

Getting Started with NI-DAQ™ mx Base for Linux and Mac Users

This guide describes how to install your device, and download and install your software.



Note Install the software before installing the device.

NI-DAQmx Base is a driver that controls your data acquisition device on Linux, Mac OS X, and Pocket PC. NI-DAQmx Base consists of a set of LabVIEW VIs and a C programming interface, as well as device recognition and simple datalogging tools. NI-DAQmx Base is a subset of NI-DAQmx. If you are familiar with NI-DAQmx, you should be able to use NI-DAQmx Base.

1. Download and Install Software

To download NI-DAQmx Base for Linux and Mac, visit ni.com/info and enter `rddqld`. A separate download is available for each operating system. Refer to the `install.txt` file on the download page for install instructions.

2. Install Device

Refer to the device documentation for information about how to install the device.

3. Confirm That Your Device Is Recognized

NI-DAQmx Base includes a List Devices utility (`lsdaq`), which displays the devices installed on your computer. The utility is accessible from:

- **Mac OS**
 - `/Applications/National Instruments/NI-DAQmx Base/lsdaq.app`
- **Linux**
 - `/usr/local/bin/lsdaq`

4. (Optional) Launch Ready-to-Run Datalogging Software

NI-DAQmx Base includes ready-to-run datalogging software, which lets you begin making measurements without creating a program first. The applications are accessible from:

- **Mac OS**
 - `/Applications/National Instruments/NI-DAQmx Base/nidatalogger.app`
- **Linux**
 - `/usr/local/bin/nidatalogger`

5. Run Programming Examples

NI-DAQmx Base includes examples for each measurement type that demonstrate appropriate functionality. Examples for LabVIEW are located in `<LabVIEW>/examples/daqmxbase`. They are not included in the NI Example Finder. C Examples are installed by default to:

- **Mac OS**
 - `/Applications/National Instruments/NI-DAQmx Base/examples`
- **Linux**
 - `/usr/local/natinst/nidaqmxbase/examples`

The make files create the links to the necessary libraries. Make sure you run the List Devices utility (`lsdaq`) before running the examples. Acquire N Scans is an example that ships with NI-DAQmx Base. From a terminal window, use the following to compile and run the Acquire N Scans example:

- **Mac OS**

```
>> cd /Applications/National Instruments/NI-DAQmx \Base/examples/ai
>> make
>> ./AcquireNScans
```

- **Linux**

```
>> cd /usr/local/natinst/nidaqmxbase/examples/ai
>> make
>> ./acquireNScans
```

Documentation

Documentation is located at:

- **Mac OS**

- /Applications/National Instruments/NI-DAQmx Base/documentation

- **Linux**

- /usr/local/natinst/nidaqmxbase/documentation

Documentation includes the *NI-DAQmx Base C Function Reference*, the hardware references, supporting PDFs, and the NI-DAQmx Base readme file. LabVIEW help files are accessible from the *LabVIEW Help* menu.

For more information, refer to the NI-DAQmx Base readme file.

National Instruments, NI, ni.com, and LabVIEW are trademarks of National Instruments Corporation. Refer to the *Terms of Use* section on ni.com/legal for more information about National Instruments trademarks. Other product and company names mentioned herein are trademarks or trade names of their respective companies. For patents covering National Instruments products, refer to the appropriate location: **Help»Patents** in your software, the `patents.txt` file on your CD, or ni.com/patents.