

RS-422A/485 Isolated Serial I/O Board for PCI Express 4ch COM-4PD-PE



* Specifications, color and design of the products are subject to change without notice.

Features

Max. 921,600bps RS-422A/485 Serial Communication

The COM ports of this product support up to 921,600 bps. COM-4PD-PE has four RS-422A/485-standard serial ports.

Possibly used as Windows, Linux-standard COM ports

Combining the product with our device driver COM-DRV makes it possible to use the product in the same manner as the COM ports of a PC.

This product supports communication using DCB structures in the Win32 API and Linux-standard system calls.

Isolation between channels and between PCs, surge protection for all signal lines

The channels are electrically isolated from each other and from the PC. As isolation is provided between channels as well as isolation of the bus, this prevents electrical noise between channels as well as between the PC and external circuits. As surge protection is provided on all signal lines, you can safely use the boards in environments where you are concerned about surges causing incorrect operation or damage to the PC.

Up to 16 boards can be installed

Up to 16 boards of the same model can be mounted on a single PC.

Each channel is equipped with separate 128-byte FIFO buffers for transmit and receive

Equipped with a buffer memory for transmitting 128 bytes and receiving 128 bytes for each channel. These are FIFO format, useful for high speed communications and to reduce the load to the CPU when transmitting/receiving.

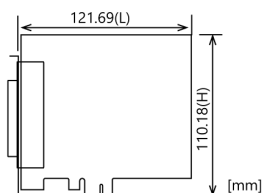
The control line for RS-422A/485 can be controlled and monitored by software

The control lines for RTS+, RTS-, CTS+ and CTS- can be controlled and monitored using software.

Included Items

Product [COM-4PD-PE] ...1
Please read the following ... 1

External Dimensions



The standard outside dimension (L) is the distance from the end of the card to the outer surface of the slot cover.

This product is an isolated PCI Express bus-supported board designed for extending RS-422A/485 compatible serial communication functionality on your PC.

COM-4PD-PE has four RS-422A/485 communication ports.

Higher noise-resistant models with isolation between channels and between PC and bus line as well as a surge protection circuit for communication ports.

With a 128byte built-in FIFO buffer for transmission and reception of each channel, the product supports a baud rate of up to 921,600bps.

Windows/Linux device driver is supported with this product.

- * The contents in this document are subject to change without notice.
- * Visit the CONTEC website to check the latest details in the document
- * The information in the data sheets is as of May, 2025.

Specifications

Function specification

Item	Specifications
Number of channels	4 channels
Interface type	RS-422A/RS-485
Isolation	Channel Isolation/Bus Isolation
Isolation voltage	Channel Isolation: 500VDC, Bus Isolation: 1000VDC
Transfer method	Asynchronous serial transfer (Full/Half duplex)
Baud rate	30 - 921,600bps *1*5
Data length	5, 6, 7, 8 bits 1, 1.5, 2 stop bits
Parity check	Even, Odd, Non-parity
Controller chip	162850 or equivalent (Each channel has 128-byte receive and 128-byte transmit FIFO buffers.)
Connecting distance	1200m(Typ.) *2*3
Interrupt requests	1 level use *4
I/O address	Any 32-byte boundary
Power consumption	3.3VDC 1600mA(Max)
PCI Bus specification	PCI Express Base Specification Rev. 1.0a x1
Dimension (mm)	121.69(L) x 110.18(H) *5
Weight	120g

*1 Data transmission at high speed may not be performed normally depending on the environment including the type of status of connected material of cable and environment.

*2 The table below lists an example of the relationship between baud rate and communication distance.

Communication distance	Baud rate
300m	115,200bps
600m	57,600bps
900m	19,200bps
1200m	9,600bps

Communication cable: 28AWG, double shielded cable, twisted pairs used for each +/- signal line.

*3 The table below lists the maximum communication distances of the terminator resistor value and individual cable diameters.
The terminators on the product (100Ω) and the terminators generally used with RS-422A/485(120Ω) are listed.
Maximum communication distances of the terminator resistor value (100Ω) and cable diameter

Terminator Resistor(Ω)	Cable Diameter	Maximum Communication Distance(m)
100	AWG28	400
	AWG26	700
	AWG24	1100
	AWG22	1200

Maximum communication distances of the terminator resistor value (120Ω) and cable diameter

Terminator Resistor(Ω)	Cable Diameter	Maximum Communication Distance(m)
120	AWG28	500
	AWG26	800
	AWG24	1200
	AWG22	1200

*4 A single interrupt signal "INTA" is output as a collection of interrupt input signals from two channels.

*5 Product with different board numbers are different in these specifications. See "Differences by Board Number" at the end of this document.

Installation Environment Requirements

Item	Specifications
Operating ambient temperature	0 - 50°C
Operating ambient humidity	10 - 90%RH (No condensation)
Floating dust particles	Not to be excessive
Corrosive gases	None
Standard	VCCI Class A, CE Marking (EMC Directive Class A, RoHS Directive), UKCA

Support Software

Name	Contents	How to get
Windows Version Serial communication driver COM-DRV(WDM)	Software that makes it possible to use the product in the same manner as the COM ports of a PC running Windows. This software supports communication using DCB structures in the standard OS Win32 API, and the SerialPort class in the .NET Framework and the pySerial module in Python. Various sample programs such as C# and Visual Basic .NET, Visual C++, Python etc. and diagnostic program useful for checking operation is provided.	Download from the CONTEC website *1
Linux Version Serial communication driver COM-DRV(LNX)	Software that makes it possible to use the product in the same manner as the COM ports of a PC running Linux. This software conforms to Linux-standard tty drivers, and the pySerial module in Python. The software includes various sample programs such as gcc (C, C++) and Python programs.	Download from the CONTEC website *1

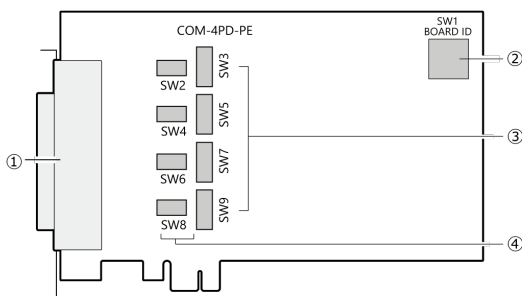
*1 Download the files from the following URL.
<https://www.contec.com/download/>

Optional Products

Product Name	Model type	Description
Connection Conversion Cable for Serial I/O (37P→9P×4)	PCE37/9PS	250mm

* Visit the CONTEC website for the latest optional products.

Component Name



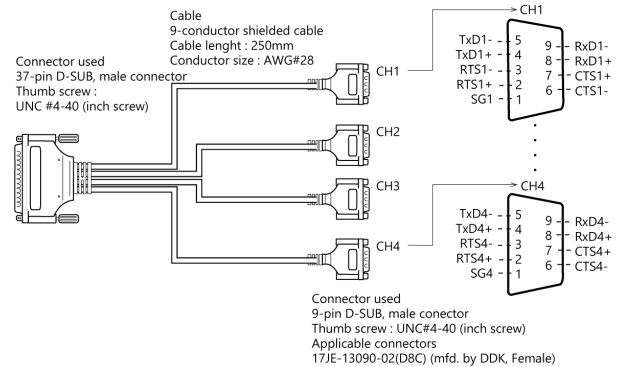
No.	Name	No.	Name
1	Interface Connector (CN1)	3	Data Transfer Mode Switch (SW3, SW5, SW7, SW9)
2	Board ID Setting Switch (SW1)	4	Terminator Setting Switch (SW2, SW4, SW6, SW8)

Connecting to an External Device

Using the 9-pin D-SUB Connector Conversion Cables

Use a PCE37/9PS connection conversion cable (purchased separately) to connect to external devices after dividing into four 9-pin D-SUB male connector channels.

Use separately purchased 9-pin D-SUB or equivalent cables to connect from the four individual connectors.



Connection conversion cable (Option)

Connection Conversion Cable for Serial I/O (37P→9P×4, 250mm)

PCE37/9PS

CAUTION

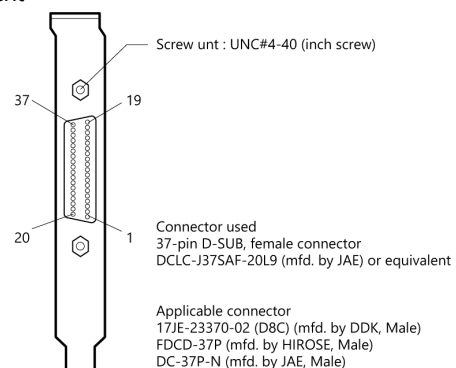
The SG lines for CH1 to CH4 of the option cable are not connected to the cable shielding. However, the frame of each connector is connected to the shielding. This means that the cable shielding is connected to the body of the PC via the frame of the interface connector.

Note that the option cable is not a twisted-pair cable.

Connecting it directly from the on-board connector

If connecting an external device directly from the connector on the board, make your own cable and connect it.

Pin Assignment



CH1 Request to Send +	RTS1+ - 37	19 -	RTS1- -	CH1 Request to Send -
CH1 Receive Data +	RxD1+ - 36	18 -	CTS1+ -	CH1 Clear to Send +
CH1 Transmit Data -	TxD1- - 35	17 -	CTS1- -	CH1 Clear to Send -
CH1 Signal Ground	SG 1 - 34	16 -	TxD1+ -	CH1 Request to Send +
CH2 Request to Send -	RTS2- - 33	15 -	RxD1- -	CH1 Request to Send -
CH2 Clear to Send +	CTS2+ - 32	14 -	RTS2+ -	CH2 Request to Send +
CH2 Clear to Send -	CTS2- - 31	13 -	RxD2+ -	CH2 Request to Send -
CH2 Transmit Data +	TxD2+ - 30	12 -	TxD2- -	CH2 Receive Data +
CH2 Receive Data -	RxD2- - 29	11 -	SG 2 -	CH2 Transmit Data -
CH4 Request to Send +	RTS4+ - 28	10 -	RTS4- -	CH2 Signal Ground
CH4 Receive Data +	RxD4+ - 27	9 -	CTS4+ -	CH4 Request to Send -
CH4 Transmit Data -	TxD4- - 26	8 -	CTS4- -	CH4 Clear to Send +
CH4 Signal Ground	SG 4 - 25	7 -	TxD4+ -	CH4 Clear to Send -
CH3 Request to Send -	RTS3- - 24	6 -	RxD4- -	CH4 Transmit Data +
CH3 Clear to Send +	CTS3+ - 23	5 -	RTS3+ -	CH4 Receive Data -
CH3 Clear to Send -	CTS3- - 22	4 -	RxD3+ -	CH3 Request to Send +
CH3 Transmit Data +	TxD3+ - 21	3 -	TxD3- -	CH3 Receive Data +
CH3 Receive Data -	RxD3- - 20	2 -	SG 3 -	CH3 Transmit Data -
		1 -	N.C.	CH3 Signal Ground

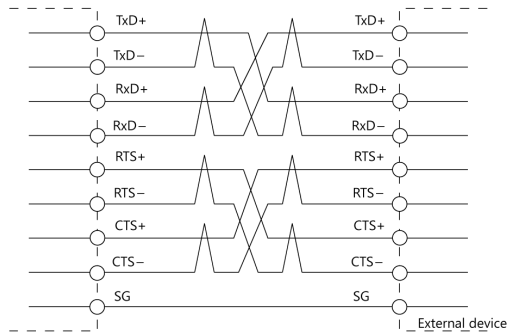
CN1

Types of Cable and Example Connections

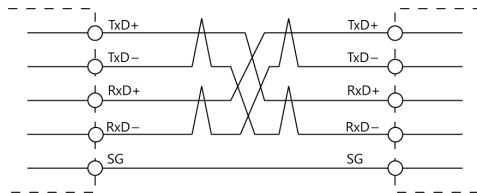
The figures below show examples of how to connect the cable for the board.

The RS-422A/485 interface works based on a differential signal whereby the signal is carried by the potential difference between two lines (+ and -). Using twisted pair cable is recommended to improve resistance to noise.

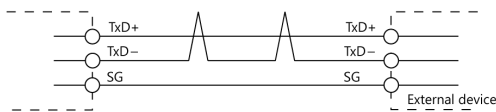
Example Connection RTS and CTS to a External Device in Full Duplex



Example Connection Oneself loop to RTS and CTS in Full Duplex



Example Connection in Half Duplex



CAUTION

If connecting between external devices and this card with faulty wiring, it will become the cause of failure.

Different in the specification

The products are different in specifications, depending on the card number as listed below.

COM-4PD-PE

Item	Board No.		
	No.7412	No.7412A	No.7412B or later
Baud Rate	2 - 921,600bps	2 - 921,600bps	30 - 921,600bps
External dimension	169.33(L) x 110.18(H)	121.69(L) x 110.18(H)	121.69(L) x 110.18(H)