

LED controllers

Voltage-switch drivers and
constant-current drivers



LED Controllers Overview

LEDs are used in a wide range of applications, from low-end status indicators to high-end video displays. System designers often need the ability to control these LEDs, but can't afford to tie up the system processor to do so. NXP's LED controllers solve this problem, performing a variety of control tasks while offloading the system processor. Having sent instructions to the LED controller, the processor is free to engage in other tasks or go into a low-power state.

NXP's LED controllers offer a variety of features needed in LED-driving applications. Some of these features include:

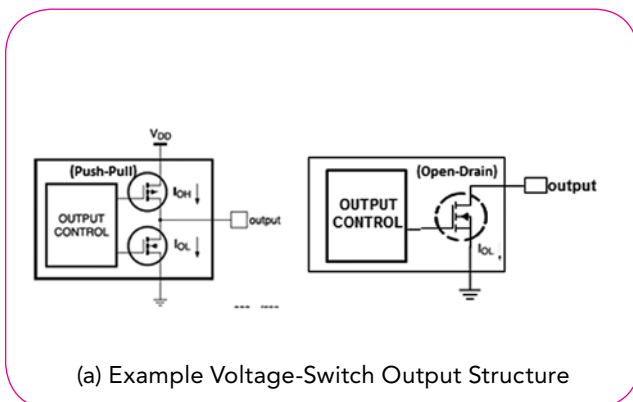
- ▶ Blinking and dimming capability
- ▶ Pulse-width modulation (PWM) for LED control
- ▶ Color mixing capabilities
- ▶ Fast-mode Plus (Fm+) bi-directional communication channel with data transfer rate of up to 1 Mbps over the I²C-bus
- ▶ Ultra Fast-mode (UFm) uni-directional communication channel with data transfer rate of up to 5 Mbps over the I²C-bus
- ▶ SPI-compatible 3-wire serial uni-directional interface with data transfer rate of up to 25 Mbps over Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI)
- ▶ Different output drive types (push-pull, open-drain voltage switch or constant-current driver)
- ▶ Independent control of LEDs

The devices are classified in two groups: voltage-switch drivers and constant-current drivers. These groups are discussed below.

Voltage-Switch Drivers

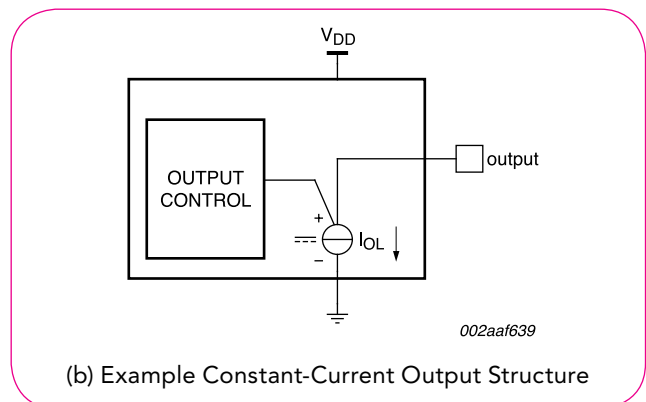
Voltage-switch output driver devices control the LED connected to the output pin by switching the connection to ground or supply on or off. A series resistor connected between the LED and the device limits the current that flows through the LED into the device.

Voltage-switch devices have the advantage of dissipating the heat outside the device, in the series resistor. Therefore the device is insensitive to heat dissipation and is good for driving multiple LEDs in series, with different forward-bias voltages (V_f), from the same supply.



Constant-Current Drivers

A current-regulated LED driver results in the LED light remaining constant with the supply-voltage fluctuations. NXP constant-current LED drivers are used for low-current luminary lighting applications requiring accurate lighting control independent of supply voltage, temperature, and LED forward-bias voltage.



The LED controllers are supported by application boards and daughter cards, an established manufacturing infrastructure that supports high volumes, and several technical documents. NXP helps system designers make lighting affordable, in everything from indoor consumer electronics and appliances to outdoor decorative lighting.

LED Controllers Selection Guide

Device	Function	Number of LED Outputs	Operating Voltage Range	Standby Current ^[1]	Type of LED Drive	Max LED Drive Current	Max LED Drive Voltage	Output Type	LED Pin can be used as Input	Number of PWMs	Individual PWM Resolution (Steps)	Group PWM Resolution (Steps)	Individual Brightness Control	Group Brightness Control	Output Enable / PWM Control	Programmable Output Delay	LED Error Detection	Thermal Shutdown	Interface	Number of Device Addresses	Hardware Reset	Individual PWM Frequency	Group PWM Frequency	Status
PCA9550	Blinker	2	2.3 V–5.5 V	1.9 μA	Voltage switch	25 mA	5 V	Open Drain (Sink)	Y	2	256	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm	2	Y	0.172 Hz - 44 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9553	Blinker	4	2.3 V–5.5 V	1.9 μA	Voltage switch	25 mA	5 V	Open Drain (Sink)	Y	2	256	N/A	N	N	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm	1	N	0.172 Hz - 44 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9551	Blinker	8	2.3 V–5.5 V	1.9 μA	Voltage switch	25 mA	5 V	Open Drain (Sink)	Y	2	256	N/A	N	N	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm	8	Y	0.172 Hz - 44 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9552	Blinker	16	2.3 V–5.5 V	2.1 μA	Voltage switch	25 mA	5 V	Open Drain (Sink)	Y	2	256	N/A	N	N	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm	8	Y	0.172 Hz - 44 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9530	Dimmer & Blinker	2	2.3 V–5.5 V	1.9 μA	Voltage switch	25 mA	5 V	Open Drain (Sink)	Y	2	256	N/A	Y	N	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm	2	Y	0.591 Hz - 152 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9533	Dimmer & Blinker	4	2.3 V–5.5 V	1.9 μA	Voltage switch	25 mA	5 V	Open Drain (Sink)	Y	2	256	N/A	N	N	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm	1	N	0.591 Hz - 152 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9531	Dimmer & Blinker	8	2.3 V–5.5 V	1.9 μA	Voltage switch	25 mA	5 V	Open Drain (Sink)	Y	2	256	N/A	N	N	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm	8	Y	0.591 Hz - 152 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9532	Dimmer & Blinker	16	2.3 V–5.5 V	2.1 μA	Voltage switch	25 mA	5 V	Open Drain (Sink)	Y	2	256	N/A	N	N	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm	8	Y	0.591 Hz - 152 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9632	Dimmer & Blinker	4	2.3 V–5.5 V	0.005 μA	Voltage switch	-10 mA 25 mA	5 V	Push Pull (Configurable)	N	4 + 1	256	64	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm+	1, 4	N	1.56 KHz	190 Hz (6.25 KHz)	In Production
PCA9633	Dimmer & Blinker	4	2.3 V–5.5 V	3.8 μA	Voltage switch	-10 mA 25 mA	5 V	Push Pull (Configurable)	N	4 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm+	1, 4, 126	N	97 KHz	190 Hz (97 KHz)	In Production
PCA9634	Dimmer & Blinker	8	2.3 V–5.5 V	3.8 μA	Voltage switch	-10 mA 25 mA	5 V	Push Pull (Configurable)	N	8 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm+	126	N	97 KHz	190 Hz (97 KHz)	In Production
PCA9635	Dimmer & Blinker	16	2.3 V–5.5 V	3.8 μA	Voltage switch	-10 mA 25 mA	5 V	Push Pull (Configurable)	N	16 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm+	126	N	97 KHz	190 Hz (97 KHz)	In Production
PCA9685 ^[2]	Dimmer	16	2.3 V–5.5 V	2.2 μA	Voltage switch	-10 mA 25 mA	5 V	Push Pull (Configurable)	N	16	4096	N/A	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	I ² C, Fm+	62	N	24 Hz - 1526 Hz	N/A	In Production
PCA9624	Dimmer & Blinker	8	2.3 V–5.5 V	2.1 μA	Voltage switch	100 mA	40 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	8 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm+	126	N	97 KHz	190 Hz (97 KHz)	In Production
PCA9622	Dimmer & Blinker	16	2.3 V–5.5 V	3.2 μA	Voltage switch	100 mA	40 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	16 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm+	126	N	97 KHz	190 Hz (97 KHz)	In Production
PCA9626	Dimmer & Blinker	24	2.3 V–5.5 V	6.0 μA	Voltage switch	100 mA	40 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	24 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	I ² C, Fm+	126	N	97 KHz	190 Hz (97 KHz)	In Production
PCA9952 ^[4]	Dimmer & Blinker	16	3.0 V–5.5 V	100 μA	Constant Current	57 mA	40 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	16 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	I ² C, Fm+	8	Y	31.5 KHz	122 Hz	In Production
PCA9955 ^[4]	Dimmer & Blinker	16	3.0 V–5.5 V	100 μA	Constant Current	57 mA	40 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	16 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	I ² C, Fm+	16	Y	31.5 KHz	122 Hz	In Production
PCA9955B ^[3]	Dimmer & Blinker	16	3.0 V–5.5 V	170 μA	Constant Current	57 mA	20 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	16 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	I ² C, Fm+	125	Y	31.5 KHz	122 Hz	In Production
PCA9956B	Dimmer & Blinker	24	3.0 V–5.5 V	100 μA	Constant Current	57 mA	20 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	24 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	I ² C, Fm+	125	Y	31.5 KHz	122 Hz	In Production
PCA9745B	Dimmer & Blinker	16	3.0 V–5.5 V	170 μA	Constant Current	57 mA	20 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	16 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	SPI 25 MHz	25	Y	31.5 KHz	122 Hz	In Production
PCU9656	Dimmer & Blinker	24	2.3 V–5.5 V	6 μA	Voltage switch	100 mA	40 V	Open Drain (Sink)	N	24 + 1	256	256	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	I ² C, UFm	64	Y	97 KHz	190 Hz	In Production

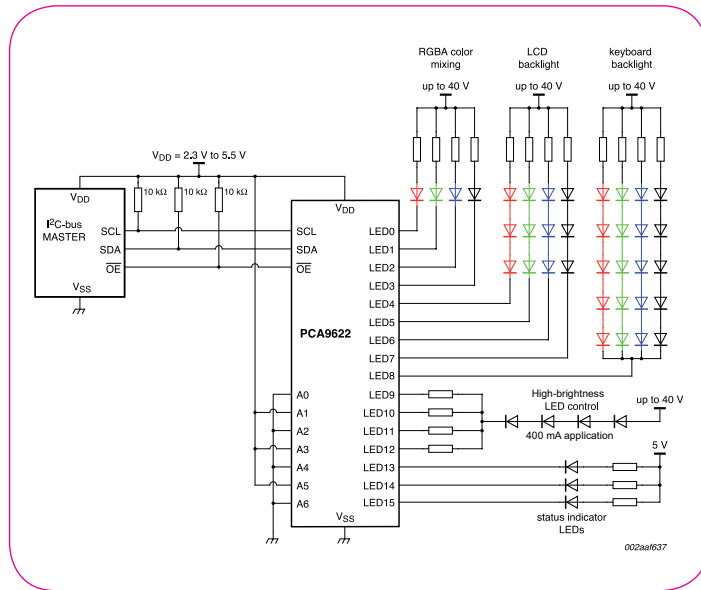
^[1] Typical value measured with VDD = 5.5 V, no load, VI = VDD or VSS and FSCL = 0 Hz

^[2] External clock input option

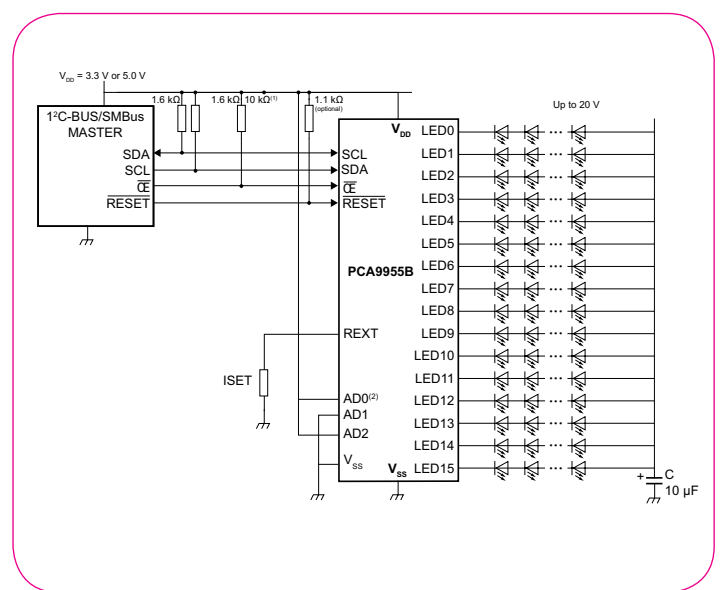
^[3] Build in Gradation control

^[4] In Production AEC-Q100 compliant version only

PCA9622 Voltage Switch LED Driver Application Example



PCA9955B Constant Current LED driver Application Example



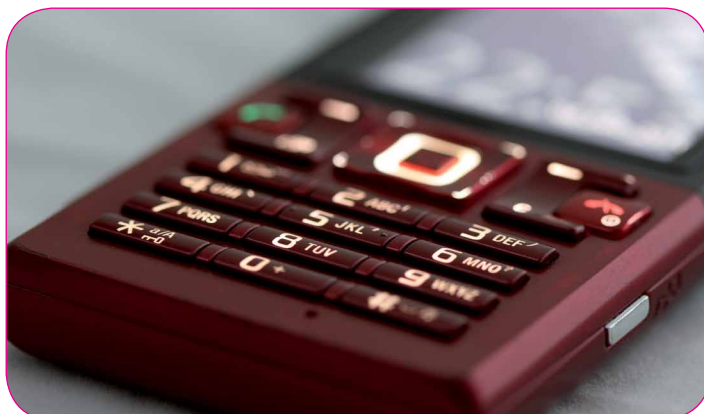
Architectural Lighting



Automotive Instrument Cluster



Mobile Phone Application Example



Car Radio Backlight



Application Support

For added application support, NXP offers the following application reports on the LED driver family devices:

Description	Title	Applicable Devices	Type	URL	Document Date
Driving LED light bars using NXP solutions	AN10579_1	All LEDs	App Note	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/application-note/AN10579.pdf	1-Feb-07
I ² C Devices for LED Display Control	AN264_1	PCA9530/1/2/3 PCA9550/1/2/3	App Note	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/application-note/AN264.pdf	22-Jul-02
PCA9633 demonstration board OM6282	UM10317_1	PCA9633	App Note	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/UM10317.pdf	15-Dec-08
PCA9632 1.8 V I ² C-bus and 2.8 V VDD operation	AN11169	PCA9632	App Note	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/application-note/AN11169.pdf	26-Mar-12
A guide to designing for ESD and EMC	AN10897	All LEDs	App Note	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/application-note/AN10897.pdf	19-Jan-10
PCA9955 demonstration board OM13330	UM10572	PCA9955	Users Guide	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/UM10572.pdf	7-Jun-12
PCA9956B demonstration board OM13321	UM10709	PCA9956B	Users Guide	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/UM10709.pdf	11-Aug-17
PCA9955B Demonstration Board OM13483	UM10729-1	PCA9955	Users Guide	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/UM10729.pdf	1-Aug-17
PCA9532 demonstration board OM13528	UM10988	PCA9530/31/32/33 PCA9550/51/52/53	Users Guide	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/UM10988.pdf	2-May-16
PCA9632 demonstration board OM13269	UM10528	PCA9632	Users Guide	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/UM10528.pdf	30-Jan-12
PCA9745B demonstration board OM13524	UM11009	PCA9745B	Users Guide	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/UM11009.pdf	27-Jun-16
Gaming Suitcase Demo System	UM10563	LED and Stepper Motor	Users Guide	https://www.nxp.com/docs/en/user-guide/UM10563.pdf	9-Aug-12

For more information, visit <http://www.nxp.com>

NXP offers evaluation modules and demo boards that can be used to develop software and evaluate the performance of the LED controllers.

OM13483—PCA9955B 16 channels LED demo board

The OM13483 is an add-on to 9-pin connector of NXP's I²C demo board 2005-1 or Fm+ I²C Bus development board. This daughter board makes it easy to test and design with the PCA9955B, a 16-channel Fast-mode Plus (Fm+) 57 mA constant current and outputs allow up to 20 V for LED supply.



OM13321—PCA9956B 24 channels LED demo board

The OM13321 is an add-on to 9-pin connector of NXP's I²C demo board 2005-1 or Fm+ I²C Bus development board. This daughter board makes it easy to test and design with the PCA9956B, a 24-channel Fast-mode Plus (Fm+) 57 mA constant current and outputs allow up to 20 V for LED supply.





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