Quad RS-422 / RS-485 X2-Series Expansion Board

October 2025

Revision 002

***X2BS10X424** Quad RS-422 / RS-485 X2-Series Expansion Board*

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Before opening the Strato Pi Max enclosure, disconnect all power sources and any connection to external devices, including USB and Ethernet cables.

Follow all applicable electrical safety standards, guidelines, specifications and regulations for installation, wiring and operations of Strato Pi Max.

Carefully and fully read this Strato Pi Max user guide before installation.

Strato Pi Max is not authorised for use in safety-critical applications where a failure of the product would reasonably be expected to cause personal injury or death. Safety-critical applications include, without limitation, life support devices and systems, equipment or systems for the operation of nuclear facilities and weapons systems. Strato Pi Max is neither designed nor intended for use in critical military or aerospace applications or environments and for automotive applications or environment. Customer acknowledges and agrees that any such use of Strato Pi Max is solely at Customer's risk, and that Customer is solely responsible for compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements in connection with such use.

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Please download and read the Sfera Labs Terms and Conditions document available at:

https://www.sferalabs.cc

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Safety information

Carefully and fully read this user guide before installation and retain it for future reference.

Qualified personnel

The product described in this manual must be operated only by personnel qualified for the specific task and installation environment, in accordance with all relevant documentation and safety instructions. A qualified person should be capable of fully identifying all installation and operation risks and avoid potential hazards when working with this product.

Hazard levels

This manual contains information you must observe to ensure your personal safety and prevent damage to property. Safety information in this manual are highlighted by the safety symbols below, graded according to the degree of danger.

DANGER

Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **will** result in death or serious personal injury.

WARNING

Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, **may** result in death or serious personal injury.

CAUTION

Indicates a hazardous situation which, if not avoided, can result in minor or moderate personal injury.

NOTICE

Indicates a situation which, if not avoided, can result in damage of property.

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Safety instructions

General safety instructions

Protect the unit against moisture, dirt and any kind of damage during transport, storage and operation. Do not operate the unit outside the specified technical data.

Never open the housing. If not otherwise specified, install in closed housing (e.g. distribution cabinet). Earth the unit at the terminals provided, if existing, for this purpose. Do not obstruct cooling of the unit. Keep out of the reach of children.

WARNING

Life threatening voltages are present within and around an open control cabinet.

When installing this product in a control cabinet or any other areas where dangerous voltages are present, always switch off the power supply to the cabinet or equipment.

WARNING

Risk of fire if not installed and operated properly.

Follow all applicable electrical safety standards, guidelines, specifications and regulations for installation, wiring and operations of this product.

The expansion board could generate a substantial amount oh heat, particularly when subject to a significant amount of electrical load.

NOTICE

The connection of expansion devices to this product may damage the product and other connected systems, and may violate safety rules and regulations regarding radio interference and electromagnetic compatibility.

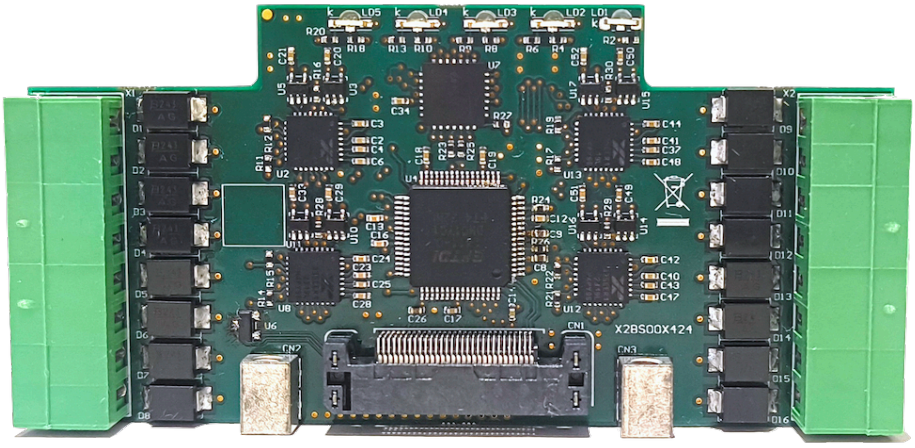
Use only appropriate tools when installing this product. Using excessive force with tools may damage the product, alter its characteristics or degrade its safety.

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Introduction

The X2-Series X2BS10X424 Quad RS-422 / RS-485 expansion board is designed for the Strato Pi Max[1]. It provides four serial ports individually configurable as full-duplex RS-422 or half-duplex RS-485. The four ports are interfaced to the Compute Module via an integrated FTDI FT4232H hi-speed USB 2.0 converter.

This manual generally refers to Strato Pi Max XL and Strato Pi Max XS as Strato Pi Max.



X2BS10X424 QUAD RS-422 / RS-485 X2-SERIES EXPANSION BOARD

[1] Strato Pi Max: https://sferalabs.cc/strato-pi-max/

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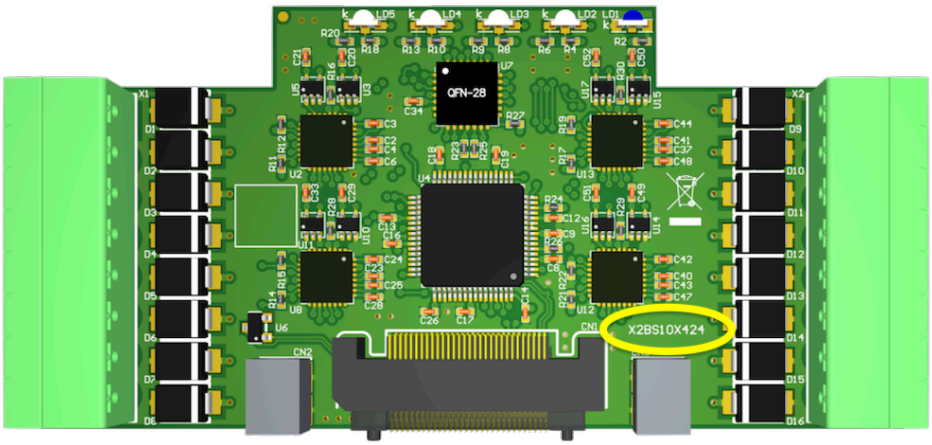
Features

- Four high-speed RS-422/RS-485 interfaces with electrostatic discharge protection, individually configurable via I2C
- configurable full-duplex (RS-422) / half-duplex (RS-485) modes
- configurable line termination resistors
- configurable slew rate limiter
- configurable local TX echo on RS-485 interfaces
- front panel LEDs show board power status and channels RX/TX activity

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Device identification

The circuit board is identified by the "**X2BS10X424**" marking (front view). One or more alphanumeric characters may follow.

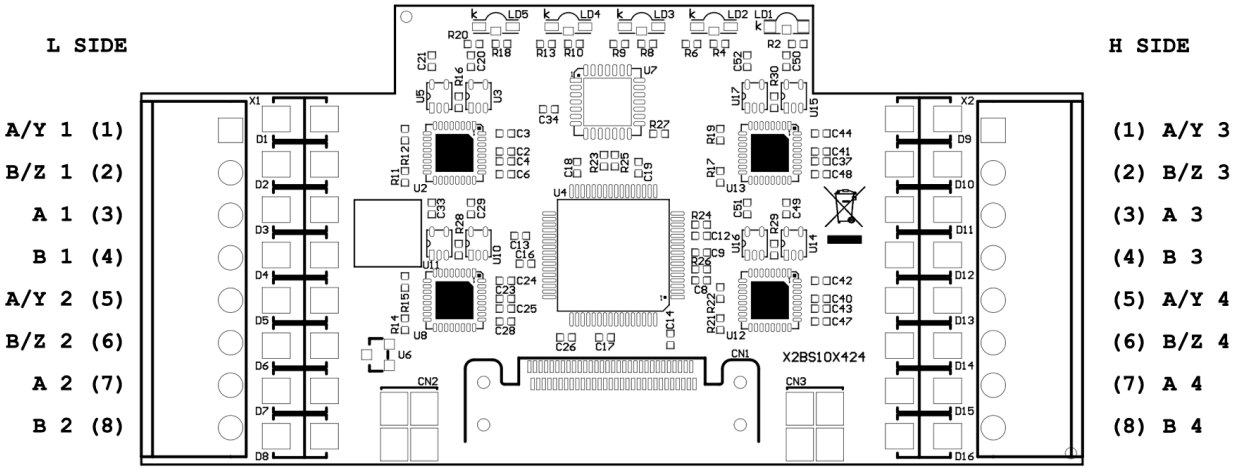


CIRCUIT BOARD IDENTIFICATION MARKINGS

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Hardware setup

Connections



TERMINAL BLOCKS CONNECTIONS

In order to install or remove the expansion board, the plastic DIN rail enclosure must be removed

NOTICE

Before opening the Strato Pi Max enclosure, disconnect all power sources and any connection to external devices, including USB and Ethernet cables.

Follow the Strato Pi Max User Guide installation instructions.

This expansion board can be installed in any slot, and up to 4 boards can be fitted in Strato Pi Max XL.

Carefully align the board-to-board connectors and gently push the board in place. Note that the connectors could be damaged if not properly aligned during insertion or removal.

Use the two screws provided with the expansion board to lock the board in place.

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System architecture

Serial ports

This expansion board provides four RS-422/RS-485 serial ports, interfaced with the Compute Module via an integrated FTDI FT4232H high-speed USB 2.0 converter.

Each channel can be individually configured as either a full-duplex RS-422 port or a half-duplex RS-485 port. A 120 Ω termination resistor for the A-B and Y-Z lines can be enabled or disabled as needed. Additionally, channels can be slew-limited to 250 kbps to minimize electromagnetic interference (EMI).

When operating in RS-485 mode, local echo of transmitted data can be enabled or disabled. The RS-485 TX/RX switching is handled automatically by the FT4232H, making it fully transparent to the Raspberry Pi's software.

Power and status LEDs

This expansion board has 5 LEDs, visible through the front panel:

A. Blue: turns on when the expansion board is powered

B. Red: Channel 1 RX activity. Green: Channel 1 TX activity

C. Red: Channel 2 RX activity. Green: Channel 2 TX activity

D. Red: Channel 3 RX activity. Green: Channel 3 TX activity

E. Red: Channel 4 RX activity. Green: Channel 4 TX activity

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Software configuration and usage

When one or more expansion boards are connected to the Strato Pi Max, the standard firmware automatically detects them, enabling configuration and control through its I²C registers.

For detailed information on register access and configuration parameters usage, refer to the Strato Pi Max User Guide and the accompanying Linux kernel module documentation[2].

All the features of this expansion board can be used with any operating system for which standard FTDI drivers[3] are provided.

On Linux the drivers emulate a standard serial port for each channel, available under the path `/dev/ttyUSB<n>`. Enumeration order is not guaranteed within the Linux kernel, therefore, to add static paths to each interface of each installed expansion board, the 'udev' device manager shall be used.

Following is an example udev configuration.

Create a file named `99-x2-quad-422-ftdi.rules` in `/etc/udev/rules.d/` with the following content:

```
SUBSYSTEMS=="usb", KERNEL=="ttyUSB[0-9]*", ATTRS{interface}=="X2BS10X424",\
ATTRS{bInterfaceNumber}=="00", SYMLINK+="x2-rs422n1-%b"

SUBSYSTEMS=="usb", KERNEL=="ttyUSB[0-9]*", ATTRS{interface}=="X2BS10X424",\
ATTRS{bInterfaceNumber}=="01", SYMLINK+="x2-rs422n2-%b"

SUBSYSTEMS=="usb", KERNEL=="ttyUSB[0-9]*", ATTRS{interface}=="X2BS10X424",\
ATTRS{bInterfaceNumber}=="02", SYMLINK+="x2-rs422n3-%b"

SUBSYSTEMS=="usb", KERNEL=="ttyUSB[0-9]*", ATTRS{interface}=="X2BS10X424",\
ATTRS{bInterfaceNumber}=="03", SYMLINK+="x2-rs422n4-%b"
```

Reload the systems udev rules:

```
$ sudo udevadm control --reload-rules && sudo udevadm trigger
```

The following device paths will become available, where **B** is `1` on Raspberry Pi CM 4 and `5` on Raspberry Pi CM 5.

Strato Pi Max XS:

```
/dev/x2-rs422n1-B-1.5.1:1.0
/dev/x2-rs422n2-B-1.5.1:1.1
/dev/x2-rs422n3-B-1.5.1:1.2
/dev/x2-rs422n4-B-1.5.1:1.3
```

Strato Pi Max XL - slot 1:

```
/dev/x2-rs422n1-B-1.5.4:1.0
/dev/x2-rs422n2-B-1.5.4:1.1
/dev/x2-rs422n3-B-1.5.4:1.2
/dev/x2-rs422n4-B-1.5.4:1.3
```

Strato Pi Max XL - slot 2:

[2] Strato Pi Max kernel module: https://github.com/sfera-labs/strato-pi-max-kernel-module

[3] https://ftdichip.com/drivers/

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```
/dev/x2-rs422n1-B-1.5.3:1.0
/dev/x2-rs422n2-B-1.5.3:1.1
/dev/x2-rs422n3-B-1.5.3:1.2
/dev/x2-rs422n4-B-1.5.3:1.3
```

Strato Pi Max XL - slot 3:

```
/dev/x2-rs422n1-B-1.5.2:1.0
/dev/x2-rs422n2-B-1.5.2:1.1
/dev/x2-rs422n3-B-1.5.2:1.2
/dev/x2-rs422n4-B-1.5.2:1.3
```

Strato Pi Max XL - slot 4:

```
/dev/x2-rs422n1-B-1.5.1:1.0
/dev/x2-rs422n2-B-1.5.1:1.1
/dev/x2-rs422n3-B-1.5.1:1.2
/dev/x2-rs422n4-B-1.5.1:1.3
```

The configuration parameters of each channel are available to the user via I²C or sysfs files.

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Advanced usage

I²C Configuration and control registers

Installing one or more Quad RS-422 / RS-485 Expansion Boards on Strato Pi Max adds the I²C configuration and control registers described below.

Refer to the Strato Pi Max User Guide for details on registers access and configuration parameters usage.

The registers' addresses are determined by adding the address offsets listed below to the start register of the slot the board is installed in: 100 for slot 1, 125 for slot 2, 150 for slot 3, and 175 for slot 4.

Requires firmware version >= 3.29

ADDR OFFSET	BYTE 1								BYTE 0							
	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0													CH1 TERM CFG	CH1 HALF CFG	CH1 SLEW CFG	CH1 ECHO CFG
1													CH2 TERM CFG	CH2 HALF CFG	CH2 SLEW CFG	CH2 ECHO CFG
2													CH3 TERM CFG	CH3 HALF CFG	CH3 SLEW CFG	CH3 ECHO CFG
3													CH4 TERM CFG	CH4 HALF CFG	CH4 SLEW CFG	CH4 ECHO CFG

Offset 0/1/2/3 [R][W][C]

Bit 0 **CH*n* ECHO CFG**: Channel 1/2/3/4 RS-485 local echo configuration

0 = disabled (default)

1 = enabled

Bit 0 **CH*n* ECHO CFG**: Channel 1/2/3/4 slew limit configuration

0 = disabled

1 = enabled (default)

Bit 0 **CH*n* HALF CFG**: Channel 1/2/3/4 half-duplex configuration

0 = full-duplex (RS-422 mode, default)

1 = half-duplex (RS-485 mode)

Bit 0 **CH*n* TERM CFG**: Channel 1/2/3/4 line termination resistors configuration

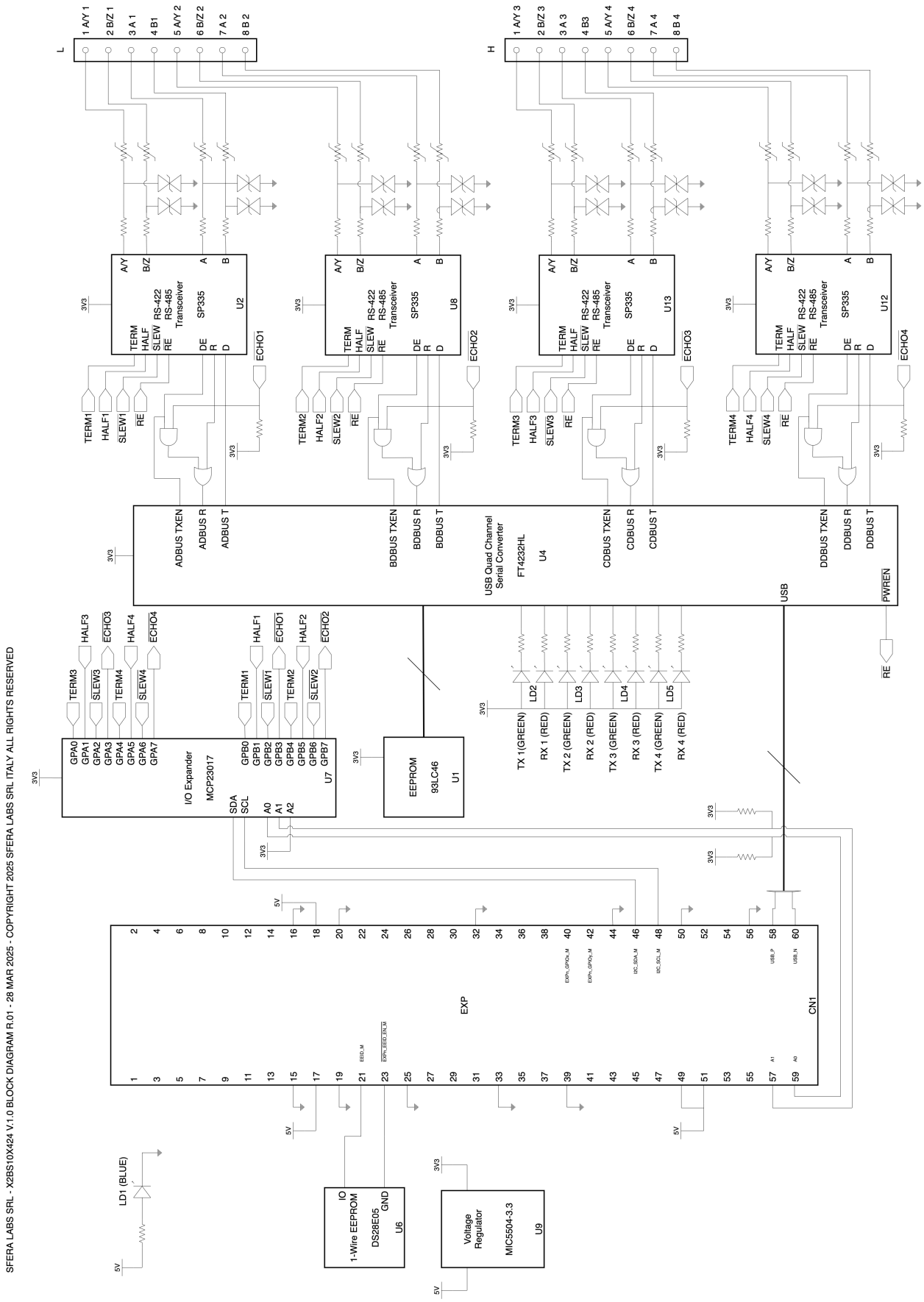
0 = disabled (default)

1 = enabled

Bit 15-4 reserved

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Block diagram



SFERA LABS SRL - X2BS10X424 V.1.0 BLOCK DIAGRAM R.01 - 28 MAR 2025 - COPYRIGHT 2025 SFERA LABS SRL ITALY ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

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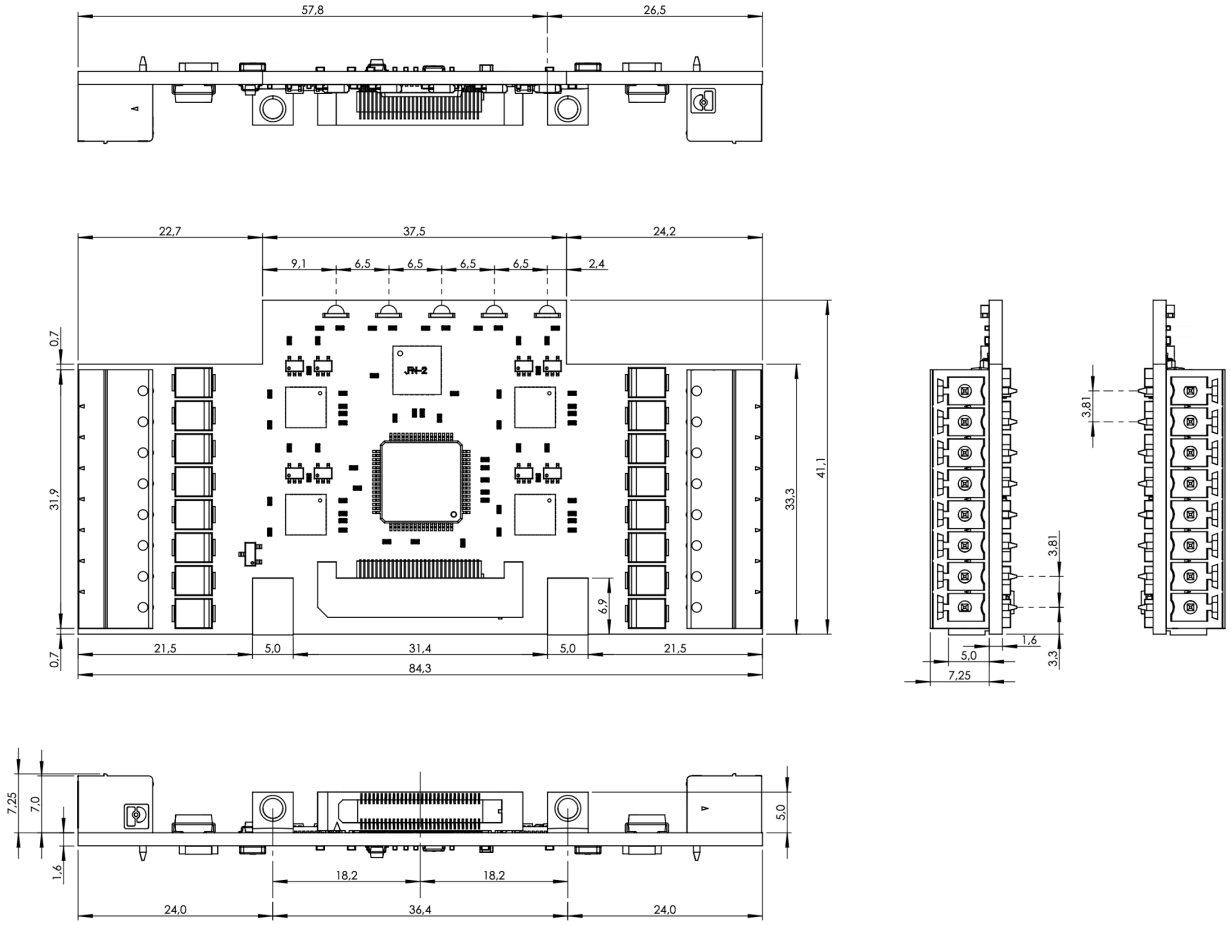
Technical specifications

Note: all values typical, at +25 °C and under normal operating conditions.

COMMUNICATION PORTS	
Serial ports	RS-422 full-duplex RS-485 half-duplex or full-duplex, with automatic data flow management
Serial ports maximum tested transfer rate	3 Mbps (maximum rate is affected by cable length and other factors)
Serial ports maximum transfer rate with slew limiter	250 kbps
Serial ports transfer rate for EMI compliance tests	115.2 kbps
ESD protection on RS-485 A/B	±15 kV human body model ±8 kV IEC 61000-4-2 contact discharge
EMI IMMUNITY STANDARDS	
Electromagnetic immunity compliance	EN 61000-4-2 (ESD) EN 61000-4-3 (Radiated RF Field) EN 61000-4-4 (Burst/fast transient) EN 61000-4-5 (Surge) EN 61000-4-6 (Conducted) EN 61000-4-8 (Power frequency magnetic field)
ENVIRONMENTAL	
Operating temperature	-20…+60 °C
Storage temperature	-30…+80 °C
Altitude	Up to 2000 m
Humidity	5% to 95% RH noncondensing
Protection degree	IP20
Vibration IEC 60068-2-6 (Test Fc, Operating)	0.7 g @ 5…100 Hz
MECHANICAL	
3.81 mm pitch terminal block characteristics	Maximum conductor cross section: 1.3 mm2 (16AWG), or 0.5 mm2 when using ferrules (highly recommended) Recommended stripping length: 6 mm Screw thread: M2 Maximum screws tightening torque: 0.3 Nm
Dimensions	width: 84.3 mm height: 41.1 mm depth: 14.5 mm
Weight	25 g (including terminal blocks and screws)

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Dimensions

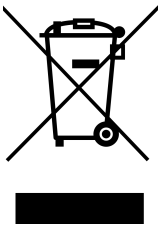


DIMENSIONS (mm)

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Disposal

Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment



(Applicable in the European Union and other European countries with separate collection systems). This marking on the product, accessories or literature indicates that the product should not be disposed of with other household waste at the end of their working life. To prevent possible harm to the environment or human health from uncontrolled waste disposal, separate these items from other types of waste and recycle them responsibly to promote the sustainable reuse of material resources. Household users should contact either the retailer where they purchased this product, or their local government office, for details of where and how they can take these items for environmentally safe recycling. This product and its electronic accessories should not be mixed with other commercial wastes for disposal.

Strato Pi Max contains a small non rechargeable manganese dioxide lithium coin battery.

In the Strato Pi Max, the battery is not accessible from the outside. You should first remove the case body to gain access to the Strato Pi Max circuit boards. Always remove the battery before disposing of this product.

Installation and use restrictions

Standards and regulations

The design and the setting up of electrical systems must be performed according to the relevant standards, guidelines, specifications and regulations of the relevant country. The installation, configuration and programming of the devices must be carried out by trained personnel.

The installation and wiring of connected devices must be performed according to the recommendations of the manufacturers (reported on the specific data sheet of the product) and according to the applicable standards.

All the relevant safety regulations, e.g. accident prevention regulations, law on technical work equipment, must also be observed.

Safety instructions

Carefully read the safety information section at the beginning of this document.

Set-up

For the first installation of the device proceed according to the following procedure:

- ✓ make sure all power supplies are disconnected
- ✓ install and wire the device according to the schematic diagrams on the specific product user guide

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✓ after completing the previous steps, switch on the power supply and other related circuits.

Conformity Information

EU

This device complies with the following applicable European Community harmonised standards:

✓ 2014/30/EU - Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive (EMC)

✓ 2011/65/EU and 2015/863/EU - Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS 3)

The following harmonised standards have been used to demonstrate conformity to these directives:

✓ EN61000-6-2: 2019 - EMC Immunity standard for industrial environments

✓ EN 61000-6-3: 2021 - EMC Emission standard for residential, commercial and light-industrial environments

The declaration of conformity is available at: https://www.sferalabs.cc

USA

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Shielded cables must be used with this equipment to maintain compliance with FCC regulations.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

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CANADA

This Class B digital apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.

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This product meets the requirements of the standard EN 61000-6-3: 2021 - Emission for residential, commercial and light-industrial environments.

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