

Brushless 5 click

PID: MIKROE-3032

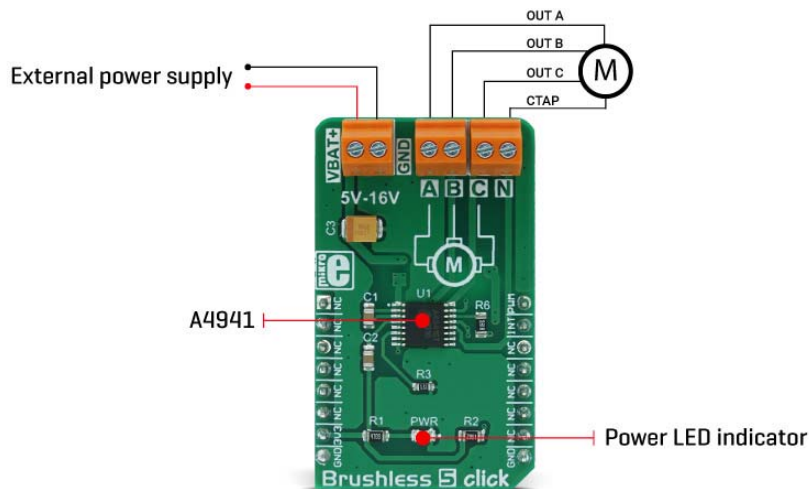
Weight: 25 g

Brushless 5 click is a 3 phase sensorless BLDC motor controller, with a soft-switching feature for reduced motor noise and EMI, and precise BEMF motor sensing, which eliminates the need for Hall-sensors in motor applications. It can drive 5V-16V motors with up to 500 mA current. The motor driver allows speed control via the PWM signal from the host MCU. It also features an output pin for reading the speed of the motor. Delayed phase commutation ensures a reliable motor start, while the Lock Detect function prevents damage and overheating.

The driver IC requires a low count of external components, due to its high degree of integration. Three half-bridge NMOS power outputs are integrated on the IC die and are used to drive the coils of the BLDC motor. Considering all the driving and protection features it has, Brushless 5 click an ideal solution for developing cost-effective and reliable BLDC motor driving applications, such as the computer fan coolers, power supply fans, small BLDC motor applications and similar.

How does it work?

Brushless 5 click uses the A4941, a three-phase sensorless fan driver IC, made by Allegro MicroSystems LLC. This IC features a proprietary sensorless BEMF zero-crossing sensing technique, which provides a speed reading via the FG output pin, routed to the INT pin of the mikroBUS™. The BEMF zero-crossing is the point where the voltage of the undriven motor winding (BEMF is short for Back Electromotive Force) crosses the motor center tap (neutral point) voltage. Neutral point voltage can be approximated using an internally generated reference voltage, in the case when the used motor does not provide one. BEMF zero-crossing occurs when a pole of the rotor is in alignment with a pole of the stator and is used as a positional reference for the commutation controller section of the A4941 IC.



When the zero-crossing occurs, an internal signal is set to a HIGH state, while the beginning of the next phase commutation sets this signal to a LOW state. The signal is latched between the states so that commutation transients do not affect it. This provides a robust and accurate position sensing system.

The internal sequencer is used to commutate the phases, based on the position feedback. During the startup period, the phase commutation is provided by the internal oscillator instead, until a valid BEMF positional signal sequence is detected. The current through the coils is maximum at this stage since the PWM signal with 100% duty cycle is applied during a start-up sequence.

As already mentioned, the motor speed can be calculated using the FG output pin. The final calculation will depend on the FG frequency, as well as the number of the motor poles and slots. To calculate the actual RPM of the motor, the following formula should be applied:

$$FG \times \frac{60}{PP} = \text{Rotor Speed (RPM)}$$

Where:

PP = Number of magnetic pole pairs of the rotor

FG = Output signal frequency at the FG pin

The Lock Detect feature prevents the motor lock up or fall out of synchronization while protecting the coils and the IC of overheating. If a valid FG signal is not detected for 2 seconds, the outputs are disabled for 5 seconds. After this time-out, another restart is attempted.

An internal peak overcurrent protection is set to about 1A. If the motor drains more than 1A, especially during the startup, the overcurrent protection will be activated, disabling the output stage for about 25 μ s. This can prevent the startup of some types of motors and for this reason, the longest startup delay of 200ms is chosen for this Click board™.

The PWM pin is routed to the same pin of the mikroBUS™, and it can be used to control the current through the coils. When the HIGH logic level is applied to the PWM input pin, the current from the power supply flows through the coils. When the LOW logic level is applied to the PWM input pin, there is no current running through the coils. Applying PWM signal with a frequency of 15 kHz to 30 kHz will result in a coil current that corresponds to the duty cycle of the applied PWM. A minimum pulse width is fixed at 6 μ s, allowing the minimum speed to be maintained, even when applying PWM signals with very low duty cycle. Applying a LOW logic level to the PWM pin for more than 500 μ s will put the device into the low power consumption (standby) mode.

The power supply for the motor coils is connected via the external two-pole terminal. VBAT+ input is connected to the positive voltage, while the GND input is connected to the ground of the power supply. The voltage of the external power supply should stay between 5V and 16V. The most common use is with 12V motors.

The BLDC motor coils should be connected to the four-pole output screw terminal. Respective motor phases are connected to the A, B, and C terminal outputs, while the central point of the BLDC motor can be connected to the output labeled as N. IF the used BLDC motor does not have the central (neutral) point output, the neutral point needed for the BEMF sensing will be generated internally.

Specifications

Type	DC
Applications	Ideal for driving small 5V to 16V sensorless BLDC motor driving, silent computer cooling fan driving, efficient air ventilation systems, and similar applications that could benefit of having reliable and simple motor driver circuit
On-board modules	A4941, a three-phase sensorless fan driver, from Allegro MicroSystems LLC
Key Features	Overcurrent limiting, thermal protection, rotor lock protection, sensorless operation, low count of additional components required, soft-switching function, edge terminals for an easy connection
Interface	PWM
Input Voltage	3.3V
Click board size	M (42.9 x 25.4 mm)

Pinout diagram

This table shows how the pinout on **Brushless 5 click** corresponds to the pinout on the mikroBUS™ socket (the latter shown in the two middle columns).

Notes	Pin					Pin	Notes
	NC	1	AN	PWM	16	PWM	PWM speed control IN

	NC	2	RST	INT	15	FG	Motor speed indication OUT
	NC	3	CS	RX	14	NC	
	NC	4	SCK	TX	13	NC	
	NC	5	MISO	SCL	12	NC	
	NC	6	MOSI	SDA	11	NC	
Power supply	3.3V	7	3.3V	5V	10	NC	
Ground	GND	8	GND	GND	9	GND	Ground

Brushless 5 click electrical specifications

Description	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
Peak current limit	-	-	1.1	A
Normal running current	-	-	500	mA
Input power supply voltage	5	-	16	V
Lock protection waiting time	4.0	5.0	6.0	s
Thermal shutdown	150	165	180	°C

Onboard settings and indicators

Label	Name	Default	Description
LD1	PWR	-	Power LED indicator
CON1	VBAT	-	Power supply input terminal
CON2,3	A,B,C,N	-	BLDC motor connector

Software support

We provide a demo application for Brushless 5 click on our Libstock page, as well as a demo application (example), developed using MikroElektronika compilers. The demo can run on all the main MikroElektronika development boards.

Library Description

The library provides generic functions for working with the Click board.

Key functions:

- `void brushless5_motorParameters(uint8_t poles, uint8_t slots)` - Sets the number of poles and slots of the motor. This needs to be set correctly for the calculation to be correct
- `uint16_t brushless5_getSpeed(uint16_t pulseSample)` - Calculates the speed of accumulated pulses from the interrupt pin and returns the motor speed value.
- `uint8_t brushless5_intGet()` - Returns the state of the interrupt pin.

Example description

The application is composed of three sections:

- System Initialization - Initializes the GPIO structure.
- Application Initialization - Initializes the GPIO driver and configures the PWM peripheral for controlling the speed of the motor.
- Application Task - (code snippet) - Increases and decreases the speed of the motor demonstrating the speed control.

```

void applicationTask()
{
  for(i=0;i<pwm_period;i++)
  {
    brushless5_setSpeed(i);
    Delay_ms(10);
  }
  Delay_ms(1000);

  for(i=pwm_period;i>1;i--)
  {
    brushless5_setSpeed(i);
    Delay_ms(10);
  }
  Delay_ms(1000);
}

```

- void brushless5_pwmInit() - Initializations of the PWM on the mikroBUS 1.
 - void brushless5_setSpeed(uint16_t speed) - Sets the PWM signal for the motor.
- The full application code, and ready to use projects can be found on our Libstock page.

Other MikroElektronika libraries used in the example:

- PWM Library

Additional notes and information

Depending on the development board you are using, you may need USB UART click, USB UART 2 click or RS232 click to connect to your PC, for development systems with no UART to USB interface available on the board. The terminal available in all MikroElektronika compilers, or any other terminal application of your choice, can be used to read the message.

