Evaluation Board for the SSM2377 Filterless, Class-D Audio Amplifier

PACKAGE CONTENTS
EVAL-SSM2377Z evaluation board

OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION
SSM2377 data sheet

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
The SSM2377 is a fully integrated, high efficiency, Class-D audio amplifier. It is designed to maximize performance for mobile phone applications. The application circuit requires a minimum of external components and operates from a single 2.5 V to 5.5 V supply. It is capable of delivering 2.5 W of continuous output power with <1% THD + N when driving a 4 Ω load from a 5.0 V supply. Spread-spectrum pulse density modulation (PDM) is used to provide lower EMI-radiated emissions compared with other Class-D architectures. The inherent randomized nature of spread-spectrum PDM eliminates the clock intermodulation (beating effect) of several amplifiers in close proximity.

The SSM2377 produces ultralow EMI emissions that significantly reduce the radiated emissions at the Class-D outputs, particularly above 100 MHz. The SSM2377 passes FCC Class B radiated emission testing with 50 cm, unshielded speaker cable without any external filtering.

The device also includes a gain select pin that allows the user to select a 6 dB or a 12 dB gain. This option improves gain matching between multiple SSM2377 devices within a single application as compared to using external resistors to set the gain. Input impedance is 80 kΩ and is independent of the gain setting.

This user guide describes how to configure and use the SSM2377 evaluation board. The user guide should be read in conjunction with the SSM2377 data sheet, which provides detailed information about the specifications, internal block diagrams, and application guidance for the amplifier IC.

EVALUATION BOARD OVERVIEW
The SSM2377 evaluation board carries a complete application circuit for driving a loudspeaker. Figure 1 shows the top view of the evaluation board, and Figure 2 shows the bottom view.
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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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gain Setting (dB)</th>
<th>J2 Configuration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tie center pin to VDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tie center pin to GND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

\[ C = \frac{1}{(2\pi \times R_{IN} \times f_c) } \]

where:

- \( R_{IN} = 80 \text{kΩ} + (R1 \text{ or } R2) \)
- \( f_c \) 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 ≥120 Ω. 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 μH. 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 μH to 2.2 μH inductors is recommended, and the current rating (and saturation current) should exceed 600 mA for an 8 Ω load. Table 3 lists the recommended inductors.

### Table 2. Recommended Output Beads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part No.</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Z (Ω)</th>
<th>I_{MAX} (mA)</th>
<th>DCR (Ω)</th>
<th>Size (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLM18PG121SN1D</td>
<td>Murata</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.6 × 0.8 × 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPZ1608S101A</td>
<td>TDK</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>1.6 × 0.8 × 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPZ1608S221A</td>
<td>TDK</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.6 × 0.8 × 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLM18EG221SN1D</td>
<td>Murata</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.6 × 0.8 × 0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3. Recommended Output Inductors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part No.</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>L (μH)</th>
<th>I_{MAX} (mA)</th>
<th>DCR (Ω)</th>
<th>Size (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LQM31PNR47M00</td>
<td>Murata</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>3.2 × 1.6 × 0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LQM31PN1R0M00</td>
<td>Murata</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>3.2 × 1.6 × 0.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LQM21PNR47MC0</td>
<td>Murata</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>2.0 × 1.25 × 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LQM21PN1R0MC0</td>
<td>Murata</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>0.2375</td>
<td>2.0 × 1.25 × 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LQH32CN2R2M53</td>
<td>Murata</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3.2 × 2.5 × 1.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
ORDERING INFORMATION

BILL OF MATERIALS

Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Reference Designator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Supplier</th>
<th>Part No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>U1</td>
<td>SSM2377 audio amplifier</td>
<td>Analog Devices</td>
<td>SSM2377ACBZ-RL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>C1, C2</td>
<td>Capacitor, 22 nF, 50 V, ±10%, X7R, 0805</td>
<td>Panasonic</td>
<td>ECJ-2V81H223K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Capacitor, 0.1 μF, 50 V, −20%/+80%, Y5V, 0603</td>
<td>Panasonic</td>
<td>ECJ-1VF1H104Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Capacitor, 10 μF, 10 V, ±10%, X5R, 0805</td>
<td>Taiyo Yuden</td>
<td>LMK212BJ106KG-T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>C5</td>
<td>Capacitor, 47 μF, 25 V, radial electrolytic, audio grade</td>
<td>Nichicon</td>
<td>UFW1E470MDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>C6, C7</td>
<td>Not installed</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>B1, B2</td>
<td>Wire short</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>R1, R2</td>
<td>Resistor, 0 Ω, 1/8 W, 5%, 0805</td>
<td>Panasonic</td>
<td>ERJ-6GEY0R00V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>H1 to H5</td>
<td>Header, 2-position, 0.100&quot;, single, gold</td>
<td>Tyco</td>
<td>9-146285-0-02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>J1, J2</td>
<td>Header, 3-position, 0.100&quot;, single, gold</td>
<td>Molex</td>
<td>22-28-4033</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>