



ES Series
Basic Evaluation Kit
User's Guide

Wireless made simple[®]



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Do not use this or any Linx product to trigger an action directly from the data line or RSSI lines without a protocol or encoder/decoder to validate the data. Without validation, any signal from another unrelated transmitter in the environment received by the module could inadvertently trigger the action. This module does not have data validation built in.

All RF products are susceptible to RF interference that can prevent communication. RF products without frequency agility or hopping implemented are more subject to interference. This module does not have frequency agility built in.

Do not use any Linx product over the limits in this data guide.

Excessive voltage or extended operation at the maximum voltage could cause product failure. Exceeding the reflow temperature profile could cause product failure which is not immediately evident.

Do not make any physical or electrical modifications to any Linx product. This will void the warranty and regulatory and UL certifications and may cause product failure which is not immediately evident.

Ordering Information

Ordering Information	
Part Number	Description
EVAL-***-ES	ES Series Basic Evaluation Kit
*** = 869, 916MHz	

Figure 2: Ordering Information

ES Transmitter Evaluation Board

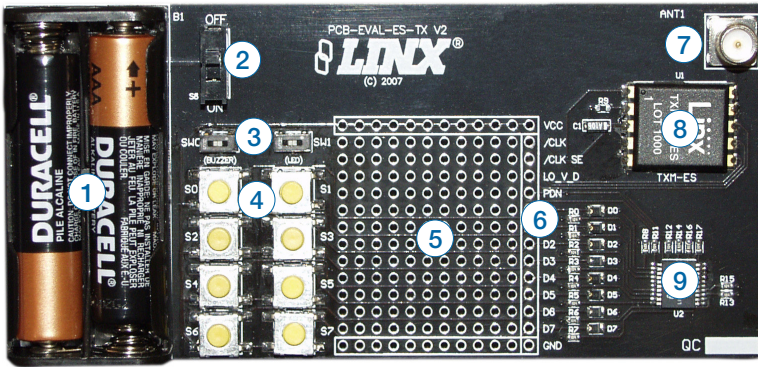


Figure 3: ES Transmitter Evaluation Board

- 1. Batteries - 3VDC (use 2 AAA style batteries only)
- 2. Power Switch
- 3. Continuous ON Switches
- 4. Momentary Pushbuttons - S0 (D0), S1 (D1)
- 5. Prototyping Area
- 6. Breakout Header
- 7. Reverse-Polarity SMA Antenna Connector
- 8. ES Series Transmitter Module
- 9. MS Series Encoder

Theory of Operation

Transmitter Evaluation Board

The transmitter board is powered by two AAA batteries. It has eight SPST pushbutton switches, the states of which is encoded into a data stream using a using a Linx MS Series encoder. If a switch is closed, the transmitter is enabled while the encoder captures the pushbutton states for encoding and transmission. The encoder powers down the transmitter when the button is released. All of the encoder data lines have been wired out to the header to the right of the prototyping area and can be accessed for use with other switches, contacts, or microcontrollers.

Receiver Evaluation Board

The receiver board is powered by a 9V battery. The ES Series receiver exhibits a sensitivity of greater than -97dBm , so under optimum line-of-sight conditions, the transmitter / receiver link can operate over distances of up to 1,000 feet. The data recovered by the ES Series receiver is decoded by a MS Series decoder, and the data lines are updated to match the state of the data lines (or pushbuttons) on the transmitter board. To demonstrate this, one data line is used to drive a LED while another is used to activate a buzzer. This board also has a prototyping area with all of the receiver and decoder lines brought out to a header.

Using the Kit

Using the kit is straightforward. Simply attach the antennas, turn on the power, and press buttons on the transmitter board. When S0 is pressed, the buzzer sounds; when S1 is pressed, the LED turns on. When any button (S0–S7) is pressed on the transmitter, the corresponding decoder output (D0–D7) is active high (V_{CC}) on the prototyping header.

Range Testing

Several complex mathematical models exist for determining path loss in many environments. These models vary as the transmitter and receiver are moved from indoor operation to outdoor operation. Although these models can provide an estimation of range performance in the field, the most reliable method is to simply perform range tests using the transmitter and receiver in the intended operational environment.

Simple range testing can be performed with the transmitter and receiver evaluation boards. To prepare the board for range testing, simply turn it on by switching the power switch to the ON position. Pressing S0 on the transmitter activates the buzzer on the receiver board, while S1 activates the LED. Switches SW0 and SW1 have been provided to jumper the buttons and continuously transmit. This allows the designer to turn on the transmitter and walk with the receiver.

As the maximum range of the link in an area is approached, it is not uncommon for the signal to cut in and out as the transmitter moves. This is normal and can result from other interfering sources or fluctuating signal levels due to multipath. Multipath results in cancellation of the transmitted signal as direct and reflected signals arrive at the receiver at differing times and phases. The areas in which this occurs are commonly called “nulls” and simply walking a little further usually restores the signal. If this does not restore the signal, then the maximum effective range of the link has been reached.

Since the evaluation boards are intended for use by design engineers, they are not FCC certified. The transmitter has been set to approximate legal limits by resistor R9 so that the range test results will approximate the results from a well-designed, certified product. For applications where Part 15 limits are not applicable or output levels can be legally raised due to protocol duty cycle, R9 can be changed according to the attenuation graph in the ES Series Transmitter Data Guide.

To achieve maximum range, keep objects such as your hand away from the antenna and ensure that the antenna on the transmitter has a clear and unobstructed line-of-sight path to the receiver board. Range performance is determined by many interdependent factors. If the range you are able to achieve is significantly less than specified by Linx for the products you are testing, then there is likely a problem with either the board or the ambient RF environment in which the board is operating. First, check the battery,

About Antennas

The choice of antennas is one of the most critical and often overlooked design considerations. The range, performance, and legality of an RF link are critically dependent upon the type of antenna employed. Linx offers a variety of antenna styles that can be considered for a design. Included with the kit is a Linx CW Series connectorized whip antenna that should be connected prior to using the kit. Despite the fact that the antenna is not centered on the board's ground plane, it exhibits a VSWR of <1.7 and suitably demonstrates the module's best practical performance.

In Closing

Here at Linx, "Wireless Made Simple" is more than just our motto, it is our commitment. A commitment to the highest caliber of product, service, and support. That is why, should you have questions or encounter any difficulties using the evaluation kit, you'll be glad to know many resources are available to assist you. First, check carefully for the obvious, then visit our website at www.linxtechnologies.com or call +1 541 471 6256 between 8AM and 4PM Pacific Time to speak with an application engineer.

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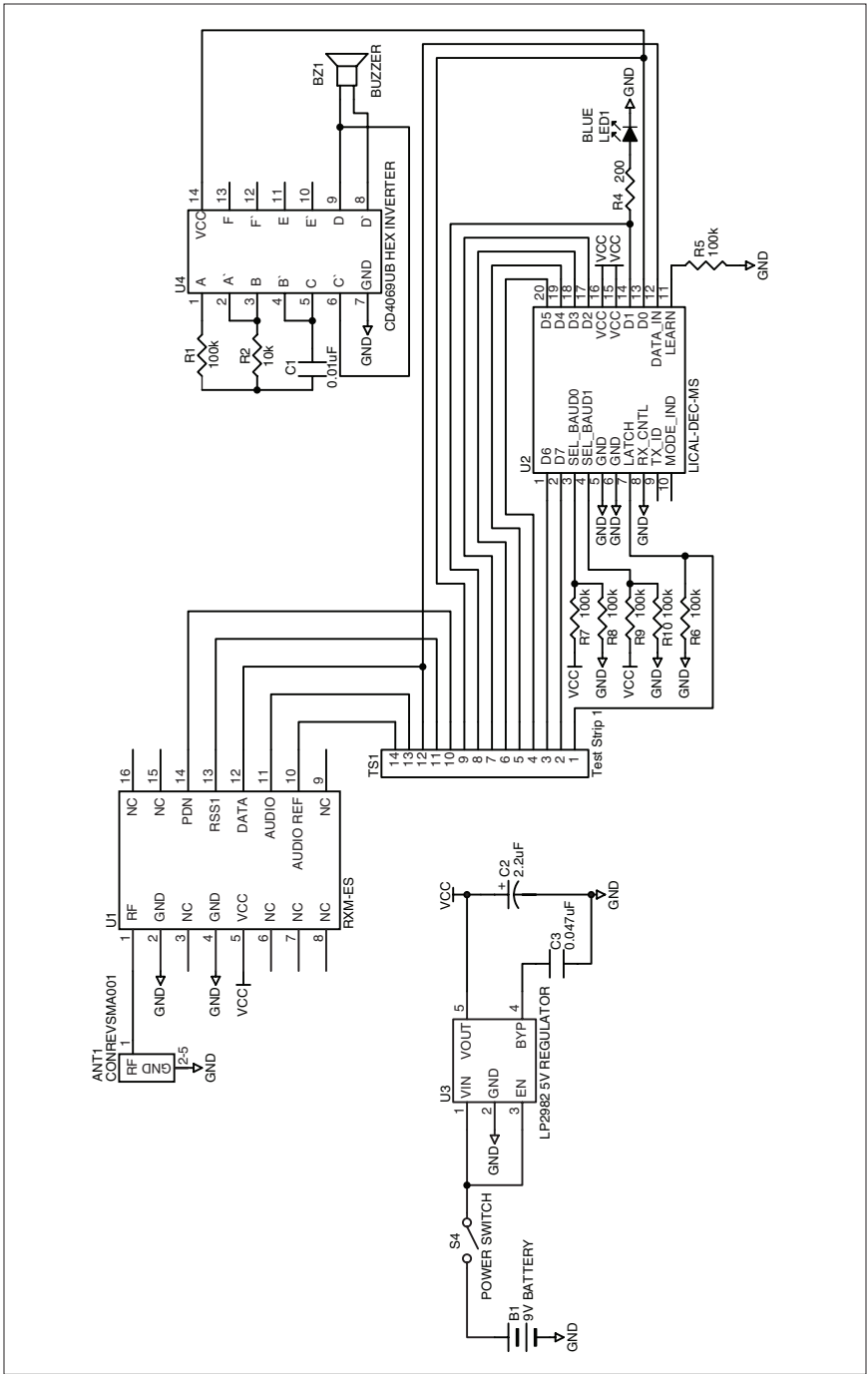


Figure 6: EVAL-***-ES Receiver Board Schematic



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