# BRIDGED RB-TA3020-1, BRIDGED RB-TA3020-2, BRIDGED RB-TA3020-3 <br> CLASS-T DIGITAL AUDIO AMPLIFIER EVALUATION BOARD USING DIGITAL POWER PROCESSING (DPP ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ ) TECHNOLOGY 

Technical Information-Preliminary<br>Revision 1.0 - June 2001

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Bridged RB-TA3020 evaluation board is based on the TA3020 digital audio power amplifier from Tripath Technology. This board is designed to provide a simple and straightforward environment for the evaluation of the Tripath TA3020 amplifier in bridged mode. This board is implemented in a bridged configuration for high power mono output.

Note: There are three versions of the Bridged RB-TA3020, depending on nominal supply voltage and desired output power.

Bridged RB-TA3020-1 - Nominal supply voltage +/-23V to +/-36V
Bridged RB-TA3020-2 - Nominal supply voltage +/-30V to +/-48V
Bridged RB-TA3020-3 - Nominal supply voltage +/-40V to +/-64V

## FEATURES

$>$ Bridged RB-TA3020-1: 300W continuous output power @ $0.1 \%$ THD+N, $4 \Omega, \pm 30 \mathrm{~V}$
> Bridged RB-TA3020-2: 600W continuous output power@ $0.1 \%$ THD+N, $4 \Omega, \pm 43 \mathrm{~V}$
> Bridged RB-TA3020-3: 1200W continuous output power @ $0.1 \%$ THD+N, $4 \Omega, \pm 60 \mathrm{~V}$
> Outputs short circuit protected

## BENEFITS

$>$ Quick, easy evaluation and testing of the TA3020 amplifier in bridged mode
> Uses only N-channel power MOSFETs
$>$ Ready to use in many applications:

- Car Audio Amplifier
- Powered Subwoofers
- High Power Mono Amplifier



## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

## Power Supply Description

There are four external power supplies required to operate this board: VPP, VNN, VN10, and V5 (see Figures 1 and 2). VPP and VNN power the load and so must each be able to provide half of the desired output power, plus about $20 \%$ for overhead and margin. The TA3020 amplifier also requires a supply, VN10, that is 10 V more positive than VNN and tracks VNN.

Though not required, the following powering-up sequence is usually adhered to during bench evaluations: $1^{\text {st }}$ ) V5 and VN10, $2^{\text {nd }}$ ) VNN and $3^{\text {rd }}$ ) VPP (refer to the Turn-on/off Pop section). The positive and negative supply voltages do not have to match or track each other, but distortion or clipping levels will be determined by the lowest (absolute) supply voltage. Figure 1 shows the proper supply configuration for the EB-TA3020.


Note: To avoid signal degradation, the Analog Ground and Power Ground should be kept separate at the power supply. They are connected locally on the Bridged RB-TA3020-X. The two VPP yellow wires should be tied together and the two VNN orange wires should also be tied together.

| Connector | Power Supply |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| J2 (Yellow) | VPP |  |
| J2 (Blue) | PGND |  |
| J2 (Orange) | VNN |  |
| J2 (Orange) | VNN |  |
| J2 (Green) | VN10 |  |
| J2 (Yellow) | VPP |  |
| J1 (Red) | V5 |  |
| J1 (Black) | AGND |  |
| Table 1 |  |  |

## Input Connections

Audio input to the board is located at INPUT (J200) (see Figures 2 and 3). The input can be a test signal or music source. An RCA cable is provided with a female 100 mil connector to mate with J200.

## Output Connections

There are two output connectors on the reference board for the speaker output. The positive output is connected to J 101 with a red wire attached. The negative output is connected to J202 with a black wire attached. The negative output is not a ground, but an output signal with equal amplitude and opposite phase compared to the positive output. Outputs can be any passive speaker(s) or test measurement equipment with resistive load (see Application Note 4 for more information on bench testing).

## Turn-on/off Pop

To avoid turn-on pops, bring the mute from a high to a low state after all power supplies have settled. To avoid turn-off pops, bring the mute from a low to a high state before turning off the supplies. The only issue with bringing up the V5 last, or turning it off first, is clicks/pops. If the mute line is properly toggled (slow turn-on, quick turn-off), then any power up sequence is acceptable. In practice, the V5 will usually collapse before VPP and VNN. The same holds true for the VN10 supply. It can collapse before VPP or VNN though this may cause a larger turn-off pop than if the mute had been activated before either the VN10 or V5 supply have collapsed. No damage will occur to the TA3020 if either the V5 or VN10 collapse before VPP or VNN.


Figure 2


Figure 3

ELECTRICALCHARACTERISTICS FOR BRIDGEDRB-TA3020-1
Unless otherwise specified, $\mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{kHz}$, Measurement Bandwidth $=22 \mathrm{kHz}, \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega, \mathrm{~T}_{\mathrm{A}}=25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. All of the measurements are typical value.

| S Y M B OL | PARAMETER | CONDITIONS | VALUE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Po | Output Power <br> (Continuous Average/bridged load) <br> Bridged RB-TA3020-1 <br> +/-30V power supplies | THD $+\mathrm{N}=0.1 \%$ $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega$ <br>  $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega$ <br> THD $+\mathrm{N}=10 \%$ $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega$ <br>  $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 350 \mathrm{~W} \\ & 600 \mathrm{~W} \\ & 500 \mathrm{~W} \\ & 850 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| +Freqsw | Switching Frequency of the Positive Output | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{IN}}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 650 kHz |
| -Freq ${ }_{\text {sw }}$ | Switching Frequency of the Negative Output | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 620 kHz |
| VN10Iq | Quiescent Current of VN10 supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{IN}}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 180 mA |
| V519 | Quiescent Current of V5 supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 45 mA |
| $\mathrm{VPPI}_{\mathrm{q}}$ | Quiescent Current of VPP supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{IN}}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 100 mA |
| $\mathrm{VNNI}_{\mathrm{q}}$ | Quiescent Current of VNN supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{IN}}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 100 mA |
| $\eta$ | Power Efficiency | $+/-30 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{P}_{\text {Out }}=500 \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega$ | 89\% |
| $\eta$ | Power Efficiency | $+/-30 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{P}_{\text {OUt }}=850 \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega$ | 83\% |
| eout | Output Noise Voltage | A-Weighted, input AC grounded | 215uV |

## ELECTRICALCHARACTERISTICS FOR BRIDGEDRB-TA3020-2

Unless otherwise specified, $f=1 \mathrm{kHz}$, Measurement Bandwidth $=22 \mathrm{kHz}, \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega, \mathrm{~T}_{\mathrm{A}}=25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. All of the measurements are typical value.

| S Y M B O L | PARAMETER | CONDITIONS | VALUE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Po | Output Power <br> (Continuous Average/bridged load) <br> Bridged RB-TA3020-2 <br> +/-43V power supplies | THD $+\mathrm{N}=0.1 \%$ $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega$ <br>  $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega$ <br> THD $+\mathrm{N}=10 \%$ $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 710 \mathrm{~W} \\ & 950 \mathrm{~W} \\ & 1000 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| Po | Output Power <br> (Continuous Average/bridged load) <br> Bridged RB-TA3020-2 <br> +/-33V power supplies | $\mathrm{THD}+\mathrm{N}=0.1 \%$ $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega$ <br> $\mathrm{THD}+\mathrm{N}=10 \%$ $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 650 \mathrm{~W} \\ & 900 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| +Freq ${ }_{\text {sw }}$ | Switching Frequency of the Positive Output | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 640 kHz |
| -Freqsw | Switching Frequency of the Negative Output | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{IN}}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 605kHz |
| VN10Iq | Quiescent Current of VN10 supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 270 mA |
| V519 | Quiescent Current of V5 supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 45 mA |
| $\mathrm{VPPI}_{\mathrm{q}}$ | Quiescent Current of VPP supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{VPP}=+43 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{VNN}=-43 \mathrm{~V}$ | 110 mA |
| $\mathrm{VNNI}_{\mathrm{q}}$ | Quiescent Current of VNN supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{VPP}=+43 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{VNN}=-43 \mathrm{~V}$ | 110 mA |
| $\eta$ | Power Efficiency | $+/-43 \mathrm{~V}$, Pout $=1000 \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega$ | 88\% |
| $\eta$ | Power Efficiency | $+/-33 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{Pout}^{\text {a }}$ 900W, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega$ | 83\% |
| ${ }_{\text {eout }}$ | Output Noise Voltage | A-Weighted, input AC grounded | 300uV |

ELECTRICALCHARACTERISTICS FOR BRIDGEDRB-TA3020-3
Unless otherwise specified, $\mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{kHz}$, Measurement Bandwidth $=22 \mathrm{kHz}, \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega, \mathrm{~T}_{\mathrm{A}}=25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. All of the measurements are typical value.

| S Y M B O L | PARAMETER | CONDITIONS | VALUE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Po | Output Power <br> (Continuous Average/bridged load) <br> Bridged RB-TA3020-3 <br> +/-60V power supplies | THD $+N=0.1 \%$ $R_{L}=4 \Omega$ <br> $T H D+N=10 \%$ $R_{L}=4 \Omega$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1350W } \\ & \text { 1800W } \end{aligned}$ |
| Po | Output Power (Continuous Average/bridged load) Bridged RB-TA3020-3 +/-43V power supplies | $\begin{array}{ll} \hline \text { THD }+\mathrm{N}=0.1 \% & \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega \\ \text { THD }+\mathrm{N}=10 \% & \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 1350W } \\ & \text { 1500W } \end{aligned}$ |
| +Freq ${ }_{\text {sw }}$ | Switching Frequency of the Positive Output | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 630kHz |
| -Freqsw | Switching Frequency of the Negative Output | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 600 kHz |
| $\mathrm{VN1OI}_{\mathrm{q}}$ | Quiescent Current of VN10 supply | $\mathrm{V}_{1 \mathrm{IN}}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 290 mA |
| V5Iq | Quiescent Current of V5 supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V}$ | 45 mA |
| VPPIq | Quiescent Current of VPP supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{VPP}=+60 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{VNN}=-60 \mathrm{~V}$ | 130 mA |
| $\mathrm{VNNI}_{\mathrm{q}}$ | Quiescent Current of VNN supply | $\mathrm{V}_{\text {IN }}=0 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{VPP}=+60 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{VNN}=-60 \mathrm{~V}$ | 140 mA |
| $\eta$ | Power Efficiency | $+/-60 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{P}_{\text {OUt }}=1800 \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=4 \Omega$ | 87\% |
| $\eta$ | Power Efficiency | $+/-43 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{P}_{\text {out }}=1200 \mathrm{~W}, \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=2 \Omega$ | 84\% |
| eout | Output Noise Voltage | A-Weighted, input AC grounded | 400uV |

## TYPICALPERFORMANCE FOR BRIDGEDRB-TA3020-1




Efficiency vs Output Power




## TYPICAL PERFORMANCE FOR BRIDGEDRB-TA3020-2




Efficiency vs Output Power



THD+N vs Frequency


Efficiency vs Output Power


## TYPICALPERFORMANCEFOR BRIDGEDRB-TA3020-2





## TYPICALPERFORMANCE FOR BRIDGEDRB-TA3020-3


$\mathrm{THD}+\mathrm{N}$ vs Frequency


Efficiency vs Output Power


THD + N vs Output Power



Efficiency vs Output Power


## TYPICALPERFORMANCEFOR BRIDGEDRB-TA3020-3





## Safe Operating Areas

The TA3020 must always remain in the safe operating area in order to ensure a robust and reliable design. The Bridged RB-TA3020-X boards have been optimized for $4 \Omega$ and $2 \Omega$ load applications. All three of the Bridged RB-TA3020-X boards have been designed to be $1 \Omega$ stable, however the current limit has been set by the OCR resistors (R111 and R211) to not allow the output to achieve maximum power in order to remain in the safe operating area. If a $1 \Omega$ load is connected to the output, the amplifier will continue to function but will go into an overcurrent mode when driving a presumable amount of power. For the Bridged RB-TA3020-1 board with a $1 \Omega$ load connected to the output, the amplifier will enter the overcurrent mode and shutoff at approximately 500W. For the Bridged RB-TA3020-2 board with a $1 \Omega$ load connected to the output, the amplifier will enter the overcurrent mode and shutoff at approximately 800 W . For the Bridged RB-TA3020-3 board with a $1 \Omega$ load connected to the output, the amplifier will enter the overcurrent mode and shutoff at approximately 675 W . To reset the amplifier after an overcurrent condition, the mute pin (pin 24) must be toggled or the power supplies must by cycled off and on to enable the amplifier.

The Bridged RB-TA3020-1 is optimized for a +/-30V power supply and will function from a minimum of $+/-23 \mathrm{~V}$ to a maximum of $+/-36 \mathrm{~V}$. At $+/-30 \mathrm{~V}$ the Bridged RB-TA3020-1 will sufficiently drive a $4 \Omega$ and $2 \Omega$ load as shown in the Typical Performance graphs.

The Bridged RB-TA3020-2 is optimized for a +/-43V power supply and will function from a minimum of $+/-30 \mathrm{~V}$ to a maximum of $+/-48 \mathrm{~V}$. At $+/-43 \mathrm{~V}$ the Bridged RB-TA3020-2 will sufficiently drive a $4 \Omega$ and $2 \Omega$ load as shown in the Typical Performance graphs. However with $2 \Omega$ load conditions the amplifier will shutdown if pushed beyond 1200W. In order for the amplifier to achieve the full output signal swing, the power supply must be reduced to $+/-33 \mathrm{~V}$. This will allow the amplifier to achieve 950 W at $10 \%$ THD +N with a $2 \Omega$ load.

The Bridged RB-TA3020-3 is optimized for a $+/-60 \mathrm{~V}$ power supply and will function from a minimum of $+/-40 \mathrm{~V}$ to a maximum of $+/-64 \mathrm{~V}$. At $+/-60 \mathrm{~V}$ the Bridged RB-TA3020-3 will sufficiently drive a $4 \Omega$ and $2 \Omega$ load as shown in the Typical Performance graphs. However, with a $2 \Omega$ load, the amplifier will shutdown if pushed beyond 1500W. In order for the amplifier to achieve the full output signal swing, the power supply must be reduced to $+/-43 \mathrm{~V}$. This will allow the amplifier to achieve 1500 W at $10 \%$ THD +N with a $2 \Omega$ load.

These limitations placed on the amplifier are to ensure the system will remain in the safe operating area. Changing the values of the OCR resistors (R211 and R111) will change the overcurrent trip point and thus increase or reduce output power. It is not recommended to increase the overcurrent trip point to increase the output power, otherwise reliability will be reduced in the system. For formulas on how to set the overcurrent trip point, please refer to the TA3020 datasheet.

The safe operating area is dependent upon the power dissipation, the operating ambient temperature and the heatsinking. As an example, if the Bridged RB-TA3020-3 board is operating at $+/-60 \mathrm{~V}$ with a $2 \Omega$ load. At 400 W the amplifier is $68 \%$ efficient and the eight output FETs will be dissipating approximately 133W. Each of the output FETs will be dissipating approximately 17W. To operate at an ambient temperature of $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, the heatsink needs to be be able to keep the output FETS below the maximum junction temperature of $150^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.
(Maximum Junction Temperature for Output FETs - ambient temperature)/Power dissipated = $\theta_{\mathrm{JA}}$ of the heatsink

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 150^{\circ} \mathrm{C}-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}=130^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \\
& 130^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / 133 \mathrm{~W}=0.98^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{W}
\end{aligned}
$$

In order to run the amplifier at 400 W into a $2 \Omega$ load continuously at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for an infinite amount of time, a $\theta_{\mathrm{JA}}$ of $0.98^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{W}$ heatsink is required.

In an application such as a car audio trunk mounted amplifier, where the ambient temperature can run up to $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 150^{\circ} \mathrm{C}-85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}=65^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \\
& 65^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / 133 \mathrm{~W}=0.49^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{W}
\end{aligned}
$$

A $\theta_{\mathrm{JA}}$ of $0.49^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{W}$ heatsink is required in order to operate the amplifier at 400 W into a $2 \Omega$ load continuously at $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for an infinite amount of time.

The $\theta_{\mathrm{JA}}$ of every heatsink indicates the thermal properties for an infinite amount of time, therefore a characterization of each heatsink should be done to plot the $\theta_{\mathrm{JA}}$ vs time. This will provide information for the heatsink characteristics for power dissipation capabilities for a given finite amount of time.

A system fan can be used to help increase the efficiency of the heatsink. Additional FETs cannot be added to the RB-TA3020-2 and RBTA3020-3 boards to help the power dissipation because the TA3020 cannot reliably drive more than 150 nC .

## ARCHITECTURE

A block diagram of the evaluation board is shown in Figure 4. The major functional blocks of the amplifier are described below.


Figure 4
Note: The negative output is identical to the positive output with 180 degrees phase shift.

## Input Stage

Figure 5 shows Input Stage before the TA3020. The TA3020 amplifier is designed to accept unbalanced inputs. For the Bridged RB-TA3020-1, the gain is $12.2 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{V}$ differentially, or approximately 22 dB . For the Bridged RB-TA3020-2, the gain is $16.8 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{V}$ differentially, or approximately 24.5 dB . For the Bridged RB-TA3020-3, the gain is $23.8 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{V}$ differentially, or approximately 27.5 dB . Please note that the input stage of the TA3020 is biased at approximately 2.5 VDC . For an input signal centered at ground (OVDC), the polarity of the coupling capacitor, $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{IN}}$, shown in Figure 5 is correct.


Figure 5

The audio signal is input through pin 20 and fed through an inverting op amp. The output of this op amp (pin 21) is tied to the input a unity gain inverting op amp. This configuration of cascading two inverting op amps results in two input signals to the amplifier of equal amplitude and 180 degrees phase shift without the need of an external op amp.

The value of the input capacitor, $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{IN}}$, in Figure 5 (labeled C200 on the schematic), and the input resistor, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{IN}}$ (labeled R200 on the schematic), sets the -3 dB point of the input high-pass filter. The frequency of the input high pass pole, $\mathrm{F}_{3 \mathrm{~dB}},-3 \mathrm{~dB}$ point can be calculated as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\mathrm{F}_{3 \mathrm{~dB}}=1 /\left(2 \pi \times \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{IN}} \times \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{IN}}\right) \\
\text { where: } & \mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{IN}}=\text { input capacitor value in Farads } \\
& \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{IN}}=\text { input resistor value in Ohms }
\end{array}
$$

Output offset voltages can be nulled by adjusting the $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ potentiometer shown in Figure 5. Once set, the offset does not typically drift with temperature, so no tracking circuitry is required. Offsets can typically be set to $+/-25 \mathrm{mV}$. The output offset is trimmed differentially across the positive and negative outputs, thus only one channel needs the offset trimmed. If a different TA3020 is placed in the Bridged RB-TA3020 evaluation board, the offset would need to be retrimmed.

## EB-TA3020 Control Circuitry

The MUTE pin is brought out to an external 2-pin header, J3 (Figure 6). When a jumper is installed from Pin 1 to 2 of J 3 , the MUTE line is pulled to ground and the outputs are enabled. Note that if the MUTE jumper is removed, the MUTE pin floats high, and the amplifier is muted.


Figure 6
The resistors, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{OCR}}$ in Figure 6 (labeled R111 and R211 in the schematic), set the overcurrent threshold for the output devices. Note that these are NOT the sense resistors (the overcurrent sense resistors, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{S}}$, are in the output stage). By adjusting the $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{OCR}}$ resistor values, the threshold at which the amplifier "trips" can be changed. The range that the overcurrent trip point can be adjusted (by changing $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{OCR}}$ ) is determined by the value of the sense resistors.
$R_{\text {OCR }}$ on this evaluation board is pre-set for a $4 \Omega$ and $2 \Omega$ bridged load application. For lower impedance applications (i.e. $1 \Omega$ bridged), this board's overcurrent will trip. This is indicated by the amplifier going into mute and the HMUTE pin will latch to 5 V ; to clear this condition, toggle the mute or cycle the power. To reduce overcurrent sensitivity, decrease the value of $R_{\text {ocr }}$ until the sensitivity meets the desired level. $\mathrm{R}_{\text {OCR }}$ can be reduced though this may result in an overcurrent threshold that is so high the amplifier will try to drive a short circuit, possibly damaging the output FETs.

Finally, the Break-Before-Make (or "BBM") lines are used to control the "dead time" of the output FETs. The "dead time" is the period of time between the turn-off of one device and the turn-on of the opposite device on the same channel. If the two devices are both on at the same time, current "shoots through" from one supply to the other, bypassing the load altogether. Obviously, this will have a great impact on the overall efficiency of the amplifier. However, if the dead time is
too long, linearity suffers. The optimum BBM setting will change with different output FETs, different operating voltages, different layouts and different performance requirements. For this reason, Tripath has provided a means to adjust the BBM setting among four preset levels by moving jumpers J2 and J3 on their 3-pin headers (see Figure 6).

These settings should be verified over the full temperature and load range of the application to ensure that any thermal rise of the output FETs and TA3020 does not impact the performance of the amplifier. The RB-TA3020-1 and RBTA3020-2 amplifier boards is set to 80nS and the RB-TA3020-3 is set to 120 nS . The table below shows the BBM values for various settings of the jumpers (Figure 7).


Note: The jumper setting shown is 80 nS .
Figure 7

## Auto Recovery Circuit for Overcurrent Fault Condition

If an overcurrent fault condition occurs the HMUTE pin (pin 15) will be latched high and the amplifier will be muted. The amplifier will remain muted until the MUTE pin (pin 24) is toggled high and then low or the power supplies are turned off and then on again. The circuit shown below in Figure 8 is a circuit that will detect if HMUTE is high and then toggle the mute pin high and then low, thus resetting the amplifier. The LED, D1 will turn on when HMUTE is high. The reset time has been set for approximately 2.5 seconds. The duration of the reset time is controlled by the RC time constant set by R306 and C311. To increase the reset, time increase the value of C311. To reduce the reset time, reduce the value of C311. Please note that this circuit is optional and in not included on the RB-TA3020-X boards.


Figure 8

## Output Section

The output section includes the gate resistors, gate diodes, source resistors, FETs, output filters, the previously mentioned overvoltage sense resistors, a Zobel Network, the common mode capacitor, the common mode zobel network and various bypass capacitors. Figure 8 below shows the output stage of the positive output of this amplifier. The negative output section was not included in order to simplify the explaination of the output section. The negative output section will be symmetrical in terms of component values, component placements, and overall functionality.


Figure 9

The gate resistors (labeled R113, R114, R120, and R121 in Figure 9 and the attached schematic) are used to control MOSFET switching rise/fall times and thereby minimize voltage overshoots. They also dissipate a portion of the power resulting from moving the gate charge each time the MOSFET is switched. If $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{G}}$ is too small, excessive heat can be generated in the driver. Large gate resistors lead to slower gate transitions resulting in longer rise/fall times and thus requiring a larger BBM setting.

The gate diodes (D104, D105, D106, D107) are used to reduce the fall time at the gate of the output FETs. This allows us to use the $5.6 \Omega$ gate resistor, which increases the rise time of the gate, reduces switching noise at the output FETs and reduce the overall noise floor of the amplifier.

The source resistors (R124, R125, R126, R127) are recommended to protect the TA3020 from any overvoltage damage. The source resistors provide protection to the HO1COM and LO1COM pins due to the large overshoots and undershoots of the switching waveform that can occur at the output during high power operation.

R118 and R119 are gate pull down resistors to ensure the output FETs remain off if VPP and VNN are powered on and the TA3020 is not powered on. $499 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ is the ideal value for these resistors. Larger values of R118 and R119 can cause the gate of the output FETs to float and smaller values of R118 and R119 will affect the drive capabilities of the HO1 and LO1 pins.

The output FETs (M100, M101, M200 and M201) provide the switching function required of a Class-T design. They are driven directly by the TA3020 through the gate resistors. M100 and M102 are placed in parallel and provide the high side drive of the output stage. M101 and M103 are in parallel and provide the low side drive of the output stage. The FETs are required to be placed in parallel for the purposes of higher current handling capability and improved power dissipation. (Note: Bridged RBTA3020-1 does not have M101 and M103 and it's associated components because it has a lower power output) The devices used on the evaluation board are STW34NB20 MOSFETs. The TA3020 data sheet contains information on output FET selection as well as Tripath application notes "FETs - Selection and Efficiency" and "Designing with Switching Amplifiers for Performance and Reliability".

The output filter L100/C114 is the low-pass filter that recovers the analog audio signal. One of the benefits of the Class-T design is the ability to use output filters with relatively high cutoff frequencies. This greatly reduces the speaker interactions that can occur with the use of lowerfrequency filters common in Class-D designs. Also, the higher-frequency operation means that the filter can be of a lower order (simpler and less costly).

The OEM may benefit from some experimentation in the filter design, but the values provided in the reference design, $11 \mathrm{uH}, 0.1 \mathrm{uF}, 0.22 \mathrm{uF}$ (nominal resonant frequency of 65 kHz ), provide excellent results for most loads between $2 \Omega$ and $4 \Omega$. Figure 10 below shows the SPICE simultion results for the output filter used on the Bridged RB-TA3020-3 board with a $4 \Omega$ load. Figure 11 below shows the SPICE simulation results for the output filter used on the Bridged RB-TA3020-3 board with a $2 \Omega$ load. The $Y$ axis of the graph is in units of $d B$ referred to 1 V . The $X$ axis of the graph is in units of Hz . All of the Bridged RB-TA3020-X boards will have the same frequency response, however the gains will be different.


Figure 11
As important as the values themselves, the material used in the core is important to the performance of the filter. Core materials that saturate easily will not provide acceptable distortion or efficiency figures. Tripath recommends a low-mu core, like type 2 iron powder core. Micrometals, (www.micrometals.com), is a main supplier of iron powder cores. The core part number used on the Bridged RB-TA3020-1 and the Bridged RB-TA3020-2 is T106-2. The core part number used on the Bridged RB-TA3020-3 is T157-2.

The Zobel circuit R128/C117 is used in case the amplifier is powered up with no load attached. The $Q$ of the LC output filter, with no load attached, rises quickly out to 80 kHz . Resonant currents
in the filter and ringing on the output could reduce the reliability of the amplifier. The Zobel eliminates these problems by reducing the Q of the network significantly above 50 kHz . Modifying the LC output filter will require a recalculation of the Zobel value, and depending on the application, the power capability of R117 and R217 may need to be increased to 10W from 5W. The components used on the evaluation board should be adequate for most applications.


Figure 12

Figure 12 shows the differential filter network. The differential capacitor, C5, is used to reduce any of the differential switching components between the positive and negative outputs. Similar to the zobel circuit, the common mode zobel network, is used in case the amplifier is powered up with no load attached to the output. The common mode LC output filter formed by L100, L200 and C 5 has a Q that rises quickly out to 80 kHz . Common mode resonant currents in the filter and ringing on the output could reduce the reliability of the amplifier. This common mode zobel network reduces the $Q$ of the common mode LC output filter significantly above 50 kHz .

The bypass capacitors C108/C109 are critical to the reduction of ringing, overshoots, and undershoots on the outputs of the FETs. These parts are placed as closely as possible to the leads of the FETs, and the leads of the capacitors themselves are as short as practical. Their values will not change with different output FETs.

## Differences between the Bridged RB-TA3020-X boards

The Bridged RB-TA3020-X boards can be directly implemented into a system. They were intended to be scalable and modular to help simplify the manufacturing of multiple systems with varying output power. This is the reason there are three boards for three different power levels that use identical PC boards. The differences between the three boards are changes in resistor values and capacitor voltages. Please refer to the bill of materials that is attached at the end of this document for the actual values of components used for each board.

## DOCUMENTATION

Schematics and layout in software or paper form can be provided upon request.

## ADVANCED INFORMATION

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Bill of Material for Bridged RB-TA3020-1, Rev 3.0

| Used | Part Type | Designator | Footprint | Part Field 1 | Part Field 2 | Part Field 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 | $0.010 \mathrm{HM} / 1 \mathrm{~W}$ | R115 R116 R215 R216 | RLVR1RG2 | OHMITE | 12F010 | DK 12F010-ND |
| 8 | 0.1 uF | $\begin{array}{llll} \text { C1 C103 C107 C120 } \\ \text { C203 C207 C3 } & \text { C4 } \end{array}$ | 0805 | 20\% TOL. | * | * |
| 2 | $0.1 \mathrm{uF} / 100 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{PPS}$ | C114 C214 | C0U22PPS10 | PANASONIC | ECH-S1104JZ | DK PS1104J-ND |
| 4 | 0.1 uF/250V/EB | C105 C106 C205 C206 | C0U1MF10 | PANASONIC | ECQ-E2104KB | DK P10967-ND |
| 6 | 0.1uF/250V/EF | C108 C110 C112 C208 | C0U1MF10 | PANASONIC | ECQ-E2104KF | EF2104-ND |
|  |  | C210 C212 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | 0.22uF/100V/PPS | C117 C217 C5 C6 | C0U22PPS10 | PANASONIC | ECH-S1224JZ | DK PS1224J-ND |
| 3 | 1.15K, 1\% | R107 R207 R210 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 1 | 100uF/16V | C8 | C10UEL05 | PANASONIC | ECA-1CHG101 | DK P5529-ND |
| 1 | 10K POT | R104 | POTSTURN | BOURNS | 3306P-1-103 | DK 3306P-103-ND |
| 2 | 11uH | L100 L200 | T106 | COIL WINDING SPEC | T106-2 CORE | 29TURNS / 16AWG |
| 2 | 13.3K, 1\% | R111 R211 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 1 | 150 pF | C102 | 0805 | NPO 5\% | * | * |
| 1 | 1K | R7 | 0805 | 5\% | * | * |
| 3 | 1K, 1\% | R105 R205 R208 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 4 | 1N914 | D105 D106 D205 D206 | 1N914L |  |  | * |
| 3 | 20K, 1\% | R100 R101 R201 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 3 | 200HM/5W | R128 R228 R6 | PWR5WRT | XICON |  | 280-PRM5-20 |
| 2 | 2200 HM | R112 R212 | RES1W50 | 5\%, 1/4W |  |  |
| 2 | 220 pF | C116 C216 | 0805 | NPO 5\% | * | * |
| 1 | 237K, 1\% | R3 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 2 | 261K,1\% | R4 R5 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 1 | 270pF | C202 | 0805 | NPO 5\% | * | * |
| 2 | $330 \mathrm{uF} / 100 \mathrm{~V}$ | C109 C209 | C330UEL10 | PANASONIC | EEU-FC2A331S | DK P10783-ND |
| 2 | 33 pF | C101 C201 | 0805 | NPO 5\% | * | * |
| 4 | 390uF/50V | C111 C113 C211 C213 | C100UEL06 | PANASONIC | EEU-FC1H391S | DK P10327-ND |
| 1 | 4.7 uF | C200 | C10UEL05 | PANASONIC | ECA-1HHG4R7 | DK P5566-ND |
| 2 | 47uF/25V | C204 | C10UEL05 | PANASONIC | ECA-1HHG220 | DK P5568-ND |
| 1 | 49.9K, 1\% | R200 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 8 | 5.60HM/1W | R114 R120 R125 R126 | RES1W50 | PANASONIC | ERG-1SJ5R6 | P5.6W-1BK-ND |
|  |  | R214 R220 R225 R226 |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | 510K | R102 R103 R118 R119 | 0805 | 5\% TOL. | * | * |
|  |  | R218 R219 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | 7.5K, 1\% | R106 R206 R209 | 0805 | * | * | * |

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Bill of Material for Bridged RB-TA3020-2, Rev 3.0


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Bill of Material for Bridged RB-TA3020-3, Rev 3.0

|  | Part Type | Designator | Footprint | Part Field 1 | Part Field 2 | Part Field 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 | $0.010 \mathrm{HM} / 1 \mathrm{~W}$ | R115 R116 R215 R216 | RLVR1RG2 | OHMITE | 12F010 | DK 12F010-ND |
| 8 | 0.1 uF | C1 C103 C107 C120 | 0805 | 20\% TOL. | * | * |
| 2 | $0.1 u F / 100 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{PPS}$ | C114 C214 | C0U22PPS10 | PANASONIC | ECH-S1104JZ | DK PS1104J-ND |
| 4 | $0.1 \mathrm{uF} / 250 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{EB}$ | C105 C106 C205 C206 | C0U1MF10 | PANASONIC | ECQ-E2104KB | DK P10967-ND |
| 6 | 0.1uF/250V/EF | C112 C208 | COU1MF10 | PANASONIC | ECQ-E2104KF | EF2104-ND |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | $0.22 \mathrm{uF} / 250 \mathrm{~V}$ | C117 C217 C5 C6 | C0U22PPS10 | PANASONIC | ECW-F2224JB | DK PF2224-ND |
| 3 | 1.07K, 1\% | R107 R207 R210 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 1 | 1.27M, 1\% | R9 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 1 | $100 \mathrm{uF} / 16 \mathrm{~V}$ | C8 | C10UEL05 | PANASONIC | ECA-1CHG101 | DK P5529-ND |
| 1 | 10K POT | R104 | POTSTURN | BOURNS | 3306P-1-103 | DK 3306P-103-ND |
| 8 | 100HM/1W | R113 R114 R120 R121 | RES1W50 | PANASONIC | ERG-1SJ5R6 | P10W-1BK-ND |
|  |  | R213 R214 R220 R221 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | 11.3K, 1\% | R111 R211 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 2 | 11 uH | L100 L200 | T106 | COIL WINDING SPEC | T157-2 CORE | 28TURNS / 14AWG |
| 1 | 150 pF | C202 | 0805 | NPO 5\% | * | * |
| 3 | 15K, 1\% | R106 R206 R209 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 1 | 1K | R7 | 0805 | 5\% | * | * |
| 3 | 1K, 1\% | R105 R205 R208 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 8 | 1N914 | D104 D105 D106 D107 | 1N914L |  |  | * |
|  |  | D204 D205 D206 D207 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | 20K,1\% | R100 R101 R201 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 3 | 200HM/5W | R128 R228 R6 | PWR5WRT | XICON |  | 280-PRM5-20 |
| 2 | 2200 HM | R112 R212 | RES1W50 | 5\%, 1/4W |  |  |
| 2 | 220 pF | C116 C216 | 0805 | NPO 5\% | * | * |
| 2 | 220uF/160V | C109 C209 | C330UEL10 | PANASONIC | EEU-EB2C221S | DK P5910-ND |
| 2 | 33 pF | C101 C201 | 0805 | NPO 5\% | * | * |
| 1 | 4.7 FF | C200 | C10UEL05 | PANASONIC | ECA-1HHG4R7 | DK P5566-ND |
| 1 | 422K, 1\% | R3 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 2 | 464K, 1\% | R4 R5 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 4 | 470uF/63V | C111 C113 C211 C213 | C100UEL0 6 | PANASONIC | EEU-FC1J471 | DK P10352-ND |
| 2 | 47uF/25v | C104 C204 | C10UEL05 | PANASONIC | ECA-1HHG220 | DK P5568-ND |
| 1 | 49.9K, 1\% | R200 | 0805 | * | * | * |
| 8 | 5.60HM/1W | R124 R125 R126 R127 | RES1W50 | PANASONIC | ERG-1SJ5R6 | P5.6W-1BK-ND |

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