



# NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS PCI/PCI Express DAQ Device User Guide

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**NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS PCI/PCI Express DAQ Device**



## Product Information

The USB-6216 is a National Instruments data acquisition (DAQ) device that connects to a computer via PCI or PCI Express. It is designed to acquire and analyze various signals, including analog input/output, digital input/output, and counter/timer signals. The device comes with an antistatic package and other necessary components for installation.

## Product Usage Instructions

### Unpacking the Kit

Before unpacking the kit, ensure that you ground yourself using a grounding strap or a grounded object to prevent electrostatic discharge (ESD) from damaging the device. Follow these steps:

1. Touch the antistatic package to a metal part of the computer chassis.
2. Remove the device from the package and inspect it for loose components or any other sign of damage.
3. Unpack any other items and documentation from the kit.
4. Store the device in the antistatic package when not in use.

### Installing the Software

Before installing the software, back up any applications on your computer. You must be an Administrator to install NI software. Follow these steps:

1. If applicable, install an application development environment (ADE), such as LabVIEW.
2. Refer to the NI-DAQmx Readme on the software media for supported application software and versions.

### Installing the Device

Before installing the device, follow these steps:

1. Power off and unplug the computer.
2. Access the computer system expansion slots. This step might require you to remove one or more access panels on the computer case.
3. Locate a compatible slot and remove the corresponding slot cover on the computer back panel.
4. Touch any metal part of the computer to discharge any static electricity.
5. Insert the device into the applicable PCI/PCI Express system slot. Gently rock the device into place. Do not force the device into place.
6. Secure the module mounting bracket to the computer back panel rail. Tighten the top and bottom mounting screws to increase mechanical stability and improve signal quality and electromagnetic performance.
7. On PCI Express devices, such as the NI PCIe-625x/63xx, connect the PC and the device disk drive power connectors. Refer to the device user manual for information about when to use the disk drive power connector. Use a disk drive power connector that is not in the same power chain as the hard drive.

### **Configuring the Device in NI MAX**

National Instruments Measurement & Automation Explorer (NI MAX) is installed automatically with NI-DAQmx and can be used to configure your USB-6216 device. Follow these steps:

1. Launch NI MAX.
2. In the Configuration pane, double-click Devices and Interfaces to see the list of installed devices.

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DAQ GETTING STARTED GUIDE

## PCI/PCI Express

This document provides basic installation instructions for National Instruments PCI and PCI Express DAQ devices. Refer to the documentation specific to your DAQ device for more information.

### Unpacking the Kit

**Caution** To prevent electrostatic discharge (ESD) from damaging the device, ground yourself using a grounding strap or by holding a grounded object, such as your computer chassis.

1. Touch the antistatic package to a metal part of the computer chassis.
2. Remove the device from the package and inspect the device for loose components or any other sign of damage.

**Caution** Never touch the exposed pins of connectors.

**Note** Do not install a device if it appears damaged in any way.

3. Unpack any other items and documentation from the kit. Store the device in the antistatic package when the device is not in use.

### Installing the Software

Back up any applications before upgrading your software. You must be an Administrator to install NI software on your computer. Refer to the NI-DAQmx Readme on the software media for supported application software and versions.

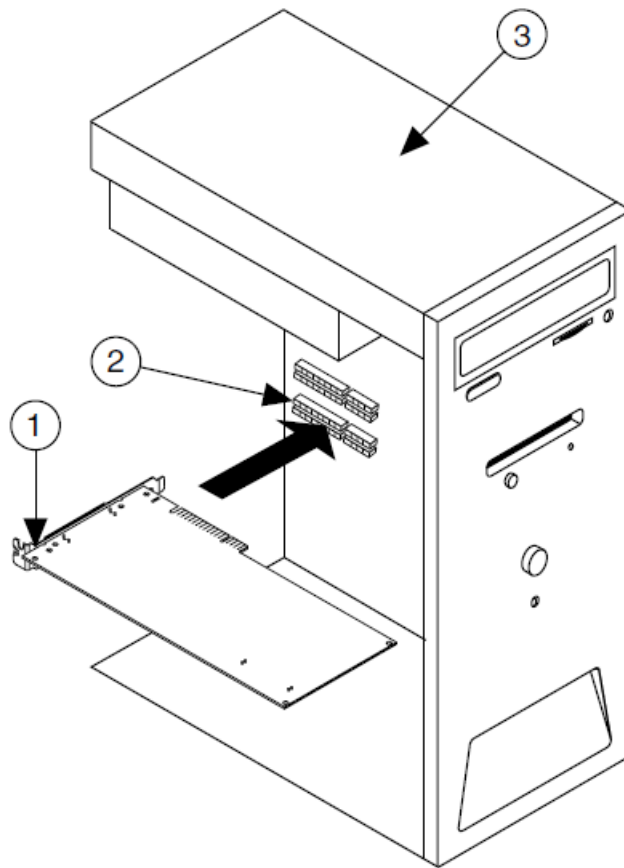
1. If applicable, install an application development environment (ADE), such as LabVIEW, Microsoft Visual Studio®, or LabWindows™/CVI™.
2. Install the NI-DAQmx driver software.

### Installing the Device

1. Power off and unplug the computer.
2. Access the computer system expansion slots. This step might require you to remove one or more access panels on the computer case.
3. Locate a compatible slot and remove the corresponding slot cover on the computer back panel.
4. Touch any metal part of the computer to discharge any static electricity.
5. Insert the device into the applicable PCI/PCI Express system slot. Gently rock the device into place. Do not force the device into place.

Per the PCI standard, NI PCI DAQ devices with the Universal PCI connector are supported in PCI-compliant buses, including PCI-X. You cannot install PCI Express devices in PCI slots and vice versa. PCI Express devices support up-plugging into a PCI Express slot of higher lane width. For more information, refer to [ni.com/pciexpress](http://ni.com/pciexpress).

Figure 1. Installing a PCI/PCI Express Device

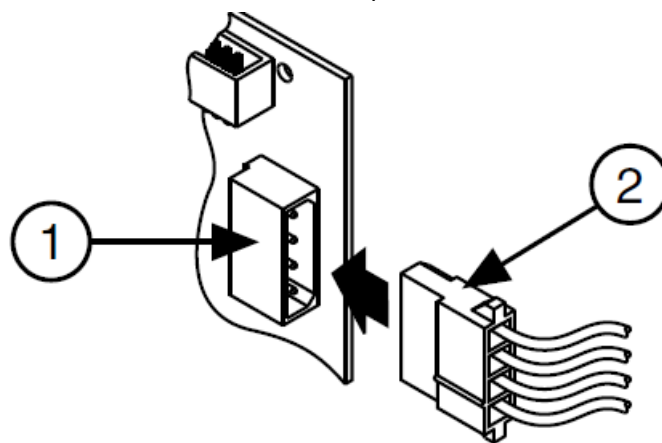


1. PCI/PCI Express DAQ Device
2. PCI/PCI Express System Slot
3. PC with PCI/PCI Express Slot

6. Secure the module mounting bracket to the computer back panel rail.

**Note** Tightening the top and bottom mounting screws increases mechanical stability and also electrically connects the front panel to the chassis, which can improve the signal quality and electromagnetic performance.

7. On PCI Express devices, such as the NI PCIe-625x/63xx, connect the PC and the device disk drive power connectors. Refer to the device user manual for information about when to use the disk drive power connector. Use a disk drive power connector that is not in the same power chain as the hard drive.



1. Device Disk Drive Power Connector
2. PC Disk Drive Power Connector

**Note** Connecting or disconnecting the disk drive power connector can affect the analog performance of your device. To compensate for this, NI recommends that you self-calibrate the PCI Express DAQ device in MAX after connecting or disconnecting the disk drive power connector; refer to the Configuring the Device in NI MAX section.

8. Replace any access panels on the computer case.

9. Plug in and power on your computer.
10. If applicable, install accessories and/or terminal blocks as described in the installation guides.
11. Attach sensors and signal lines to the device, terminal block, or accessory terminals. Refer to the documentation for your DAQ device or accessory for terminal/pinout information.

## Configuring the Device in NI MAX

Use NI MAX, installed automatically with NI-DAQmx, to configure your National Instruments hardware.

1. Launch NI MAX.
2. In the Configuration pane, double-click Devices and Interfaces to see the list of installed devices. The module is nested under the chassis.  
If you do not see your device listed, press <F5> to refresh the list of installed devices.
3. Right-click the device and select Self-Test to perform a basic verification of hardware resources.
4. (Optional) Right-click the device and select Configure to add accessory information and configure the device.
5. Right-click the device and select Test Panels to test device functionality.  
Click Start to test the device functions, and then Stop and Close to exit the test panel. If the test panel displays an error message, refer to [ni.com/support](http://ni.com/support).
6. If your device supports Self-Calibration, right-click the device and select Self-Calibrate.

A window reports the status of the calibration. Click Finish. For more information about Self-Calibration, refer to the device user manual.

**Note** Remove all sensors and accessories from your device before Self-Calibrating.

## Programming

Complete the following steps to configure a measurement using the DAQ Assistant from NI MAX.

1. In NI MAX, right-click Data Neighborhood and select Create New to open the DAQ Assistant.
2. Select NI-DAQmx Task and click Next.
3. Select Acquire Signals or Generate Signals.
4. Select the I/O type, such as analog input, and the measurement type, such as voltage.
5. Select the physical channel(s) to use and click Next.
6. Name the task and click Finish.
7. Configure individual channel settings. Each physical channel you assign to a task receives a virtual channel name. Click Details for physical channel information. Configure the timing and triggering for your task.
8. Click Run.

## Troubleshooting

For software installation problems, go to [ni.com/support/daqmx](http://ni.com/support/daqmx).

For hardware troubleshooting, go to [ni.com/support](http://ni.com/support) and enter your device name, or go to [ni.com/kb](http://ni.com/kb).

Find device terminal/pinout locations in MAX by right-clicking the device name in the Configuration pane and selecting Device Pinouts.

To return your National Instruments hardware for repair or device calibration, go to [ni.com/info](http://ni.com/info) and enter rdsenn, which starts the Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) process.

## Where to Go Next

Additional resources are online at [ni.com/gettingstarted](http://ni.com/gettingstarted) and in the NI-DAQmx Help. To access NI-DAQmx Help, launch NI MAX and go to Help»Help Topics»NI-DAQmx»NI-DAQmx Help.

## Examples

NI-DAQmx includes example programs to help you get started developing an application. Modify example code and save it in an application, or use examples to develop a new application or add example code to an existing application.

To locate LabVIEW, LabWindows/CVI, Measurement Studio, Visual Basic, and ANSI C examples, go to [ni.com/info](http://ni.com/info) and enter the Info Code daqmxexp. For additional examples, refer to [ni.com/examples](http://ni.com/examples).

## Related Documentation

To find the documentation for your DAQ device or accessory—including safety, environmental, and regulatory information documents—go to [ni.com/manuals](http://ni.com/manuals) and enter the model number.

## Worldwide Support and Services

The National Instruments website is your complete resource for technical support. At [ni.com/support](http://ni.com/support), you have access to everything from troubleshooting and application development self-help resources to email and phone assistance from NI Application Engineers.

Visit [ni.com/services](http://ni.com/services) for NI Factory Installation Services, repairs, extended warranty, and other services.

Visit [ni.com/register](http://ni.com/register) to register your National Instruments product. Product registration facilitates technical support and ensures that you receive important information updates from NI.

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## Documents / Resources

	<b><a href="#">NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS PCI/PCI Express DAQ Device</a></b> [pdf] User Guide USB-6216, PCI-PCI Express, PCI Express DAQ Device, PCI Express DAQ Device, PCI Express, PCI Express, DAQ Device
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## References

- [NI Engineer Ambitiously - NI](#)

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- [!\[\]\(f5ee48910650695cea680b2433c1d60d\_img.jpg\) NI Learning Center - NI](#)
- [!\[\]\(da0f02caffeb5a74776a1d5d1892b059\_img.jpg\) Using Info Codes - NI](#)
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- [!\[\]\(968380ddaf0d76ade5d8f4f1e1863930\_img.jpg\) Example Programs - NI Community](#)
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- [!\[\]\(87dea8aae0859a12622bcc9b0f91d405\_img.jpg\) NI-DAQ™mx Download - NI](#)
- [!\[\]\(53681b0617bf7a5a2ca7e57adc711cdf\_img.jpg\) USB-6216 National Instruments Multifunction I/O Device | Apex Waves](#)