

# Getting Started with NI-DAQ™ mx Base for Linux and Mac OS X 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 Windows Mobile devices. 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. Install Software

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If you do not have an NI-DAQmx Base CD, you can download NI-DAQmx Base for Linux and Mac OS X by visiting [ni.com/info](http://ni.com/info) and entering rddqld. A separate download is available for each operating system. Refer to the `install.txt` file on the download page for install instructions.

### MAC OS X

#### Installing from ni.com

To install NI-DAQmx Base from [ni.com](http://ni.com), complete the following steps:

1. Download the NI-DAQmx Base `.dmg` file.
2. Double-click the NI-DAQmx Base `.dmg` file to mount the disk image.
3. Double-click the NI-DAQmx Base `.mpkg` file to run the NI-DAQmx Base installer.

## Installing from the CD

To install NI-DAQmx from the CD, complete the following steps:

1. Insert the CD.
2. Double-click the NI-DAQmx Base .mpkg file to run the NI-DAQmx Base installer.

## Linux

### Installing from ni.com

To install NI-DAQmx Base from ni.com, complete the following steps:

1. Copy the NI-DAQmx Base .iso file to your hard drive.
2. Either mount the ISO image or burn the image to a CD and mount the CD.
3. To launch the NI-DAQmx Base installer, run the INSTALL script as root from the mount location.

### Installing from the CD

To install NI-DAQmx from the CD, complete the following steps:

1. Insert the CD.
2. To launch the NI-DAQmx Base installer, run the INSTALL script as root from the mount location.

## 2. Install Device

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

## 3. Confirm That Your Device Is Recognized

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

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

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

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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 the following locations:

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

## 5. Run Programming Examples

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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 X**
  - /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 X**

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

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

# Documentation

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Documentation is located in the following directories:

- **Mac OS X**
  - /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.