

Burr-Brown Products from Texas Instruments

Sensor-Emulator-EVM System Reference Guide

by Art Kay High-Precision Linear Products

SBOA102A



Sensor-Emulator-EVM



- Simplifies Development of Voltage Excited Bridge Sensor Signal Conditioning Systems
- Provides Eleven Different Emulated Sensor Output Conditions
- Provides Three Different Emulated Temperature Signals for Diode or Series Resistor Methods of Bridge Sensor Temperature Monitoring
- Emulates Bridge Outputs
 - Cold Temp: 0%, 50%, 100%
 - Room Temp: 0%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%
 - Hot Temp: 0%, 50%, 100%
- LED Indicators for Emulation at a Glance



Sensor Emulator EVM



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Note: Some sections of this user's guide reference use of the PGA309EVM. This is done for ease of documenting features available on the Sensor-Emulator-EVM which will work with any bridge sensor signal conditioning chip which uses voltage bridge excitation.

1.0 Introduction to The Sensor Emulator



Q: What is the sensor emulator?

A: The sensor emulator is a design that uses rotary switches and potentiometers to emulate the operation of a resistive bridge sensor at discrete operating points, for voltage excitation applications.

Q: Why use the sensor emulator?

A: Once the sensor emulator has been programmed, it allows the user to cycle through a set of sensor output conditions very quickly. Doing this with a real sensor can be extremely time consuming because it can take several hours to cycle through various temperatures. Also, some sensors have non-repeatability issues. For example, pressure sensors can have pressure hysteresis and temperature hysteresis. The emulator does not have non-repeatability issues (repeatability errors are typically less then 0.03%). This approach allows the user to program the sensor signal conditioning chip many different ways to quickly and easily assess the optimal calibration settings for a given application.

1.0 Introduction to The Sensor Emulator



Q: Why not just use a precision voltage source to emulate a sensor?

A: A precision voltage source is not affected by changing sensor excitation. Many sensor signal conditioning chips modulate the sensor excitation to compensate for sensor nonlinearity. In this case (and in the case of a ratiometric system), a precision voltage source would not work. Also, it is much more convenient to have all the different sensor conditions pre-programmed so that you can quickly transition from one condition to another without having to reprogram the source at each different condition.

2.0 Overview of Hardware Emulation of a Real World Sensor



- Description of real world bridge sensors
 - Temperature Drift and Nonlinearity versus applied stimulus
 - Measurement of the sensor temperature
- Description of how Sensor-Emulator-EVM circuitry produces signals equivalent to real world sensors
 - Emulates four different real world configurations

Bridge Sensor Output



Output With No Stimulus Applied (Offset)

Output With Full Scale Stimulus Applied



Figure 2.1 is an example of a typical resistive bridge sensor with no applied stimulus. With no stimulus applied, the resistors ideally would be perfectly matched and the sensors' output (V_{IN_DIF}) would be zero. Most practical sensors, however, will have some output resulting from resistor mismatch. The output signal with no applied stimulus is called **offset**. Figure 2.2 is an example of a typical resistive bridge sensor with full scale stimulus applied. For the example sensor, the offset is 5mV (Figure 2.1) and the full scale output is 32mV (Figure 2.2). Span is defined as the difference between the full scale stimulus and the offset (Span = Full Scale Output – Offset).

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Drift and Nonlinearity with a Bridge Sensor





An important aspect of pressure sensors is how they drift with temperature. Figure 2.3 is an example of span and offset drift with temperature for a typical resistive bridge sensor. Note that the drift is fairly large and nonlinear. Figure 2.4 is an example of how a bridge sensor can be nonlinear with applied stimulus (in this example the stimulus is pressure). The sensor emulator can be configured to reproduce these characteristics for most sensors. Note that the graphs are shown in a normalized format. The normalized format allows the graph to be easily scaled by multiplying by the bridge excitation voltage.

Emulating Bridge Sensor Outputs

This is a simplified diagram of how the sensor emulator generates a bridge output voltage. The potentiometer R102 is adjusted to set the output voltage of the emulated bridge (V_{in+} with respect to V_{in-}). The potentiometer R103 is used to make fine adjustments in the output value. R8 and R9 set a common mode voltage for the other leg of the bridge. R101 and R104 set the adjustable output range of the emulated bridge. For the configuration shown, the output range is -25mV to +26mV ($V_{dif} = V_{in-} - V_{in+}$). Selecting a different value for R101 and R104 can expand this range. On the Sensor-Emulator-EVM, 11 channels like this one are selectable using a rotary switch.



Positive full scale of the emulator Negative full scale of the emulator $V_{exc} := 5$ $R_{104} := 10 \cdot 10^3$ $R_{102} := 200$ $R_{101} := 10 \cdot 10^3$ $V_{exc} := 5 \quad R_{104} := 10 \cdot 10^3 \quad R_{102} := 200 \quad R_{101} := 10 \cdot 10^3$ $R_{102a} := 200$ Wiper position at top of POT Wiper position at bottom of POT $R_{102a} := 0$ $R_{103} := 10$ Pot set to maximum Resistance Pot set to Minimum Resistance $R_{103} := 0$ $V_{dif} := \frac{V_{exc} \cdot (R_{104} + R_{103} + R_{102a})}{R_{101} + R_{104} + R_{102} + R_{102}} - \frac{V_{exc}}{2}$ $V_{\text{dif}} := \frac{V_{\text{exc}} \cdot \left(R_{104} + R_{103} + R_{102a}\right)}{R_{101} + R_{104} + R_{102} + R_{102}} - \frac{V_{\text{exc}}}{2}$ Positive full scale output of emulator $V_{dif} = 0.026$ $V_{dif} = -0.025$ Negative full scale output of emulator

Figure 2.5

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Emulating a Temperature Sensor with a Series Bridge Resistor





Figure 2.6 illustrates one method for monitoring the temperature of a real world bridge sensor. In this type of circuit the resistance of the bridge has a strong temperature coefficient. The bridge resistance generates a bridge current with a strong temperature coefficient, which generates a voltage across the temperature sensing resistor (Rt). Rt is typically located remotely from the bridge and should not have a strong temperature coefficient. Note that Rt can be connected to the top or bottom of the bridge. This diagram illustrates the case where it is connected to the bottom of the bridge. The sensor emulator circuit has three channels to emulate the Rt temperature signal that are selectable through a rotary switch.

An important aspect of the Rt method of temperature sensing is the reduction of the excitation voltage across the bridge by the series Rt resistance. For example, if Vt = 1V and Vexc = 5V, then only 4V remains for the bridge excitation. This phenomena is modeled by the sensor emulator and the detail of how this works are described in Figure 2.15.

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Emulating a Temperature Sensor with a Series Bridge Resistor





The sensor emulator circuit can also emulate the case where the temperature sense resistor is connected to the top of the bridge. This is done using an instrumentation amplifier to translate the voltage signal to be referenced to Vexc rather then ground. This mode of operation is selected by a jumper (JUMP1). This circuit also feeds the temperature signal back to the bridge emulator to adjust the excitation across the bridge, as in the real world case. The details of how this feedback works are described in Figure 2.15.

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Diode Temperature Sensor Emulator





Figure 2.12 illustrates another method for monitoring the temperature of a real world sensor. In this type of circuit a diode is placed in close thermal contact with the bridge and a constant current is driven through the diode. The diode voltage is a reasonably linear function with temperature (the slope is approximately -2mV / °C). The emulator circuit shown in Figure 2.13 uses resistors to develop a voltage equivalent to the diode voltage. Figure 2.14 shows how the emulator can be used to develop an equivalent diode drop if an external current source is not available.

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Emulation Case 1: Rt-(Resistance in the Bottom of The Bridge) Rt- Temperature Bridge Voltage Emulation Signal Emulation 5.0V Real World Sensor Input To Bridge X1 5.0V U1A Vexc Note that the output signals of the (Excitation voltage) 114 $R8 \gtrsim 10 k\Omega$ $R101 \gtrsim$ real world sensor and the emulator $10k\Omega$ are the same. $10k\Omega$ Output of Sensor R2401 ⊷Vexc = 5V Vin+ to Signal U1b Conditioning Chip 2.305V 200 ohm 1.1078kΩ 2 1.101kΩ Adjusted **50**Ω 2.305V R102 to 1kΩ 12.48mV 2kΩ **150**Ω R2402 Output of Sensor $V_{DIF} = 12.4 mV$ **1.1075k**Ω Vin- to Signal 1.1023kΩ 2.292V R103 10 ohm U1d Conditioning Chip Adjusted Adjusted 2 29 to 5Ω to 50Ω R2403 100ohm R9≥10kΩ Rt-Temperature 0.415 R104 10kΩ 100Ω [>]Signal V_T = 0.415V 0.415V Temperature > R2404 Rt Signal V_T. >1kΩ 0.415 U1c JUMP5 U5 GND Rt-Temperature Signal Diode Output referenced JUMP1 0.415V 112 Rt+ INA **Rt+** Temperature Figure 2.15 Signal Emulation

This diagram illustrates how the emulator generates the bridge output and temperature signals for the circuit where the sense resistor is connected to the bottom of the bridge. Note how the output voltage of the temperature emulator (0.415V) is fed back to the bottom of the bridge emulator via the buffer circuit (U5 and U1c), to emulate the bridge excitation change due to Rt in series with the bridge in the real world.

(Not used in this mode)

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Emulation Case 2: Rt+ (Resistance in the Top of The Bridge)



This diagram illustrates how the emulator generates the bridge output and temperature signal for the circuit where the sense resistor is connected to the top of the bridge. Note how the output voltage of the temperature emulator (0.415V) is fed back to the bottom of the bridge emulator via the buffer circuit (U5 and U1c) to emulate the bridge excitation change due to Rt in series with the bridge in the real world. Also, note how the instrumentation amplifier (U2) is used to translate the temperature signal voltage so that it is referenced to the excitation voltage (Vexc).

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Emulation Case 3: Diode Temperature Sensor with External Current Source



This diagram illustrates how the emulator generates the bridge output and temperature signal for the diode temperature measurement. Note that in this case JUMP1 is set so that the bottom of the bridge emulator is at ground potential. Also note that this configuration requires an external current source to operate (in this example, 7µA).

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Emulation Case 4: Diode Temperature Sensor with On-Board Voltage Reference



This diagram illustrates how the emulator generates the bridge output and temperature signal for the diode temperature measurement. Note that in this case JUMP1 is set so that the bottom of the bridge emulator is at ground potential. Also note that this uses an on-board voltage reference (REF102) to set the diode voltage (JUMP2 selects this option).

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3.0 Changing the Programmable Range of the Emulator

Figure 3.1 illustrates how the range of the bridge emulator can be adjusted by putting a resistor in parallel with R101 and R104. This needs to be done for each channel of the emulator (11 channels x 2 resistors = 22 resistors total). The examples illustrates how the range is increased using a 1kΩ parallel resistor. In general, it is best to select a parallel resistance value that scales your range so that the full scale output of the emulator is slightly larger than what is required for your emulator. Scaling the emulator in this manner will provide the optimal resolution and lowest noise. Note that holes are provided for a parallel through-hole resistor to simplify the process of adjusting the emulator scale.



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4.0 Required Electrical Connections



Example of a Typical Engineering Bench Setup



This diagram illustrates an example of how the sensor emulator would be used in an engineering bench setup. The PGA309 is a programmable sensor signal conditioning chip. The Sensor-Emulator-EVM can be used in conjunction with the PGA309EVM to facilitate the development of a PGA309 application.

Note on the Buf_Temp Banana Jacks



The Buf_Temp banana jacks are used to monitor the temperature signal with a DVM. It is important to monitor temperature at this point because the non-buffered temperature signal is a high impedance output, and the DVM can load this output.



Note on the Vin- and Vin+ **Banana Jacks**



The Vin- and Vin+ banana jacks are used to monitor the sensor output signal with a DVM. The Vin banana jacks are connected to the Vin signal through a standard RC filter. This filter helps to reduce the coupling of noise (from ground loops) into the sensor output circuit, and into high gain sensor signal conditioner inputs.



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Emulation Case 1: Resistance in the Bottom of the Bridge Rt-



Emulation Case 2: Resistance in the Top of the Bridge Rt+





Emulation Case 3: Diode Temperature Sensor with External Current Source

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Emulation Case 4: Diode Temperature Sensor with Onboard Voltage Reference



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5.0 Configuring the Sensor-Emulator-EVM to Emulate a



Real World Sensor

If the raw output of the sensor is not known, the *generate_emu_values.xls* spreadsheet (SBOC065, available for download at <u>www.ti.com</u>) can be used to translate the specifications of your bridge sensor and temperature sensor to system voltage levels. The spreadsheet contains five sections:

- 1. Offset and Span: Generates the bridge output voltages.
- 2. Diode Vo: Generates the temperature sensor output voltages for the diode method.
- 3. Rt-: Generates the temperature sensor voltages for the Rt- method.
- 4. Rt+: Generates the temperature sensor voltages for the Rt- method.
- 5. PGA309_Error: Allows you to read the PGA309 via the ADS1100.

Þ	N \ 0	ffset and Sp	an / Diode	: Vo / Rt- /	(Rt+ / PG/	A309 Error	<u>k PGA309 </u>	RatioMetri	c Error /
							ee		k

Offset and Span: Generates the bridge UNITE TEXAS OUTPUT voltages from sensor specifications INSTRUMENTS

All the areas shown in light blue are either sensor specifications or system requirements. Enter these values and the spreadsheet will generate output voltage settings for each channel on the sensor emulator. The next several pages will show how the voltages listed in the spreadsheet are used to program the sensor emulator.

	A	B	С	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J
1	Temp range:	degC								
2	Tmin=	-45.00		Precalibrati	ion Sensor Sir	nulator Set	tings (LinD	ac = 0)		
3	Tmax=	90.00				Cold				
4	Troom=	22.50		Pressure In	put	0%	50%	100%		
5				Sensor Out	put (mV)	-0.215	5.379	11.939		
6	Vexc (V)	3.400E+00								
7						Room				
8	Span (V/V)	3.509E-03		Pressure In	put	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
9	Offset (V/V)	-2.945E-04		Sensor Out	put (mV)	-1.001	1.626	4.490	7.591	10.929
10										
11						Hot				
12				Pressure In	put	0%	50%	100%		
13	NonlinSpanDrift (% of Span)	-5.031E-02		Sensor Out	put (mV)	-1.053	4.887	11.855		
14	NonlinOffsetDrift (% of Span)	-3.077E-02								
15	PressureNonlin (% of Span)	-3.976E-02								
16										
17	GainTC1 (% of Span/C)	4.682E-04								
18	OffsetTC1 (% of Span/C)	-5.205E-04								
19	GainTCNonlin(TC2) (% of Span/C ²)	-1.104E-05								
20	OffsetTCNonlin(TC2) (% of Span/C ²)	-6.753E-06								
21										
22	Note: % of Span is representated as a	decimal numb	er							
23	i.e. OffsetTC1 (% of Span) = 0.1 is 10%	6								
24										
25										
26										



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Diode Vo: Generate Diode Voltages based on Operating Temperature Range

The second tab in the spreadsheet allows the user to enter the temperature range and room temperature diode voltage (light blue areas). The spreadsheet calculates the diode voltages and displays the results in the yellow areas. Note that the Temp ADC area is specific to the PGA309 sensor signal conditioning chip. The Temp ADC values will be used in the computation of the *Counts* for the temp ADC. The next several pages will show how the diode voltages are used to program the sensor emulator.

	Α	B	С	D	E	F
10						
11	Temp range:	degC		Temp(degC)	Diode Vbe (V)	Counts
12	Tmin=	-45.00		-45.00	0.75	24000
13	Troom=	20.00		20.00	0.62	19840
14	Tmax=	90.00		90.00	0.48	15360
15						
16	Diode	Volts				
17	Room Temp Vbe=	0.62				
18						
19	Temp ADC					
20	Vref (in V) =	4.096				
21	Numb Bits	16				
22	Gain=	4				
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						



 Temp(degC)	Diode Vbe (V)	Counts	
-45.00	0.81	25920	
20.00	0.68	21760	X
90.00	0.54	17280	

The temperature output signal at room temperature (25°C) is emulated by this channel. The rotary switch S2 is used to select this channel. When the channel is selected, LED D202 will light to indicate that the correct channel is selected.





 Temp(degC)
 Diode Vbe (V)
 Counts
 tem

 -45.00
 0.81
 25920
 cha

 20.00
 0.68
 21760
 sel

 90.00
 0.54
 17280
 sel

The temperature output signal at hot temperature (85°C) is emulated by this channel. The rotary switch S2 is used to select this channel. When the channel is selected, LED D203 will light to indicate that the correct channel is selected.

Generate Rt Voltages based on Operating Temperature Range and System Parameters

The third tab in the spreadsheet allows the user to enter the temperature range and other system parameters in the light blue areas. The spreadsheet calculates the voltage level of the temperature signal and displays this in the yellow areas. Note that the Temp ADC area is specific to the PGA309 sensor signal conditioning chip. The Temp ADC values will be used in the computation of the *Counts* for the Temp ADC. The next several pages will show how the Rt voltages are used to program the sensor emulator.

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D	E	F	G
Temp (degC)	Rbridge	Vrt	Counts
-45.00	9545	0.322428	1290
20.00	10000	0.309091	1236
90.00	10490	0.295909	1184

The temperature output signal at cold temperature (-45°C) is emulated by this channel. The rotary switch S2 is used to select this channel. When the channel is selected, LED D204 will light to indicate that the correct channel is selected.

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D	E	F	G
Temp (degC)	Rbridge	Vrt	Counts
-45.00	9545	0.322428	1290
20.00	10000	0.309091	1236
90.00	10490	0.295909	1184

The temperature output signal at room temperature (20°C) is emulated by this channel. The rotary switch S2 is used to select this channel. When the channel is selected, LED D204 will light to indicate that the correct channel is selected.

D	E	F	G	
Temp (degC)	Rbridge	Vrt	Counts	
-45.00	9545	0.322428	1290	
20.00	10000	0.309091	1236	
90.00	10490	0.295909	1184	4

The temperature output signal at hot temperature (90°C) is emulated by this channel. The rotary switch S2 is used to select this channel. When the channel is selected, LED D204 will light to indicate that the correct channel is selected.

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6.0 Schematic

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7.0 Parts List

Sensor Emulator Board Parts List			Matches PR1217 Rev G				
Qty/EVM	Ref Des	Description	Part No.	Mfr.	Disti	Disti Part No.	
		POST BINDING INSUL GROUNDED					
2	J1, J3	RED	111-0702-001	Johnson Components	Digikey	111-0702-001-ND	
		POST BINDING INSUL GROUNDED					
2	J2, J4	BLACK	111-0703-001	Johnson Components	Digikey	111-0703-001-ND	
		3-Position Terminal Strip, Cage Clamp,					
3	T1-T3	45°, 15A, Dove-tailed	ED300/3	On-Shore Technology Inc	Digikey	ED1620-ND	
	C1, C2, C5, C6, C7, C9, C10, C11,						
11	C12, C18, C19	CAP .1UF 25V CERAMIC X7R 0805	ECJ-2VB1E104K	Yageo America	Digikey	PCC1828CT-ND	
2	C8, C17	CAP 0.01uF 50V CERAMIC X7R 0805	C0805C103K5RACTU	Kemet	Digikey	399-1158-1-ND	
1	C13	CAP CERAMIC 1UF 25V X5R 0805	ECJ-2FB1E105K	Panasonic - ECG	Digikey	PCC2319CT-ND	
		CAPACITOR TANT 10UF 20V 10% SMD					
2	C3, C4	Size C	T491C106K020AS	Kemet	Digikey	399-1614-1-ND	
2	C14, C15, C16	OMIT (LEAVE BLANK ON PCB)		_			
	R103, R203, R303,R403, R503,						
	R603, R703, R803, R903, R1003,						
11	R1103	10ohm 25turn pot	3296Y-1-100	Bourns Inc	Digikey	3296Y-100-ND	
	R102, R202, R302, R402, R502,						
	R602, R702, R802, R902, R1002,	000 1 051					
11	R1102	2000nm 25turn pot	3296Y-1-201	Bourns Inc	Digikey	3296Y-201-ND	
3	R2102, R2202, R2302	TOOK 25 turn pot	32961-1-104	Bourns Inc	Digikey	32961-104-ND	
3	R2103, R2203, R2303	Sk 25 turn pot	3296Y-1-502	Bourns Inc	Digikey	32961-502-ND	
3	R2403, R2503, R2603	50k 25 turn pot	32901-1-202 2206V 1 502	Bourns Inc	Digikey	32901-202-ND	
3	R2402, R2502, R2602	Sok 25 turn pot	32901-1-303	Bourns Inc	Digikey	32901-303-ND	
	R 101, R201, R301, R401, R501, R601 R701 R801 R001 R1001						
	P1101 P104 P204 P304 P404						
	R504 R604 R704 R804 R004						
	R1004 R1104 R8 R9 R2401						
	R2501 R2601 R2101 R2201						
30	R2301	RES 10K OHM 1/16W 1% 0603 SMD	ERA-3YEB103V	Panasonic - ECG	Digikey		
3	R2404 R2504 R2604	RES 2 0K OHM 1/16W 1% 0603 SMD	ERA-3YEB202V	Panasonic - ECG	Digikey	P2 0KYCT-ND	
2	R6.R7	4.02k 1/16W 1% 0603 SMD	9C06031A4021FKHFT	Yageo America	Digikey	311-4.02KHCT-ND	
2	R10, R11	RES 10.0 OHM 1/16W 1% 0603 SMD	ERJ-3EKF10R0V	Yageo America	Digikev	P10.0HCT-ND	
4	R1 R2 R12 R13	RES 100 OHM 1/16W 1% 0603 SMD	ERA-3YEB101V	Panasonic - ECG	Digikey	P100YCT-ND	
			LIVIOIEDIOIV		Digitoy		
3	R3 R4 R5	RESISTOR 1 20M OHM 1/16W 1% 0603	FRJ-3FKF1204V	Panasonic - ECG	Digikey	P1 20MHCT-ND	
	,,	SWITCH ROTARY DP-12POS					
2	S1-S2	ENCLOSED	C3P0212N-A	Bourns Inc	Digikey	451-1007-ND	
5	JUMP1-JUMP5	3-Position Pin Strip Header	PEG03SS-GBR	Crane Connectors	Bisco Industries		
5	Jumpers for JUMP1-JUMP5	Jumper Shorting Units	881545-2	Amp	Digikey	A26242-ND	
	D101, D102, D103, D104, D105,				, <u>,</u>		
	D106, D107, D108, D109, D110,						
	D201, D202, D203, D204, D205,						
17	D206	Ultra Bright Red Diffused LED, 0603 pkg	LNJ208R8ARA	Panasonic	Digikey	P524CT-ND	

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Parts List, cont'd

Sensor Emulator Board Parts List

Matches PR1217 Rev G

Qty/EVM	Ref Des	Description	Part No.	Mfr.	Disti	Disti Part No.
2	D1, D2	DIODE SCHOTTKY 40V 0.5A SOT-23	ZHCS500TA	Zetex Inc	Digikey	ZHCS500CT-ND
1	U1	OPA4277UA	OPA4277UA	Texas Instruments	Digikey	OPA4277UA-ND
1	U2	INA118U	INA118U	Texas Instruments	Digikey	INA118U-ND
1	U3	REF102AU	REF102AU	Texas Instruments	Digikey	REF102AU-ND
2	U4 - U5	BUF634F	BUF634FKTTT	Texas Instruments	Digikey	296-15904-1-ND
		OPA277UA IC PRECISION OPAMP SO				
1	U6	8	OPA277UA	Texas Instruments	Digikey	OPA277UA-ND
		4-40 hex standoffs, Threaded, 0.500"				
		length, 0.250" OD, Aluminum Iridite				
10		Finish	2203	Keystone	Digikey	2203K-ND
		4-40x3/8" Philips PanHead Machine				
10		Screw, Steel, Zinc Plated	PMS 440 0038 PH	Building Fasteners	Digikey	H781-ND
2		KNOB INSTRUM SGL BAR RND .5"DIA	8567	Keystone Electronics	Digikey	8567K-ND

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