TRC-8542 Getting Started

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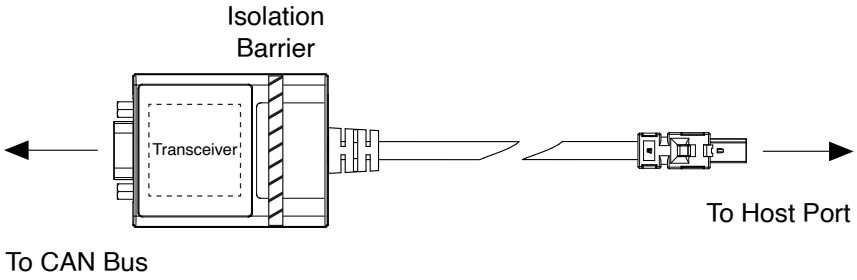
TRC-8542 Hardware Overview

The TRC-8542 has one full-featured CAN port that is isolated from the host it is plugged into. The port has an NXP TJA1043T High-Speed CAN transceiver that is fully compatible with the ISO 11898 standard and supports baud rates up to 2 Mb/s. The NI-XNET driver enables baud rates up to 8 Mb/s.

Figure 1. TRC-8542 Hardware Overview



Mounting the TRC-8542

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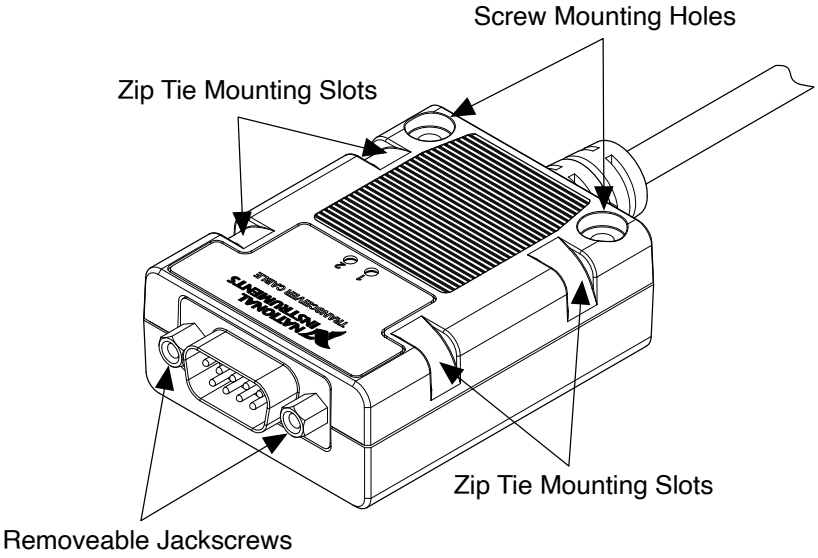
Notice The TRC-8542 is a thermally active product that dissipates heat. Refer to the user manual of the host this product directly connects to for specific information regarding thermal management. Not following mounting requirements may affect the system ambient temperature and/or the measurement accuracy of modules in the system.

Notice To meet thermal management requirements, do not zip tie more than six cables in a bundle, and allow for air flow around the bundle. If used with a CompactRIO or CompactDAQ chassis, mount all cables at least 152 mm (6.0 in.) from the chassis and do not mount more than six cables directly beneath the chassis.

You can route and strain relieve the TRC-8542 similarly to ordinary cables. You also can panel mount it using its removable jackscrews, zip tie, or screw mount it. The screw mounting holes support #6 and M3 screws spaced 35.56 mm (1.400 in.) center-to-center, with minimum length of 23 mm (7/8 in.). The TRC-8542 supports zip ties up to 5.33 mm (0.210 in.) wide.

The following figure shows jackscrews, zip tie mounting slots, and screw mounting holes on the TRC-8542.

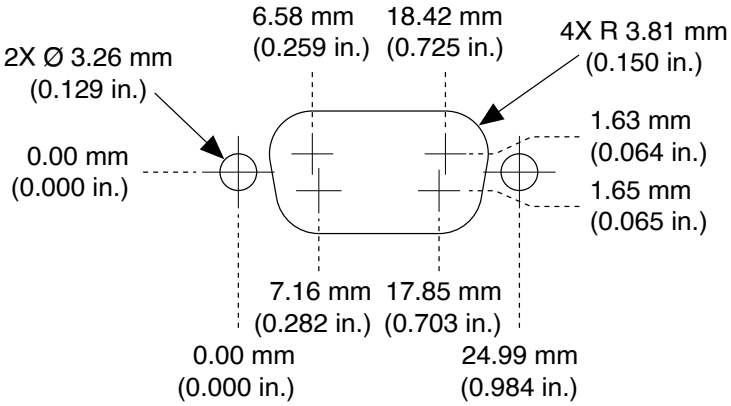
Figure 2. TRC-8542 Mounting Features



Panel Mounting the TRC-8542

The recommended panel mounting cutout dimensions are shown below.

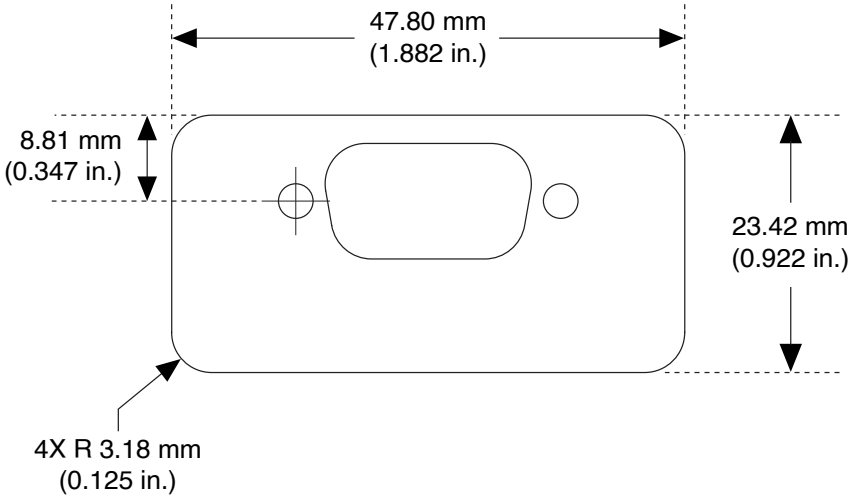
Figure 3. Recommended Cutout Dimensions



Tighten the jackscrews to a maximum torque of 0.56 N · m (5.0 lb · in.).

The jackscrews included with the TRC-8542 work with panel thicknesses up to 2.21 mm (0.087 in.). If your panel is thicker than 2.21 mm (0.087 in.), you can mill out a recessed pocket for the TRC-8542. The following figure shows the recommended pocket dimensions and cutout position.

Figure 4. Recommended Pocket Dimensions

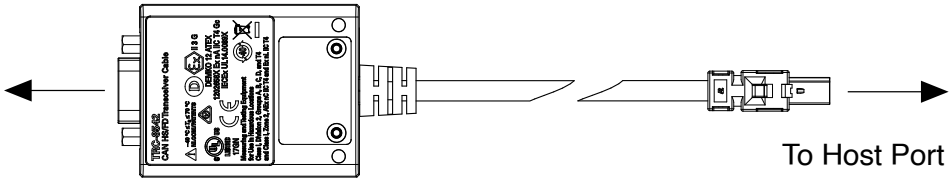


Wiring to the TRC-8542

Wiring to the TRC-8542

The TRC-8542 is used with an NI-XNET interface host port.

Figure 5. TRC-8542 Connections



The TRC-8542 has one 9-pin male D-Sub connector that provides connections to a CAN bus. The TRC-8542 has pins for CAN_H and CAN_L, to which you connect the CAN bus signals. Connect these signals using twisted-pair cable.

The port has two common pins (COM) that are internally connected to the TRC-8542 isolated reference and serve as the reference ground for CAN_H and CAN_L. You can connect the CAN bus reference ground (sometimes referred to as CAN_V-) to one or both COM pins.

The D-Sub connector shell connects through the TRC-8542 shielding to the connector on the host port end. The shielding does not electrically connect to the COM signals.

Notice When tightening the D-Sub connector jackscrews, do not exceed the maximum jackscrew torque of 0.56 N · m (5.0 lb · in.).

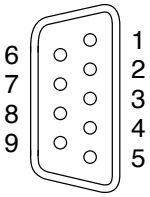
The TRC-8542 receives power from the NI-XNET host port. No external power from the CAN bus is required.

Note The TRC-8542 is internally powered, but other transceiver cable variants may require external power when the bus standard requires it.

The TRC-8542 features software-selectable bus termination for High-Speed CAN transceivers. On the TRC-8542, you can enable 115 Ω of termination resistance between CAN_H and CAN_L through an API call. If you choose to use external termination, Table 3 lists recommended termination resistor values.

The following table lists the TRC-8542 pinout.

Table 1. Pin Assignments for the TRC-8542

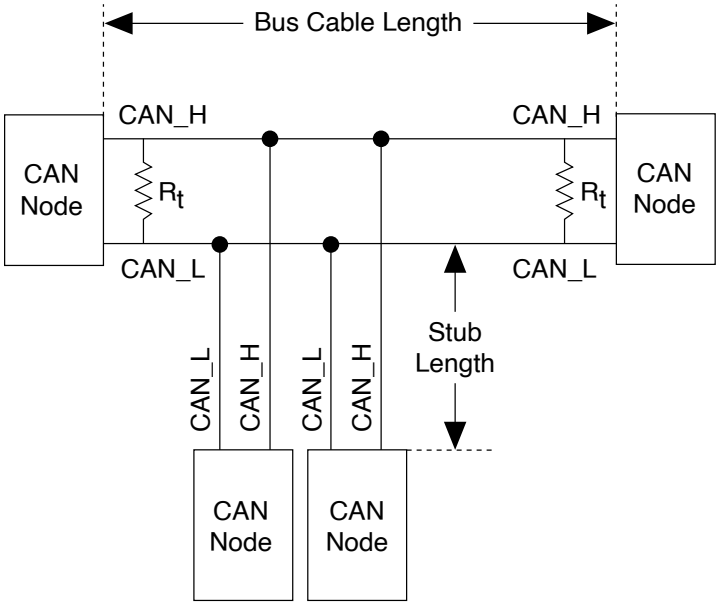
Connector	Pin	Signal Name
	1	No Connection (NC)
	2	CAN_L
	3	COM
	4	NC
	5	NC
	6	COM
	7	CAN_H
	8	NC
	9	NC

CAN Bus Topology and Termination

A CAN bus consists of two or more CAN nodes cabled together. The CAN_H and CAN_L pins of each node are connected to the main CAN bus cable through a short connection known as a “stub.” The pair of signal wires, CAN_H and CAN_L, constitutes a transmission line. If the transmission line is not terminated, each signal change on the bus causes reflections that may cause communication errors. Because the CAN bus is bidirectional, both ends of the cable must be terminated. However, this requirement does not mean that every node on the bus should have a termination resistor; only the two nodes at the far end of the cable should have termination resistors.

The following figure shows a simplified diagram of a CAN bus with multiple CAN nodes and proper termination resistor (R_t) locations.

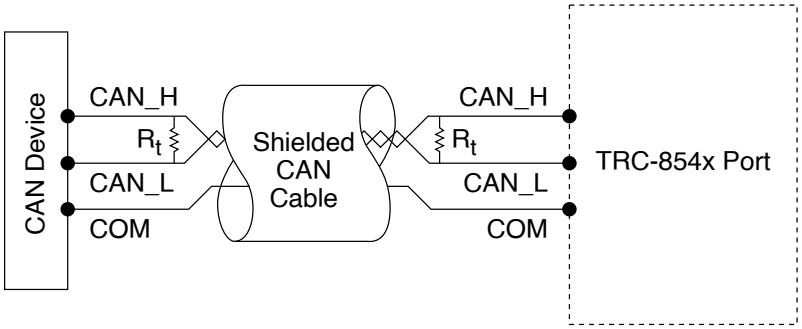
Figure 6. CAN Bus Topology and Termination Resistor Locations



Connecting a CAN Bus to the TRC-8542

You can connect the TRC-8542 port to any location on a CAN bus. The following figure shows one example of connecting the TRC-8542 directly to one CAN node.

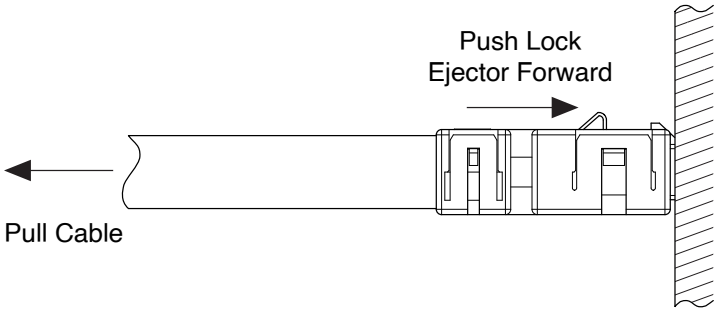
Figure 7. Connecting the TRC-8542 to a CAN Device



Inserting and Removing the TRC-8542

The TRC-8542 connects to a host device with an active latching connector. To connect the TRC-8542 to a host device, push the connector assembly into the host receptacle until the internal latch snaps into position. The latch emits an audible click when engaged. To remove the TRC-8542, push the lock ejector forward to disengage the latch and simultaneously pull the TRC-8542, as shown in the following figure.

Figure 8. Inserting and Removing the TRC-8542



Cable Specifications

Cables should meet the physical medium requirements specified in ISO 11898, shown in the following table. Belden cable (3084A) meets all these requirements and should be suitable for most applications.

Table 2. ISO 11898 Specifications for Characteristics of a CAN_H and CAN_L Pair of Wires

Characteristic	Value
Impedance	95 Ω minimum, 120 Ω nominal, 140 Ω maximum
Length-related resistance	70 mΩ/m nominal
Specific line delay	5 ns/m nominal

Termination Resistors

The termination resistors (R_t) should match the nominal impedance of the CAN cable and therefore comply with the values in the following table. The onboard, software-selectable termination has a nominal value of 115 Ω. If you are not using the onboard termination, use the values listed in the following table.

Table 3. Termination Resistor Specification

Characteristic	Value	Condition
Termination resistor, R_t	100 Ω minimum, 120 Ω nominal, 130 Ω maximum	Minimum power dissipation: 220 mW

Cable Lengths

The cabling characteristics and desired bit transmission rates affect the allowable cable length. You can find detailed cable length recommendations in the ISO 11898, CiA DS 102, and DeviceNet specifications.

ISO 11898 specifies 40 m total cable length with a maximum stub length of 0.3 m for a bit rate of 1 Mb/s. The ISO 11898 specification says that significantly longer cable lengths may be allowed at lower bit rates, but you should analyze each node for signal integrity problems.

Number of CAN Nodes

The maximum number of nodes depends on the electrical characteristics of the nodes on the network. If all nodes meet the ISO 11898 requirements, you can connect at least 30 nodes to the bus. You can connect higher numbers of nodes if the nodes' electrical characteristics do not degrade signal quality below ISO 11898 signal level specifications.

The TRC-8542 electrical characteristics allow at least 110 CAN ports on a network.

TRC-8542 LEDs

The TRC-8542 includes two LEDs to help you monitor hardware and bus status. LED 1 primarily indicates whether the hardware is currently in use. LED 2 primarily indicates the activity information of the connected bus. Each LED can display two colors (red or green), which display in the following four patterns:

Table 4. LED Pattern Definitions

Pattern	Meaning
Off	No LED illumination
Solid	LED fully illuminated
Blink	Blinks at a constant rate of several times per second
Activity	Blinks in a pseudo-random pattern

Table 5. LED Pattern Indications

Condition/State	LED 1	LED 2
Port identification	Blinks green	Blinks green
NI-XNET catastrophic error	Blinks red	Blinks red
No open session on hardware	Off	Off
Open session on hardware, port is properly powered, and hardware is not communicating	Solid green	Off
Hardware is communicating, and controller is in Error Active state	Solid green	Activity green (returns to idle/off one second after last TX or RX)
Hardware is communicating, and controller is in Error Passive state	Solid green	Activity red (returns to idle/off one second after last TX or RX)
Hardware is running, and controller transitioned to bus off	Solid green	Solid red