. Recommended ferrite beads are listed in Table 2. For applications with specific EMI vs. audio performance constraints, users may want to use inductors; see Table 3 for recommended inductors.

For the best THD and SNR performance as specified in the [SSM2377](#) data sheet, do not use an output filter.

POWER SUPPLY CONFIGURATION

The 2-pin Header H1 is used to power the board. Care must be taken to connect the dc power with correct polarity and voltage. Reverse polarity or overvoltage may permanently damage the board. The maximum supply current is approximately 0.33 A when driving an 8 Ω load with an input voltage of 5 V. Do not allow VDD to exceed 5.5 V.

COMPONENT SELECTION

Selecting the proper components is the key to achieving the performance required at the budgeted cost.

Input Gain Resistor Selection—R1 and R2

If the desired gain must be adjusted beyond the available gain settings (see the Gain Configuration section), a series resistor can be placed in the input signal path. This resistor creates a voltage divider with the 80 kΩ input resistance on each input pin, allowing an arbitrary reduction of the input signal. Because input signal attenuation directly reduces SNR performance, large values compared to the built-in input resistance should be avoided. These components are populated with 0 Ω values on the evaluation board.

Input Coupling Capacitor Selection—C1 and C2

The input coupling capacitors, C1 and C2, should be large enough to couple the low frequency signal components in the incoming signal but small enough to reject unnecessary, extremely low frequency signals. For music signals, the cutoff frequency is typically between 20 Hz and 30 Hz. The value of the input capacitor is calculated as follows:

$$C = 1/(2\pi \times R_{IN} \times f_c)$$

where:

$$R_{IN} = 80 \text{ k}\Omega + (R1 \text{ or } R2).$$

f_c is the desired cutoff frequency.

Output Ferrite Beads—B1 and B2

The output beads, B1 and B2, are necessary components for filtering out the EMI caused at the switching output nodes when the length of the speaker wire is greater than 50 cm. The penalty for using ferrite beads for EMI filtering is slightly worse noise and distortion performance at the system level due to the nonlinearity of the beads.

Ensure that these beads have enough current-conducting capability while providing sufficient EMI attenuation. The current rating needed for an 8 Ω load is approximately 420 mA, and impedance at 100 MHz should be $\geq 120 \Omega$. In addition, the lower the dc resistance (DCR) of these beads, the better for minimizing their power consumption. Table 2 lists the recommended beads.

Output Shunting Capacitors

Two output shunting capacitors, C6 and C7, work with the ferrite beads, B1 and B2. Use small size (0603 or 0402), multilayer ceramic capacitors that are made of X7R or C0G (NPO) materials. For the simplest BOM, a single capacitor of approximately 470 pF can be used. Alternatively, for improved performance, a small capacitor (approximately 100 pF) plus a larger capacitor (less than 1 nF) can be placed in parallel. This configuration provides thorough EMI reduction for the entire frequency spectrum.

Output Inductors

If you prefer inductors for the purpose of EMI filtering at the output nodes, choose an inductor value that is $<2.2 \mu\text{H}$. The higher the inductance, the lower the EMI is at the output. However, the cost and power consumption of the inductors are higher. Using $0.47 \mu\text{H}$ to $2.2 \mu\text{H}$ inductors is recommended, and the current rating (and saturation current) should exceed 600 mA for an 8Ω load. Table 3 lists the recommended inductors.

Table 2. Recommended Output Beads

Part No.	Manufacturer	Z (Ω)	I _{MAX} (mA)	DCR (Ω)	Size (mm)
BLM18PG121SN1D	Murata	120	2000	0.05	$1.6 \times 0.8 \times 0.8$
MPZ1608S101A	TDK	100	3000	0.03	$1.6 \times 0.8 \times 0.8$
MPZ1608S221A	TDK	220	2200	0.05	$1.6 \times 0.8 \times 0.8$
BLM18EG221SN1D	Murata	220	2000	0.05	$1.6 \times 0.8 \times 0.8$

Table 3. Recommended Output Inductors

Part No.	Manufacturer	L (μH)	I _{MAX} (mA)	DCR (Ω)	Size (mm)
LQM31PNR47M00	Murata	0.47	1400	0.07	$3.2 \times 1.6 \times 0.85$
LQM31PN1R0M00	Murata	1.0	1200	0.15	$3.2 \times 1.6 \times 0.85$
LQM21PNR47MC0	Murata	0.47	1100	0.15	$2.0 \times 1.25 \times 0.5$
LQM21PN1R0MC0	Murata	1.0	800	0.2375	$2.0 \times 1.25 \times 0.5$
LQH32CN2R2M53	Murata	2.2	790	0.1	$3.2 \times 2.5 \times 1.55$

GETTING STARTED

To ensure proper operation, carefully follow Step 1 through Step 6.

1. To enable the amplifier, use a jumper to tie the center pin of J1 to VDD.
2. To choose a gain setting, use a jumper to tie the center pin of J2 to either VDD (6 dB) or GND (12 dB).
3. For most audio quality testing, any EMI filtering should be removed. Remove Capacitors C6 and C7, if populated, and short across the B1 and B2 terminals with thick wire to make a direct connection from the device output to the H5 speaker header.
4. Connect the load to H5.
5. Connect the audio input to the board in either differential mode or single-ended mode, depending on the application.
6. Connect the power supply with the proper polarity and voltage.

WHAT TO TEST

- Electromagnetic interference (EMI)—connect wires for the speakers, making sure that they are the same length as the wires required for the actual application environment; then complete the EMI test.
- Signal-to-noise ratio.
- Output noise—make sure to use an A-weighted filter to filter the output before reading the measurement meter.
- Maximum output power.
- Distortion.
- Efficiency.

EVALUATION BOARD SCHEMATICS AND ARTWORK



Figure 3. Schematic of the SSM2377 Evaluation Board

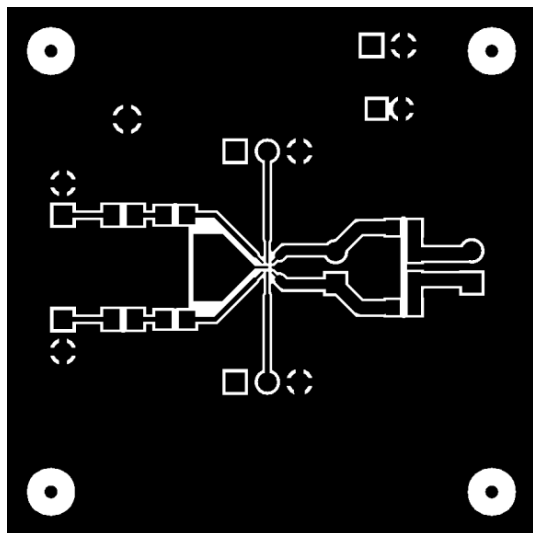


Figure 4. Top Layer Copper

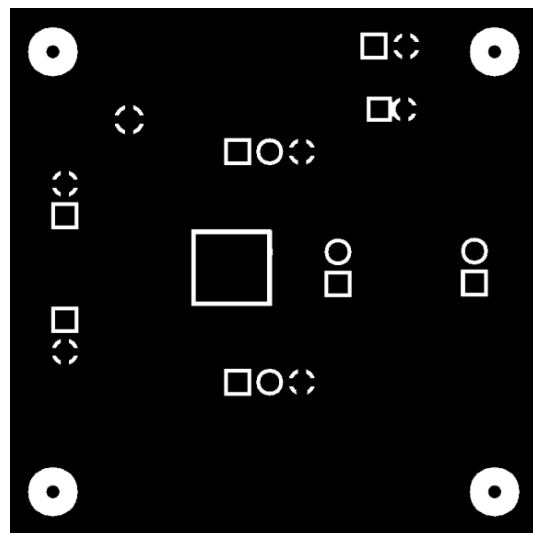


Figure 7. Bottom Layer Copper

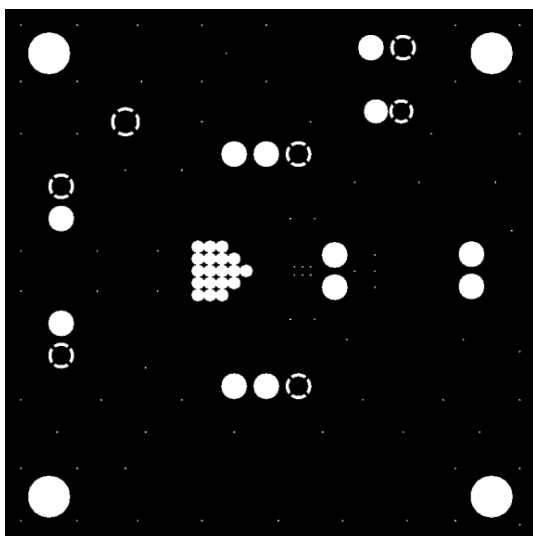


Figure 5. Second Layer Copper—GND Plane

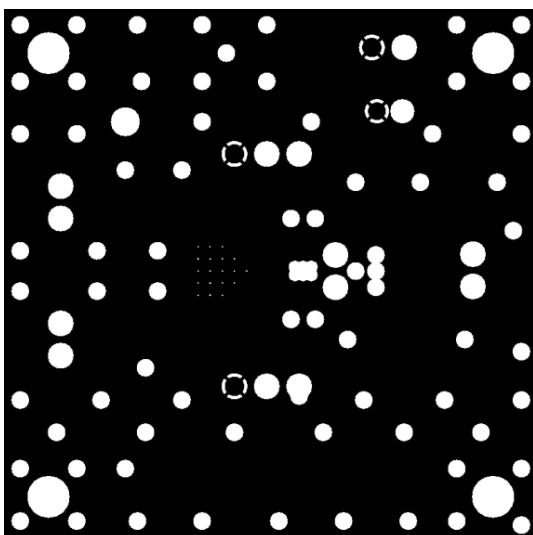


Figure 6. Third Layer Copper—VDD Plane

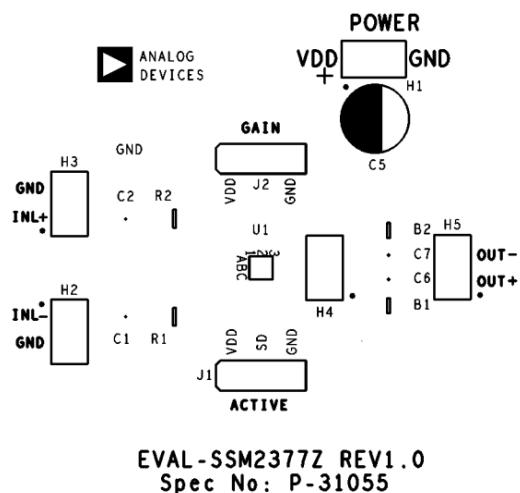


Figure 8. Top Silkscreen

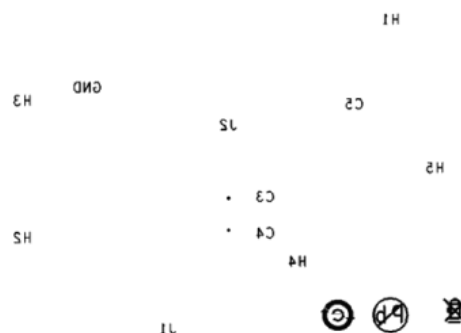


Figure 9. Bottom Silkscreen

ORDERING INFORMATION

BILL OF MATERIALS

Table 4.

Qty	Reference Designator	Description	Supplier	Part No.
1	U1	SSM2377 audio amplifier	Analog Devices	SSM2377ACBZ-RL
2	C1, C2	Capacitor, 22 nF, 50 V, $\pm 10\%$, X7R, 0805	Panasonic	ECJ-2VB1H223K
1	C3	Capacitor, 0.1 μ F, 50 V, $-20\%/+80\%$, Y5V, 0603	Panasonic	ECJ-1VF1H104Z
1	C4	Capacitor, 10 μ F, 10 V, $\pm 10\%$, X5R, 0805	Taiyo Yuden	LMK212BJ106KG-T
1	C5	Capacitor, 47 μ F, 25 V, radial electrolytic, audio grade	Nichicon	UFW1E470MDD
2	C6, C7	Not installed	N/A	N/A
2	B1, B2	Wire short	N/A	N/A
2	R1, R2	Resistor, 0 Ω , 1/8 W, 5%, 0805	Panasonic	ERJ-6GEY0R00V
5	H1 to H5	Header, 2-position, 0.100", single, gold	Tyco	9-146285-0-02
2	J1, J2	Header, 3-position, 0.100", single, gold	Molex	22-28-4033

**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.

Legal Terms and Conditions

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