

Devices Connected/Referenced

AD5790	True 20-Bit, Voltage Output DAC
AD8675	Ultraprecision, 36 V, 2.8 nV/√Hz, Rail-to-Rail Output Op Amp
AD8676	Ultraprecision, 36 V, 2.8 nV/√Hz, Dual Rail-to-Rail Output Op Amp

20-Bit, Linear, Low Noise, Precision, Unipolar +10 V DC Voltage Source

EVALUATION AND DESIGN SUPPORT

Circuit Evaluation Boards

- [AD5790 Circuit Evaluation Board \(EVAL-AD5790SDZ\)](#)
- [System Demonstration Platform \(EVAL-SDP-CB1Z\)](#)

Design and Integration Files

- [Schematics, Layout Files, Bill of Materials](#)

CIRCUIT FUNCTION AND BENEFITS

The circuit, shown in Figure 1, is a 20-bit, linear, low noise, precision, unipolar (+10 V) voltage source with a minimum amount of external components. The AD5790 DAC is a 20-bit, unbuffered voltage output DAC that operates from a bipolar

supply of up to 33 V. The AD5790 accepts a positive reference input range of 5 V to VDD – 2.5 V, and a negative reference input range of VSS + 2.5 V to 0 V. Both reference inputs are buffered on the chip, and external buffers are not required. The AD5790 offers a relative accuracy specification of ±2 LSB maximum, and operation is guaranteed monotonic with a –1 to +2 LSB maximum DNL specification.

The AD8675 precision op amp has low offset voltage (75 μV maximum) and low noise (2.8 nV/√Hz typical) and is an optimum output buffer for the AD5790. The AD5790 has two internal matched 6.8 kΩ feedforward and feedback resistors, which can either be connected to the AD8675 op amp to

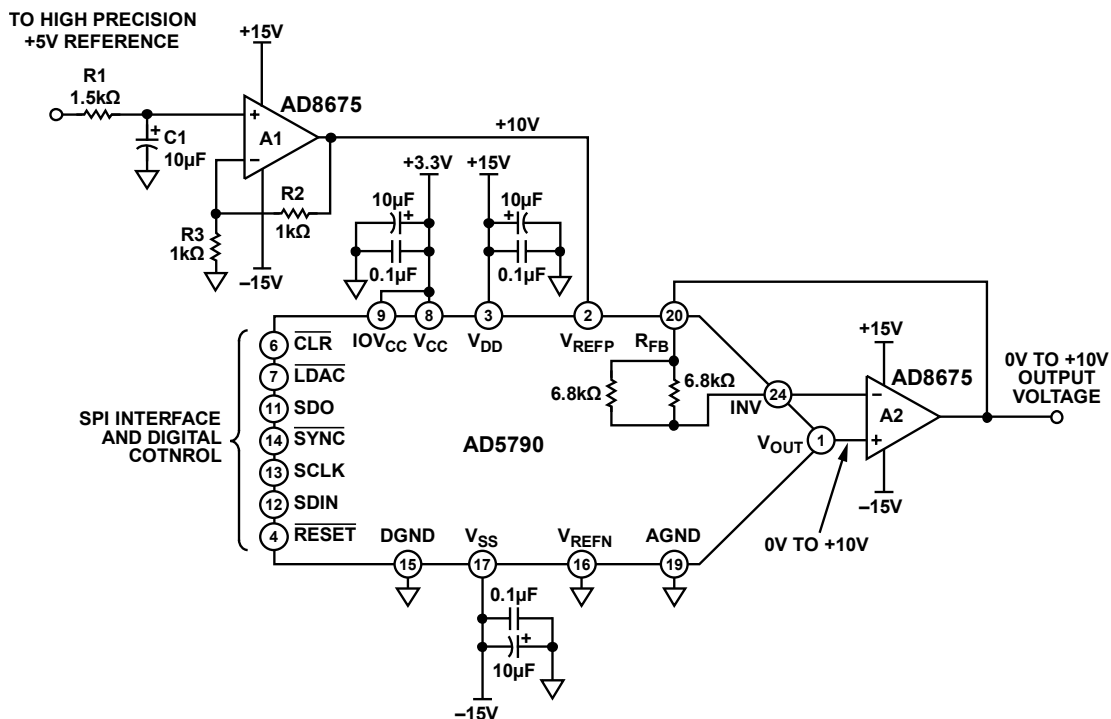


Figure 1. 20-Bit Accurate, 0 V to +10 V Voltage Source (Simplified Schematic: All Connections and Decoupling Not Shown)

Rev.0

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provide a 10 V offset voltage for a ± 10 V output swing, or connected in parallel to provide bias current cancellation. In this example, a unipolar +10 V output is demonstrated, and the resistors are used for bias current cancellation. The internal resistor connection is controlled by setting a bit in the AD5790 control register (see AD5790 data sheet).

The digital input to the circuit is serial and is compatible with standard SPI, QSPI, MICROWIRE®, and DSP interface standards. For high accuracy applications, the compact circuit offers high precision, as well as low noise—this is ensured by the combination of the AD5790 and AD8675 precision components.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The digital-to-analog converter (DAC) shown in Figure 1 is the AD5790, a high voltage, 20-bit converter with SPI interface, offering ± 2 LSB INL, -1 to $+2$ LSB DNL, and $8 \text{ nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ noise spectral density. The AD5790 also exhibits an extremely long term linearity error stability of 0.1 LSB.

Figure 1 shows the AD5790 in a unipolar buffered configuration. The output buffer is the AD8675, used for its low noise and low drift. This amplifier is also used (A1) to amplify the +5 V reference voltage from the low noise precision reference, in this case a Krohn Hite Model 523 precision reference. The resistors R2 and R3 in this gain circuit are precision metal foil resistors with 0.01% tolerance and a temperature coefficient of 0.6 ppm/°C. For optimum performance over temperature, R2 and R3 should be in a single package, such as the Vishay 300144 or VSR144 series. R2 and R3 are selected to be 1 k Ω to keep noise in the system low. R1 and C1 form a low-pass filter with a cutoff frequency of approximately 10 Hz. The purpose of this filter is to attenuate voltage reference noise.

Linearity Measurements

The precision performance of the circuit shown in Figure 1 is demonstrated on the EVAL-AD5790SDZ evaluation board using an Agilent 3458A multimeter. Figure 2 shows that the integral nonlinearity as a function of DAC code is well within the specification of ± 2 LSB from 0°C to 105°C.

Figure 3 shows that the differential nonlinearity as a function of DAC code is within the -1 LSB to $+2$ LSB specification.

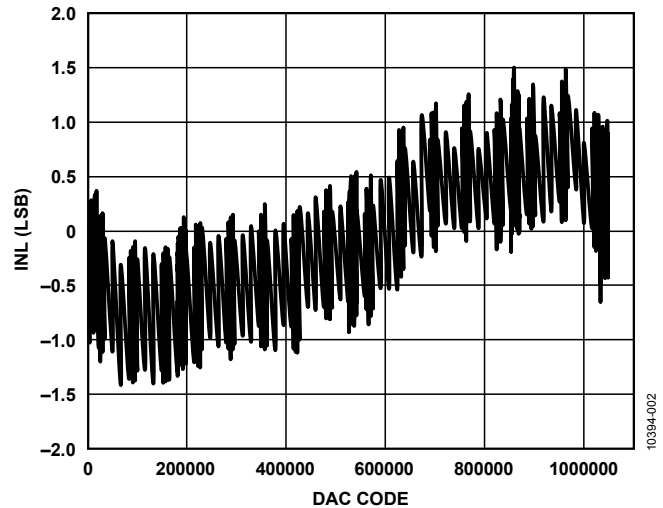


Figure 2. Integral Nonlinearity vs. DAC Code

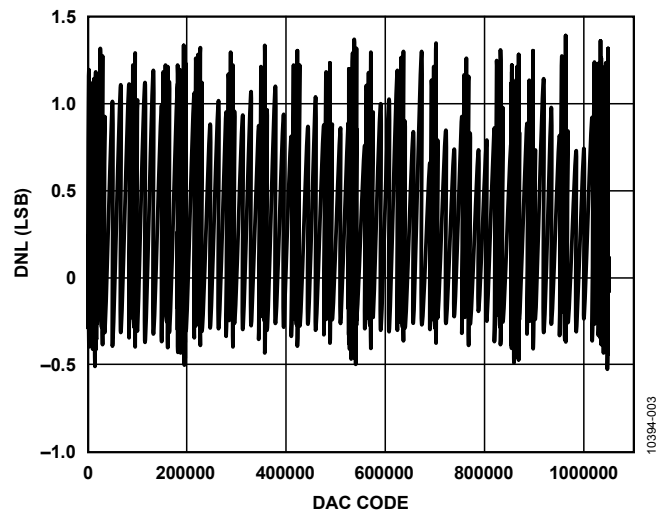


Figure 3. Differential Nonlinearity vs. DAC Code

Noise Drift Measurements

To be able to realize high precision, the peak-to-peak noise at the circuit output must be maintained below 1 LSB, which is 9.5 μV for 20-bit resolution and a +10 V unipolar voltage range.

A real-time noise application will not have a high-pass cutoff at 0.1 Hz to attenuate $1/f$ noise but will include frequencies down to dc in its pass band. With this in mind, the measured peak-to-peak noise is shown in Figure 4. In this case, the noise at the output of the circuit was measured over a period of 100 seconds, effectively including frequencies as low as 0.01 Hz in the measurement.

A temperature controlled ultralow noise reference was required for this measurement so as not to dominate the noise performance.

The zero-scale output voltage exhibits the lowest noise because it represents the noise from the DAC core only. The noise contribution from each voltage reference path is attenuated by the DAC when the zero-scale code is selected.

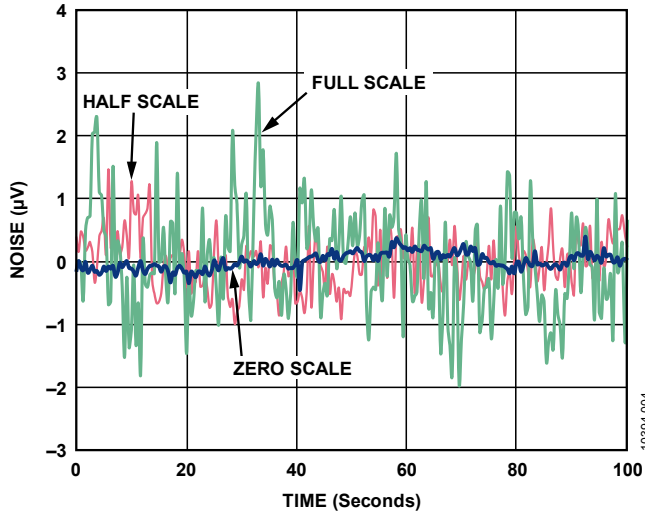


Figure 4. DAC Output Voltage Noise Measured Over 100 Second Period for Full Scale (Green), Half Scale (Red), and Zero Scale (Blue) with Precision Reference Source

As the time period over which the measurement is taken is increased, lower frequencies will be included, and the peak-to-peak value will increase. At low frequencies, temperature drift and thermocouple effects become contributors to noise. These effects can be minimized by choosing components with low thermal coefficients.

Complete schematics and layout of the printed circuit board can be found in the CN-0257 Design Support package: www.analog.com/CN0257-DesignSupport.

COMMON VARIATIONS

The AD5790 will support a wide variety of output ranges from 0 V to +5 V up to ± 10 V, and values in between. If a bipolar configuration is required, then the VREFN pin needs to be supplied with an inverted high precision reference voltage. Again, precise amplifier technology and precision temperature stable resistors are required.

The AD8676 is a dual version of the AD8675 op amp and can be used in the circuit if desired.

CIRCUIT EVALUATION AND TEST

Equipment Required

- System Demonstration Platform (EVAL-SDP-CB1Z)
- EVAL-AD5790SDZ evaluation board and software
- Krohn-Hite Model 523 precision reference
- Agilent 3458A multimeter
- PC (Windows 32-bit or 64-bit OS)
- National Instruments GPIB to USB-B interface cable
- SMB cable (2)

Software Installation

The AD5790 evaluation kit includes self-installing software on a CD. The software is compatible with Windows XP (SP2) and Vista (32-bit and 64-bit). If the setup file does not run automatically, you can run the **setup.exe** file from the CD.

Install the evaluation software before connecting the evaluation board and SDP board to the USB port of the PC to ensure that the evaluation system is correctly recognized when connected to the PC.

1. After installation from the CD is complete, power up the AD5790 evaluation board as described in the Power Supplies section. Connect the SDP board (via either Connector A or Connector B) to the AD5790 evaluation board and then to the USB port of your PC using the supplied cable.
2. When the evaluation system is detected, proceed through any dialog boxes that appear. This completes the installation.

Functional Diagram

A functional diagram of the test setup is shown in Figure 6.

Power Supplies

The following external supplies must be provided:

- 3.3 V between the VCC and DGND on Connector J1 for the digital supply of the AD5790. Alternatively, place Link 1 in Position A to power the digital circuitry from the USB port via the SDP board (default).
- +12 V to +16.5 V between the VDD and AGND inputs of J2 for the positive analog supply of the AD5790.
- -12 V to -16.5 V between the VSS and AGND inputs of J2 for the negative analog supply of the AD5790.
- +5 V precision reference connected to SMB connector labeled VREF.

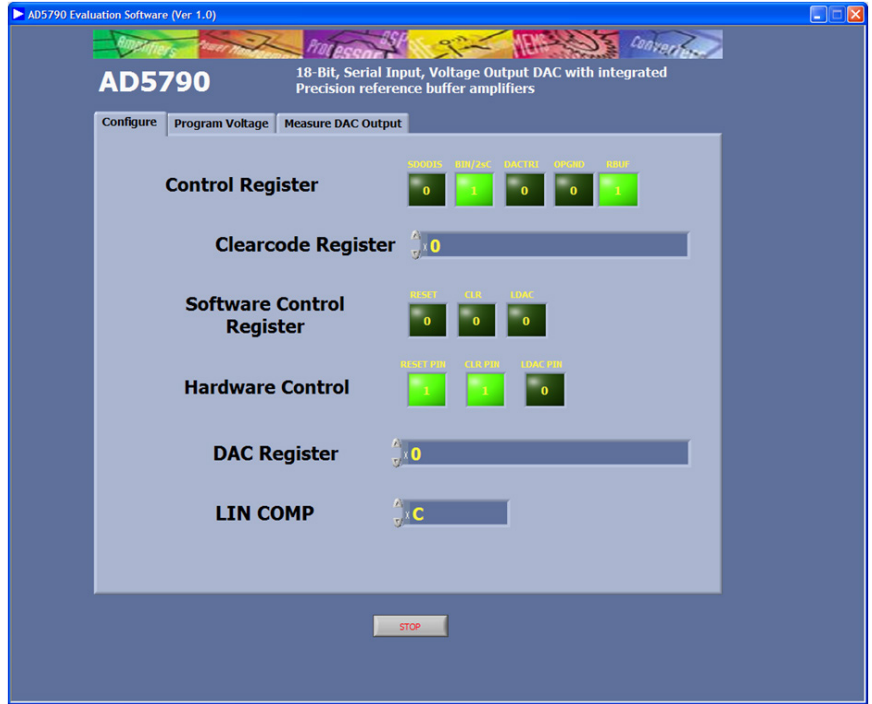


Figure 5. Evaluation Software Main Window

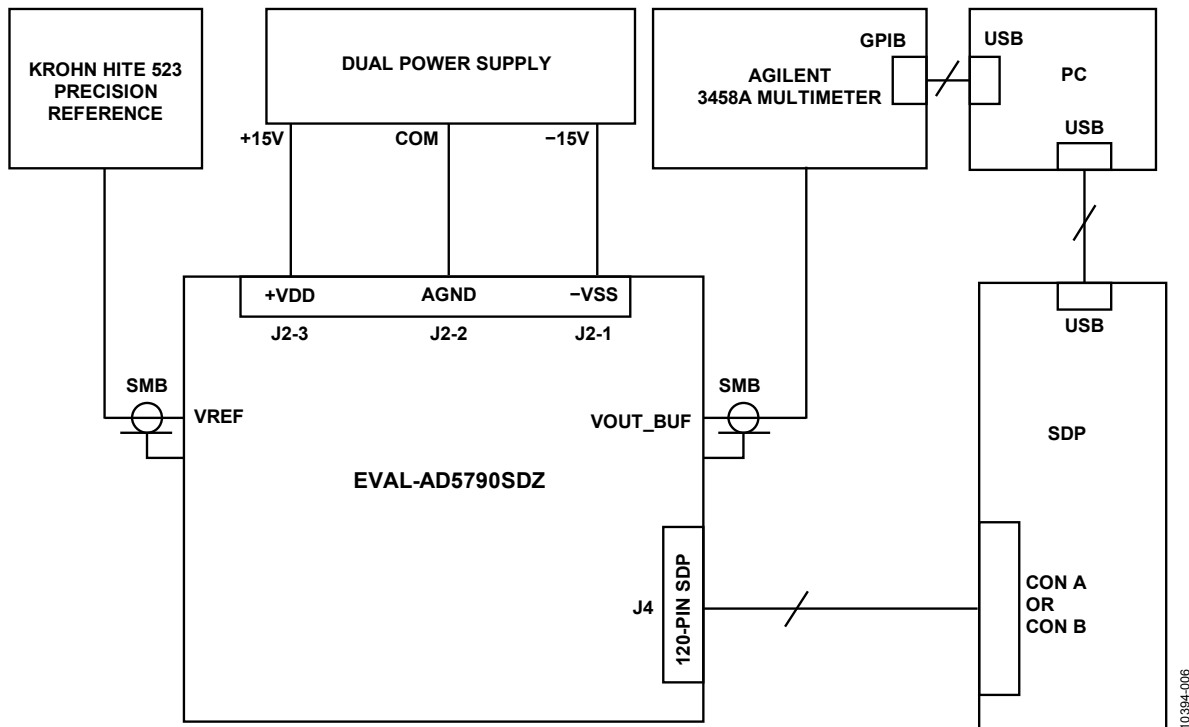


Figure 6. Functional Block Diagram of Test Setup

Default Link Option Setup

The default link options are listed in Table 1. By default, the board is configured with VREFP = +10 V and VREFN = -10 V for a ± 10 V output range.

Table 1. Default Link Options

Link No.	Option
LK1	A
LK2	B
LK3	A
LK4	Removed
LK5	Removed
LK6	Removed
LK7	Removed
LK8	C
LK9	Inserted
LK11	Inserted

In order to configure the board for the circuit shown in Figure 1, the following changes must be made to the default link configuration in Table 1:

1. Place LK3 in position A.
2. Remove LK4.
3. Place LK8 in position B.
4. Remove LK9.

These changes configure the output buffer amplifier for a gain of 1 and connect the VREFN pin of the [AD5790](#) to ground.

In addition, the board is now configured to accept a precision +5 V reference on the SMB connector labeled VREF.

Please refer to User Guide [UG-342](#) for more information on the [EVAL-AD5790SDZ](#) test setup.

Test

The VOUT_BUF SMB connector is connected to the Agilent 3458A multimeter. The linearity measurements are run using the Measure DAC Output Tab on the [AD5790](#) GUI.

The noise drift measurement is measured on the VOUT_BUF SMB connector also. The output voltage is set using the Program Voltage tab in the [AD5790](#) GUI. The peak-to-peak noise drift is measured over 100 seconds.

For more details on the definitions and how to calculate the INL, DNL, and noise from the measured data, see the "TERMINOLOGY" section of the [AD5790 data sheet](#) and also the following reference: *Data Conversion Handbook*, "Testing Data Converters," Chapter 5, Analog Devices.

LEARN MORE

CN0257 Design Support Package:

www.analog.com/CN0257-DesignSupport

Egan, Maurice. "The 20-Bit DAC Is the Easiest Part of a 1-ppm-Accurate Precision Voltage Source," *Analog Dialogue*, Vol. 44, April 2010.

Kester, Walt. 2005. *The Data Conversion Handbook*. Analog Devices. Chapters 3, 5, and 7.

MT-015 Tutorial, *Basic DAC Architectures II: Binary DACs*. Analog Devices.

MT-016 Tutorial, *Basic DAC Architectures III: Segmented DACs*. Analog Devices.

MT-031 Tutorial, *Grounding Data Converters and Solving the Mystery of AGND and DGND*. Analog Devices.

MT-035 Tutorial, *Op Amp Inputs, Outputs, Single-Supply, and Rail-to-Rail Issues*. Analog Devices.

MT-101 Tutorial, *Decoupling Techniques*. Analog Devices.

Voltage Reference Wizard Design Tool.

CN-0177 Circuit Note, *18-Bit, Linear, Low Noise, Precision Bipolar ± 10 V DC Voltage Source*.

CN-0191 Circuit Note, *20-Bit, Linear, Low Noise, Precision, Bipolar ± 10 V DC Voltage Source*.

CN-0200 Circuit Note, *18-Bit, Linear, Low Noise, Precision Bipolar ± 10 V DC Voltage Source*.

User Guide [UG-342](#), *Evaluation Board for a 20-Bit Serial Input, Voltage Output DAC with Integrated Precision Reference Buffer Amplifiers*.

Data Sheets and Evaluation Boards

[AD5790 Data Sheet and Evaluation Board](#)

[AD8675 Data Sheet](#)

[AD8676 Data Sheet](#)

REVISION HISTORY

12/11—Revision 0: Initial Version

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