



Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit

User Guide



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Introduction

Welcome to the Altera® Cyclone® III FPGA Starter Kit, which includes a full-featured field-programmable gate array (FPGA) development board, hardware and software development tools, documentation, and accessories needed to begin FPGA development.

The development board includes an Altera Cyclone III FPGA and comes preconfigured with a hardware reference design stored in flash memory. You can use the development board as a platform to prototype a variety of FPGA designs.

The starter kit provides an integrated control environment that includes a software controller in a control panel application, a USB command controller, a multi-port SRAM/DDR SDRAM/flash memory controller, and example designs specified in Verilog code. You can use this design as a starting point for test designs.

This user guide addresses the following topics:

- How to set up, power up, and verify correct operation of the development board.
- How to install the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit.
- How to install the Altera® Quartus II Web Edition software.
- How to set up and use the control panel, a graphical user interface (GUI), to manipulate components on the board, implement applications.
- How to configure the Cyclone III FPGA.
- How to set up and run example designs.



For complete details on the development board, refer to the *Cyclone III FPGA Starter Board Reference Manual*.

Before You Begin

Before proceeding, check the contents of the kit:

- Cyclone III FPGA Starter Development Board
- 12-V DC power supply
- USB cable



For the most up-to-date information on this product, visit the Altera website at www.altera.com/products/devkits/altera/kit-cyc3-starter.html.

Further Information

For other related information, refer to the following websites:

For More Information About	Refer To
Additional daughter cards available for purchase	www.altera.com/products/devkits/kit-daughter_boards.jsp
Cyclone III handbook	www.altera.com/literature/lit-cyc3.jsp
Cyclone III reference designs	http://www.altera.com/products/devkits/altera/kit-cyc3-starter.html
eStore if you want to purchase devices	www.altera.com/buy/devices/buy-devices.html
Cyclone III Orcad symbols	www.altera.com/support/software/download/pcb/pcbpcb_index.html
Nios® II 32-bit embedded processor solutions	www.altera.com/technology/embedded/emb-index.html

Software Installation

This section describes the following procedures:

- [“Installing the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit”](#)
- [“Installing the Quartus II Web Edition Software”](#) on page 1–4

Installing the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit

The license-free Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit installer includes all the documentation and design examples for the kit.

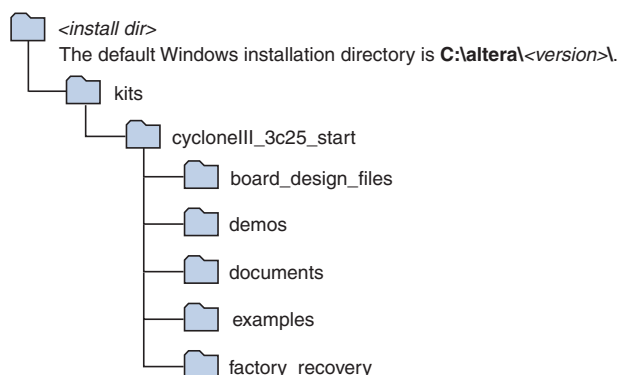
To install the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit, follow these steps:

1. Download the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit installer from the [Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit](#) page of the Altera website. Alternatively, you can request a development kit DVD from the [Development Kits, Daughter Cards & Programming Hardware](#) page of the Altera website.

- Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation process.

The installation program creates the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit directory structure shown in [Figure 1-1](#).

Figure 1-1. Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit Default Installed Directory Structure



[Table 1-1](#) lists the file directory names and a description of their contents.

Table 1-1. Installed Directory Contents	
Directory Name	Description of Contents
board_design_files	Contains schematic, layout, assembly, and bill of material board design files. Use these files as a starting point for a new prototype board design.
demos	Contains demonstration projects that may or may not contain up-to-date source code.
documents	Contains the development kit documentation.
examples	Contains the example design files for the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit
factory_recovery	Contains programming files for returning board to factory default condition.

Installing the Quartus II Web Edition Software

The Quartus II Web Edition software provides the necessary tools for developing hardware and software for Altera FPGAs. Included in the Quartus II Web Edition software are the Quartus II software, the Nios II EDS, and the MegaCore® IP Library. The Quartus II software (including SOPC Builder) and the Nios II EDS are the primary FPGA development tools for creating the reference designs in this kit.


To install the Quartus II Web Edition software, follow these steps:

1. Download the Quartus II Web Edition software from the [Quartus II Web Edition Software](#) page of the Altera website. Alternatively, you can request a DVD from the [Altera IP and Software DVD Request Form](#) page of the Altera website.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation process.



If you have difficulty installing the Quartus II software, refer to [Quartus II Installation & Licensing for Windows and Linux Workstations](#).

The Quartus II Web Edition software includes the following items:

- Quartus II software—The Quartus II software, including the SOPC Builder system development tool, provides a comprehensive environment for system-on-a-programmable-chip (SOPC) design. The Quartus II software integrates into nearly any design environment and provides interfaces to industry-standard EDA tools.
 To compare the Quartus II subscription and web editions, refer to [Altera Quartus II Software—Subscription Edition vs. Web Edition](#). The kit also works with the subscription edition.
- MegaCore IP Library—A library that contains Altera IP MegaCore functions. You can evaluate MegaCore functions with the OpenCore Plus feature to perform the following tasks:
 - Simulate behavior of a MegaCore function in your system
 - Verify functionality of your design, and quickly and easily evaluate its size and speed
 - Generate time-limited device programming files for designs that include MegaCore functions
 - Program a device and verify your design in hardware



The OpenCore Plus hardware evaluation feature is an evaluation tool for prototyping only. You must purchase a license to use a MegaCore function in production.



For more information about OpenCore Plus, refer to *AN 320: OpenCore Plus Evaluation of Megafunctions*.

- Nios® II Embedded Design Suite (EDS)—A full-featured tool set that allows you to develop embedded software for the Nios II processor which you can include in your Altera FPGA designs.

Licensing Considerations

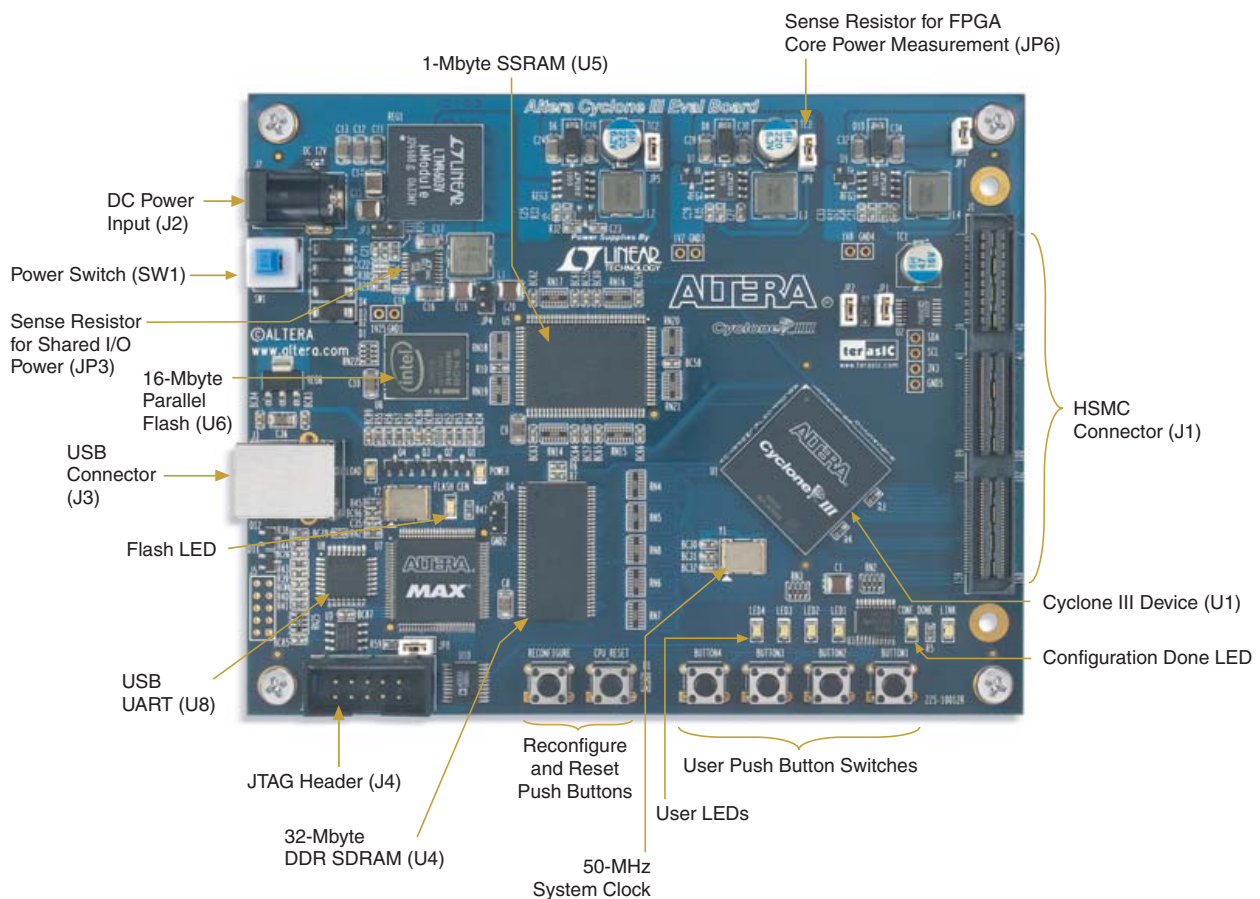
The Quartus II Web Edition software is license-free and supports Cyclone III devices without any additional licensing requirement. This kit also works with the Quartus II Subscription Edition software, after you obtain the proper license file. To purchase a subscription, contact your Altera sales representative.

Development Board Setup

The development board is preloaded with an example design to demonstrate the Cyclone® III device and board features. At power-up, the preloaded design also enables you to quickly confirm that the board is operating correctly.

Figure 2–1 shows the Cyclone III development board layout and components.

Figure 2–1. Cyclone III Development Board Layout and Components



Requirements

Before you proceed, ensure that the following items are installed:

- Altera® Quartus® II software on the host computer
- Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit
- USB-Blaster™ driver software on the host computer. The Cyclone III FPGA starter development board includes an integrated USB-Blaster circuitry for FPGA programming.

Powering Up the Development Board

To power-up the development board, follow these steps:

1. Ensure that the ON/OFF switch (SW1) is in the OFF position (up).
2. Connect the USB-Blaster cable from the host computer to the USB-Blaster port on the development board.
3. Connect the 12-V DC adapter to the development board and to a power source.



Only use the supplied 12-V power supply. Power regulation circuitry on the board could be damaged by supplies greater than 12 V.

4. Press the power switch (SW1).
5. Confirm that all four user LEDs are ON.

Installing the USB-Blaster Driver

The Cyclone III FPGA development board includes an integrated USB-Blaster circuitry for FPGA programming. However, for the host computer and board to communicate, you must install the USB-Blaster driver on the host computer.

Installation instructions for the USB-Blaster driver are available on the Altera website at www.altera.com/support/software/drivers/dri-index.html. On the “Altera Programming Cable Driver Information” page of the Altera website, locate the table entry for your configuration and click the link to access the instructions.

Control Panel Setup

Setting up the control panel involves the following:

- Configuring the FPGA
- Starting the control panel



Power up the board and ensure that it is operational.

For more information about using the control panel, refer to the “[Using the Control Panel](#)” chapter.

Configuring the FPGA Using the Quartus II Programmer

You can use the Quartus II Programmer to configure the FPGA with a specific `.sof`. Before configuring the FPGA, ensure that the Quartus II Programmer and the USB-Blaster driver are installed on the host computer, the USB cable is connected to the development board, power to the board is on, and no other applications that use the JTAG chain are running.

To configure the Cyclone III FPGA, follow these steps:

1. Start the Quartus II Programmer.
2. Click **Add File** and select the path to the desired `.sof`.
3. Turn on the **Program/Configure** option for the added file.
4. Click **Start** to configure the selected file to the FPGA. Configuration is complete when the progress bar reaches 100%.

Overview

The control panel consists of the following:

- The graphical user interface (GUI) application on the host computer
- The standard Nios II hardware design running on the board's Cyclone III FPGA device

After installing the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit, you can locate the control panel for the hardware and software in the `<kit path>\demos\control_panel` directory.

The design downloaded to the Cyclone III device implements a command controller that processes board commands sent over the USB-Blaster from the control panel. To perform the appropriate actions, the command controller communicates with the controller of the targeted board I/O device.

You can perform the following actions with the control panel:

- Light up LEDs
- Detect push button presses
- Read from and write to the DDR SDRAM, SRAM, flash memory, and on-chip RAM

The following sections describe how to perform the above actions with the control panel already open on the host computer. If not already open, launch the control panel as described in “[Control Panel Start](#)”.

Control Panel Start

The Cyclone III development board is shipped with an example design stored in the flash memory which configures the Cyclone III FPGA upon power-up with the standard Nios II design.



For an older version of the Cyclone III development board shipped with the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit v7.1.0, v7.2.0, or 8.0.0 application, you must manually configure the `cycloneIII_3c25_start_niosII_standard.sof` into the FPGA before launching the control panel application.

You can locate the source for the example design in the `<kit path>\examples\cycloneIII_3c25_starter_board_standard` directory.



To launch the control panel user interface, run the `control_panel.exe` program found in the `<kit path>\demos\control_panel` directory (Figure 3–1).

Figure 3–1. Control Panel Window



LEDs and Buttons

Illuminating LEDs

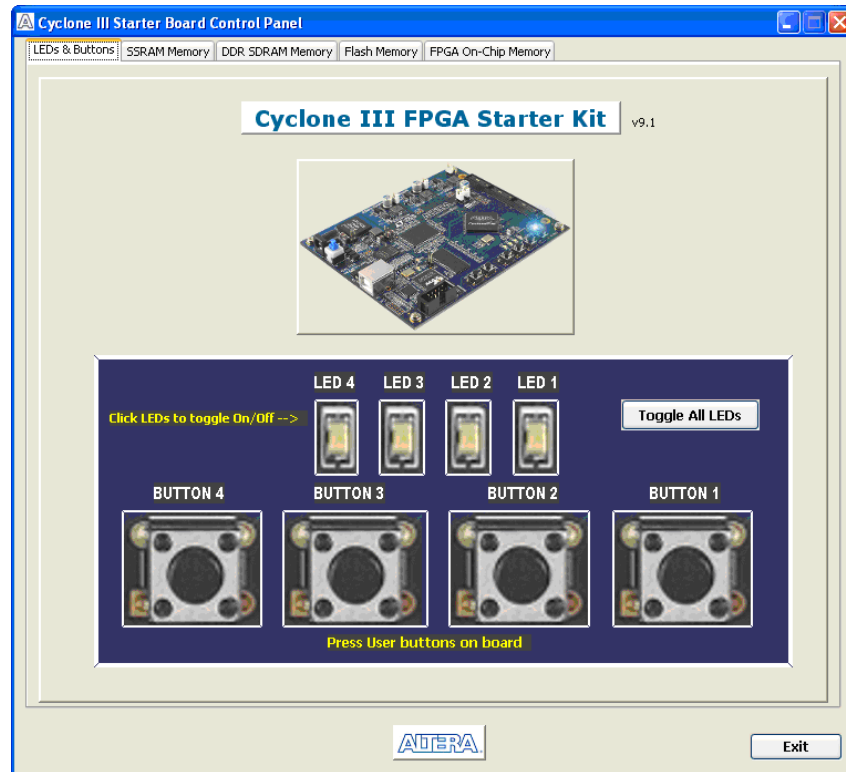
To illuminate an LED, follow these steps:

1. The **LED & Buttons** tab should be visible when the application runs. If it is not visible, click the **LED & Buttons** tab (Figure 3–2).
2. Click on LEDs to individually turn on the LEDs.

Buttons Indicators

1. Press the push-button switches on the board. Notice that buttons on the GUI change accordingly.

Figure 3–2. Control Panel Window for LEDs and Buttons



DDR SDRAM/ SSRAM/On-Chip Controller

You can perform the following types of memory read/write operations with the control panel:

- Read from and write to the DDR SDRAM, SSRAM, or on-chip device
- Write entire contents of a file, to the DDR SDRAM, SSRAM, or on-chip device
- Read contents of the DDR SDRAM, SSRAM, or on-chip device, to a file

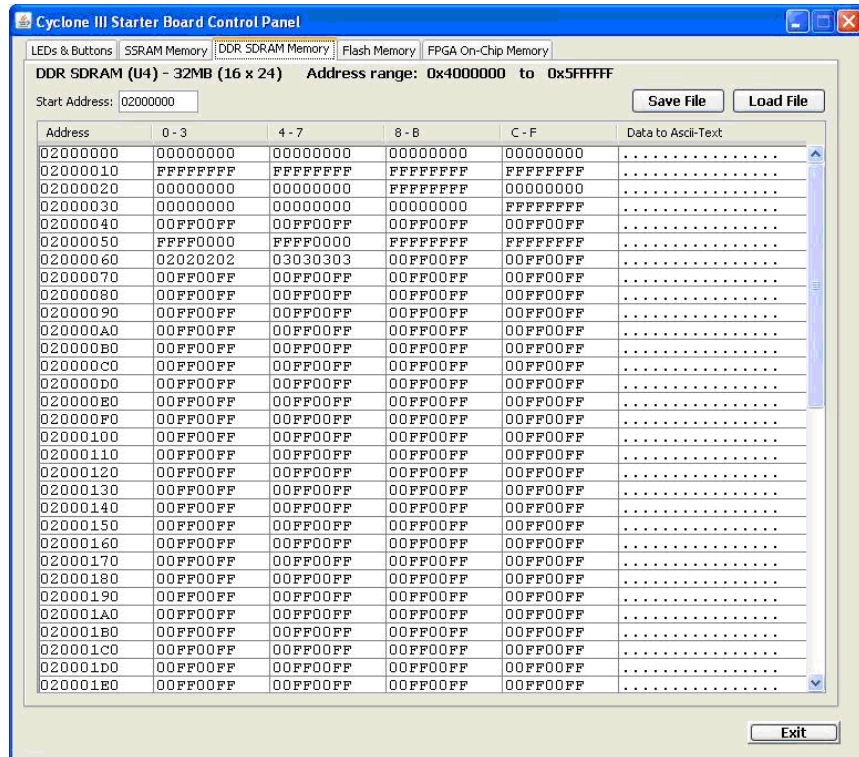
The following sections describe how to access the DDR SDRAM. You can use the same procedure to access the SSRAM.

Read/Write Data

To read from and write to the DDR SDRAM, follow these steps:

1. Click the **DDR SDRAM** tab (Figure 3–3). The **Address** column indicates the hex address of the DDR SDRAM. The values inside the **0-3**, **4-7**, **8-B**, and **C-F** columns are the DDR SDRAM contents in hex words format.

Figure 3–3. Control Panel DDR SDRAM Tab



2. To write a 32-bit word to the DDR SDRAM, click the desired location, enter the desired value in hex format, and press **Enter**.

Read from a File

To read the contents of a file and load it to the DDR SDRAM, follow these steps:

1. Click **Load File**.
2. Browse to **sample.txt** located in the **control_panel** directory and click **Open**. This step instantiates the DDR SDRAM controller and loads the text contents into the DDR SDRAM. Notice that the **Data to Ascii-text** column shows the DDR SDRAM contents in Ascii value.

Write to a File

To write the contents of the DDR SDRAM to a file, follow these steps:

1. Click **Save File**.
2. Enter the start and end addresses of the DDR SDRAM.
3. Choose a file name and click **Save**. This instantiates the controller to read the DDR SDRAM contents from the start address to the end address, and write the contents to a file.

Flash Memory Programmer

You can perform the following operations to read from and write to the board's flash memory with the control panel:

- Perform a CFI query of flash memory
- Erase select blocks of flash memory
- Write 32-bit hex word to flash memory
- Write a binary file to flash memory
- Load the contents of the flash memory into a file

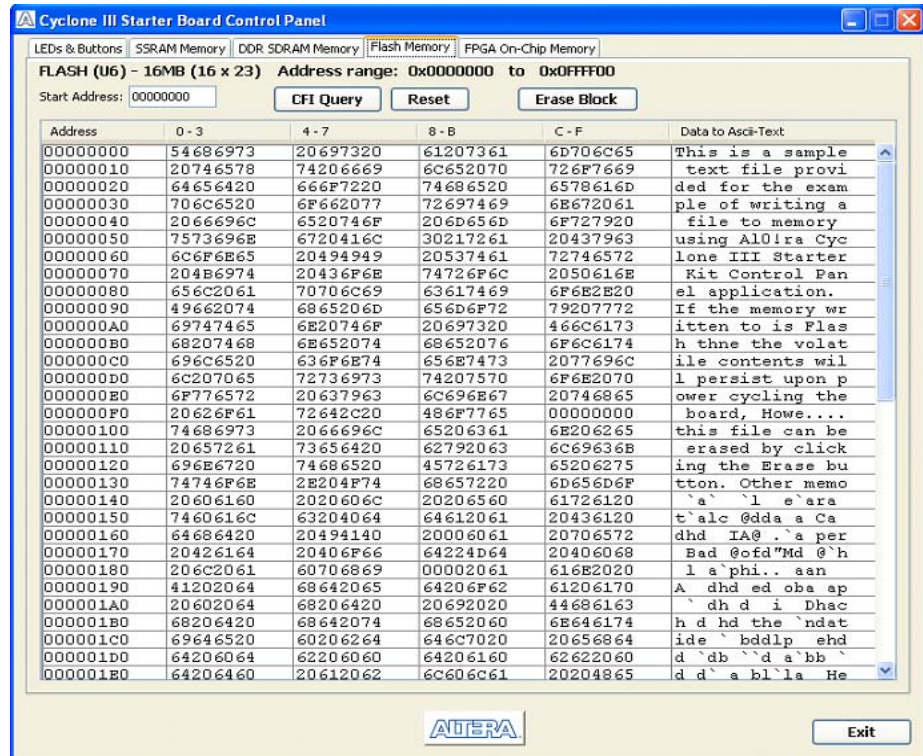


Do not exit from the control panel while erasing the flash memory.

Flash Memory Tab

To use the flash memory functions, click the **Flash Memory** tab (Figure 3-4).

Figure 3-4. Control Panel Flash Memory Tab



CFI Query

The common flash interface (CFI) flash memory devices conform to basic flash commands. The most basic command is Query which switches the device into a ROM table mode so that features of the flash device are determined by reading values from the table.

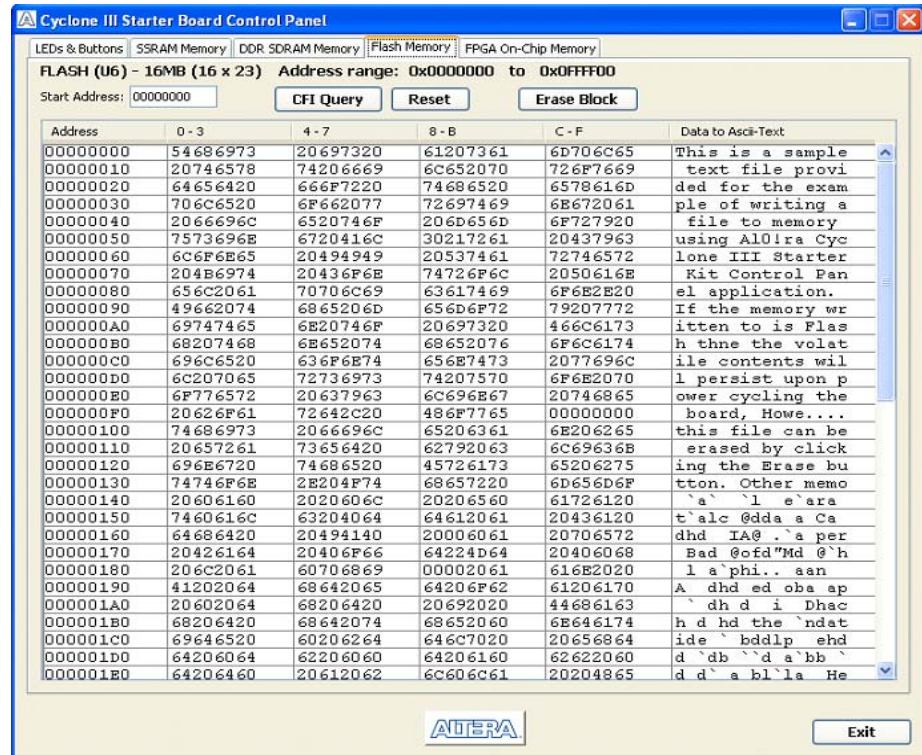
To perform a CFI query using the host application, click **CFI Query**. Notice that the memory table displays contents that correlate with the table contents as described in the device datasheet.

To put the flash device back in user mode, press **Reset** on the control panel.

Read/Write Data

To read from and write to the flash memory, follow these steps:

Figure 3–5. Control Panel Flash Memory Tab



1. Click **Erase Block** to perform a block erase of the flash memory. The **Address** column indicates the hex address of the flash memory. The values inside the **0-3**, **4-7**, **8-B**, and **C-F** columns are the flash memory contents in hex words format.
2. To write a 32-bit word to the flash memory, click the desired location, enter the desired value in hex format, and press **Enter**.



4. Measuring Power on the Cyclone III Starter Board

Introduction

One of the main features of the Cyclone® III device is its low power consumption. You can measure the power of the 3C25 device on the Cyclone III starter board under various conditions with an example design provided with the kit.

The power example design allows you to control the amount of logic utilized in the FPGA, the clock frequency, the number of I/Os being used, and measure the effect on the power to the Cyclone III device. Because the Cyclone III starter board has only four buttons and four LEDs, interaction with the board is minimal as defined below.

Table 4–1 describes the functionality of the four input buttons that control the power example design.

Button	FPGA Pin	Type	Description
1	F1	Reset	Resets the demo to the beginning, node <code>i_nrst</code> .
2	F2	Toggle	Advances the example design to the next higher frequency, node <code>i_nfreq_next</code> .
3	A10	Toggle	Advances the example design to the next higher resource utilization, node <code>i_nperc_next</code> .
4	B10	Press and Hold	Enables the outputs to toggle, node <code>i_noutput_ena</code> .

Tables 4–2 and 4–3 describe how the LEDs indicate the example design’s current power state.

Displays	LEDs		State	Clock Frequency (MHz)
	MSB	LSB		
Frequency	LED2	LED1	00	0
			01	33
			10	67
			11	100

Table 4–3. LEDs Power State (Resources)

Displays	LEDs		State	% of Design Used
	MSB	LSB		
Resources	LED4	LED3	00	25%
			01	50%
			10	75%
			11	100%

The design used for power measurement is a replicated set of randomly filled ROMs that feed a multiplier block and a shift register that is fed by a signal that changes every clock cycle. Tables 4–2 and 4–3 show the power state which represent the percent of the full design used. As compiled, this full design uses:

- Logic elements: 22,493/24,624 (91%)
- Combinational functions: 1,961/24,624 (8%)
- Dedicated logic registers: 21,133/24,624 (86%)
- Total registers: 21,133
- Total pins: 73/216 (34%)
- Total memory bits: 524,288/608,256 (86%)
- Embedded Multiplier 9-bit elements: 128/132 (97 %)
- Total PLLs: 1/4 (25%)

Measuring Power

The example design is located in `<kit install>\examples\cycloneIII_3c25_start_power_demo`. Configure the FPGA with the .sof found in the directory.



The input clock (i_clk PIN_B9) is the 50-MHz oscillator on the board, which generates the input clock for the reference design through a PLL



For more information on configuring the FPGA, refer to “[Configuring the FPGA Using the Quartus II Programmer](#)” on page 2–3.

Current sense resistors ($0.010 \Omega \pm 1\%$) are installed at locations JP6 (FPGA core power) and JP3 (FPGA I/O power + other device I/O power). With a digital multimeter set to mV measurement range, the resistor at location JP6 measures the core power. The resistor at location JP3 measures the I/O power. To measure the current being used in various configurations, use the following steps:



To obtain the power (P) in milliwatts, measure *<Measured Voltage>* (the voltage across the sense resistors at JP6 or JP3) in mV and calculate the nominal power using the equation:

$$P = 100 \times \langle \text{Measured Voltage} \rangle \times \langle \text{Supply Voltage} \rangle$$

where *<Supply Voltage>* is 1.2 V for JP6 and 2.5 V for JP3.

You can use the four input buttons to advance through the various power state as outlined in [Table 4-2](#). Notice how current increases as frequency and resource usage increase.

You can also measure the I/O power consumed by measuring the voltage across sense-resistor JP3 when Button 4 is pressed and held. Because this 2.5-V power rail is shared with other devices, there is a nominal 100 mW that must be subtracted from the calculated I/O power to obtain the FPGA I/O power.

The number of I/O pins used is controlled by the resource state (shown in [Tables 4-2](#) and [4-3](#)). For each increment in resources, 16 additional I/O pins are added (refer to [Table 4-4](#)).

Table 4-4. I/O Pin & Resource State	
LED4/LED3	Number of I/O Pins
00	16
01	32
10	48
11	64

Similarly, the toggle-frequency of these I/O pins is set by the overall design frequency (refer to [Table 4-1](#)).

Changing the Example Design

The source code for the Cyclone III power example design is also provided so you can use it as a starting point for your own measurements. You can adjust the number of outputs by changing parameter `NUM_OUTPUTS_PER_STAMP`. The default is 16, which for four resource percentage steps equates to $16 \times 4 = 64$.

The appropriate pins to be used as outputs are pre-assigned to the HSMC connector (J1). If you would like to look at more than the 76 I/Os available on J1, you need to make the appropriate pin assignments.

Overview

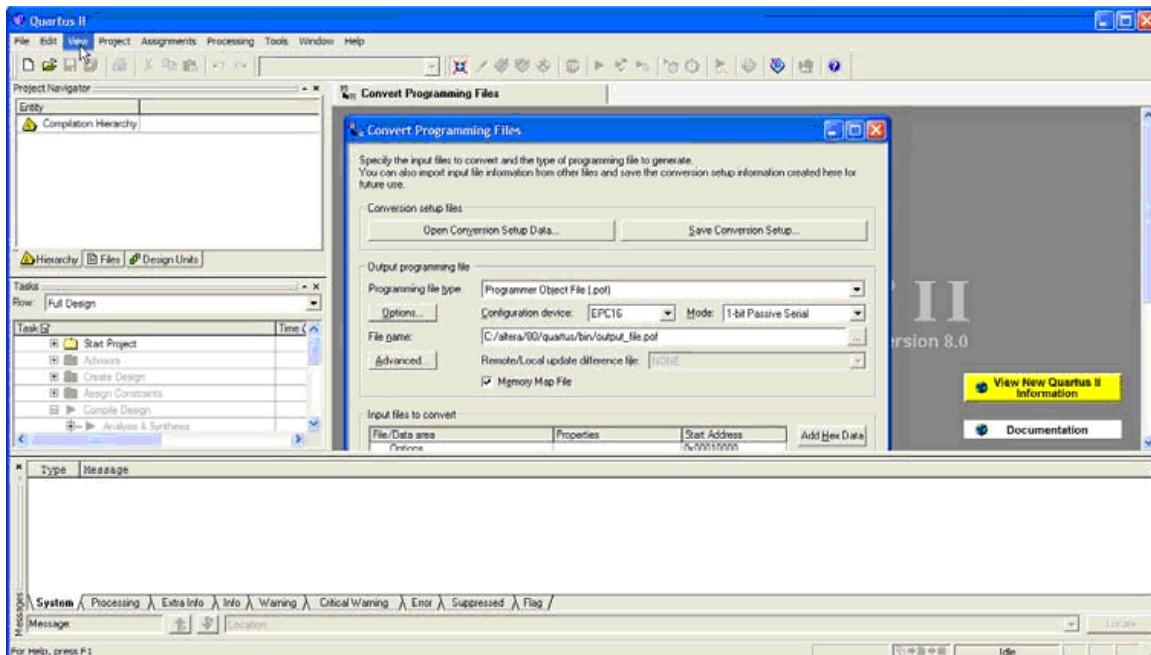
The Intel® P30 flash device uses active parallel flash configuration to configure the Cyclone® III device on power up. The Cyclone III Starter Board has a factory default configuration programmed into the P30 flash; however, after developing your own project, you may want to replace this factory default configuration with your own. This appendix describes how to reprogram the Intel P30 flash device.

Creating a Flash-Programmable POF File

After a Quartus II compilation, a Programmer Object File (.pof) is created. Before you can program this file into the Intel P30 flash device on the Cyclone III development board, you must modify the .pof by performing the following steps:

1. Choose **Convert Programming File** from the File menu. The **Convert Programming Files** window opens (refer to [Figure A-1](#)).

Figure A-1. Convert Programming Files Window



2. Select the following settings:

- **Programming File Type:** Programmer Object File (.pof)
- **Configuration Device:** CFI_128MB
- **Mode:** Active Parallel
- **File Name:** Type the name of the flashable .pof to write



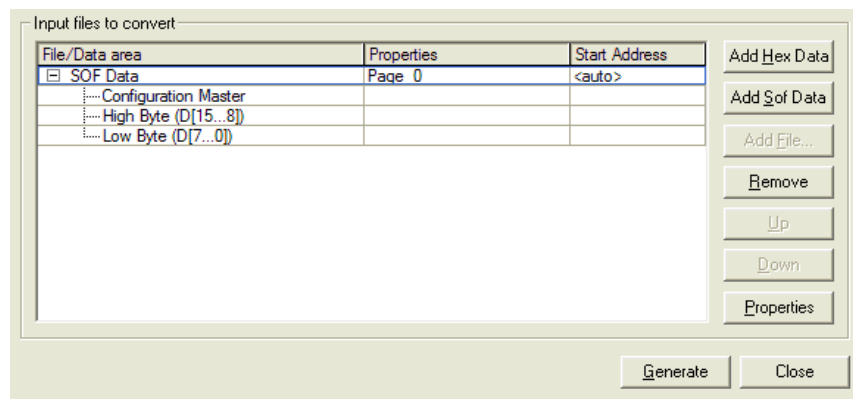
If you choose to overwrite the existing .pof, a warning message occurs.

3. Under **Input file to the convert**, select **Configuration Master** under **SOF Data**. Refer to [Figure A-2](#).



Before moving to the next step, ensure that the setting for the **Configuration Device** is CFI_128MB.

Figure A-2. Input File to Convert



4. Click **Add File**.

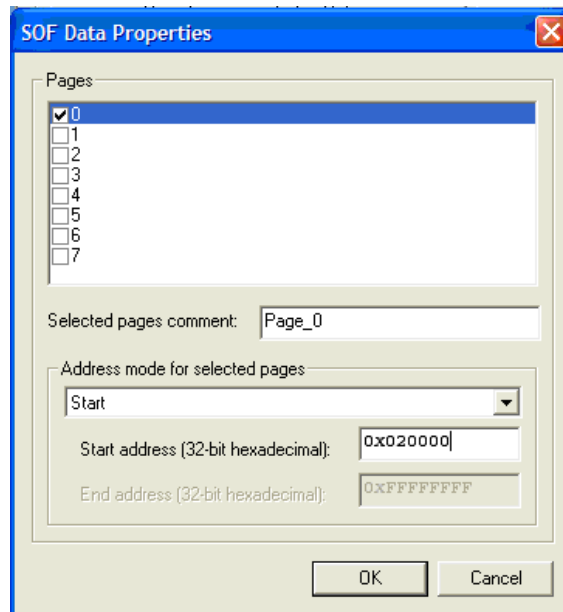
5. Choose the .sof you want to convert and click **OK**.

6. Select **SOF Data** and click **Properties**. The **SOF Data Properties** window appears.

7. Select and type the following settings as shown in [Figure A-3](#):

- **Pages:** 0
- **Address mode for selected pages:** Start
- **Start address (32-bit hexadecimal):** 0x020000

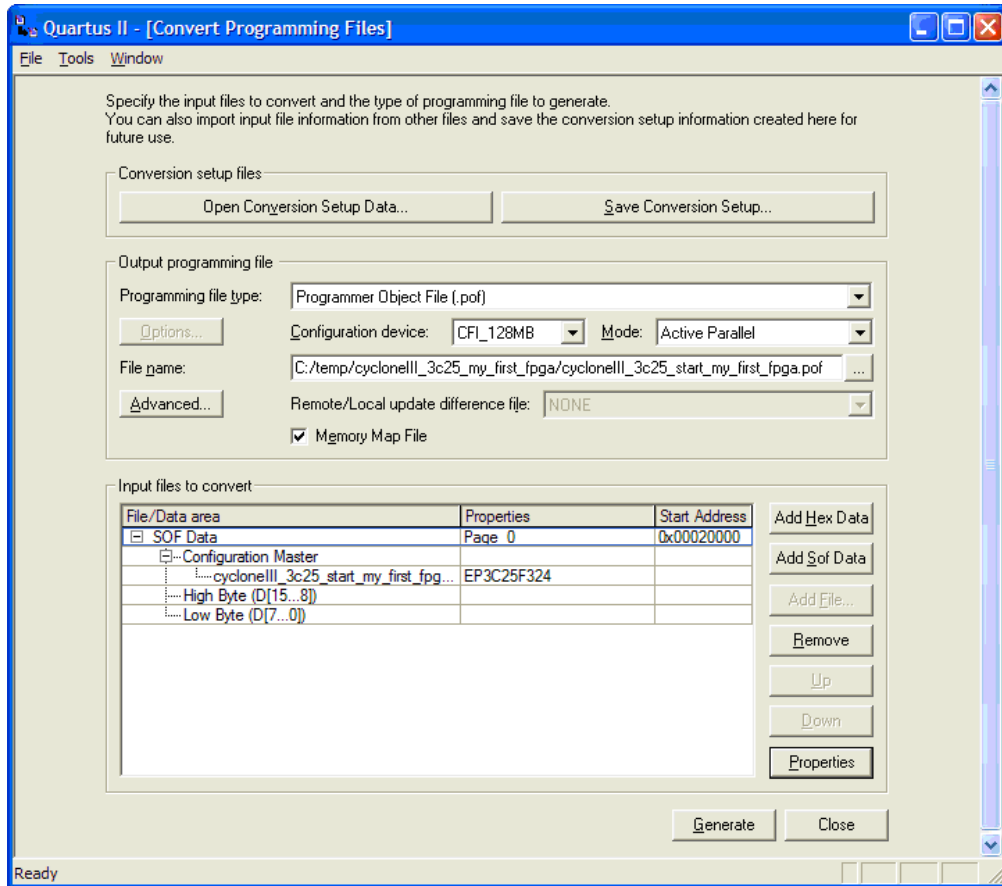
Figure A-3. SOF Data Properties



The flash address 0x20000 is the default starting address from which the Cyclone III device starts loading configuration data.

8. Click **OK**. **Figure A-4** shows the updated **Convert Programming Files** window.

Figure A-4. Updated Convert Programming Files Window



9. Click **Generate**. If you are overwriting the input **.pof** you will receive a warning asking if you want to overwrite it. Click **Yes** to overwrite the file or enter a different filename. When the Quartus II software finishes converting the file, you can use the converted **.pof** to program the on-board parallel flash device.



The Quartus II software also generates a MAP file, which can help you debug issues with locations in the flash device.

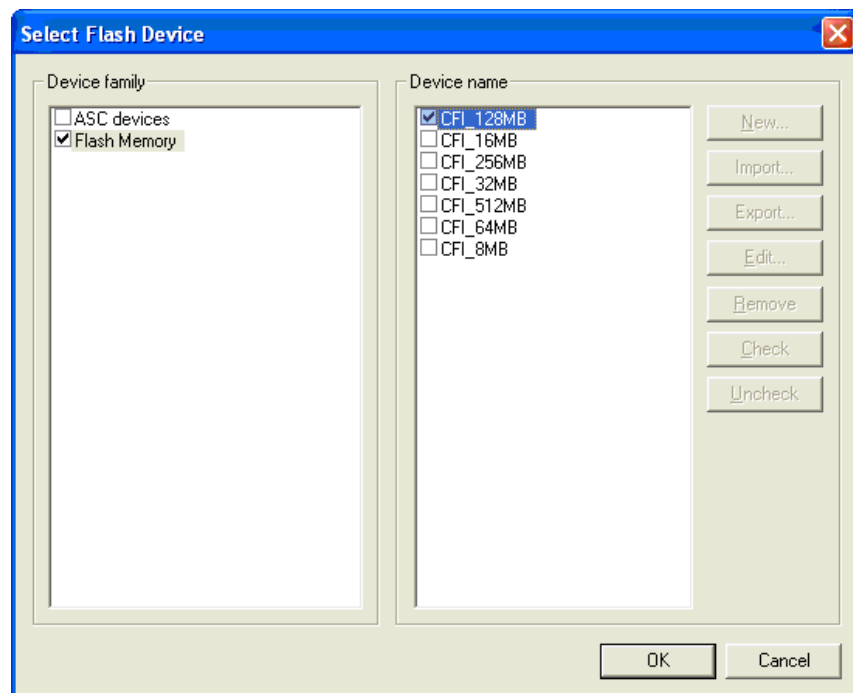
Programming the Flash Device

Altera recommends that you do not overwrite the factory hardware and factory software images unless you are an expert with the Altera tools or deliberately overwriting the factory design. If you unintentionally overwrite the factory image, perform these flash programming instructions using the `cycloneIII_3c25_start_niosII_standard.pof` found in the `factory_recovery` directory for the object file in step 9.

To program the flash device, follow these steps:


1. Open the Quartus II Programmer.
2. Click **Auto Detect** from the button list to the left of the programming file list area.
3. Select the detected Cyclone III 3C25 device.
4. Choose **Attach Flash Device** (Edit menu). The **Select Flash Device** window opens.
5. Turn on the **Flash Memory** and **CFI_128MB** options (refer to [Figure A-5](#)).

Figure A-5. Select Flash Device



6. Click **OK**.

7. In the Quartus II Programmer, select the CFI_128MB device.
8. Click **Change File** from the button list at the left of the programming file area.
9. Select the converted **.pof** that you generated in the previous section.

 To restore factory flash contents, choose **cycloneIII_3c25_start_niosII_standard.pof** located in the **factory_recovery** directory as your converted **.pof**.

10. Turn on the **Program/Configure** option for all devices shown in the Programmer.


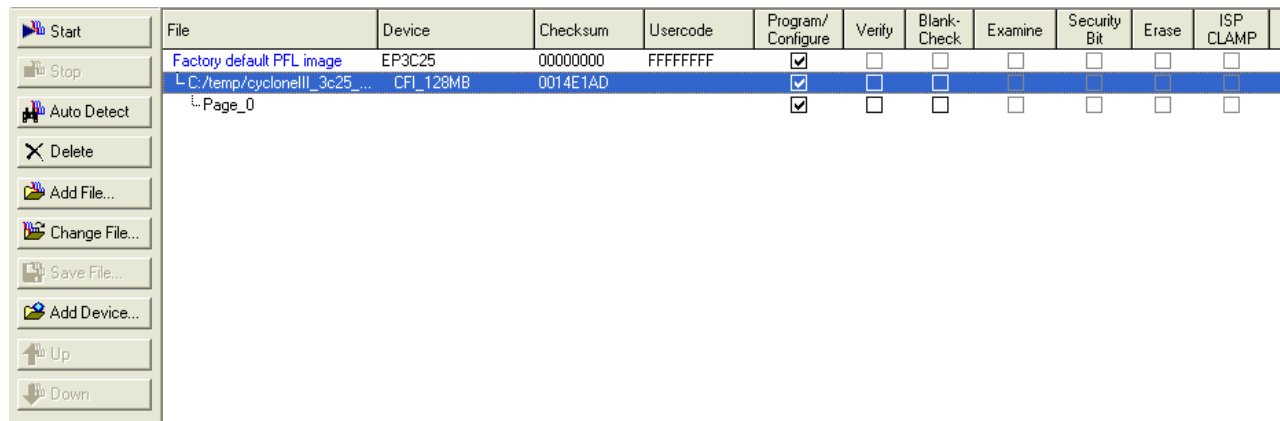
 Turning on the option for the **.pof** enables all three options, which is what you want to do (refer to [Figure A-6](#)).

Figure A-6. POF Options



File	Device	Checksum	Usercode	Program/Configure	Verify	Blank-Check	Examine	Security Bit	Erase	ISP CLAMP
Factory default PFL image	EP3C25	00000000	FFFFFFF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C:/temp/cycloneIII_3c25_...	CFI_128MB	0014E1AD		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Page_0				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Click **Start**. The Programmer loads the special flash programming hardware into the FPGA, which allows the Programmer to communicate with the flash device. The Programmer sends the **.pof** to the flash device via the flash programming hardware. The Quartus II Message window displays the bank addresses as they are erased and then written.
12. To configure the Cyclone III 3C25 with your design from the on-board flash device, either push the reconfiguration button or turn the Cyclone III Starter Board off and then on again.

Revision History

The table below displays the revision history for the chapters in this user guide.

Chapter	Date	Version	Changes Made
All	July 2010	1.2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Removed “Licensing the Quartus II Software”. ● Updated Figure 1–1 on page 1–3. ● Updated “Installing the Quartus II Web Edition Software” on page 1–4. ● Updated “Installing the Cyclone III FPGA Starter Kit” on page 1–2. ● Updated “Further Information” on page 1–2. ● Updated Copyright information.
All	March 2010	1.1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updated the directory structure in Figure 1–1. ● Updated “Control Panel Start” section and Figure 3–1. ● Updated “LEDs” section and Figure 3–2. ● Updated “DDR SDRAM/SSRAM Controller and Programmer” section and Figure 3–3. ● Updated “Flash Memory Programmer” section and Figure 3–4.
1, 2, 4	June 2008	1.0.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updated directory structure figure and installed directory contents table. ● Updated the control panel user interface executable file name. ● Updated the kit directory path. ● Updated the configuration SOF file name. ● Updated kit's example design file name.
All	April 2007	1.0.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First publication.

How to Contact Altera

For the most up-to-date information about Altera products, refer to the following table.

Contact <i>Note (1)</i>	Contact Method	Address
Technical support	Website	www.altera.com/support
Technical training	Website	www.altera.com/training
	Email	custrain@altera.com
Product literature	Website	www.altera.com/literature
Non-technical support (General) (Software Licensing)	Email	nacomp@altera.com
	Email	authorization@altera.com





Note to Table:

(1) You can also contact your local Altera sales office or sales representative.

Typographic Conventions

This document uses the typographic conventions shown below.

Visual Cue	Meaning
Bold Type with Initial Capital Letters	Command names, dialog box titles, checkbox options, and dialog box options are shown in bold, initial capital letters. Example: Save As dialog box.
bold type	External timing parameters, directory names, project names, disk drive names, filenames, filename extensions, and software utility names are shown in bold type. Examples: f_{MAX} , \qdesigns directory, d: drive, chiptrip.gdf file.
<i>Italic Type with Initial Capital Letters</i>	Document titles are shown in italic type with initial capital letters. Example: <i>AN 75: High-Speed Board Design</i> .
<i>Italic type</i>	Internal timing parameters and variables are shown in italic type. Examples: <i>t_{PIA}</i> , <i>n + 1</i> . Variable names are enclosed in angle brackets (< >) and shown in italic type. Example: < <i>file name</i> >, < <i>project name</i> >.pdf file.
Initial Capital Letters	Keyboard keys and menu names are shown with initial capital letters. Examples: Delete key, the Options menu.
“Subheading Title”	References to sections within a document and titles of on-line help topics are shown in quotation marks. Example: “Typographic Conventions.”

Visual Cue	Meaning
Courier type	Signal and port names are shown in lowercase Courier type. Examples: data1, tdi, input. Active-low signals are denoted by suffix n, e.g., resetn. Anything that must be typed exactly as it appears is shown in Courier type. For example: c:\qdesigns\tutorial\chiptrip.gdf. Also, sections of an actual file, such as a Report File, references to parts of files (e.g., the AHDL keyword SUBDESIGN), as well as logic function names (e.g., TRI) are shown in Courier.
1., 2., 3., and a., b., c., etc.	Numbered steps are used in a list of items when the sequence of the items is important, such as the steps listed in a procedure.
■ ● ●	Bullets are used in a list of items when the sequence of the items is not important.
✓	The checkmark indicates a procedure that consists of one step only.
	The hand points to information that requires special attention.
 CAUTION	A caution calls attention to a condition or possible situation that can damage or destroy the product or the user's work.
 WARNING	A warning calls attention to a condition or possible situation that can cause injury to the user.
↵	The angled arrow indicates you should press the Enter key.
	The feet direct you to more information on a particular topic.

