WL-IPD4B

Digital Quad Integrating Photodiode with USB

Features

- **Simultaneous** integration of up to **4 inputs** at up to **1.2 kHz** conversion rate
- Gate time **6 μs** to **1 s** with internal timer
- Gap-less **continuous** integration with gate times **500 μs** to **1 s**
- Triggered measurements include **signal** and **background** acquisition
- **20 bit** resolution
- **Ultra low noise:**
  Below shot noise for many applications
- Extreme dynamic range: up to **1 : 250 000**
- High accuracy, low drift
- Tunable full scale range **50 pC** to **350 pC**
- Easy-to-use **interface (USB, UART)**
- External trigger rising or falling edge, TTL or LVDS
- Auxiliary ADC, DAC and GPIO pins
- Small form factor: 60 x 40 x 22 mm^3
- Affordable pricing

Applications

- Laser pulse monitoring and signal measurement in systems up to 1 kHz
- Digtial 2 or 4 segment photodiodes
- Shot-to-shot pulse noise measurements
- Continuous gap-free signal monitoring
- Works with Si, InGaAs, GaAs detectors

General Description

The WL-IPD4B is a highly-integrated boxcar integrator to be attached directly to up to 4 photo diodes. After a trigger pulse, all 4 inputs are integrated simultaneously for an adjustable amount of time between 6 μs and 1 second (boxcar integrator). The measurement is digitized using integrated 20 bit analog-to-digital converters with ultra low noise and exceptional dynamic range. Integration results are transferred over the USB link to a computer (alternatively: 3.3 V UART or SPI slave). In triggered mode, the IPD4B can continuously acquire 4 signal measurements and transfer them over the USB link at a trigger rate of up to 1.2 kHz. This allows shot-ot-shot measurements in systems with 1 kHz repetition rate. Internal triggering additionally allows gap-less boxcar integration mesurements with gate times 500 μs to 1 s e.g. for monitoring. In addition to the 4 analog inputs, an external digital input is captured and reported simultaneously. This allows to "tag" certain measurements or to synchronize multiple integrators.

The USB interface registers itself as virtual serial port (VCP) for direct and easy integration into lab control software such as LabView. Communication uses a simple text-based protocol.

(Document Rev. 1.8, 2026-06-21)

Structure
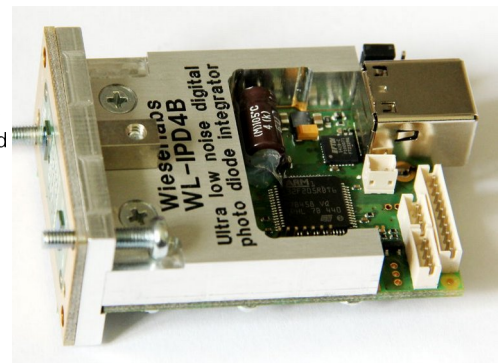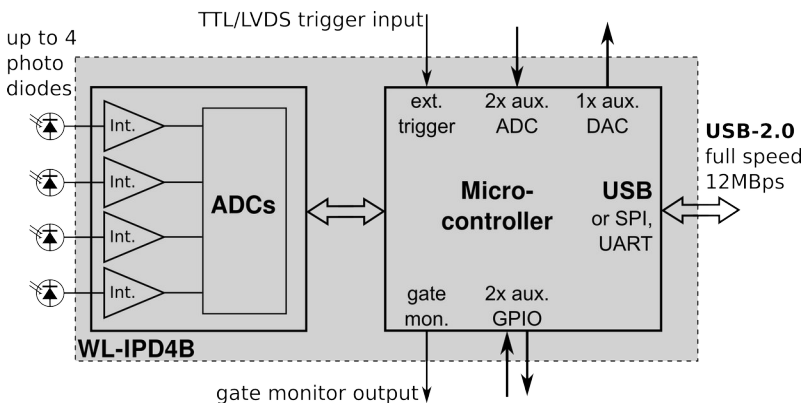
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Variants of the WL-IPD4B

Photos of different variants of the WL-IPD4B. Different photo diodes can be mounted; the ones in the images are just examples.
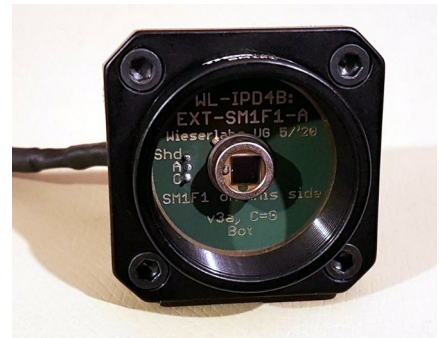
Order Code: WL-IPD4B-SM1F1: 1 Photo diode, with Thorlabs SM1 mount:

This variant features one photo diode in the center of a Thorlabs SM1 tube mount.

Up to 3 more photo diodes can be attached externally via short cables (50 cm max.) using the **WL-IPD4B-EXT-SM1F1** series external photo diode mounts (image on the right).

Note that noise performance degrades when using externally attached photo diodes. The longer the cables the stronger the effect.

Order Code: WL-IPD4B-SM05X2: 2 Photo diodes, with Thorlabs SM0.5 compatible thread:

The M4 screw at the bottom allow it to be mounted on various optical table posts (e.g. Torlabs).

Note that the 0.5 inch thread in this package limits the diameter of the photo diode casings.

This variant is not compatible with the WL-IPD4B-EXT series of external detectors.

Order Code: WL-IPD4B-BB: Horizontal breakout board:
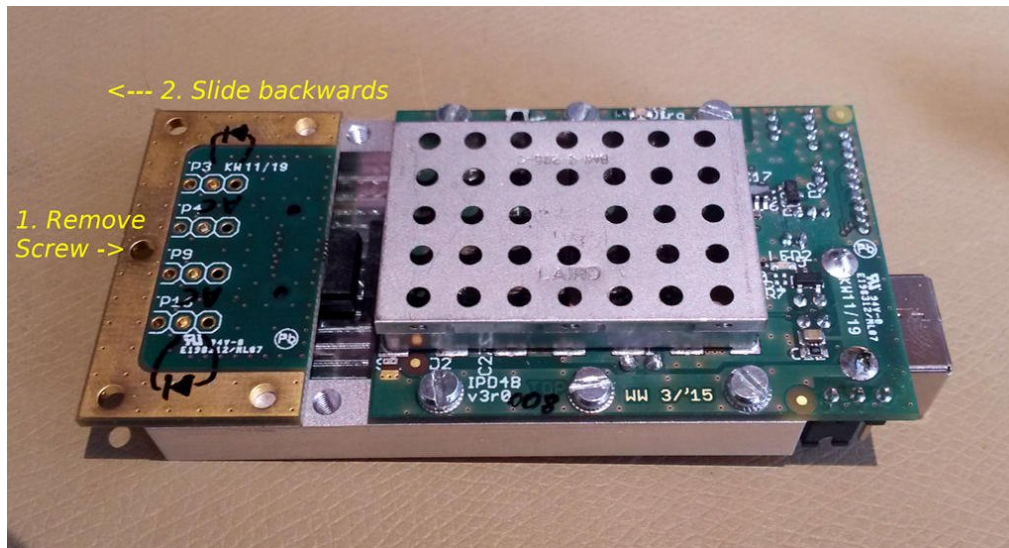
This variant allows to easily attach up to 4 photo diodes via a breakout board. Note that noise performance is best if diodes are attached directly; the longer the cable the more noise is picked up.

Order Code: WL-IPD4B-VM: Vertical mount:
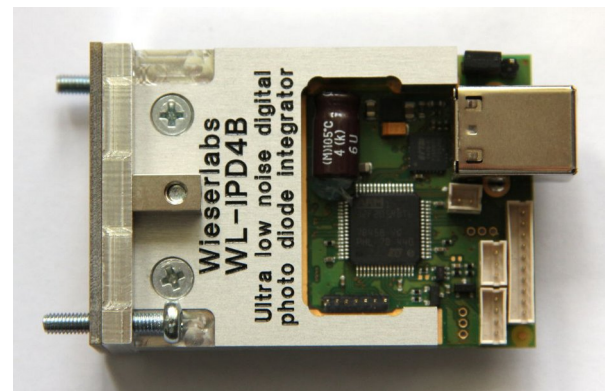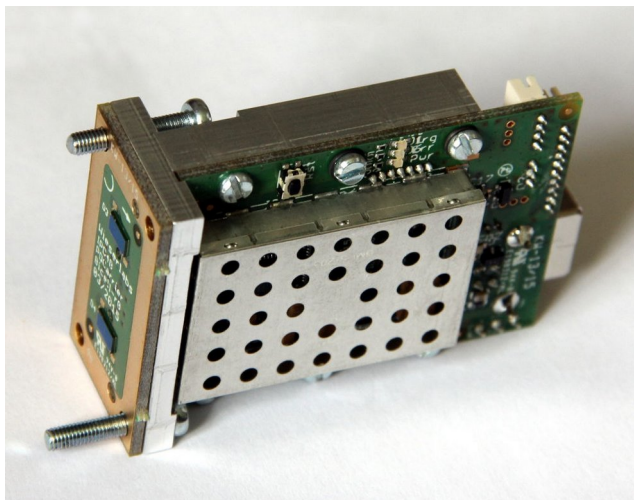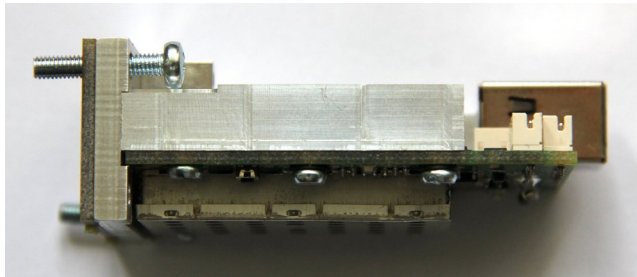
This variant is mainly interesting for OEM integration. Different types of photo diodes can be placed on the vertical mount.

Basic Connections, Quick Start

The USB is needed to power the device, to configure it and to transfer the measurement results.

The supplied 4-pin wire allows to attach an external trigger and to monitor the integration gate.

The 4-wire cable has the following pinout (bottom-to-top in the photo):

1 – Gate monitor output (3.3V) (black in the photo)
2 – Ground
3 – Trigger input (3.3V) (white in the photo)
4 – Ground

See also the chapter about electrical interfacing.
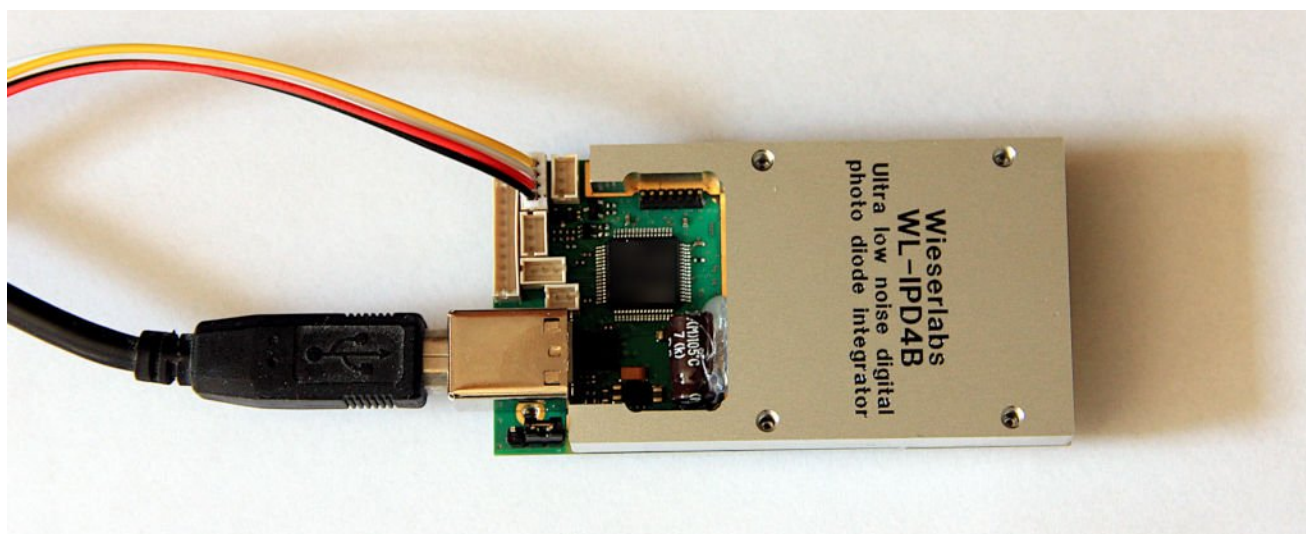
Electrical Specifications

Parameter	Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Units
Supply Voltage (V_S)		4	5	6	V
Supply Current	Normal operation (1 kHz)		90	150	mA
TTL/COMS trigger input logic level		3.3		5	V
Gate monitor output logic level			3.3		V
SPI and GPIO logic HIGH level			3.3		V
Analog input full scale capacity	Default range (range setting 7)		350		pC
	Smallest range (range setting 1)		50		pC
Intrinsic trigger delay	No additional delay setting (default)	100		360	ns
Added trigger delay	Via delay setting, resolution 1 µs	0		100	s
Channel-to-channel crosstalk	Range 7, 4 photodiodes attached, stimulation via 5 µs LED pulse on one channel, signal height 500 000 counts, integration time 25 µs, lead delay 2 µs, no signal on all other channels		7	10	counts
			14	20	ppm
Memory effect from previous pulse	Same parameters as above, Si photodiode with 3x3 mm, stimulation signal 500 000 counts, followed by 3 dark results to measure memory effect (result is less than signal noise)		15		counts

Mechanical Specifications

Size of board	54 x 40	mm^2
Weight of device with horzontal breakout board (approx.)	48	g
Weight of board alone	TBD	g

Noise Performance

These tables summarize noise measurements in **ppm of full scale** (**ppm FS**, i.e. 10^{-6} of full scale). All noise measurements were carried out in USB powered operation.

Trigger Rate	Gate time 50 µs		Gate time 500 µs		Unit
	Range 7	Range 1	Range 7	Range 1	
1000 Hz	13.0	15.0			ppm FS
500 Hz	4.6	7.0	18.0	20.5	ppm FS
200 Hz	3.4	6.0	3.4	9.6	ppm FS
125 Hz	3.5	6.0	3.6	9.5	ppm FS
83 Hz	3.5	5.8	3.7	9.3	ppm FS
20 Hz	10.2	11.2	3.7	9.2	ppm FS

Table N1: Internal trigger model WL-IPD4B-BB, no photo diodes attached. Note that the breakout board variant can have higher noise than e.g. the well shielded SM05X2 variant (see below).

Trig. Rate Hz	No Photo Diodes						Hamamatsu S2386-44K						Unit
	Gate 10 µs		Gate 50 µs		Gate 500 µs		Gate 10 µs		Gate 50 µs		Gate 500 µs		
	R 7	R 1	R 7	R 1	R 7	R 1	R 7	R 1	R 7	R 1	R 7	R 1	
1000	5.2	7.4	6.2	8.2			15	64	16	85			ppm FS
500	3.7	6.1	3.9	6.4	16	16	15	64	15	85	21	90	ppm FS
200	3.5	6.3	3.5	6.4	3.6	6	14	64	15	84	16	90	ppm FS
125	3.7	6.0	3.6	6.3	3.6	6	14	63	15	85	16	90	ppm FS
83	3.5	6.7	3.5	6.1	3.6	6	15	68	14	80	16	90	ppm FS
20	4.5	6.5	4.3	7.1	12	12	16	66	14	80	19	98	ppm FS

Table N2: External trigger mode, model WL-IPD4B-SM05X2, Hamamatsu S2386-44K photodiodes, no light onto the photo diodes. The WL-IPD4B-SM1F1 has similar performance.

Photodiodes

Photodiodes are attached in photo voltaic mode. The photo diodes are attached on a pluggable photo diode carrier board. This allows the use different photo diodes in different positions and with different distances. Contact us for custom placements and custom photo diodes.

Compatibility: The IPDB works with all regular photo diodes including Si, InGaAs, GaAs, extended InGaAs. It does **not** work with photomultipliers (PMTs) or mercury cadmium telluride (MCT) detectors.

Recommended Photodiodes

The WL-IPD4B works with any Si, InGaAs or similar photo diode. The only requirement is that it needs to create a photo current in photovoltaic mode als all regular photo diodes do. Hence, it does not work with CdTe detectors or PMT tubes.

Here is a list of standard and proven photo diodes that are the preferred choice with the IPD4B. If you need different

Type name	Manufacturer	Active area size mm	Wavelength range nm	Remark (PD = photodiode)
S2386-44K	Hamamatsu	3.6 x 3.6	320 – 1100	Best general purpose Si PD
S1336-5BQ	Hamamatsu	2.4 x 2.4	190 – 1100	Extended UV
S1336-44BQ	Hamamatsu	3.6 x 3.6	190 – 1100	Extended UV
S1336-8BK	Hamamatsu	5.8 x 5.8	320 – 1100	Large area
S1336-8BQ	Hamamatsu	5.8 x 5.8	190 – 1100	Large area and extended UV
G10899-xxK	Hamamatsu	1, 2 or 3	500 – 1700	InGaAs PD, very broad bandwidth
G12180-xxxA	Hamamatsu	1.0 – 5.0	900 – 1700	InGaAs PD, standard
G8370-8x	Hamamatsu	1.0 – 5.0	900 – 1700	InGaAs, low PDL
G12183-010K	Hamamatsu	1.0	900 – 2600	Special InGaAs PD up to 2.6 µm ($$$)
S4349	Hamamatsu	4 x 1.5 x 1.5	190 – 1000	4-Quadrant Si PD, extended UV

Trigger Timing and Operation

The IPD4B has 2 internal operation modes, **PS mode** and **CONT mode**.

NOTE: Due to an internal limitation, do not use integration times between 351 and 364 µs. Also, avolid trigger intervals between 90 and 100 Hz. (Workaround: You can use twice the trigger rate and discard the unneded results – or, for continuous mode, simply add result pairwise.)

PS mode is the standard triggered integration mode. In PS mode, after a trigger event, the IPD4B performs two integrations and ADC conversions for each of the 4 input channels: First, a *primary* integration is performed with a gate time t_p between 6 µs and 1 second as specified with the `:time` command (excluding the small range 351 to 364 µs due to an internal limitation). The primary integration is reported as `D:P:` and is intended to be used to capture the photo diode signal of interest. For best results with a short pulsed laser source (pulse length much shorter than gate time), ensure that the laser pulse hits the photo diode at least 1 µs after the start of the primary integration gate. Note that the true timing of the primary integration can be observed at GATE_MON_OUT (connector CON1, pin 1).

Immediately after the primary integration, a *secondary* ("background") integration is performed and then the IPD4B waits for the next trigger event without integrating the photodiode signal. The gate time t_s for the secondary integration is as long as the primary one for gate times up to 175 µs and fixed at 10 µs for larger gate times. It is recommended to set the trigger time and trigger delay such that the *primary* integration is the signal of interest. The *secondary* "background" result is usefuly only in certain very rare circumstances: It is *not* a *true* background because it is acquired *after* and not during the primary integration. Especially, stray and unwanted ambient light which might be fluctuating with 100 or 120 Hz mains frequency cannot be properly captured and subtracted that way. Therefore, it is recommended to mechanically shield ambient light during the gate time instead of trying to subtract the secondary "background" result. Also subtracting the *secondary* measurement adds noise to the end result. Therefore, secondary integration results are not reported by default and must be activated using the `:rmask` command. Once activated, the show up as lines starting with `D:S:`. **See also: offset subtraction.**

CONT mode allows continuous gap-free integration and can be activated for gate times t_p of 400 µs and larger. In CONT mode, *primary* and *secondary* integrations (reported as `D:P:` and `D:S:`, respectively) are alternating and both results need to be used to obtain gap-free signal coverage. CONT mode also requires a periodic trigger but in most applications, the internal periodic trigger is easiest to use. After a trigger event, the IPD4B completes the running secondary integration and immediately starts a primary integration with a gate time of t_p as specified with the `:time` command. After the gate time, it starts a secondary integration which runs until the next trigger event. Hence, t_p+t_p is the trigger repetition time. Note: Since secondary integration results are not reported by default, they must be activated using the `:rmask` command.

Example: For continuous gap-less integration of all 4 photo diodes, set the internal trigger mode to "periodic" and the gate time to half the trigger period. Let's assume we want integration results at a rate of 500 Hz. So, we set the internal periodic trigger to a 2000 µs interval time (i.e. 500 Hz rate) and use a 1000 µs gate time:

```
:itm per
:itp 2000 1
:dly 0
:rmask 0xff
:t 1000
```

**Offset subtraction.** The IPD4B has an intrinsic signal offset. Even if all photo diodes are in complete darkness or no photo diodes are attached at all, a certain small signal is reported. This is typically about 0.4% full scale (reported value about 4000). This offset is intentially present to allow measurements in presence of small leakage currents. Otherwise, with a hard clipping at zero, leakage currents through

the photo diode would introduce an offset error in the integration results. It is recommended to measure an average offset without light on the photo diodes for every channel over several trigger events. This average offset can then be subtracted from the reported integration results. Please note that due to leakage currents, the offset varies slightly with integration time, so for optimum result is is recommended to measure the offset at the same gate time as later the integration results. Also, when using primary and secondary integration results, the offset has to be measured for primary and secondary gates independently.

PS mode
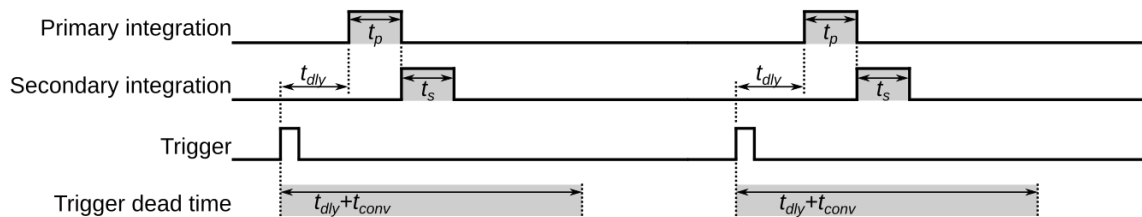
CONT mode
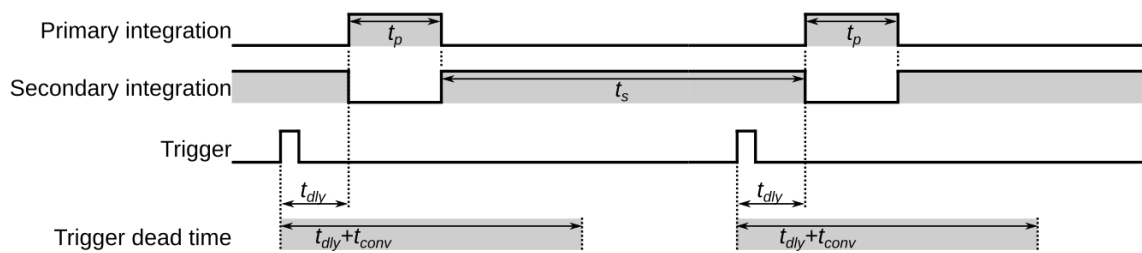
Trigger dead time. If a trigger event occurs during the trigger dead time, it is ignored. It is not recommended to trigger during the trigger dead time as this can increase the noise.

Internal result buffer: The IPD4B has an internal queue which is capable of storing up to 1024 results. This makes it easier to keep up with the conversion rate using PC software receiving data from the USB or serial UART link. If the result buffer runs full, the IPD4B starts to discard the oldest results in the queue and overwrites them with new ones. If results are lost, this is reported in the result string using an "L" at the end (see response format).

USB VCP Interface

The USB interface is a USB-1.1 full speed (12 Mbps) link applying an FTDI USB-to-serial converter. With the appropriate Windows-drivers from www.ftdichip.com, the USB link presents itself as a virtual COM port (VCP) on the host computer. On **Windows 7 and newer**, the drivers install themselves automatically via Winows Update. Linux VCP drivers are part of every recent Linux kernel (module ftdi_sio).

The VCP has to be initialized for 1000 kbaud (divisor 24), raw transmission, no echo, 8 bit, no parity, 1 stop bit ("8n1") and RTS/CTS hardware flow control. The corresponding initialization commands under Linux are:

```
stty -F /dev/ttyUSB0 1000000 crtscts raw pass8 -echo
```

Some older versions of stty do not allow baud rates beyond 115200. In this case you can use:

```
stty -F /dev/ttyUSB0 38400 crtscts raw pass8 -echo
setserial /dev/ttyUSB0 spd_cust divisor 24
```

In LabView (Windows), simply use VISA serial open and initialize the associated COM port to 1 000 000 baud, 1 stop bit, no parity bit, RTS/CTS flow control. Example LabView software is provided.

To make the device names persistant you can use the following udev rules under Linux: Create a file called /etc/udev/rules.d/60_wl_ipd4b.rules with the following content (all in one line!):

```
SUBSYSTEM=="tty", ATTRS{idVendor}=="0403", ATTRS{idProduct}=="6001",  \
ATTRS{product}=="WL-IPD4B", SUBSYSTEM=="tty", GROUP="dialout", \
SYMLINK+="ttyIPD4B"
```

You need to call "udevadm control –reload" as root and re-plug the USB connection for the changes to take effect.

If you have multiple IPD4B devices, you may use different names and disfferentiate the devices via their serial number. This is an example for such an udev rules file (2 lines!):

```
SUBSYSTEM=="tty", ATTRS{idVendor}=="0403", ATTRS{idProduct}=="6001",  \
ATTRS{product}=="WL-IPD4B", ATTRS{serial}=="AH07F5LF", SUBSYSTEM=="tty", \
GROUP="dialout", SYMLINK+="ttyIPD4B_Oscillator"

SUBSYSTEM=="tty", ATTRS{idVendor}=="0403", ATTRS{idProduct}=="6001",  \
ATTRS{product}=="WL-IPD4B", ATTRS{serial}=="CD08XRFG", SUBSYSTEM=="tty", \
GROUP="dialout", SYMLINK+="ttyIPD4B_Amplifier"
```

Of course, you have to use the serial numbers of your IPD4B boxcar integrator devices. You can use the following command to obtain all udev attributes including the serial number:

```
udevadm info --attribute-walk –name=/dev/ttyUSB0
```

Under Linux (e.g. when using a Raspberry Pi), the easiest way to see results would be the following shell script. For the commands (":itm", ":itp",... see the chapter about USB commands).

```
SERIAL=/dev/ttyIPD4B
stty 1000000 -crtscts < $SERIAL
/bin/echo -ne ":itm per\r" > $SERIAL
/bin/echo -ne ":itp 1000 1\r" > $SERIAL
/bin/echo -ne ":rc\r" > $SERIAL
cat $SERIAL
```

UART Serial Interface

Starting with firmware version 0.9.0 (Nov 2021), the IPD4B also supports a 3.3V serial UART interface ("RS232-like"). In order to use that interface, you need to connect to the communications pin header CON3, pins 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. The serial interface uses a the same settings as lined out above for the virtual COM port: 1000 kbaud, 8 bit, no parity, 1 stop bit ("8n1") and RTS/CTS hardware flow control. Note that RTS/CTS hardware flow control is mandatory.

The UART interface uses the exact same text-based protocol as the USB virtual COM port.

SPI Slave Interface

The IPD4B also supports a 3.3V SPI slave interface. In order to use that interface, you need to connect to the communications pin header CON3, pins 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. This interface is not documented here. If you need to use that, please contact us.

ADC Result Delivery with Multiple Interfaces

The IPD4B always listens to commands on all 3 interfaces (USB, UART, SPI). It will take commands from any of these interfaces. However, results and responses can only be sent to one selected interface. The interface for response/result transmission is automatically chosen to be the interface that sent the most recent reconfiguration command (":rc" for serial protocols). Initially, it defaults to the USB interface. The response/result interface can also be selected via the ":ifs" command.

Serial (USB/UART) Data and Response Format

The IPD4B by default transmits data in an ASCII line-based human readable (non-binary) format. Lines are terminated by a CR/LF combination. Commands sent to the IPD4B are to be sent in CR (or CR/LF) terminated ASCII text strings. Typical messages received from the IPD4B look as follows:

```
R: cmd=5 err=0
D:P: 60720 60944 66832 66256 37373632
D:P: 61367 61232 66902 66112 37348632
```

Each line starts with a type field (start of line, e.g. "R:" or "D:P:").

List of types:

Type field	Description
R:	"response": Command response (from response queue)
D:P:	"data": Primary integration result (from result queue)
D:S:	"data": Secondary integration result (from result queue)
MSG:	"message": Result message (from result queue)

Command response: "R:" denotes command responses. An "R" line is generated for most commands sent to the IPD4B.

```
R: cmd=5 err=0
```

The figure after "cmd=" (here: 5) is the internal command name. The figure after "err=" (here: 0) denotes the error code. Code 0 is always "success" (no error). List of error codes:

Error code	Description
0	Success (no error)
1	Argument out of range
2	Missing argument for command
3	Too many arguments for command
4	Wrong number of arguments for command
5	Unknown command
6	Argument format error

Integration results: Lines starting with "D:" contain integration ADC results ("data"). There are 2 different types of ADC results: Primary and secondary, "D:P" and "D:S", respectively. Secondary integration results (e.g. "background") are disabled by default and need to be enabled using command :rmask.

```
D:P: 60720 60944 66832 66256 37373632
D:S: 60720 60944 66832 66256 37373632 L
```

The first 4 figures (green) are the 4 ADC conversion results for the 4 photo diode channels. Data range is 0 to $2^{20}-1$ (1048576). The next figure (blue) is an approximate timestamp for the result in µs for firmware versions 0.8.1 and above. It can safely be ignored in most cases and can be disabled via the command ":rformat -t". If results were dropped due to result queue overflow, then an "L" at the end of the line indicates this (see second line above).

If enabled via command ":rformat +f", integration results can also contain a FLAGS bitmask as additional value after the 4 ADC conversion results:

```
D:P: 60710 61231 68736 65223 32 37373632
```

The flags value would be 32 (printed in red) in this example (although somewhat fictional as currently there is only 1 flag bit so values can only be 0 and 1). However, for compatibility with future firmware updates, it is important to treat this value as a bitmask!

The FLAG bits are defined as follows:

FLAG Bit	Description
0	State of the GPIO0 input pin immediately after starting the primary integration gate. This pin is externally available and can be used to "tag" integration results so that the results can be associated with other external events. The GPIO0 pin is available on connector CON4, pin 3, see the chapter on Electrical Interfacing. It is, by default, pulled HIGH, so with no external electrical connection present, this should be 1. Requires firmware version 0.8.1 or higher.
1..15	Reserved for future expansion, currently always 0.

Result message: Lines starting with "MSG:" are messages queued in the same queue as the integration results. The reason for keeping them separate from the comand responses ("R:") is that these messages indicate status related to the integration and therefore need to be queued in the same queue as the integration results so that the relationship between the message and the previous and next integration result is kept intact.

```
MSG: 2 1 1308  37373632
```

The fields are: message code (here: 2), status code (here: 1), status detail (here: 1308). All further figures must be ignored (reserved for future expansioon). f results were dropped due to result queue overflow, then an "L" at the end of the line indicates this just as with the integration results above. List of message codes:

Message code	Description
0	**No message** (should never happen)
1	**Reconfig:** This is generated in the result queue after a re-config has occured. All results before this message were taken with the old parameter set and all results after this message were generated with the new parameter set. The status code is 0 for success.
2	**Timeout:** Internal state machine timeout. The status code indicates the number of pending results.

The status detail indicates the source code position where the message was generated. It can change during firmware updates and is not intended for any use besides communicaiton with the vendor.

USB / UART Commands

The IPD4B can be configured by sending commands over the USB link. The command format is ASCII text terminated by CR (or CR/LF). The command structure is always:

```
:cmd [arg1] [arg2] [...]
```

The first character is a ':' denoting a command start. The same commands can be sent via the serial line (communications connector CON3, pins 4, 5, 6, 8, 9).

`cmd` is one of the command strings listed below.

`arg1`, `arg2` are optional arguments for the command.

Commands can be sent to the IPD4B while integrations are in progess. Most commands do not directy affect the active properties of the IPD4B but are stored in shadow registers. This new configuration in the shadow registers has to be explicitly activated by a re-configuration command (reconfig, stop, cont) is set. Most commands are acknowledged using an `R:` response. Note that the IPD4B has an internal response queue (which is separate from the result queue) and can hold up to 16 responses. Therefore, one can send several commands and then receive several responses.

NOTE: The USB virtual COM port or UART interface is **typically not in interactive mode**, i.e. it will not echo back characters typed in and will not honor backspace. In order to enter interactive mode, send "`i`" followed by a CR/LF. In order to leave interactive mode, send "`i 0`" followed by CR/LF. These commands do not have a colon ":" at the beginning. **NOTE:** Interactive mode is only recommended for terminal emulation with human character entry and not for automated control e.g. from LabView or other software.

```
:ifs NNN
```

Interface select. Set the interface that receives the command responses and ADC integration results. Initially, the USB interface is chosen, so if you use USB you do not need this command. When using a different interface such as SPI or the 3.3V UART on the CON3 connector, then this command can be used to set the interface for result and response delivery.

Note that the communication interface (USB/UART) that sends a reconfigure ("`:rc`") command will automatically update the interface accordingly, so in many cases the use of "`:ifs`" is not necessary.

Possible values for NNN are:

NNN	Description
0	Select the USB interface for result/response delivery.
1	Select the 3.3V UART interface on CON3 for result/response delivery.
2	Select the SPI slave interface on CON3 for result/response delivery.

Note: If that command fails to work for you, execute it 2 times.

```
:t NNN [c]
:time NNN [c]
```

Set the integration time to NNN µs. If a "c" is specified as second argument, the IPD4B is in CONT mode, otherwise it is in standard PS mode.

PS mode: Valid gate time range is 6 to 1000000 µs excluding 351 to 364 µs.

CONT mode: Valid gate time range is 400 to 1000000 µs.

Requires re-config to take effect.

```
    :dly NNN
    :delay NNN
```

Set trigger delay in µs. Valid range is 0 to 100s (100000000µs). An external or internal trigger will be delayed by this time before the triggered integration begins. Note that delays may not overlap the next trigger, so for a delay of D and an integration time of N, the device will ignore all triggers for time D+N. The highest trigger repetition rate is 1.2 kHz for short integration times (e.g. 50 µs).

Requires re-config to take effect.

```
    :etp r|f
```

Set external trigger polarity to rising ('r') or falling ('f') edge triggered.

```
    :rmask NUM
```

Set the resut mask. Not all results are queued in the result queue to save bandwidth and queue space. The result mask is a bitmask which selects the results to be stored and transferred. It can be specified in hexadecimal (e.g. 0x12) or decimal (e.g. 18) notation.

Currently the following result types are defined:

Result Type	Type field	rmask value	Description
1	`D:P:`	0x02	Primary integration results.
2	`D:S:`	0x04	Secondary integration results.
3	`D:A:`	0x08	Auxiliary IO (not yet implemented)
4	`MSG:`	0x10	Messages

The rmask value corresponds to the *n*-th bit where *n* is the result type, i.e. (1 << result_type). For instance, to select results from primary integration and messages, set rmask to 0x12.

Acts immediately; does not require a re-config to take effect.

```
    :rformat [+f|-f] [+t|-t] [...]
```

Configure the result format. Requires firmware version 0.8.1 or higher.

Currently the following result types are defined:

Spec	Description
`+f / -f`	Enable / disable reporting of the FLAGS in integration results.
`+t / -t`	Enable / disable reporting of the timestamp field in the integration results.

For example, to enable reporting of FLAGS and disabling the timestamp, use:

```
    :rformat +f -t
```

Changes take effect immediately; they do not require a re-config.

```
:itm off|per|dly
```

Set internal trigger mode:

> `off` – no internal trigger; use external (LVDS/TTL) trigger
>
> `per` – periodic internal trigger; this can be used to periodically start an integration without external trigger
>
> `dly` – use the internal trigger timer to provide an extended external trigger delay. This allows to realize delays which are longer than the trigger period of the external trigger. This is extremely useful for implementing a slightly "negative" trigger delay on a repetetive trigger.

Example: A Ti:Sa laser is operated at 1 kHz and generates a trigger at 1 kHz. An integration time of 20 µs is chosen. Due to the intrinsic delay in the IPD4B and the time spent in cables and optics, the optimum trigger delay might be -15 µs or +985 µs. If 985 µs is set via `:dly`, then only every second trigger will be accepted due to the dead time. Solution: Set the internal trigger to delay mode with a 500 µs delay and do the remaining 485 µs using the regular trigger delay:

```
:itm dly
:itp 500 1
:dly 485
```

Requires re-config to take effect.

```
:itp PER [PSC]
```

Internal trigger period and prescaler. This is only relveant for internal trigger modes "dly" and "per". Valid range is 0 to 65535 for PER and 1 to 4000 for the prescaler. The final internal trigger time is PER * PSC in µs. If the internal trigger is in "per" mode (period), this specifies the rate at which an internal trigger signal is generated. For "dly" (delay) mode, this specifies the extended trigger delay time.

Requires re-config to take effect.

```
:nt NTRIG
:ntrig NTRIG
```

Set the number of trigger events to capture before stopping. Default is 0 which is "unlimited". After NTRIG many trigger events have been captured, the integrator will stop. You can continue to capture again NTRIG many events by using the ":c" (continue) command.

Note that the first trigger received will produce a bad first ADC result (as usual). Either apply more triggers than needed, or, if possible in external triggered configuration, use ":trig" after ":c" to apply a software trigger before applying the external triggers. (Note: Use a short delay between ":c" and ":trig")

Requires re-config (or ":c") to take effect.

NOTE: Requires firmware version v0.9.5 or above.

```
:range NNN
```

Set the full scale range for the analog integration circuit. Valid numbers for NNN are 1 to 7, default is 7. The full-scale range is NNN * 50 pC (hence default: 350 pC). For best noise performance, it is recommended to use the largest suitable range setting.

Requires re-config to take effect.

```
      :rc

      :reconfig
```

Re-configure; this is required so that the settings made with various commands (time, trigger delay,..) takes effect.

```
      :s
      :stop

      :c
      :cont
```

Stop the integrator and continue again. Stop is essencially a re-configuration with all triggers disabled.

```
      :trig
```

(Experimental feature) Apply a single software trigger.

Reason for use: The first conversion after a re-configuration will usually result in a bad conversion result. In free-running external/internal trigger configuration this is usually not a problem, the first result is simply discarded. However, in cases where individual triggers are generated in hardware, it might be not as easy to generate an extra trigger. Hence, you can use this command after a re-configuration instead of applying an external trigger. In certain circumstances, the first invocation of ":trig" may not generate a result ("D:P:" line) and it may have to be used twice with a short delay in between. Observe the integration result to judge.

Requires firmware version 0.9.4 or above.

```
      :reset
```

Complete reset of the IPD4B device; will re-boot the firmware. This removes all results and resets all settings to power-on defaults. This is useful to enter the bootloader for firmware update. It is not used during typical normal operation.

```
      :version
```

Write the firmware version string.

```
      :test
```

Enter integrator test mode. In this mode, the photo diodes are detached from the integrator and ADC and the observed noise is only due to the ADC and electronics.

```
      :istat NNN
```

Mainly for testing. If NNN>0, statistics for the primary and secondary integration on each channel are emitted for every NNN results (1 to 10000):

```
      STAT:P:   3891    3814    4038    4106 |      4.7      5.9      5.6      6.0
      STAT:S:   3516    3519    3731    3709 |      5.5      6.5      5.8      6.4
```

The first 4 figures are the average and the second 4 figures the standard deviation with 1 digit of precision.

A typical example would be to configure the integraton for 500µs rising edge triggered with no delay. Note that there is always an intrinsic delay from the trigger to the start of the integration which is between 100 and 350 ns. The actual integraton window after the trigger can be observed at the TRIG_MON trigger monitor pin.

```
:t 500
:dly 0
:etp r
:reconfig
```

Electrical Interfacing

Supply voltage: 4.5-9V (external or via USB).

Current consumption: 130mA typical

Trigger interface: 3.3V to 5V digital input for TTL input and usual LVDS levels for LVDS input.

Gate output: 3.3V digital output which is HIGH as long as the primary integration gate is active.

On-board LEDs:

- green power LED: always on if power is present
- red status LED: toggled when an integration is starting
- green status LED: blinking to indicate IPD4B is alive and operational; fast blink frequency during boot load process
- green USB indicator LED (near USB connector): indicates data going over the USB (both directions)

NOTE: A lot of optional functionality (auxiliary ADC, DAC, GPIO) is physically present on the design but needs a suitable firmware to be usable. **Contact us if you would like to use this functionality.**

The following functionality is supported out of the box as of firmware version 0.9.0 (Nov 2021):

- USB VCP interface
- UART interface with RTS/CTS handshaking
- SPI slave interface (not documented in here, please ask if you need this)

Connector Pinouts

External TTL trigger input and integration gate monitor output (**CON1**):

Pin	Name	Description
1	GATE_MON_OUT	Gate monitor output (3.3V).
2	GND	Ground connection.
3	TRIG_IN	Trigger input (3.3V or 5V) if CMOS/TTL trigger source is implemented. To select the CMOS/TTL trigger input, resistor **R8** needs to be inserted (100 Ohm) and resistor **R9** needs to be removed.
4	GND	Ground connection.

External LVDS trigger connector (**CON2**):

Pin	Name	Description
1	LVDS_TRIG_IN+	Positive LVDS line for external trigger input. Only avaliable if LVDS input is configured. To select the LVDS trigger input, resistor **R9** needs to be inserted (100 Ohm) and resistor **R8** needs to be removed. LVDS termination can be inserted via R20 (100 Ohm) if desired.
2	LVDS_TRIG_IN-	Negative LVDS line for external trigger input. Only avaliable if LVDS input is configured. See pin 1.
3	GND	Ground connection.

Communication connector (optional) (**CON3**):

Pin	Name	Description
1		Unused (RFU)
2	3.3V	3.3V supply from the integrator board. Can be used as IO voltage reference for attached logic. Max power drawn: 20mA
3	MOSI	SPI MOSI (3.3V level) if SPI interface is implemented in firmware.
4	MISO RTS	SPI MISO (3.3V level) if SPI interface is implemented in firmware. Serial RTS (3.3V level) if serial interface is implemented in firmware.
5	SCK CTS	SPI SCK (3.3V level) clock if SPI interface is implemented in firmware. Serial CTS (3.3V level) if serial interface is implemented in firmware.
6	GND	Ground connection.
7	NSS	SPI NSS slave select (3.3V level) if SPI interface is implemented in firmware.
8	SDA RXD	SDA serial data if I2C interface is implemented in firmware. (3.3V level) Receive data if serial interface is implemented in firmware. (3.3V level)
9	SCL TXD	SCL serial clock if I2C interface is implemented in firmware. (3.3V level) Transmit data if serial interface is implemented in firmware. (3.3V level)
10	GND	Ground connection.

Auxiliary GPIO (general purpose digital input/output) connector (optional) (**CON4**):

Pin	Name	Description
1	GND	Ground connection.
2	GPIO1	Auxiliary GPIO pin (3.3V level); internal pull-up, must be activated in firmware.
3	GPIO0	Auxiliary GPIO pin (3.3V level); internal pull-up, must be activated in firmware.

Auxiliary ADC connector (optional) (**CON5**):

| Pin	Name	Description
1	AUX_ADC_IN1	Auxiliary ADC input 1; must be activated in firmware.
2	AUX_ADC_IN0	Auxiliary ADC input 0; must be activated in firmware.
3	GND	Ground connection.

Auxiliary DAC output (optional) (**CON6**):

Pin	Name	Description
1	AUX_DAC_OUT	Auxiliary DAC output. The auxiliary DAC is present on the microcontroller an can be activated with suitable firmware.
2	GND	Ground connection.

Supply pin header / jumper (**JP1**):

Pin	Name	Description
1	USB_5V	5V from the USB output.
2	5V	5V supply input for the IPD4B. For USB powered operation, connect pins 1 and 2 with a jumper. For external power supply, connect power between pins 2 and 3 and leave pin 1 open.
3	GND	Ground connection.

The supply pin header is a standard 2.54 mm pin header. All other connectors mentioned above mate with ZHR-*n* (*n* being the number of pins) from JST, available e.g. at DigiKey.

The image on the right shows the location of the electrical connections. Pin 1 is marked for each connector.
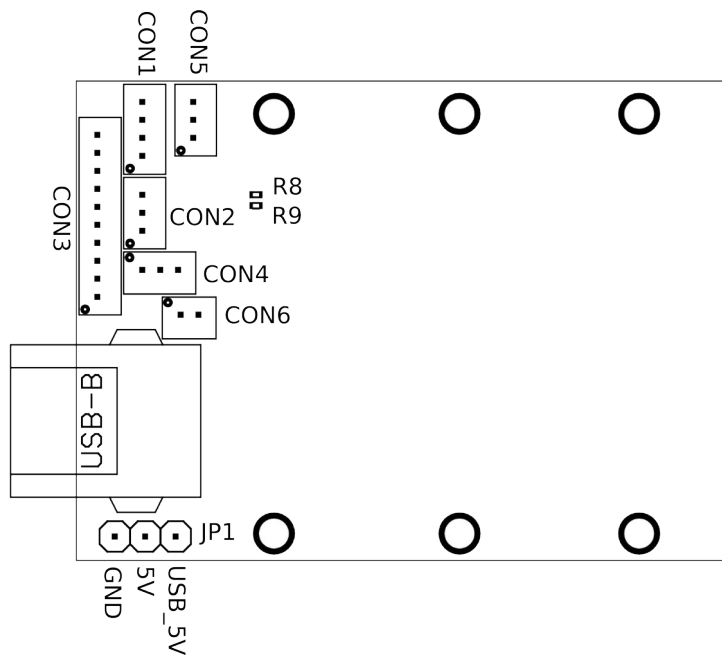
Limitations and Known Issues

1. A re-config (command ":rc") will generate a gate pulse on the gate monitor output.

2. In extended delay mode (command ":itm dly"), a re-config will also transmit an integration result ("D:P:" line). This result needs to be ignored.

3. The first software trigger (command ":trig") after a re-config may not actually trigger but only retrieve an ADC integration result, unless extended delay mode is used. Solution: Observe data and, if needed, apply a second software trigger in the first instance after a reconfiguration.