

MachXO3 Hardware Checklist

Technical Note



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This document was created consistent with Lattice Semiconductor's inclusive language policy. In some cases, the language in underlying tools and other items may not yet have been updated. Please refer to Lattice's inclusive language FAQ 6878 for a cross reference of terms. Note in some cases such as register names and state names it has been necessary to continue to utilize older terminology for compatibility.



Contents

Contents	3
Abbreviations in This Document	6
1. Introduction	7
2. Power Supply	8
2.1. Power Noise	8
2.2. Power Source	8
3. Power Supply Filtering	9
3.1. Recommended Power Filtering Groups and Components	9
4. Power Estimation	10
5. Power Sequencing	11
6. Configuration Considerations	
7. Controller SPI (MSPI)	17
8. PROGRAMN Initial Power Considerations	18
9. Pinout Considerations	19
10. sysI/O	20
11. True-LVDS Output Pin Assignments	21
12. PCI Clamp Pin Assignment	22
13. Clock Inputs	23
14. Issue: GPIO Input(s) Prevents Powering Down the FPGA	24
14.1. GPIO Input Current Leakage Pathway	24
14.2. Workarounds	24
15. Layout Recommendations	26
16. Checklist	27
References	28
Technical Support Assistance	29
Revision History.	30



Figures

Figure 3.1. Recommended Power Filter Group	9
Figure 6.1. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via JTAG	
Figure 6.2. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via SSPI	14
Figure 6.3. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via I2C	15
Figure 6.4. Typical Connections for Programming External Flash via JTAG	16
Figure 13.1. Clock Oscillator Bypassing	23
Figure 13.2. PCB Dual Footprint Supporting HCSL and LVDS Oscillators	
Figure 14.1. Potential Current Path for Powered Down FPGA with Driven Input	
Figure 15.1. PCB Layout Recommendation	



5

Tables

Table 2.1. Power Supply Description and Voltage Levels	8
Table 3.1. Recommended Power Filtering Groups and Components	
Table 6.1. Default State of the sysCONFIG Pins	
Table 10.1. Weak Pull-up/Pull-down Current Specifications	
Table 16.1. Hardware Checklist	



Abbreviations in This Document

A list of abbreviations used in this document.

Abbreviation	Definition
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
I2C	Inter-Integrated Circuit
SRAM	Static Random Access Memory
NVCM	Non Volatile Configuration Memory



1. Introduction

When designing complex hardware using the MachXO3™ PLD, specifically the L version, designers must pay special attention to critical hardware configuration requirements. This technical note steps through these critical hardware requirements related to the MachXO3L/LF devices. This document does not provide detailed step-by-step instructions but gives a high-level summary checklist to assist in the design process.

The MachXO3L/LF ultra-low power, instant-on, non-volatile PLDs are available in two versions C and E devices. C devices have an internal linear voltage regulator which supports external V_{CC} supply voltages of 3.3 V or 2.5 V. E devices only accept 1.2 V as the external V_{CC} supply voltage. With the exception of power supply voltage, both types of devices (C and E) are functionally and pin compatible with each other.

This technical note assumes that the reader is familiar with the MachXO3L/LF device features as described in the MachXO3 Family Data Sheet (FPGA-DS-02032).

The critical hardware areas covered in this technical note include:

- Power supplies as they relate to the MachXO3L/LF supply rails and how to connect them to the PCB and the associated system.
- Configuration and how to connect the configuration mode selection for proper power up configuration.
- Device I/O interface and critical signals.

Important: Refer to the following documents for detailed recommendations.

- Power Decoupling and Bypass Filtering for Programmable Devices (FPGA-TN-02083)
- Power and Thermal Estimation and Management for MachXO3 Devices (FPGA-TN-02059)
- MachXO3 sysIO Usage Guide (FPGA-TN-02056)
- Implementing High-Speed Interfaces with MachXO3 Devices (FPGA-TN-02057)
- MachXO3 Programming and Configuration Usage Guide (FPGA-TN-02055)
- Using Hardened Control Functions in MachXO3 Devices (FPGA-TN-02063)



2. Power Supply

The V_{CC} and $V_{CC|OO}$ power supplies determine the MachXO3L/LF internal power good condition. These supplies need to be at a valid and stable level before the device can become operational. In addition, there are five ($V_{CC|O1}$ to $V_{CC|O5}$) supplies that power the remaining I/O banks. Table 2.1 shows the power supplies and the appropriate voltage levels for each.

Refer to the MachXO3 Family Data Sheet (FPGA-DS-02032) for more information on the voltage levels.

Table 2.1. Power Supply Description and Voltage Levels

Supply	Voltage (Nominal Value)	Description
V	1.2 V	Core power supply for 1.2 V devices (E)
V _{CC}	2.5 V/3.3 V	Core power supply for 2.5 V/3.3 V devices (C)
V _{CCIOx}	1.2 V to 3.3 V	Power supply pins for I/O Bank x. There are up to five I/O banks.

2.1. Power Noise

The power rail voltages of the FPGA allow for a worst-case normal operating tolerance of ±5% of these voltages. The 5% tolerance includes any noise.

2.2. Power Source

It is recommended that the designed voltage regulators are accurate to within 3% of the optimum voltage to allow power noise design margin.

When calculating the voltage regulator total tolerance, include:

- Regulator voltage reference tolerance.
- Regulator line tolerance.
- Regulator load tolerance.
- Tolerances of any resistors connected to the regulator's feedback pin, which sets the regulator's output voltage.
- Expected voltage drops due to the power filtering ferrite bead's ESR × expected current draw.
- Expected voltage drops due to the current measuring resistor's ESR × expected current draw.

With a 3% tolerance allocated to the voltage source, the design has a remaining 2% tolerance for noise and layout-related issues. The 1.2 V rail is especially sensitive to noise, as every 12 mV is 1% of the rail voltage.



3. Power Supply Filtering

Providing a quiet, filtered supply is important for all rails and critical for the analog rails. Supplies should be decoupled with adequate power filters. Bypass capacitors must be located close to the device package pins with very short traces to keep inductance low.

For the best performance, use careful pin assignments to keep noisy I/O pins away from sensitive functional pins. The leading causes of PCB-related crosstalk with sensitive blocks are related to FPGA outputs located in close proximity to the sensitive power supplies. These supplies require cautious board layout to ensure noise immunity to the switching noise generated by FPGA outputs. Guidelines are provided to build quiet-filtered supplies for the analog supplies; however, robust PCB layout is required to ensure that noise does not infiltrate into these analog supplies.

3.1. Recommended Power Filtering Groups and Components

Table 3.1. Recommended Power Filtering Groups and Components

Power Input	Recommended Filter	Notes
V _{cc}	10 μF x 2 + 100 nF per pin	Core and clock logic. 1.2 V devices (E) 2.5 V/3.3 V devices (C)
V _{CCIO[6: 0]}	10 μF + 100 nF per pin for each $V_{\text{CCIO}x}$	Bank I/O. Unused banks can use a single 1.0 μ F. For banks with lots of outputs or large capacitive loading replace the 10 μ F with a 22 μ F (or use two 10 μ F). 1.2 V, 1.5 V, 1.8 V, 2.5 V, 3.3 V

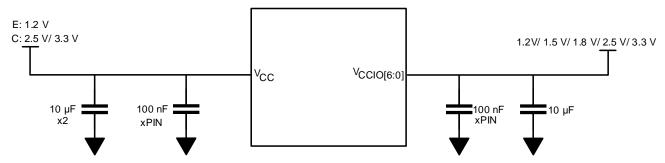


Figure 3.1. Recommended Power Filter Group



4. Power Estimation

Once the MachXO3L/LF device density, package, and logic implementation are decided, power estimation can be performed using the Power Calculator tool, which is provided as part of the Lattice Diamond design software. While performing power estimation, the user should keep two specific goals in mind.

- Power supply budgeting should be considered based on the maximum power-up in-rush current, configuration current, or maximum DC and AC current for a given system environmental condition.
- The ability of the system environment and MachXO3L/LF device packaging to support the specified maximum operating junction temperature.

By determining these two criteria, system design planning can take the MachXO3L/LF power requirements into consideration early in the design phase.

This is explained in Power and Thermal Estimation and Management for MachXO3 Devices (FPGA-TN-02059).



5. Power Sequencing

There is no power sequence required for the MachXO3 devices.



6. Configuration Considerations

MachXO3L/LF devices contain two types of memory, SRAM and either NVCM in MachXO3L devices or Flash in MachXO3LF devices. SRAM is volatile memory and contains the active configuration. NVCM, or Flash, is non-volatile memory that provides on-chip storage for the SRAM configuration data.

The MachXO3L/LF includes multiple programming and configuration interfaces:

- 1149.1 JTAG
- Self-download
- Target SPI (SSPI)
- Controller SPI (MSPI)
- Dual Boot
- I2C
- WISHBONE bus

For ease of prototype debugging, it is recommended that every PCB have easy access to the programming and configuration pins.

The configuration logic arbitrates access from the interfaces by the following priority. When higher priority ports are enabled, NVCM or Flash access by lower priority ports will be blocked.

- JTAG Port
- Target SPI (SSPI) Port (SN low activates the SPI port)
- I2C Primary Port

Note: Erased devices have all programming and configuration ports enabled by default. When the device is erased ensure that SN and PROGRAMN are not driven low.

For a detailed description of the programming and configuration interfaces, please refer to the MachXO3 Programming and Configuration Usage Guide (FPGA-TN-02055).

The use of external resistors is always needed if the configuration signals are being used to handshake with other devices. Pull-up and pull-down resistor (4.7 k Ω) recommendations on different configuration pins are listed below.

Table 6.1. Default State of the sysCONFIG Pins¹

Pin Name	Pin Function (Configuration Mode)	Pin Direction (8-Bit Size)	Data In Bits that Get Masked (9-Bit Size)
PROGRAMN	PROGRAMN	Input with weak pull-up, external pull-up to V _{CCIOO} .	PROGRAMN
INITN	1/0	I/O with weak pull-up, external pull-up V _{CCIOO} .	User-defined I/O
DONE	1/0	I/O with weak pull-up, external pull-up to V _{CCIOO} .	User-defined I/O
MCLK/CCLK ²	SSPI	Input with weak pull-up. MCLK function requires 510 Ω to 1 k Ω pull-up to V _{CCIO8} , series resistor placing near Tx side.	User-defined I/O
SN	SSPI	Input with weak pull-up, external pull-up to V _{CCIO2} .	User-defined I/O
SI/SPISI	SSPI	Input	User-defined I/O
SO/SOSPI	SSPI	Output	User-defined I/O
CSSPIN	1/0	I/O with weak pull-up, external pullup to V _{CCIO2} .	User-defined I/O
SCL	12C	Bi-Directional open drain, external pull-up, noise filter (200 Ω series/100 pF to GND)	User-defined I/O
SDA	12C	Bi-Directional open drain, external pull-up, noise filter (100 Ω series/100 pF to GND)	User-defined I/O
TDI	TDI	Input with weak pull-up.	TDI
TDO	TDO	Output with weak pull-up.	TDO
тск	TCK	Input. Recommended 4.7 kΩ pull-down.	TCK



Pin Name	Pin Function (Configuration Mode)	Pin Direction (8-Bit Size)	Data In Bits that Get Masked (9-Bit Size)
TMS	TMS	Input with weak pull-up.	TMS
JTAGENB	1/0	Input with weak pull-down.	1/0

Note:

- 1. Leave the unsused configuration ports open.
- 2. The series resistor value depends on the PCB design. The range is from 22 Ω to 39 Ω .

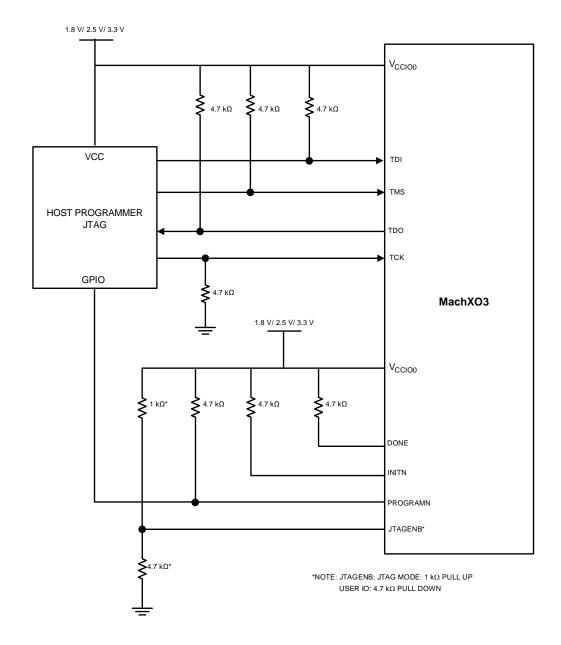


Figure 6.1. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via JTAG



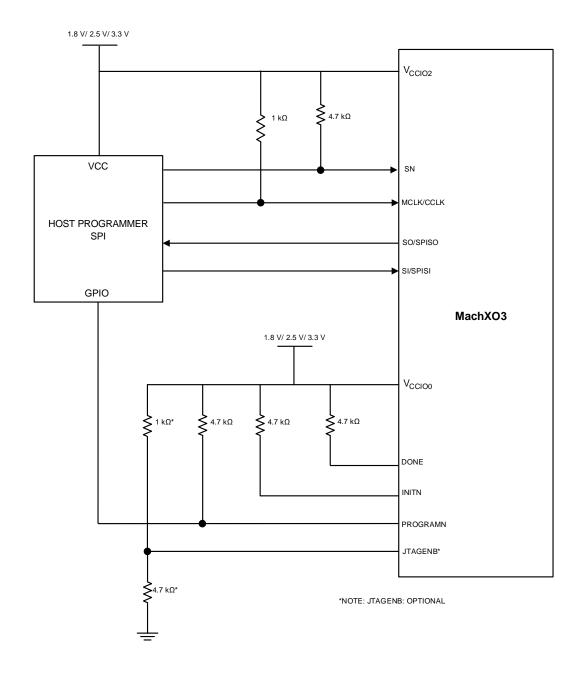


Figure 6.2. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via SSPI



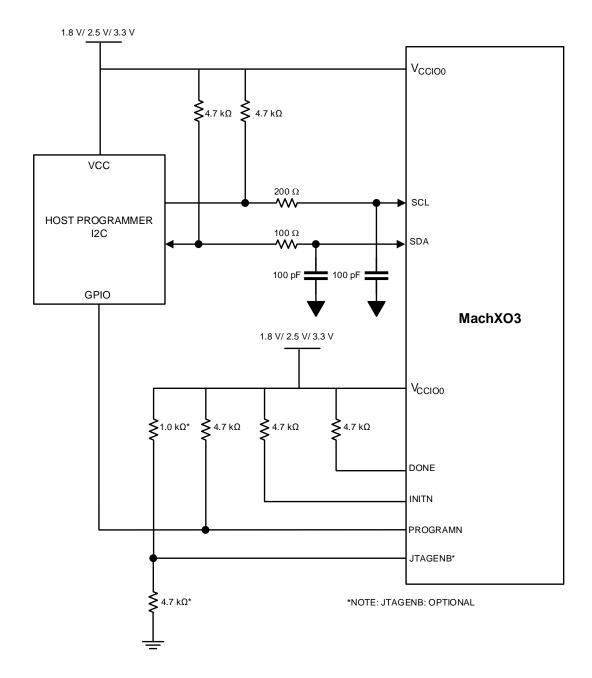


Figure 6.3. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via I2C



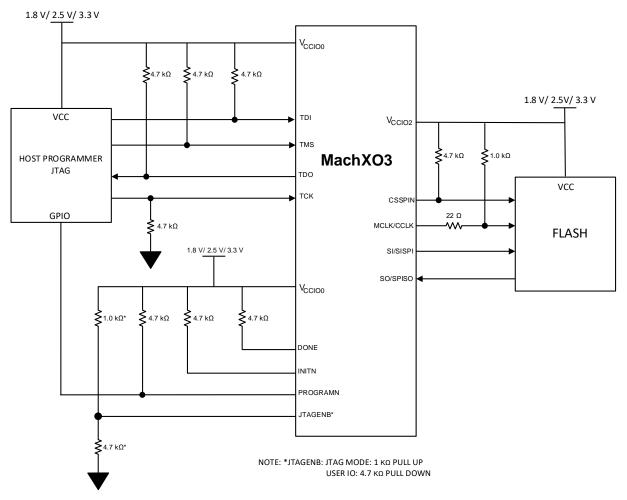


Figure 6.4. Typical Connections for Programming External Flash via JTAG



7. Controller SPI (MSPI)

When configuring from an external SPI Flash:

- The SPI Flash VCC and the MachXO3L/LF V_{CCIO2} are at the same level.
- The SPI Flash VCC is at the recommended operating level. The SPI Flash should be supported in Diamond Programmer. To see the supported list of devices, go to Diamond Programmer, under the **Help** menu, choose **Help**, then search for **SPI Flash support**.
- For SPI Flash devices that are not listed in the **SPI Flash Support**, using the custom flash option may allow a non supported device to work.



8. PROGRAMN Initial Power Considerations

The MachXO3L/LF PROGRAMN is permitted to become a general-purpose I/O. The PROGRAMN only becomes a general-purpose I/O after the configuration bitstream is loaded. When power is applied to the MachXO3L/LF, the PROGRAMN input performs the PROGRAMN function. It is critical that any signal input to the PROGRAMN have a high-to-low transition period that is longer than the V_{CC} (min) to INITN rising edge time period. Transitions faster than this time period prevent the MachXO3L/LF from becoming operational. Refer to the description of PROGRAMN in the MachXO3 Programming and Configuration Usage Guide (FPGA-TN-02055).



9. Pinout Considerations

The MachXO3L/LF PLDs support many applications with high-speed interfaces. These include various rule-based pinouts that need to be understood prior to the implementation of the PCB design. The pin-out selection must be completed with an understanding of the interface building blocks of the FPGA fabric. These include IOLOGIC blocks such as DDR, clock resource connectivity, and PLL usage. Refer to Implementing High-Speed Interfaces with MachXO3 Devices (FPGA-TN-02057) for rules pertaining to these interface types.



10. sysI/O

MachXO3 provides the flexibility to configure each I/O according to the user's requirements. These pins can be configured as input, output, and tri-state. Additionally, attributes such as PULLMODE, CLAMP, HYSTERESIS, VREF, OPENDRAIN, SLEWRATE, DIFFRESISTOR, TERMINATION, and DRIVE STRENGTH can also be setup. Refer to the MachXO3 sysIO Usage Guide (FPGA-TN-02056) for more information on this.

For the PULLMODE, Pull-up and Pull-down resistors can be set. The implementation of these resistors involves using a constant current that has the following values:

Table 10.1. Weak Pull-up/Pull-down Current Specifications

	Parameter	Condition	Min	Max	Unit
Pull-up	I/O Weak Pull-up Resistor Current	0 ≤ VIN ≤ 0.7 × VCCIO	-30	-309	μΑ
Pull-down	I/O Weak Pull-down Resistor Current	VIL (max) ≤ VIN ≤ VCCIO	30	305	μΑ



11. True-LVDS Output Pin Assignments

True-LVDS outputs are on the top bank (Bank 0) of the MachXO3L/LF-1300 and higher density devices. When using the LVDS outputs, a 2.5 V or 3.3 V supply needs to be connected to the Bank 0 V_{CCIO} supply rails. Refer to the MachXO3 sysIO Usage Guide (FPGA-TN-02056) for more information on this.



12. PCI Clamp Pin Assignment

PCI clamps are available on the bottom I/O bank (Bank 2) of the MachXO3L/LF-1300 and higher density devices. When the system design calls for PCI clamps, these pins should be assigned to I/O Bank 2. For the clamp characteristic, refer to the IBIS buffer models either on the Lattice web site or in the Lattice Diamond design software.



13. Clock Inputs

The MachXO3 device provides certain pins for use as clock inputs in each I/O bank. These pins are shared and can alternately be used for general purpose I/O.

When these pins are used for clocking purposes, you need to pay attention to minimize signal noise on these pins.

These shared clock input pins, typically named PCLK, can be found under the Dual Function column of the pinlist csv file

High-speed differential interfaces being received by the FPGA must route their differential clock pair into a pair of inputs that support differential clocking, labeled PCLKTx_y (+true) and PCLKCx_y (-complement).

When providing an external reference clock to the FPGA, ensure that the oscillator's output voltage to the FPGA does not exceed the bank's voltage. Good power supply decoupling of the clock oscillator is required to reduce clock jitter. A typical bypassing circuit is shown in Figure 13.1.

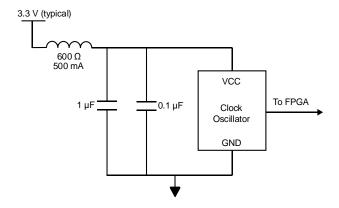


Figure 13.1. Clock Oscillator Bypassing

For differential clock inputs to banks with a V_{CCIO} voltage of 1.5 V or lower, it is recommended to use an HCSL oscillator to keep the clock voltage less than or equal to the bank's V_{CCIO} . An LVDS oscillator can also be used if AC is coupled and then DC is biased at half the VCCIO voltage. Example dual footprint design supporting HCSL and LVDS is shown below in Figure 13.2.

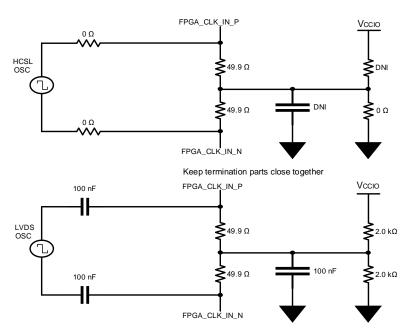


Figure 13.2. PCB Dual Footprint Supporting HCSL and LVDS Oscillators

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14. Issue: GPIO Input(s) Prevents Powering Down the FPGA

For C devices where the design involves V_{CC} and bank V_{CCIOx} voltages that are the same (3.3 V or 2.5 V) and connected together, careful design consideration must be followed to avoid the FPGA not powering down fully and left operating in an undefined state.

Note: Chip failures can occur when the datasheet input current limits are exceeded.

14.1. GPIO Input Current Leakage Pathway

The FPGA is powered on, and the bit-stream program input CLAMPS ON.

While the FPGA powers down, the external circuit continues to drive input pins.

As the FPGA V_{CC} and V_{CClOx} voltages drop, the GPIO input pins allow external devices to drive reverse current into the FPGA via the on-CLAMPs, and this current appears at the V_{CClOx} pins, which are connected to V_{CC} , keeping the V_{CC} voltage high enough for the input CLAMPs to remain active.

Other devices, besides the FPGA, can be connected to the V_{CC} rail, with each device drawing current from the FPGA. As a result, the FPGA can pass enough reverse current to cause internal burnouts or failures to occur quickly or gradually, depending on the overcurrent of each pin and the number of pins involved.

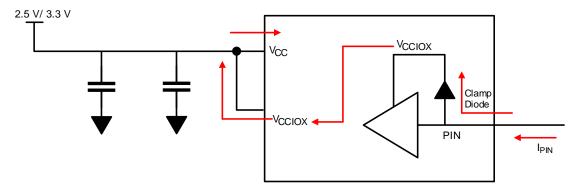


Figure 14.1. Potential Current Path for Powered Down FPGA with Driven Input

14.2. Workarounds

Workaround 1

Turn off any external devices connected to the FPGA that are operating ≥ 2.5 V at the same time as the FPGA.

Workaround 2

Configure software to keep GPIO CLAMPS OFF in the bitstream when CLAMPS are not required.

Workaround 3

- Ensure that external circuits do not exceed the datasheet I/O pad current limits for banks operating at ≥ 2.5 V.
- In each bank, the current should not exceed n × 8 mA. Where **n** represents the number of I/O pads in between two consecutive power pins . Please see below scenarios.
 - $V_{CCIO} I/O_1 I/O_2 I/O_x V_{CCIO}$
 - $GND I/O_1 I/O_2 I/O_x GND$
 - $V_{CCIO} I/O_1 I/O_2 I/O_x GND$

The I/O groupings can be found in the pin tables generated by the Lattice Diamond software.



Example: Limit the pin current by connecting a series resistor to an FPGA GPIO input.

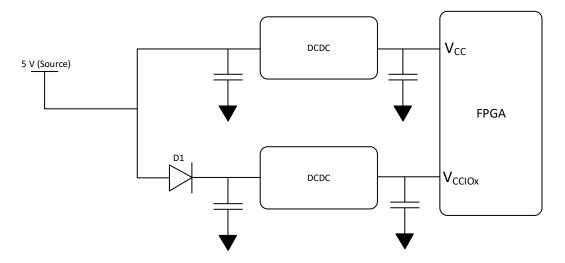
Most non-high-speed designs work well with a 200 Ω to 1 k Ω series resistor.

$$Math: R \times C \times 2 Tau = Trise / Tfall$$

 200Ω series resistor at GPIO input \times 10 pF etch and pin capacitance \times 2 Tau = 4ns Trise / Tfall

Workaround 4

• For V_{CCIO}, use a separate voltage regulator with a diode (D1) connecting the voltage source to the input.





15. Layout Recommendations

A good design from a schematic should also reflect a good layout for the system design to work without any issues with noise or power distribution. Below are some of the recommended layouts in general.

- 1. All power should come from power planes. This is to ensure good power delivery and thermal stability.
- 2. Each power pin has its own decoupling capacitor, typically 100 nF, that should be placed as close as possible to each other.
- 3. The placement of analog circuits must be away from digital circuits or high switching components.
- 4. High-speed signals should have a clearance of five times the trace width of other signals.
- 5. High-speed signals that transition from one layer to another should have a corresponding transition ground if both reference planes are grounded. If the reference on the other layer is a V_{CC} plane, then a stitching capacitor should be used (ground to V_{CC}).

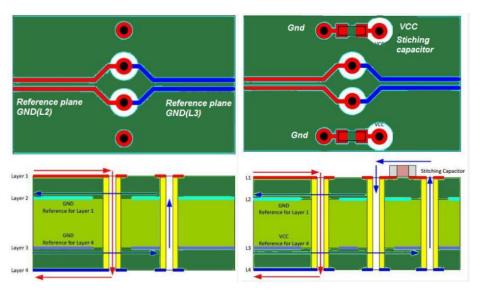


Figure 15.1. PCB Layout Recommendation

- 6. High-speed signals have a corresponding impedance requirement; calculate the necessary trace width and trace gap (differential gap) according to the desired stack-up. Verify trace dimensions with the PCB vendor.
- 7. For differential pairs, be sure to match the length as closely as possible. A good rule of thumb is to match up to ±5mils.

For further information on layout recommendations, refer to:

- PCB Layout Recommendations for BGA Packages (FPGA-TN-02024)
- PCB Layout Recommendations for Leaded Packages (FPGA-TN-02160)



16. Checklist

Table 16.1. Hardware Checklist

	MachXO3L Hardware Checklist Item	ОК	N/A
1	Power Supply		
1.1	Core Supply V _{CC} at 1.2 V		
1.2	Core Supply V _{CC} at 2.5 V or 3.3 V		
1.3	I/O power supply V _{CCIO} 0-5 at 1.2 V to 3.3 V		
1.4	Power Estimation		
1.5	Follow the recommended power filtering groups and components in Table 3.1. Recommended Power Filtering Groups and Components.		
1.6	All ground pins need to be connected to the board's ground plane.		
1.7	Bank I/O supplies.		
1.8	Connect the unused V _{CCIOX} to a power rail. Do not leave it open.		
1.9	All configurations of V _{CCIO} (Banks 0,2), when used with the configuration interfaces (example: SPI Flash Memory Devices), need to match the voltage specifications.		
2	Configuration		
2.1	Configuration options		
2.2	Pull-up on PROGRAMN, INITN, and DONE per Section 6 Configuration Considerations.		
2.3	Pull-up on SPI mode pins, per Section 6 Configuration Considerations.		
2.4	Pull-up on I2C mode pins, per Section 6 Configuration Considerations.		
2.5	JTAG default logic levels		
2.6	PROGRAMN high-to-low transition time period is larger than the V_{CC} (min) to INITN rising edge time period.		
2.7	The Controller SPI (MSPI) voltage should match V _{CCIO2} voltage.		
3	I2C Filter		
3.1	RC filter for I2C bus, per Table 6.1. Default State of the sysCONFIG Pins1.		
4	I/O pin assignment		
4.1	True LVDS pin assignment considerations		
4.2	PCI clamp requirement considerations		
4.3	Clock input assignment should be at PCLK.		
5	Issue: GPIO Input(s) Prevents Powering Down the FPGA		
5.1	GPIO input current leakage pathway		
5.2	Workarounds to prevent current leakage pathway		
6	Layout Recommendations		



References

- MachXO3 web page
- MachXO3 Family Data Sheet (FPGA-DS-02032)
- MachXO3 Programming and Configuration Usage Guide (FPGA-TN-02055)
- MachXO3 sysIO Usage Guide (FPGA-TN-02056)
- Implementing High-Speed Interfaces with MachXO3 Devices (FPGA-TN-02057)
- Using Hardened Control Functions in MachXO3 Devices (FPGA-TN-02063)
- Power Decoupling and Bypass Filtering for Programmable Devices (FPGA-TN-02083)
- Power and Thermal Estimation and Management for MachXO3 Devices (FPGA-TN-02059)
- PCB Layout Recommendations for BGA Packages (FPGA-TN-02024)
- PCB Layout Recommendations for Leaded Packages (FPGA-TN-02160)
- Lattice Diamond FPGA design software
- Lattice Diamond Programmer and Deployment Tool
- Lattice Insights for Lattice Semiconductor training courses and learning plans



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Revision History

Revision 1.6, May 2025

Section	Change Summary
Issue: GPIO Input(s) Prevents Powering Down the FPGA	 Removed the word datasheet from the statement, The I/O groupings can be found in the pin tables generated by the Lattice Diamond software under the Workarounds section.
	 Updated Trsie to Trise under the Workarounds section.

Revision 1.5, November 2024

Section	Change Summary	
Abbreviations in the Document	Changed Acronyms to Abbreviations.	
Configuration Considerations	 Updated Table 6.1. Default State of the sysCONFIG Pins¹. Updated the pin direction of the MCLK/CCLK. Added table note 2 - The series resistor value depends on the PCB design. The range is from 22 Ω to 80 Ω. Fixed the 100 Ω series/100 pF to GND typo error of the SDA pin. Added a 22 Ω series resistor in the MCLK/CCLK of Figure 6.4. Typical Connections for Programming External Flash via JTAG. 	
Issue: GPIO Inputs(s) Prevents Powering Down the FPGA	Reworked section contents.	
Checklist	 Updated item 5.1 to GPIO input current leakage pathway. Updated item 5.2 to Workarounds to prevent current leakage pathway. 	

Revision 1.4, March 2024

Section	Change Summary
All	Minor editorial fixes.
	Changed the term <i>Master</i> to <i>Controller</i> .
	Changed the term Slave to Target.
Disclaimers	Updated this section.
Inclusive language	Added this section.
Power Supply	Added Subsection 2.1 Power Noise and Subsection 2.2 Power Source.
Power Supply Filtering	Changed the section title from Power Estimation to Power Supply Filtering.
	Reworked section contents.
Power Sequencing	Added this section
Configuration Consideration	Moved this section to Section 6.
	• Added table note 1 in Table 6.1. Default State of the sysCONFIG Pins1.
	 Updated the <i>Pin Directions</i> of the following pins in Table 6.1. Default State of the sysCONFIG Pins1.
	• INITN pin - I/O with weak pull-up, external pull-up to V _{CCIOO} .
	• SCL pin – Bidirectional open drain, external pull-up, noise filter (200 Ω series/100 pF to GND).
	• SDA pin – Bidirectional open drain, external pull-up, noise filter (100 Ω series/100 pF to GND).
	 Added Figure 6.1. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via JTAG, Figure 6.2. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via SSPI, Figure 6.3. Typical Connections for Programming SRAM or Internal Flash via I2C, and Figure 6.4. Typical Connections for Programming External Flash via JTAG.

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Section	Change Summary
Controller SPI (MSPI)	Moved this section to Section 7.
	Updated the section name to Controller SPI (MSPI).
	Reworked section contents.
Back Leakage Considerations	Removed this section.
sysI/O	Added this section.
Clock Inputs	Added this section.
Issue: GPIO Input(s) Prevents	Added this section.
Powering Down the FPGA	
Layout Recommendations	Added this section.
Checklist	Reworked section contents.
References	Added this section.
Tech Support Assistance	Added reference to the Lattice Answer Database on the Lattice website.

Revision 1.3, March 2020

Section	Change Summary
All	 Changed document number from TN1291 to FPGA-TN-02061. Updated document template.
Disclaimers	Added this section.
Back Leakage Considerations	Added this section.

Revision 1.2, March 2016

Section	Change Summary
Master SPI	Minor editorial correction.
Technical Support Assistance	Updated contact information.

Revision 1.1, March 2015

Section	Change Summary
All	Product name/trademark adjustment. Included MachXO3LF device.

Revision 1.0, April 2014

Section	Change Summary
All	Initial release

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