GS66508T-EVBDB2/GS66516T-EVBDB2
GaN E-HEMT Daughter Board
and GS665MB-EVB Evaluation Platform
User’s Guide

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DANGER!
This evaluation kit is designed for engineering evaluation in a controlled lab
environment and should be handled by qualified personnel ONLY. High voltage will
be exposed on the board during the test and even brief contact during operation may
result in severe injury or death.

Never leave the board operating unattended. After it is de-energized, always wait until
all capacitors are discharged before touching the board.

CAUTION
This product contains parts that are susceptible to damage by electrostatic discharge
(ESD). Always follow ESD prevention procedures when handling the product.
Overview

The GS665XXT-EVBDB2 daughter board evaluation kit consists of two GaN Systems 650V GaN Enhancement-mode HEMTs (E-HEMTs) and all necessary circuits including half bridge gate drivers, isolated power supplies and an optional heatsink to form a functional half bridge power stage. It allows users to easily evaluate the GaN E-HEMT performance in any half bridge-based topology, either with the universal mother board (P/N: GS665MB-EVB) or users’ own system design for quick prototyping.

Features

- Serves as a reference design and evaluation tool as well as deployment-ready solution for easy in-system evaluation.
- Vertical mount style with height of 35mm, which fits in majority of 1U design and allows evaluation of GaN E-HEMT in traditional through-hole type power supply board.
- Current shunt position for switching characterization testing
- Universal form factor and footprint for all products

The daughter board and universal mother board ordering part numbers are below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1 Ordering part numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part Number</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>GS66508T-EVBDB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS66516T-EVBDB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS665MB-EVB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Control and Power I/Os

The daughter board GS665XXT-EVBDB2 circuit diagram is shown in Figure 1. The control logic inputs on 2x3 pin header J1 are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2 Control pins</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pin</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENA</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCC</td>
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<td>VDRV</td>
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<tr>
<td>PWMMH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0V</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Power pins

- VDC+: Input DC Bus voltage
- VSW: Switching node output
- VDC-: Input DC bus voltage ground return. Note that control ground 0V is isolated from VDC-.

Figure 1 GS665XXT-EVBDB2 Evaluation Board Block Diagram

GS66508T/GS66516T-EVBDB2 half bridge daughter board

A. 2x GaN Systems 650V E-HEMT GS66508T (30A/50mΩ) or GS66516T (60A/25 mΩ). The PCB footprints are universal and compatible for both packages
B. 5V to 10V (split into +6V/-4V) isolated DC/DC gate drive power supply

Figure 2 GS66508T/GS66516T-EVBDB2 bottom side (without heatsink)
C. Decoupling capacitors C4-C11
D. Isolated gate driver
E. Optional current shunt position JP1.
F. Test points for bottom Q2 Vgs.
G. Recommended probing positions for Q2 Vds.
H. Holes for temperature monitoring of Q1/Q2
I. M3 mounting screw for heatsink
J. (Optional) RC snubber circuit
GaN E-HEMTs

This daughter board includes two GaN Systems E-HEMTs: either two GS66508T (650V/30A, 50mΩ) or two GS66516T (650V/60A, 25mΩ) in a GaNPX® top-side cooled package. The thermal pad on top of the device is internally connected to the source. Electrical insulation will be needed for heatsink attachment. The GaNPX® T-package also features a dual symmetrical gate for easier paralleling and PCB layout.

![Figure 4 Package outline of GaNPX® T Package](image)

Gate drive power supply

- A bipolar gate drive bias with +6V and -4V for turning off is chosen for this design for more robust gate drive and better noise immunity.
- 5V to +10V isolated DC/DC converters are used for gate drive. The 10V is then split into +6V and -4V bias by using a 6V Zener diode.
- By default, the gate drive supply input VDRV is tied to VCC +5V via a 0Ω jumper (FB1). Remove FB1 if separate gate drive input voltage is to be used.

Gate driver circuit

- The half bridge evaluation boards use two Broadcom gate drive optocoulers (ACPL-P346) to drive the GaN transistors directly. The ACPL-P346 gate driver optocoupler is used to isolate and drive the GaN transistor, operating at high DC bus voltage. It has a rail-to-rail output with maximum output current of 2.5A to provide fast switching high voltage and driving current to turn the GaN device on and off efficiently and reliably. The drive output is separated by a diode and a 10Ω gate resistor is used to limit the current for sourcing and a 2Ω gate resistor for sinking.
- The ACPL-P346 has a propagation delay of less than 110 ns and typical rise and fall times of approximately 8 ns. The very high Common Mode Rejection (CMR) of 100kV/µs (min) isolates high transient noise during the high frequency operation and prevents erroneous outputs. It can provide isolation certified by UL 1577 for up to VISO 3750V RMS/min and IEC 60747-5-5 for working voltage, VFORM up to 891 VPEAK.
- The GaN E-HEMT switching speed and slew rate can be directly controlled by the gate resistors. By default the turn-on gate resistors, R6/R12, are 10Ω and turn-off gate resistors, R7/R14, are 2Ω. The user can adjust the values of gate resistors to fine tune the turn-on and turn-off speed.
- FB2/FB3 are footprints for optional ferrite bead. By default they are populated with 0Ω jumpers. If gate oscillation is observed, it is recommended to replace them with ferrite bead with Z=10-20Ω@100MHz.
Figure 5 Gate bias and driver circuit

RC Snubber

RS1/CS1 and RS2/CS2 are place holders to allow user to experiment with the RC snubber circuit, which is not populated. At high frequency operation the power dissipation for RS1/RS2 needs to be closely watched and CS1/CS2 should be sized correctly. It is recommended to start with 33-47 pF and 10-20 Ω.

Current shunt JP1

- The board provides an optional current shunt position JP1 between the source of Q2 and power ground return. This allows drain current measurement for switching characterization test such as Eon/Eoff measurement.
- The JP1 footprint is compatible with T&M Research SDN series coaxial current shunt (recommended P/N: SDN-414-10, 2GHz B/W, 0.1Ω)
- If current shunt is not used JP1 must be shorted. JP1 affects the power loop inductance and its inductance should be kept as low as possible. Use a copper foil or jumper with low inductance.
CAUTION
Check JP1 before the first time use. To complete the circuit, JP1 needs to be either shorted or a current shunt must be inserted before powering up.

Measurement with current shunt

1. When measuring VSW with current shunt, ensure all channel probe grounds and current shunt BNC output case are all referenced to the source end of Q2 before the current shunt. The recommended setup of probes is shown as below.
2. The output of coaxial current shunt can be connected to oscilloscope via 50Ω termination impedance to reduce the ringing.
3. The measured current is inverted and can be scaled by using: \( I_d = \frac{V_{id}}{R_{sense}} \).

![Figure 7 Recommended probe connection with current shunt](image)

Thermal design

1. The GS66508T and GS66516T E-HEMTs have a thermal pad on the top side for improved heat dissipation. Instead of relying solely on the PCB for cooling, heat can be transferred to a heatsink directly from the top of the E-HEMT, reducing the total thermal resistance.
2. A heatsink can be mounted to the board using a M3 screw with lock washer and nylon insulated bushing. A Thermal Interface Material (TIM) is needed to provide electrical insulation and conformance to the thermal pad surface. The daughter board evaluation kit supplies with a 35x35mm heatsink with M3 tapped hole. Other heatsinks can also be used to fit users' system design.
3. **Care should be taken during the assembly of the heatsink to avoid PCB bending and mechanical stress to the GaN E-HEMT.** We recommend to limit the torque of M3 mounting screw to <1 in-lb (0.1Nm) for GS66508T and <2 in-lb (0.2Nm) for GS66516T, which translates to about ~50psi pressure on each device.
WARNING
Over-torquing the heatsink may create excess mechanical stress and could result in device failure. Always follow the maximum torque spec and attach the heatsink carefully to avoid any PCB bending or high pressing force on the devices.

4. The E-HEMT case temperature, can be monitored using an IR camera or a thermocouple through two drilled holes from the top side as shown below:

![Image of case temperature monitoring](Figure 8 Location for case temperature monitoring)

CAUTION
There is no on-board over-temperature protection. Monitor the E-HEMT temperature closely during the test. Never operate the board with device temperature exceeding $T_{J,\text{MAX}}$ (150°C)

5. The TIM we use on this assembly is Bergquist® SilPad 1500ST, the measured total thermal resistance can be found in Figure 9. Compared to a bottom-cooled design, the top-side cooled package eliminates the PCB thermal resistance and significantly improve the thermal performance. Thermal grease is typically not needed on the assembly. If thermal grease is applied, use non-conductive and non-capacitive type thermal grease.

6. Forced air cooling is recommended for power testing.
Figure 9 Evaluation board thermal resistance comparison

Figure 10: The daughter board assembly with heatsink attached
Using GS665XXT-EVBDB2 with universal mother board GS665MB-EVB

GaN Systems provides a universal 650V mother board (ordering part number: GS665MB-EVB, sold separately) that can be used as the basic evaluation platform for all the daughter boards.

The universal 650V mother board evaluation kit includes following items:
1. Mother board GS665MB-EVB
2. 12VDC Fan

12V input

The board can be powered by 9-12V on J1. On-board voltage regulator creates to 5V for daughter board and control logic circuits. J3 is used for external 12VDC fan.
PWM control circuit

The top and bottom switches PWM inputs can be individually controlled by two jumpers J4 and J6. Users can choose between a pair of complementary on-board internal PWM signals (non-inverted and inverted, controlled by J7 input) with dead time or external high/low side drive signals from J5 (users’ own control board).

An on-board dead time generation circuit is included on the mother board. Dead time is controlled by two RC delay circuits, R6/C12 and R5/C11. The default dead time is set to about 100ns. Additionally two potentiometers locations are provided (TR1/TR2, not included) to allow fine adjustment of the dead time if needed.
WARNING
ALWAYS double check the jumper setting and PWM gate drive signals before applying power. Incorrect PWM inputs or jumper settings may cause device failures.

Test points
Test points are designed in groups/pairs to facilitate probing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test points</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TP1/TP2</td>
<td>+5V/0V</td>
<td>5V bias power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP7/TP8</td>
<td>PWMIN/0V</td>
<td>PWM input signal from J7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP4/TP3/TP13</td>
<td>PWMH/PWML/0V</td>
<td>High/low side gate signals to daughter board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP9/TP10</td>
<td>VDC+/VDC-</td>
<td>DC bus voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP11/TP12</td>
<td>VOUT/VDC-</td>
<td>Output voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP6/TP5</td>
<td>VSW/VDC-</td>
<td>Switching node output voltage (for HV oscilloscope probe)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Power connections
CON1-CON7 mounting pads are designed to be compatible with following mounting terminals:
- #10-32 Screw mount,
- Banana Jack PCB mount (Keystone P/N: 575-4), or
- PC Mount Screw Terminal (Keystone P/N: 8191)

Output passives (L and C14)
An external power inductor (not included) can be connected between VSW (CON1) and VOUT (CON4/5) or VDC+ (CON2/3) for double pulse test. Users can choose the inductor size to meet their test requirements. It is generally recommended to select a power inductor with low interwinding capacitance to obtain best switching performance. For the double pulse testing we use 2x 60uH/40A inductor (CWS, P/N: HF467-600M-40AV) in series. C14 is designed to accommodate a film capacitor as output filter.
Using GS665XXT-EVBDB2 in system

The daughter board allows users to easily evaluate the GaN performance in their own systems.

Refer to the footprint drawing of GS665XXT-EVBDB2 as shown below:

1. All units are in mm.
2. Pin 1-6: Dia. 1mm

Figure 14 Recommended footprint drawing of daughter board GS665XXT-EVBDB2
Double pulse test mode

Double pulse test allows easy evaluation of device switching performance at high voltage/current without the need of actually running at high power. It can also be used for switching loss (Eon/Eoff) measurement and other switching characterization parameter test.

The circuit configuration and operating principle can be found in Figure 14:

1. The output inductor is connected to the VDC+.
2. At t0 when Q2 is switched on, the inductor current starts to ramp up until t1. The period of first pulse Ton1 defines the switching current ISW = (VDS*Ton1) / L.
3. t1-t2 is the free wheeling period when the inductor current IL forces Q1 to conduct in reverse.
4. t1 (turn-off) and t2 (turn-on) are of interest for this test as they are the hard switching transients for the half bridge circuit when Q2 is under high switching stress.
5. The second pulse t2-t3 is kept short to limit the peak inductor current at t3.

The double pulse signal can be generated using programmable signal generator or microcontroller/DSP board. As this test involves high switching stress and high current, it is recommended to set the double pulse test gate signal as single trigger mode or use long repetition period (for example >50-100ms) to void excess stress to the switches. Q1 can be kept off during the test or driven synchronously (J4 set to OFF or INT_INV) and Q2 is set to INT (or EXT position if PWM signal is from J5).

**WARNING**

Limit the maximum switching test current to 30A for GS66508T (60A for GS66516T) and ensure maximum drain voltage, including ringing, is kept below 650V for pulse testing. Exceeding this limit may cause damage to the devices.
Buck/Standard half bridge mode

This standard half bridge configuration can be used in the following circuits:
- Synchronous Buck DC/DC
- Single phase half bridge inverter
- ZVS half bridge LLC
- Phase leg for full bridge DC/DC or
- Phase leg for a 3-phase motor drive

Jumper setting:
- J4 (Q1): INT
- J6 (Q2): INT_INV

Boost mode

When the output becomes the input and the load is attached between VDC+ and VDC-, the board is converted into a boost mode circuit and can be used for:
- Synchronous Boost DC/DC
- Totem pole bridgeless PFC

Jumper setting:
- J4 (Q1): INT_INV
- J6 (Q2): INT
Quick Start procedure – Double pulse test

Follow the instructions below to quickly get started with your evaluation of GaN E-HEMT.

Equipment and components you will need:

- Four-channel oscilloscope with 500MHz bandwidth or higher
- high bandwidth (500MHz or higher) passive probe
- high bandwidth (500MHz) high voltage probe (>600V)
- AC/DC current probe for inductor current measurement
- 12V DC power supply
- Signal generator capable of creating testing pulses
- High voltage power supply (0-400VDC) with current limit.
- External power inductor (recommend toroid inductor 50-200uH)

1. Check the JP1 on daughter board GS665XXT-EVBDB2. Use a copper foil and solder to short JP1.
2. Install GS665XXT-EVBDB2 on the mother board. Press all the way down until you feel a click. Connect probe between VGL and VSL for gate voltage measurement.
3. Set up the mother board:
   a. Connect 12VDC bias supply to J1.
   b. Connect PWM input gate signal (0-5V) to J7. If it is generated from a signal generator ensure the output mode is high-Z mode.
   c. Set J4 to OFF position and J7 to INT.
   d. Set High voltage (HV) DC supply voltage to 0V and ensure the output is OFF. Connect HV supply to CON2 and CON6.
   e. Use HV probe between TP6 and TP5 for Vds measurement.
   f. Connect external inductor between CON1 and CON3. Use current probe to measure inductor current IL.
4. Set up and check PWM gate signal:
   a. Turn-on 12VDC power.
   b. Check the 2 LEDs on the daughter board. They should be turned on indicating the isolated 9V is present.
   c. Set up signal generator to create the waveforms as shown in Figure 14. Use equation $I_{SW} = \frac{(V_{DS\cdot TON})}{L}$ to calculate the pulse width of the first pulse and ensure the $I_{SW\cdot max}$ is ≤30A at 400VDC.
   d. Set the operation mode to either single trigger or Burst mode with repetition period of 100ms.
   e. Turn on the PWM output and check on the oscilloscope to make sure the VGL waveform is present and matches the PWM input.
5. Power-on:
   a. Turn on the output of the HV supply. Start with low voltage and slowly ramp the voltage up until it reaches 400VDC. During the ramping period closely observe the the voltage and current waveforms on the oscilloscope.
6. Power-off:
   a. After the test is complete, slowly ramp down the HV supply voltage to 0V and turn off the output. Then turn off the 12V bias supply and signal generator output.
Figure 16 Double pulse test setup example
Test results

Double Pulse test (VDS=400V, IMAX = 30A, L=120uH, RG(ON)=10Ω, RG(OFF)=2Ω, VGS=+6/-4V)

Figure 17 shows the hard switching on waveforms at 400V/30A. A Vds dip can be seen due to the rising drain current (dI/dt in the power loop ΔV=Lpdx/dt, where Lp is the total power loop inductance). After the drain current reaches the inductor current, the Vds starts to fall. The Vgs undershoot spike is caused by the miller feedback via Cgd under negative dv/dt.

Due to the low gate charge and small RG(OFF), GaN E-HEMT gate has limited control on the turn-off dV/dt. Instead the Vds rise time is determined by how fast the turn-off current charges switching node capacitance (Coss).

The low Coss of GaN E-HEMT and low parasitic inductance of GaNPX® package together with optimized PCB layout, enables a fast and clean turn-off Vds waveform with only 50V the turn-off Vds overshoot at dV/dt > 100V/ns. The measured rise time is 3.9ns at 400V and 30A hard turn-off.
a) Hard switching turn-on 400V/30A  
b) Hard switching turn-off 400V/30A  

Figure 18 Double pulse test switching transient waveforms (GS66508T)

Switching Loss energy (Eon/Eoff) measurement

A T&M search coaxial current shunt (SDN-414-10, 0.1Ω) is installed for switching loss measurement as shown below.

Figure 19 Eon/Eoff measurement probe connection with current shunt
The switching energy can be calculated from the measured switching waveform $P_{sw} = V_{ds} \cdot I_d$. The integral of the $P_{sw}$ during switching period is the measured switching loss. The channel deskewing is critical for measurement accuracy. It is recommended to manually deskew $I_d$ against $V_{ds}$ as shown in Figure 21. The drain current spike is caused by charging the high side switch $C_{oss}$ ($Q_{oss}$ loss).

![Figure 20 Eon/Eoff measurement and test bench setup](image)

![Figure 21 Turn-on switching loss measurement (Eon=98\mu J, 400V/30A, $T_J=25^\circ C$)](image)
The switching loss measurements with drain current from 0 to 30A for GS66508T or up to 60A for GS66516T can be found in Figure 23. The turn-on loss dominates the overall hard switching loss. Eon at 0A is the Qoss loss caused by the Coss at high side switch.
Synchronous Buck Test (L=120uH, VIN=400V, VOUT=200V, D=50%, FSW=100 kHz, POUT =0-2.4kW)

To test the efficiency of GaN transistor in hard switching operation, the board is connected as DC-DC converter in synchronous buck configuration. The converter is operated at high frequency 100 kHz. A very high conversion efficiency of more than 98.4% is achieved using 650V E-HEMT GS66508T (30A/50mΩ) and GS66516T (60A/25mΩ) transistor and gate drive optocoupler, ACPL-P346 at 100 kHz.
Figure 26 Thermal image (GS66508T, Pout=1kW)
Appendix A: GS66508T/GS66516T-EVBDB2 with Isolated Gate Driver
PCB layout

Top Layer

Mid Layer 1

Mid Layer 2

Bottom Layer
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<tr>
<th>S.NO</th>
<th>Designator</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Part number</th>
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<td>D1A, D2A</td>
<td>GS66508T</td>
<td>GaN E-HEMT 650V/30A TOP COOL</td>
<td>GaN Systems</td>
<td>GS66508T</td>
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<td>D1B, D2B</td>
<td>GS66516T</td>
<td>GaN E-HEMT 650V/60A TOP COOL</td>
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<tr>
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<td>DIODE PMEG4010CEH 5.0V 500MA</td>
<td>NXP</td>
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<td>SL 336</td>
<td>M3 screw w/ Insulated sleeve (Machine Screw, Spring Washer, M3, 8 mm, Steel)</td>
<td>Honsel-Minghi</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>W050330A</td>
<td>WASH-SH OIL</td>
<td>Washer shoulder M5 NYLON</td>
<td>EVERGREEN</td>
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<td>Bergquist</td>
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Appendix B - GS665MB-EVB – 650V Universal Motherboard

Circuit schematics
# Bill of Materials

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Part number</th>
<th>Assembly Note</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>U1</td>
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<td>FAN AXIAL 38X20MM 12VDC WIRE</td>
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<td>SUNON</td>
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