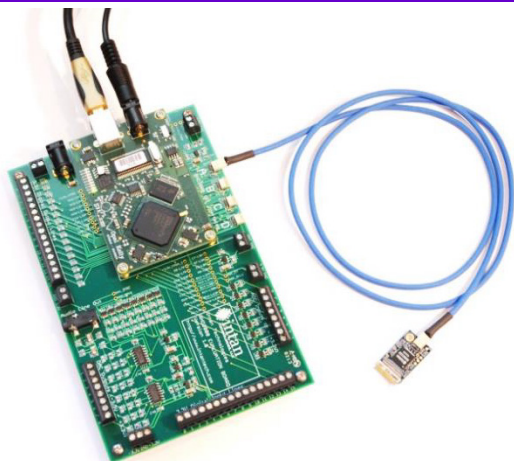


RHD2000-EVAL

Application Note: Adapting SPI Cables to a Commutator

19 April 2013



Q:

How can the Intan Technologies RHD2000 evaluation system be wired to a commutator or other custom connector using the Intan SPI interface cables?

A:

Intan Technologies provides simple hardware that allows signals from standard RHD2000 SPI interface cables to be adapted to commutators or other user-specific connectors with ease. This application note describes how to use the **SPI cable adapter board** to accomplish this.

The RHD2000 evaluation system uses custom SPI (Serial Peripheral Interface) cables to link the RHD2000 USB interface board to amplifier boards. These cables provide both power and low-voltage differential signals (LVDS) conveying digital data. The details of these cables and associated connectors are described in the **RHD2000 SPI Cable/Connector Specification** available from the Intan Technologies website.

Figures 1 and 2 below show the SPI cable adapter board connected to an RHD2000 SPI interface cable. The adapter board contains no active circuitry; it simply breaks out all 12 signals from an SPI interface cable to easily accessible gold-plated holes with a 0.1" pitch. Wires or other connectors may be soldered to these holes.

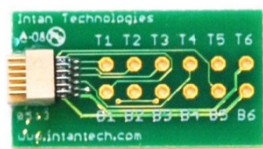


Figure 1. SPI cable adapter board

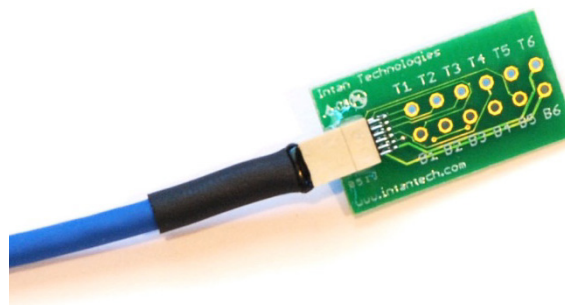


Figure 2. SPI cable adapter board plugged into RHD2000 SPI interface cable.

RHD2000-EVAL Application Note

The signals on each SPI cable adapter board are labeled T1 – T6 and B1 – B6. Note that the ‘T’ and ‘B’ pin names refer to the top and bottom row of pins on the connector attached to the adapter board. Due to the daisy chaining capability of these connectors, signals will alternate between ‘top’ and ‘bottom’ depending on how the adapter is connected to the system. The following table provides a quick reference to these signal locations:

Table 1: SPI cable adapter signals

SPI adapter pin number	Signal with cable adapter plugged into amplifier board	Signal with cable adapter plugged into USB interface board
B1	$\overline{\text{CS}}+$	$\overline{\text{CS}}-$
T1	$\overline{\text{CS}}-$	$\overline{\text{CS}}+$
B2	SCLK+	SCLK-
T2	SCLK-	SCLK+
B3	MOSI+	MOSI-
T3	MOSI-	MOSI+
B4	MISO1+	MISO1-
T4	MISO1-	MISO1+
B5	MISO2+	MISO2-
T5	MISO2-	MISO2+
B6	Power (3.3V)	Ground
T6	Ground	Power (3.3V)

To adapt SPI cables to a commutator or other custom connector, two SPI cable adapter boards may be used in manner depicted in Figure 3:

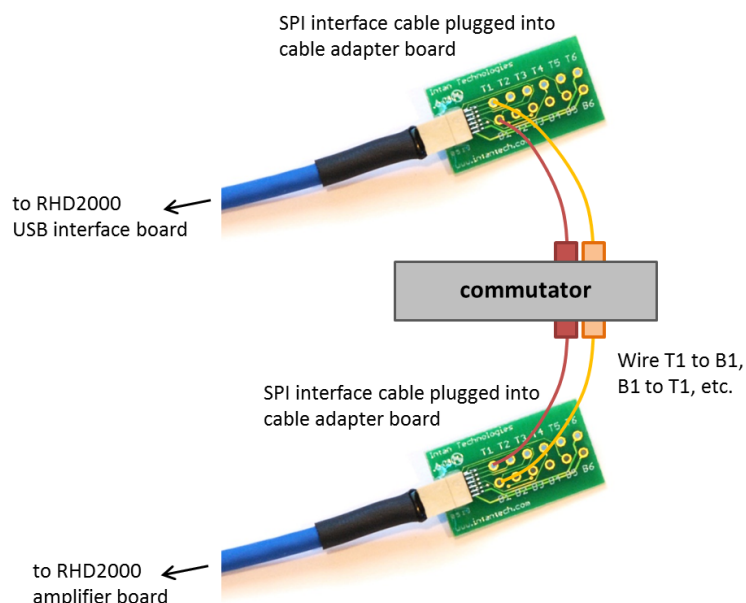


Figure 3. Two SPI interface cables and two SPI cable adapter boards are used to pass signals through a commutator or other custom connector.

Note that ‘T’ signals from one cable adapter board must be wired to ‘B’ signals in the other board. (See Table 1 above.)

If an amplifier board containing a single RHD2000 chip is used, the signals B5 and T5 can be omitted as the MISO2 differential data line is used only when a second RHD2000 chip is used.

Therefore single-chip amplifier boards (e.g., the type currently sold by Intan Technologies) require 10 signals to pass through the commutator or custom connector.

Wires between each SPI cable adapter board and the commutator should be kept short to maintain high signal integrity. If long wires are required, twisted pairs should be used for each differential signal (e.g., SCLK+ and SCLK-, etc.).