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NANOSECOND WAVEFORM ELECTRONICS
SINCE 1975

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INSTRUCTIONS

MODEL AVRK-4-B

750 VOLTS, 6 TO 20 ns PULSE WIDTH

HIGH PERFORMANCE PULSE GENERATOR

WITH IEEE 488.2 / RS-232 / ETHERNET CONTROL

SERIAL NUMBER: 14526

WARRANTY

Avtech Electrosystems Ltd. warrants products of its manufacture to be free from defects in material and workmanship under conditions of normal use. If, within one year after delivery to the original owner, and after prepaid return by the original owner, this Avtech product is found to be defective, Avtech shall at its option repair or replace said defective item. This warranty does not apply to units which have been disassembled, modified or subjected to conditions exceeding the applicable specifications or ratings. This warranty is the extent of the obligation assumed by Avtech with respect to this product and no other warranty or guarantee is either expressed or implied.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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Manual Reference: /files/server1/officefiles/instructword/avrk/AVRK-4-B,sn14526.odt.

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INTRODUCTION

The AVRK-4-B is a high performance, GPIB/RS232/Ethernet-equipped instrument capable of generating narrow high-voltage pulses into 50Ω loads. The pulse width is adjustable from 6 ns to 20 ns. The repetition rate may be as high as 1 kHz. The amplitude is adjustable from < 150V up to 750V. The rise time (20%-80%) is less than 4 ns (or less than 2 ns, on units with the -TR option).

Instruments with the “-P” option can generate positive pulses, whereas instruments with the “-N” option can generate negative pulses. Instruments with the “-PN” option have switchable polarity.

The AVRK-4-B is a highly flexible instrument. Aside from the internal trigger source, it can also be triggered or gated by external TTL-level signals. A front-panel pushbutton or a computer command can also be used to trigger the instrument.

The AVRK-4-B features front panel keyboard and adjust knob control of the output pulse parameters along with a four line by 40 character back-lit LCD display of the output amplitude, pulse width, pulse repetition frequency, and delay. The instrument includes memory to store up to four complete instrument setups. The operator may use the front panel or the computer interface to store a complete “snapshot” of all key instrument settings, and recall this setup at a later time.

This instrument is intended for use in research, development, test and calibration laboratories by qualified personnel.

HIGH-VOLTAGE PRECAUTIONS

 **CAUTION:** This instrument provides output voltages as high as 750 Volts under normal operating conditions, and generates up to 950V internally, so extreme caution must be employed when using this instrument. The instrument should only be used by individuals who are thoroughly skilled in high voltage laboratory techniques. The following precautions should always be observed:

1. Keep exposed high-voltage wiring to an absolute minimum.
2. Wherever possible, use shielded connectors and cabling.
3. Connect and disconnect loads and cables only when the amplifier is turned off.
4. Keep in mind that all cables, connectors, oscilloscope probes, and loads must have an appropriate voltage rating.

Do not attempt any repairs on the instrument, beyond the fuse replacement procedures described in this manual. Contact Avtech technical support (see page 2 for contact information) if the instrument requires servicing.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model:	AVRK-4-B ¹
Maximum amplitude ⁶ : (50Ω load required)	750 V
Usable amplitude range, standard units:	Range 1: < 20% to 100% of the maximum specified amplitude
Usable amplitude range, with -LVA option:	Range 1: < 20% to 100% of the maximum specified amplitude Range 2: < 4% to 20% of the maximum specified amplitude (The ranges are automatically selected based on the amplitude setting. The threshold percentages are approximate.)
Pulse width (FWHM):	6 – 20 ns
Rise time (20%-80%):	Standard: ≤ 4 ns With -TR option: ≤ 2 ns
Fall time (80%-20%):	<i>Varies with amplitude and pulse width⁷:</i>
Min PW, Min of ampl range:	≤ 6 ns
Min PW, Max of ampl range:	≤ 4 ns
Max PW, Min of ampl range:	≤ 10 ns
Max PW, Max of ampl range:	≤ 6 ns
PRF:	1 Hz to 1 kHz
Required load impedance:	50 Ohms ⁵
Output impedance ³ :	Low (much less than 50 Ohms)
Polarity ² :	Positive or negative or both (specify)
Propagation delay:	≤ 150 ns (Ext trig in to pulse out)
Jitter:	± 100 ps ± 0.03% of sync delay (Ext trig in to pulse out)
DC offset:	-OS option ⁴ : Apply required DC offset (± 50 Volts, 250 mA DC max) to rear-panel solder terminals
Standard trigger modes:	Internal trigger, external trigger (TTL level pulse, > 10 ns, 1 kΩ input impedance), front-panel "Single Pulse" pushbutton, or single pulse trigger via computer command.
Variable delay:	0 to 1.0 seconds (sync out to main out), for all trigger modes (including external trigger).
Sync output:	> +3 Volts, > 50 ns, will drive 50 Ohm loads
Gate input:	Synchronous or asynchronous, active high or low, switchable. Suppresses triggering when active.
Monitor output:	Included. Provides a 20 dB attenuated coincident replica of the main output. Requires a 50 Ohm load, if used.
Safety interlock option ⁸ :	This option adds a safety lock circuit on a rear-panel BNC connector. The signal pin of this safety lock BNC connector must be shorted to chassis ground by the user's circuitry (the short must be capable of carrying 5 mA of current from an internal +5V/1kΩ DC source), otherwise the output will be switched off automatically. The connector shield is connected to chassis ground.
Connectors:	BNC
GPIO & RS-232 control ¹ :	Standard on -B units.
Ethernet port, for remote control using VXI-11.3, ssh, telnet, & web:	Included. Recommended as a modern alternative to GPIO / RS-232. See http://www.avtechpulse.com/options/vxi for details.
Settings resolution:	The resolution of the timing parameters (pulse width, delay, period) varies, but is always better than 0.15% of (set value + 20 ns). The amplitude resolution is < 0.1% of the maximum amplitude.
Settings accuracy:	Not specified. The pulse width setting experiences some thermal drift and interaction with the amplitude setting. For this reason, the actual output characteristics should be verified by measuring the main output or the monitor output. For high-accuracy applications requiring traceable calibration, verify the output with a calibrated oscilloscope.
Included pulse transformers:	None
Power requirements:	100 - 240 Volts, 50 - 60 Hz
Dimensions (H x W x D):	100 mm x 430 mm x 375 mm (3.9" x 17" x 14.8")
Rack-mount kit:	Optional. Add -R5 to the model number.
Temperature range:	+5°C to +40°C

- 1) -B suffix indicates IEEE-488.2 GPIO and RS-232 control of amplitude, pulse width, PRF and delay. (See <http://www.avtechpulse.com/gpio>).
- 2) Indicate desired polarity by suffixing model number with -P or -N (i.e. positive or negative) or -PN for the dual-polarity option (one output with switchable polarity).
- 3) This is the input in series with the output, internally. Since the output impedance is not 50 Ohms, the load impedance must be 50 Ohms, or transmission line reflections will occur.

- 4) For DC offset option suffix model number with -OS.
- 5) A 50 Ohm load is required. Other loads may damage the instrument. Consult Avtech (info@avtechpulse.com) if you need to drive other load impedances.
- 6) The maximum amplitude may fall by up to 10% at minimum pulse width, as the rise and fall times become comparable to the pulse width.
- 7) The fall time varies with amplitude (higher amplitudes produce faster fall times) and pulse width (wider pulse widths produce slower fall times). These values are the limits for operation at minimum and maximum specified amplitudes and pulse widths. Fall times for other settings will lie between these values.
- 8) Add the -DPF model number suffix to specify the double pulse option.
- 9) Add the -SIL model number suffix to specify the safety interlock option.

REGULATORY NOTES

FCC PART 18

This device complies with part 18 of the FCC rules for non-consumer industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) equipment.

This instrument is enclosed in a rugged metal chassis and uses a filtered power entry module (where applicable). The main output signal is provided on a shielded connector that is intended to be used with shielded coaxial cabling and a shielded load. Under these conditions, the interference potential of this instrument is low.

If interference is observed, check that appropriate well-shielded cabling is used on the output connectors. Contact Avtech (info@avtechpulse.com) for advice if you are unsure of the most appropriate cabling. Also, check that your load is adequately shielded. It may be necessary to enclose the load in a metal enclosure.

If any of the connectors on the instrument are unused, they should be covered with shielded metal “dust caps” to reduce the interference potential.

This instrument does not normally require regular maintenance to minimize interference potential. However, if loose hardware or connectors are noted, they should be tightened. Contact Avtech (info@avtechpulse.com) if you require assistance.

EC DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY



We Avtech Electrosystems Ltd.
 P.O. Box 5120, LCD Merivale
 Ottawa, Ontario
 Canada K2C 3H5

declare that this pulse generator meets the intent of Directive 2014/30/EU for Electromagnetic Compatibility. Compliance pertains to the following specifications as listed in the official Journal of the European Communities:

EN 50081-1 Emission

EN 50082-1 Immunity

and that this pulse generator meets the intent of the Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU. Compliance pertains to the following specifications as listed in the official Journal of the European Communities:

EN 61010-1:2010+A1:2019, Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use

DIRECTIVE 2011/65/EU (RoHS)

We Avtech Electrosystems Ltd.
P.O. Box 5120, LCD Merivale
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K2C 3H5

declare that, to the best of our knowledge, all electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) sold by the company are in compliance with Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (also known as “RoHS Recast”). In addition, this declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of Avtech Electrosystems Ltd. Specifically, products manufactured do not contain the substances listed in the table below in concentrations greater than the listed maximum value.

<i>Material/Substance</i>	<i>Threshold level</i>
Lead (Pb)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)
Mercury (Hg)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)
Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6+)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)
Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)
Polybrominated Diphenyl ethers (PBDE)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)
Cadmium (Cd)	< 100 ppm (0.01% by mass)
Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)
Butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)
Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)
Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)	< 1000 ppm (0.1% by mass)

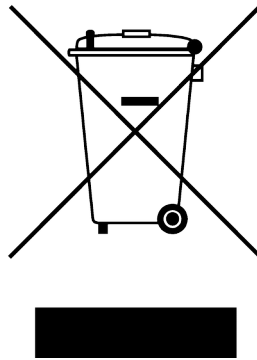
DIRECTIVE 2002/96/EC (WEEE)

European customers who have purchased this equipment directly from Avtech will have completed a “WEEE Responsibility Agreement” form, accepting responsibility for WEEE

compliance (as mandated in Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Union and local laws) on behalf of the customer, as provided for under Article 9 of Directive 2002/96/EC.

Customers who have purchased Avtech equipment through local representatives should consult with the representative to determine who has responsibility for WEEE compliance. Normally, such responsibilities will lie with the representative, unless other arrangements (under Article 9) have been made.

Requirements for WEEE compliance may include registration of products with local governments, reporting of recycling activities to local governments, and financing of recycling activities.



FIRMWARE LICENSING

This instrument uses open-source software internally, and is built on a Fedora Linux operating system.

Some of this software requires that the source code be made available to the user as a condition of its licensing. The source code for programs used by Fedora is freely available at <https://src.fedoraproject.org/>.

The source code for modifications implemented by Avtech, and for Avtech-specific programs, is available at <https://www.avtechpulse.com/cgit/Instrument.git/>.

INSTALLATION

VISUAL CHECK

After unpacking the instrument, examine to ensure that it has not been damaged in shipment. Visually inspect all connectors, knobs, liquid crystal displays (LCDs), and the handles. Confirm that a power cord, a GPIB cable, and two instrumentation manuals (this manual and the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments”) are with the instrument. If the instrument has been damaged, file a claim immediately with the company that transported the instrument.

POWER RATINGS

This instrument is intended to operate from 100 - 240 V, 50 - 60 Hz.

The maximum power consumption is 57 Watts. Please see the “FUSES” section for information about the appropriate AC and DC fuses.

This instrument is an “Installation Category II” instrument, intended for operation from a normal single-phase supply.

CONNECTION TO THE POWER SUPPLY

An IEC-320 three-pronged recessed male socket is provided on the back panel for AC power connection to the instrument. One end of the detachable power cord that is supplied with the instrument plugs into this socket. The other end of the detachable power cord plugs into the local mains supply. Use only the cable supplied with the instrument. The mains supply must be earthed, and the cord used to connect the instrument to the mains supply must provide an earth connection. (The supplied cord does this.)

 Warning: Failure to use a grounded outlet may result in injury or death due to electric shock. This product uses a power cord with a ground connection. It must be connected to a properly grounded outlet. The instrument chassis is connected to the ground wire in the power cord.

The table below describes the power cord that is normally supplied with this instrument, depending on the destination region:

Destination Region	Description	Option	Manufacturer	Part Number
United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia	BS 1363, 230V, 50 Hz	-AC00	Qualtek	370001-E01
Australia, New Zealand	AS 3112:2000, 230-240V, 50 Hz	-AC01	Qualtek	374003-A01
Continental Europe, Korea, Indonesia, Russia	European CEE 7/7 "Schuko" 230V, 50 Hz	-AC02	Qualtek	364002-D01
North America, Taiwan	NEMA 5-15, 120V, 60 Hz	-AC03	Qualtek	312007-01
Switzerland	SEV 1011, 230V, 50 Hz	-AC06	Qualtek	378001-E01
South Africa, India	SABS 164-1, 220-250V, 50 Hz	-AC17	Volex	2131H 10 C3
Japan	JIS 8303, 100V, 50-60 Hz	-AC18	Qualtek	397002-01
Israel	SI 32, 220V, 50 Hz	-AC19	Qualtek	398001-01
China	GB 1002-1 / 2099-1, 220V, 50 Hz	-AC22	Qualtek	399012-01

PROTECTION FROM ELECTRIC SHOCK

 Operators of this instrument must be protected from electric shock at all times. The owner must ensure that operators are prevented access and/or are insulated from every connection point. In some cases, connections must be exposed to potential human contact. Operators must be trained to protect themselves from the risk of electric shock. This instrument is intended for use by qualified personnel who recognize shock hazards and are familiar with safety precautions required to avoid possibly injury. In particular, operators should:

1. Keep exposed high-voltage wiring to an absolute minimum.
2. Wherever possible, use shielded connectors and cabling.
3. Connect and disconnect loads and cables only when the instrument is turned off.
4. Keep in mind that all cables, connectors, oscilloscope probes, and loads must have an appropriate voltage rating.
5. Do not attempt any repairs on the instrument, beyond the fuse replacement procedures described in this manual. Contact Avtech technical support (see page 2 for contact information) if the instrument requires servicing. Service is to be performed solely by qualified service personnel.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

This instrument is intended for use under the following conditions:

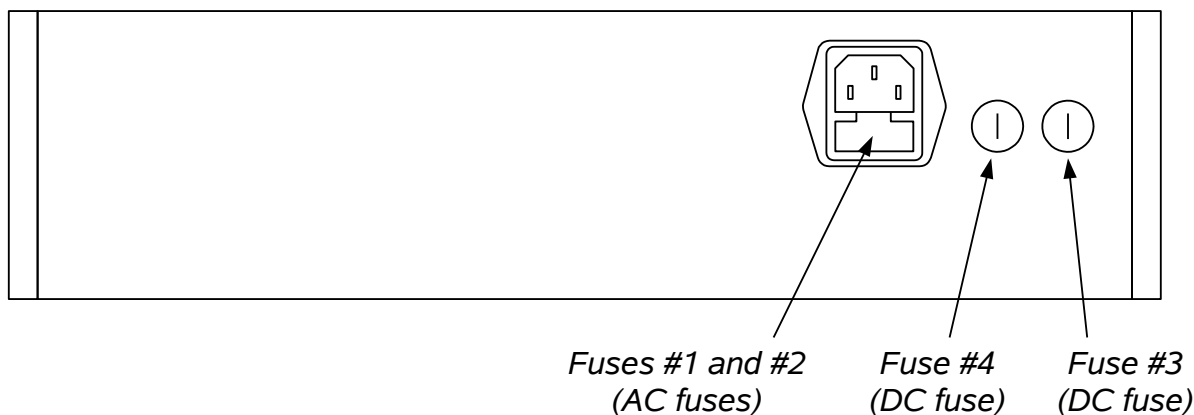
1. indoor use;
2. altitude up to 2 000 m;
3. temperature 5 °C to 40 °C;
4. maximum relative humidity 80 % for temperatures up to 31 °C decreasing linearly to 50 % relative humidity at 40 °C;
5. Mains supply voltage fluctuations up to ± 10 % of the nominal voltage;
6. no pollution or only dry, non-conductive pollution.

LABVIEW DRIVERS

A LabVIEW driver for this instrument is available for download on the Avtech web site, at <http://www.avtechpulse.com/labview>. A copy is also available in National Instruments' Instrument Driver Library at <http://www.natinst.com/>.

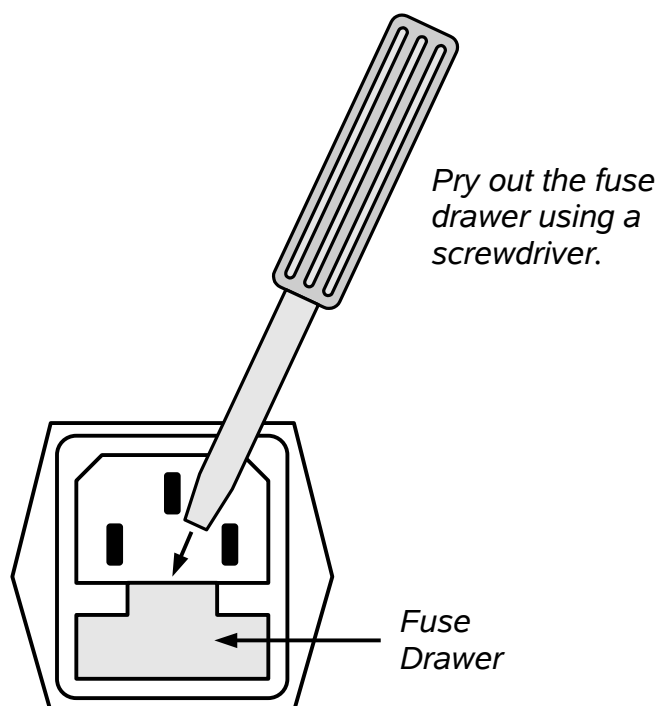
FUSES

This instrument contains four fuses. All are accessible from the rear-panel. Two protect the AC prime power input, and two protect the internal DC power supplies. The locations of the fuses on the rear panel are shown in the figure below:



AC FUSE REPLACEMENT

To physically access the AC fuses, the power cord must be detached from the rear panel of the instrument. The fuse drawer may then be extracted using a small flat-head screwdriver, as shown below:



DC FUSE REPLACEMENT

The DC fuses may be replaced by inserting the tip of a flat-head screwdriver into the fuse holder slot, and rotating the slot counter-clockwise. The fuse and its carrier will then pop out.

FUSE RATINGS

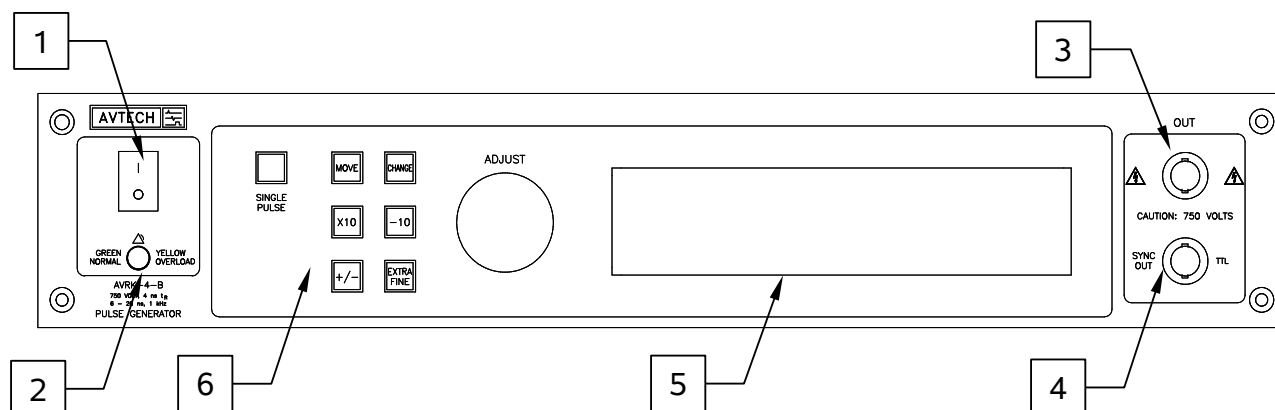
The following table lists the required fuses:

Fuses	Nominal Mains Voltage	Rating	Case Size	Recommended Replacement Part	
				Littelfuse Part Number	Digi-Key Stock Number
#1, #2 (AC)	100-240V	0.5A, 250V, Time-Delay	5×20 mm	0218.500HXP	F2416-ND
#3 (DC)	N/A	1.6A, 250V, Time-Delay	5×20 mm	021801.6HXP	F2424-ND
#4 (DC)	N/A	1.0A, 250V, Time-Delay	5×20 mm	0218001.HXP	F2419-ND

The recommended fuse manufacturer is Littelfuse (<http://www.littelfuse.com>).

Replacement fuses may be easily obtained from Digi-Key (<http://www.digikey.com>) and other distributors.

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS



1. POWER Switch. This is the main power switch. When turning the instrument on, there is normally a delay of 10 seconds before anything is shown on the main display, as the internal operating system boots up.
2. OVERLOAD Indicator. When the instrument is powered, this indicator is normally green, indicating normal operation. If this indicator is yellow, an internal automatic overload protection circuit has been tripped. If the unit is overloaded (by operating at an exceedingly high duty cycle or by operating into a very low impedance), the protective circuit will disable the output of the instrument and turn the indicator light yellow. The light will stay yellow (i.e. output disabled) for about 5 seconds after which the instrument will attempt to re-enable the output (i.e. light green) for about 1 second. If the overload condition persists, the output will be disabled again (i.e. light yellow) for another 5 seconds. If the overload condition has been removed, the instrument will resume normal operation.

This overload indicator may flash yellow briefly at start-up. This is not a cause for concern.

3. OUT CONNECTOR. This BNC connector provides the main output signal, into load impedances of 50Ω .

 **Caution:** Pulsed voltages as high as $\pm 750\text{V}$ may be present on the center conductor of this output connector. Avoid touching this conductor. Connect to this connector using standard coaxial cable, to ensure that the center conductor is not exposed.

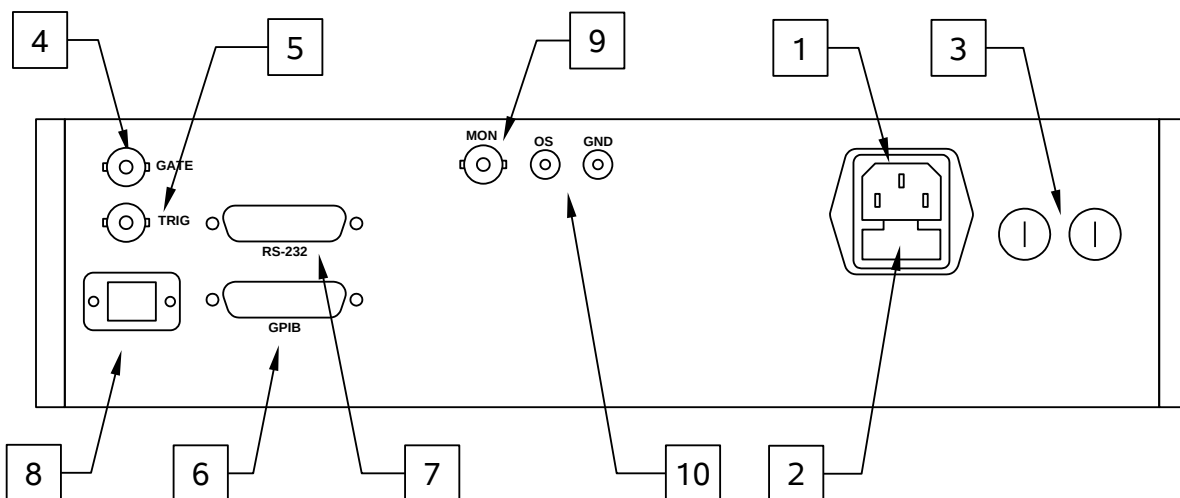
4. SYNC OUT. This connector supplies a SYNC output that can be used to trigger other equipment, particularly oscilloscopes. This signal leads (or lags) the main output by a duration set by the "DELAY" controls and has an approximate amplitude of +3 Volts to $R_L > 1\text{k}\Omega$ with a pulse width of approximately 100 ns.
5. LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY (LCD). This LCD is used in conjunction with the keypad to change the instrument settings. Normally, the main menu is displayed, which lists

the key adjustable parameters and their current values. The “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” describes the menus and submenus in detail.

6. KEYPAD.

Control Name	Function
MOVE	This moves the arrow pointer on the display.
CHANGE	This is used to enter the submenu, or to select the operating mode, pointed to by the arrow pointer.
×10	If one of the adjustable numeric parameters is displayed, this increases the setting by a factor of ten.
÷10	If one of the adjustable numeric parameters is displayed, this decreases the setting by a factor of ten.
+/-	If one of the adjustable numeric parameters is displayed, and this parameter can be both positive or negative, this changes the sign of the parameter.
EXTRA FINE	This changes the step size of the ADJUST knob. In the extra-fine mode, the step size is twenty times finer than in the normal mode. This button switches between the two step sizes.
ADJUST	This large knob adjusts the value of any displayed numeric adjustable values, such as frequency, pulse width, etc. The adjust step size is set by the "EXTRA FINE" button. When the main menu is displayed, this knob can be used to move the arrow pointer.

REAR PANEL CONTROLS



Note: some connectors may be in different positions than shown above, depending on the exact combination of options ordered.

1. AC POWER INPUT. An IEC-320 C14 three-pronged recessed male socket is provided on the back panel for AC power connection to the instrument. One end of the detachable power cord that is supplied with the instrument plugs into this socket.
2. AC FUSE DRAWER. The two fuses that protect the AC input are located in this drawer. Please see the “FUSES” section of this manual for more information.
3. DC FUSES. These two fuses protect the internal DC power supplies. Please see the “FUSES” sections of this manual for more information.
4. GATE. This TTL-level (0 and +5V) logic input can be used to gate the triggering of the instrument. This input can be either active high or active low, depending on the front panel settings or programming commands. (The instrument triggers normally when this input is unconnected). When set to active high mode, this input is pulled-down to ground by a 1 k Ω resistor. When set to active low mode, this input is pulled-up to +5V by a 1 k Ω resistor.
5. TRIG. This TTL-level (0 and +5V) logic input can be used to trigger the instrument, if the instrument is set to triggering externally. The instrument triggers on the rising edge of this input. The input impedance of this input is 1 k Ω . (Depending on the length of cable attached to this input, and the source driving it, it may be desirable to add a coaxial 50 Ohm terminator to this input to provide a proper transmission line termination. The Pasternack (www.pasternack.com) PE6008-50 BNC feed-thru 50 Ohm terminator is suggested for this purpose.)

6. GPIB Connector. A standard GPIB cable can be attached to this connector to allow the instrument to be computer-controlled. See the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” for more details on GPIB control.
7. RS-232 Connector. A standard serial cable with a 25-pin male connector can be attached to this connector to allow the instrument to be computer-controlled. A user name (“admin”) and a password (“default”, as shipped from the factory) are required when logging into a serial terminal session. The internal controller attempts to auto-sense the parity setting. It may be necessary to send a few return characters before attempting a login in order to provide enough data to allow this auto-sensing to work. (A standard Linux “agetty” process is used to implement serial control internally.) See the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” for more details on RS-232 control.
8. Network Connector. This Ethernet connector allows the instrument to be remotely controlled using the VXI-11.3, ssh (secure shell), telnet, and http (web) protocols. See the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” for more details.
9. MON Connector. The monitor output provides an attenuated replica ($\div 10$) of the voltage on the main output. The monitor output is designed to operate into a 50 Ohm load.
10. OS Connector. (Optional feature. Present on “-OS” units only.) The desired DC offset is applied to this connector. Internally, it is connected to the output centre conductor via a high quality RF inductor. Do not exceed $\pm 50\text{V}$, 250 mA. When not used, the OS input should be connected to ground.

GENERAL INFORMATION

BASIC PULSE CONTROL

This instrument can be triggered by its own internal clock or by an external TTL trigger signal. In either case, two output channels respond to the trigger: OUT and SYNC.

- OUT. This is the main output. The maximum output voltage is 750V.
- SYNC. The SYNC pulse is a fixed-width TTL-level reference pulse used to trigger oscilloscopes or other measurement systems. When the delay is set to a positive value the SYNC pulse precedes the OUT pulse. When the delay is set to a negative value the SYNC pulse follows the OUT pulse.

These pulses are illustrated below, assuming internal triggering and a positive delay. All waveforms are shown with positive amplitudes.

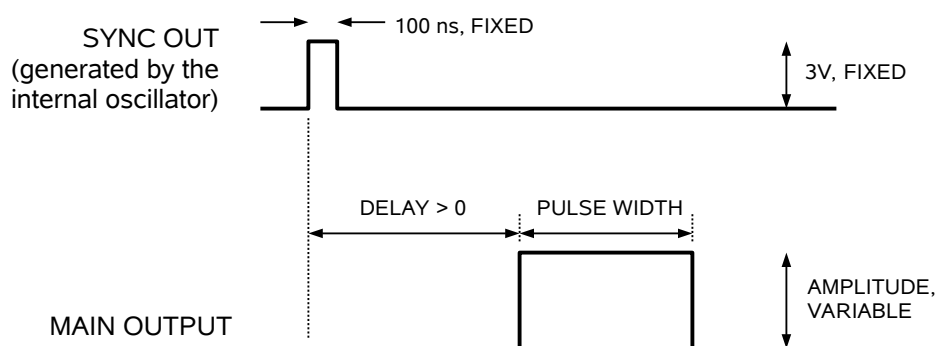


Figure A

If the delay is negative, the order of the SYNC and OUT pulses is reversed:

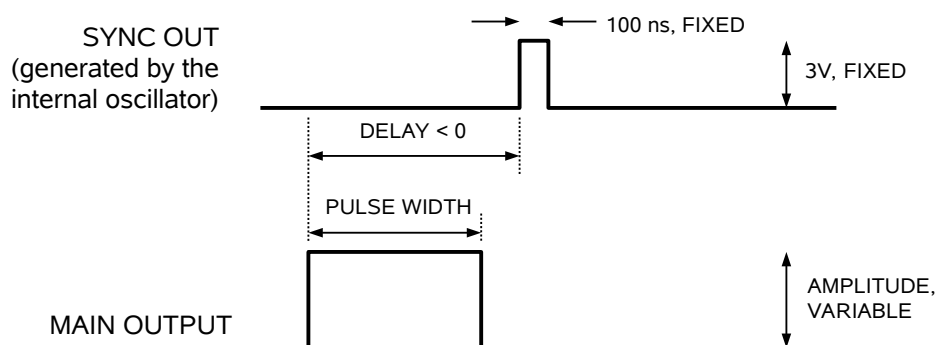


Figure B

The next figure illustrates the relationship between the signal when an external TTL-level trigger is used:

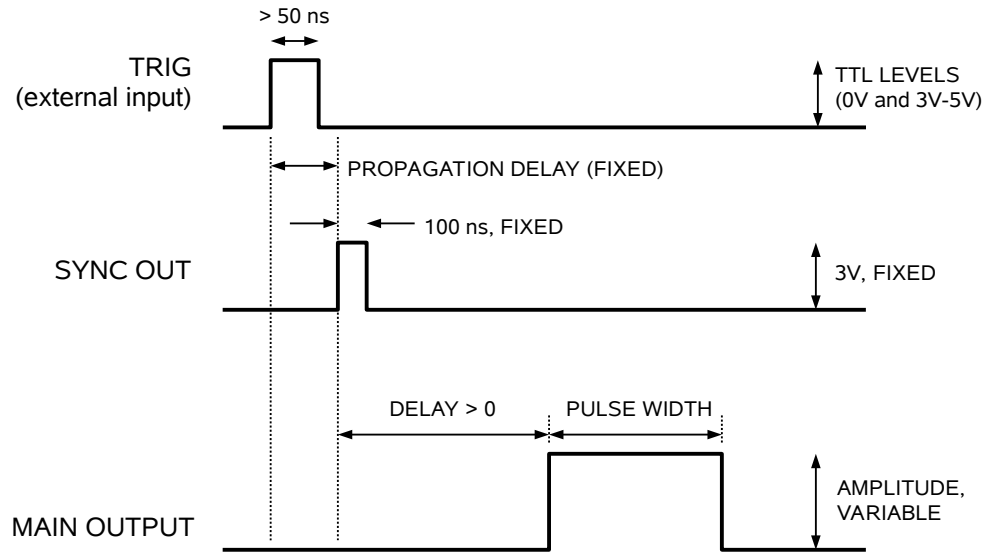


Figure C

As before, if the delay is negative, the order of the SYNC and OUT pulses is reversed.

In general, the delay, pulse width, and frequency (when in the internal mode), of the OUT pulse can be varied with front panel controls or via the GPIB or RS-232 computer interfaces.

TRIGGER MODES

This instrument has four trigger modes:

- Internal Trigger: the instrument controls the trigger frequency, and generates the clock internally.
- External Trigger: the instrument is triggered by an external TTL-level clock on the back-panel TRIG connector.
- Manual Trigger: the instrument is triggered by the front-panel "SINGLE PULSE" pushbutton.
- Hold Trigger: the instrument is set to not trigger at all.

These modes can be selected using the front panel trigger menu, or by using the appropriate programming commands. (See the "Programming Manual for -B Instruments" for more details.)

WARNING: The output stage may be damaged if triggered by an external signal at a pulse repetition frequency greater than 1 kHz.

GATING MODES

Triggering can be suppressed by a TTL-level signal on the rear-panel GATE connector. The instrument can be set to stop triggering when this input high or low, using the front-panel gate menu or the appropriate programming commands. When gated, the output will complete the full pulse width if the output is high, and then stop triggering. Pulses are not truncated.

PULSE WIDTH CONTROL

The pulse width can be varied from < 6 ns to > 20 ns using the front-panel controls or by computer command.

The pulse width circuitry has a thermal settling time of several minutes. The pulse width may drift noticeably over this time, until thermal equilibrium is reached. This is particularly noticeable at wide pulse widths.

Also, the pulse width tends to increase as the amplitude is reduced, especially at wide pulse widths.

For these reasons, the pulse width settings should not be relied upon for any degree of accuracy. Verify the actual output characteristics by measuring the main output or the monitor output on an oscilloscope.

MONITOR OUTPUT

The user can non-invasively measure the output amplitude and pulse width by attaching a high-quality 50 Ohm load to the rear-panel monitor output connector. The output waveform on this BNC connector is attenuated by a factor of 10 compared to the voltage on the main output connector.

AMPLITUDE DYNAMIC RANGE

Avtech high-speed pulse generators are optimized to operate near their maximum rated amplitude. Generally, operation below 20% of the maximum rated amplitude is not recommended. To generate pulses below this level, the pulse generator should be operated near its maximum rated amplitude, and one or more coaxial attenuators should be connected to the output.

Avtech suggests the Mini-Circuits BW-SXXW20+ family of 18 GHz / 20 Watt attenuators for use with the AVRK-4-B.

For more information, please see the Avtech application note “How Can I Extend the Amplitude Range to Low Levels?” at <http://www.avtechpulse.com/appnote/techbrief11/>.

Units with the -LVA option include an internally-switched attenuator that extends the minimum useful amplitude down to 4% of the maximum amplitude.

PROTECTING YOUR INSTRUMENT

TURN OFF INSTRUMENT WHEN NOT IN USE

The lifetime of the switching elements in the pulse generator module is proportional to the running time of the instrument. For this reason the prime power to the instrument should be turned off when the instrument is not in use. In the case of failure, the switching elements are easily replaced following the procedure described in a following section.

DO NOT EXCEED 1 kHz

The output stage may be damaged if triggered by an external signal at a pulse repetition frequency greater than 1 kHz.

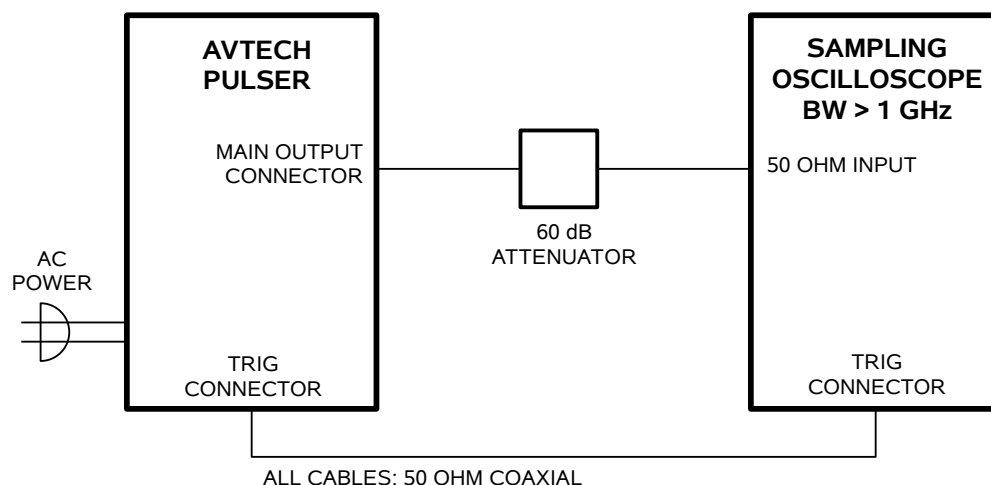
USE A 50 OHM LOAD

The output stage may be damaged if the output is not terminated into a 50 Ω load.

OPERATIONAL CHECK

This section describes a sequence to confirm the basic operation of the instrument. It should be performed after receiving the instrument. It is a useful learning exercise as well.

Before proceeding with this procedure, finish reading this instruction manual thoroughly. Then read the “Local Control” section of the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” thoroughly. The “Local Control” section describes the front panel controls used in this operational check - in particular, the MOVE, CHANGE, and ADJUST controls.



BASIC TEST ARRANGEMENT

1. Connect the pulse generator to a sampling oscilloscope as shown above. Note that:
 - a) The use of 60 dB attenuator at the sampling scope vertical input channel will insure a peak input signal to the sampling scope of less than 1 Volt. **WARNING:** This model may provide a peak output power in excess of 6 kW. The peak power rating of the attenuator must exceed this limit. Factory tests are conducted using Midwest Microwave model ATT-0527-20-SMA-07 attenuators.
 - b) The TRIG output channel provides TTL level signals (approximately 0 and +3V). To avoid overdriving the TRIG input channel of some scopes, a 20 dB attenuator should be placed at the input to the scope trigger channel.
 - c) The bandwidth capability of components and instruments used to display the pulse generator output signal (attenuators, cables, connectors, etc.) should exceed 1 GHz.

- d) Set the oscilloscope to trigger externally with the vertical setting at 100 mV/div and the horizontal setting at 20 ns/div.
2. Turn on the AVRK-4-B. The main menu will appear on the LCD.
 3. To set the AVRK-4-B to trigger from the internal clock at a PRF of 1 kHz:
 - a) The arrow pointer should be pointing at the frequency menu item. If it is not, press the MOVE button until it is.
 - b) Press the CHANGE button. The frequency submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the frequency is set at 1 kHz.
 - c) The arrow pointer should be pointing at the “Internal” choice. If it is not, press MOVE until it is.
 - d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.
 4. To set the delay to 100 ns:
 - a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the delay menu item.
 - b) Press the CHANGE button. The delay submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the delay is set at 100 ns.
 - c) The arrow pointer should be pointing at the “Normal” choice. If it is not, press MOVE until it is.
 - d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.
 5. To set the pulse width to 20 ns:
 - a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the pulse width menu item.
 - b) Press the CHANGE button. The pulse width submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the pulse width is set at 20 ns.
 - c) The arrow pointer should be pointing at the “Normal” choice. If it is not, press MOVE until it is.
 - d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.
 6. At this point, nothing should appear on the oscilloscope.
 7. To enable the output:

- a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the output menu item.
 - b) Press the CHANGE button. The output submenu will appear.
 - c) Press MOVE until the arrow pointer is pointing at the "ON" choice.
 - d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.
8. To change the output amplitude:
- a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the amplitude menu item.
 - b) Press the CHANGE button. The amplitude submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the amplitude is set at +750V (or -750V for "-N" models).
 - c) Observe the oscilloscope. You should see 20 ns wide, 750V pulses. If you do not, you may need to adjust the delay setting to a value more compatible with your sampling oscilloscope. Repeat step 4 if required. You may also need to adjust the sampling scope controls.
 - d) Rotate the ADJUST knob. The amplitude as seen on the oscilloscope should vary.
 - e) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.
9. Try varying the pulse width, by repeating step (5). As you rotate the ADJUST knob, the pulse width on the oscilloscope will change. It should agree with the displayed value.

This completes the operational check.

PROGRAMMING YOUR PULSE GENERATOR

KEY PROGRAMMING COMMANDS

The "Programming Manual for -B Instruments" describes in detail how to connect the pulse generator to your computer, and the programming commands themselves. A large number of commands are available; however, normally you will only need a few of these. Here is a basic sample sequence of commands that might be sent to the instrument after power-up:

*rst	(resets the instrument)
trigger:source internal	(selects internal triggering)
frequency 1000 Hz	(sets the frequency to 1000 Hz)
pulse:width 20 ns	(sets the pulse width to 20 ns)
pulse:delay 20 ns	(sets the delay to 20 ns)
volt:ampl 250	(sets the amplitude to +250 V)
	("-N" units should use "volt:ampl -250")
output on	(turns on the output)

For triggering a single event, this sequence would be more appropriate:

*rst	(resets the instrument)
trigger:source hold	(turns off all triggering)
pulse:width 20 ns	(sets the pulse width to 20 ns)
output on	(turns on the output)
volt:ampl 250	(sets the amplitude to +250 V)
	("-N" units should use "volt:ampl -250")
trigger:source immediate	(generates a single non-repetitive trigger event)
trigger:source hold	(turns off all triggering)
output off	(turns off the output)

To set the instrument to trigger from an external TTL signal applied to the rear-panel TRIG connector, use:

*rst	(resets the instrument)
trigger:source external	(selects external triggering)
pulse:width 20 ns	(sets the pulse width to 20 ns)
pulse:delay 1 us	(sets the delay to 1 us)
volt:ampl 250	(sets the amplitude to +250 V)
	("-N" units should use "volt:ampl -250")
output on	(turns on the output)

These commands will satisfy 90% of your programming needs.

ALL PROGRAMMING COMMANDS

For more advanced programmers, a complete list of the available commands is given below. These commands are described in detail in the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments”. (Note: this manual also includes some commands that are not implemented in this instrument. They can be ignored.)

<u>Keyword</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Notes</u>
OUTPut:		
:[STATe]	<boolean value>	
:PROTection		
:TRIPped?		[query only]
[SOURce]:		
:FREQuency		
[:CW FIXed]	<numeric value>	
[SOURce]:		
:PULSe		
:PERiod	<numeric value>	
:WIDTh	<numeric value>	
:DCYClE	<numeric value>	
:HOLD	WIDTh DCYClE	
:DELay	<numeric value>	
:GATE		
:TYPE	ASYNc SYNc	
:LEVel	HIGH LOW	
[SOURce]:		
:VOLTage		
[:LEVel]		
[:IMMediate]		
[:AMPLitude]	<numeric value> EXTeRnal	
:PROTection		
:TRIPped?		[query only]
STATUS:		
:OPERation		
:[EVENT]?		[query only, always returns "0"]
:CONDition?		[query only, always returns "0"]
:ENABle	<numeric value>	[implemented but not useful]
:QUESTionable		
:[EVENT]?		[query only, always returns "0"]
:CONDition?		[query only, always returns "0"]
:ENABle	<numeric value>	[implemented but not useful]
SYSTem:		
:COMMunicate		
:GPIB		
:ADDReSS	<numeric value>	
:SERial		
:CONTRol		
:RTS	ON IBFull RFR	
:[RECeive]		
:BAUD	1200 2400 4800 9600 19200 38400 57600 115200	
:ERRor		
:[NEXT]?		[query only]
:COUNT?		[query only]
:VERsion?		[query only]
TRIGger:		

:SOURce	INTernal EXTernal MANual HOLD IMMEDIATE
*CLS	[no query form]
*ESE	<numeric value>
*ESR?	[query only]
*IDN?	[query only]
*OPC	
*SAV	0 1 2 3 [no query form]
*RCL	0 1 2 3 [no query form]
*RST	[no query form]
*SRE	<numeric value>
*STB?	[query only]
*TST?	[query only]
*WAI	[no query form]

MECHANICAL INFORMATION

TOP COVER REMOVAL

If necessary, the interior of the instrument may be accessed by removing the four Phillips screws on the top panel. With the four screws removed, the top cover may be slid back (and off).

 Always disconnect the power cord and allow the instrument to sit unpowered for 10 minutes before opening the instrument. This will allow any internal stored charge to discharge.

There are no user-adjustable internal circuits. For repairs other than fuse replacement, please contact Avtech (info@avtechpulse.com) to arrange for the instrument to be returned to the factory for repair. Service is to be performed solely by qualified service personnel.

 Caution: High voltages are present inside the instrument during normal operation. Do not operate the instrument with the cover removed.

RACK MOUNTING

A rack mounting kit is available. The -R5 rack mount kit may be installed after first removing the one Phillips screw on the side panel adjacent to the front handle.

ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE

To prevent electromagnetic interference with other equipment, all used outputs should be connected to shielded loads using shielded coaxial cables. Unused outputs should be terminated with shielded coaxial terminators or with shielded coaxial dust caps, to prevent unintentional electromagnetic radiation. All cords and cables should be less than 3m in length.

MAINTENANCE

REGULAR MAINTENANCE

This instrument does not require any regular maintenance.

On occasion, one or more of the four rear-panel fuses may require replacement. All fuses can be accessed from the rear panel. See the “FUSES” section for details.

CLEANING

If desired, the interior of the instrument may be cleaned using compressed air to dislodge any accumulated dust. (See the “TOP COVER REMOVAL” section for instructions on accessing the interior.) No other cleaning is recommended.

TRIGGER DAMAGE

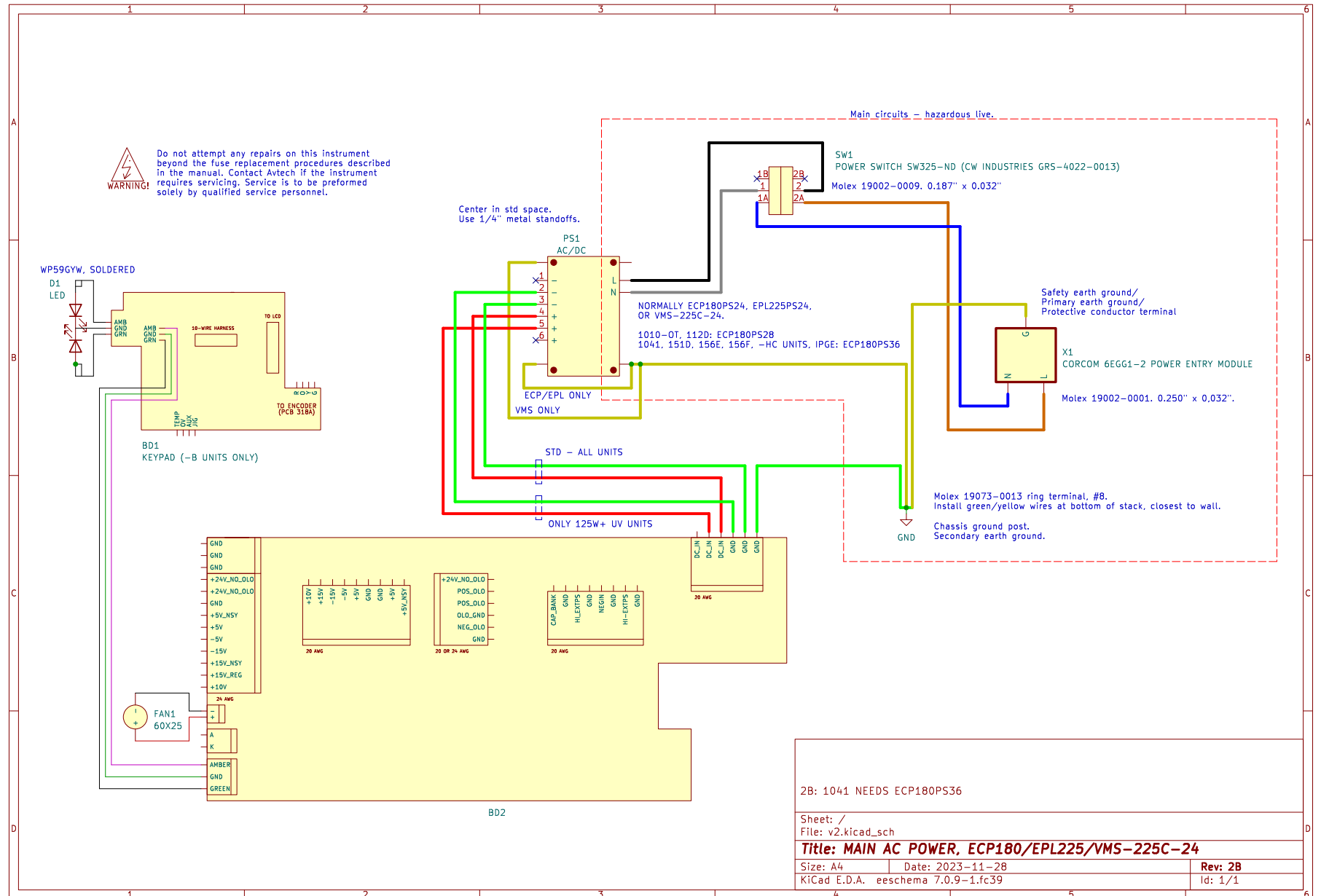
The rear-panel TRIG input, used in the external trigger mode, is protected by a diode clamping circuit. However, the protection circuit is not foolproof, and it is possible for a grossly excessive signal to damage the trigger circuitry on the main timing control board (the 4×10 inch board on the right side of the instrument).

The IC that is most likely to fail under these conditions is installed in a socket. It is a standard TTL IC in a 16-pin plastic DIP package, model 74F151 or equivalent.

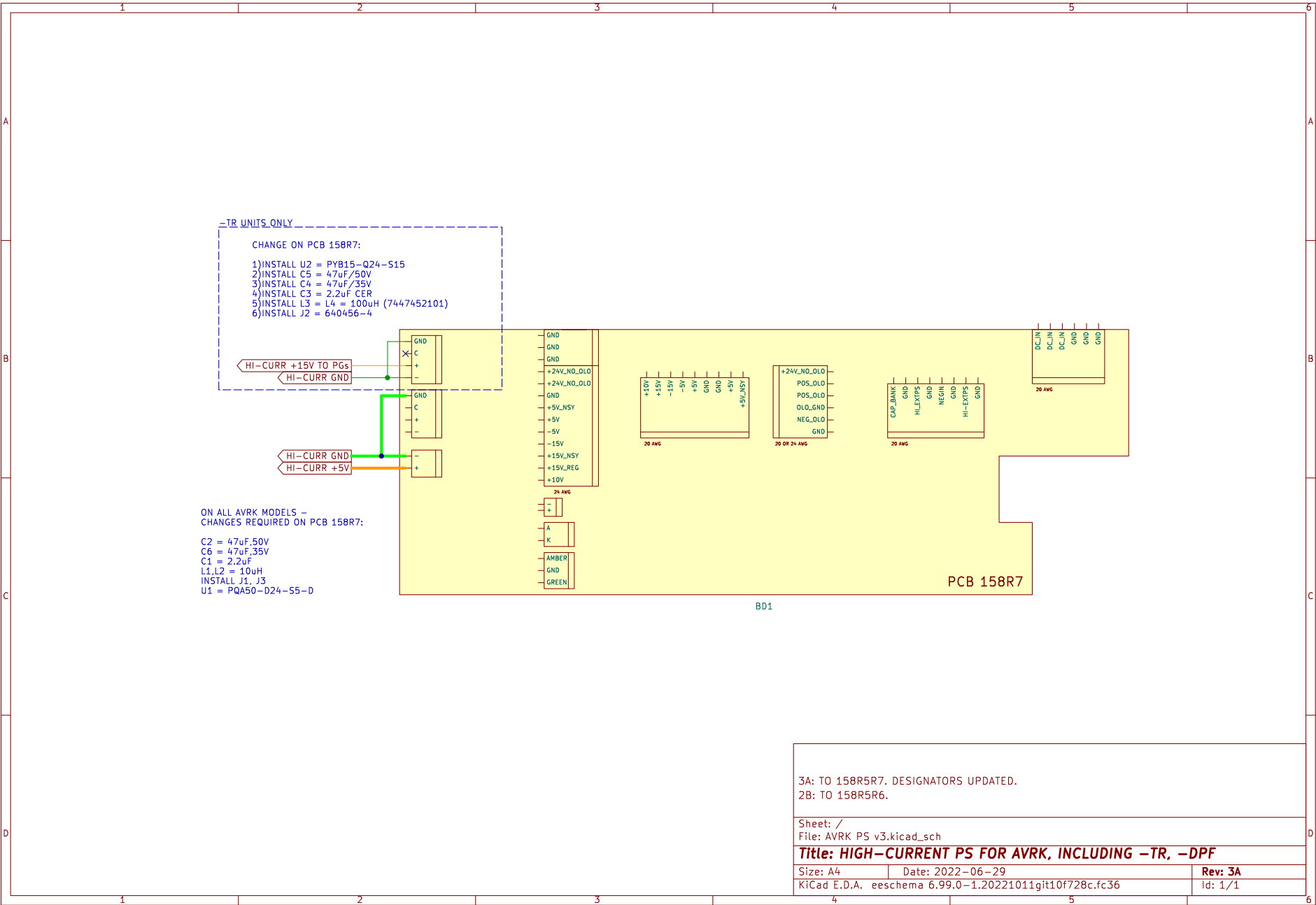
If you suspect that this IC has been damaged, turn off the power and replace this IC. It may be replaced by a 74F151, 74LS151, 74ALS151, or 74HCT151.

WIRING OF AC POWER

WIRING DIAGRAMS



WIRING OF DC POWER



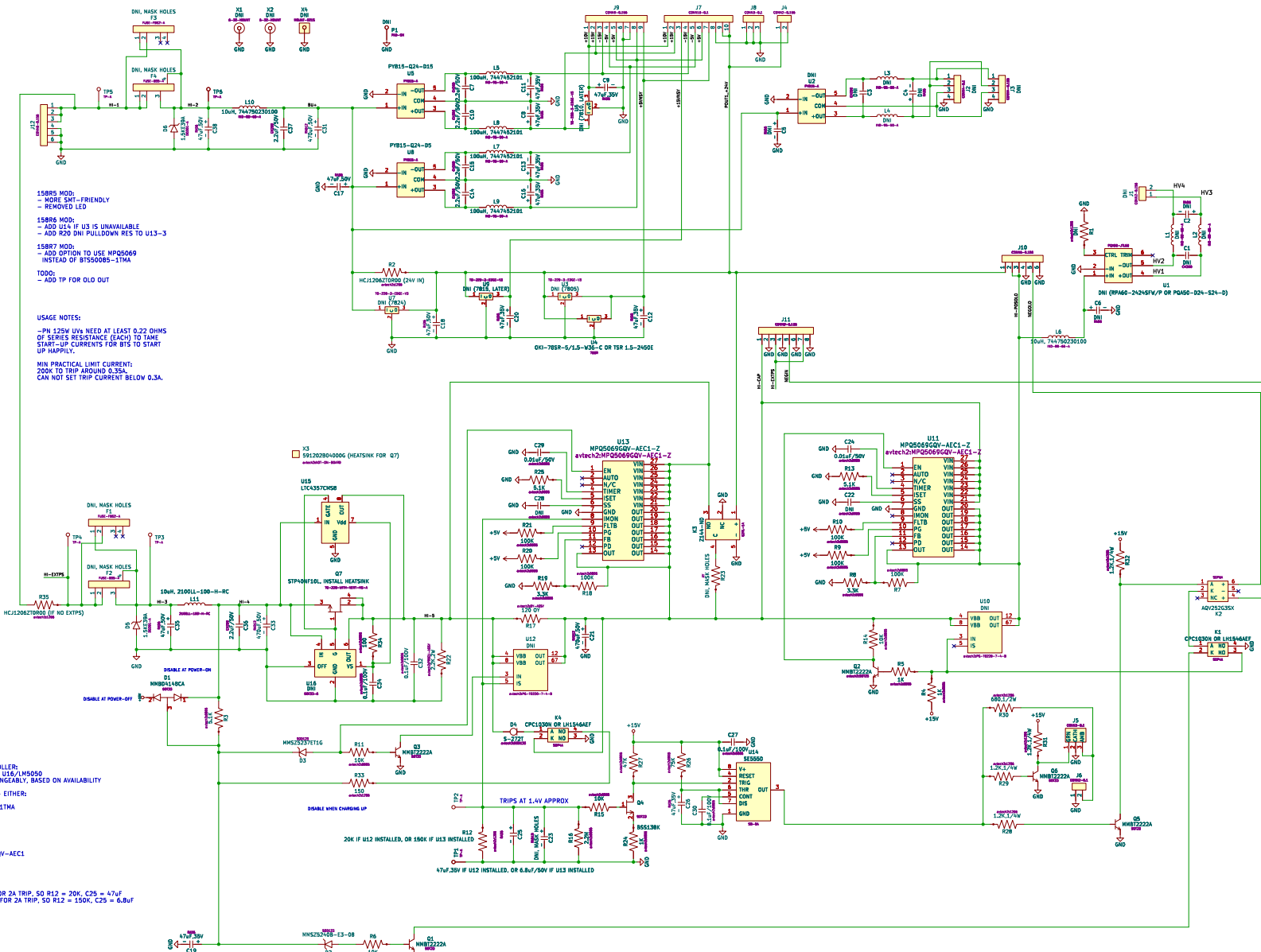
3A: TO 158R5R7. DESIGNATORS UPDATED.
2B: TO 158R5R6.

Sheet: /
File: AVRK PS v3.kicad_sch

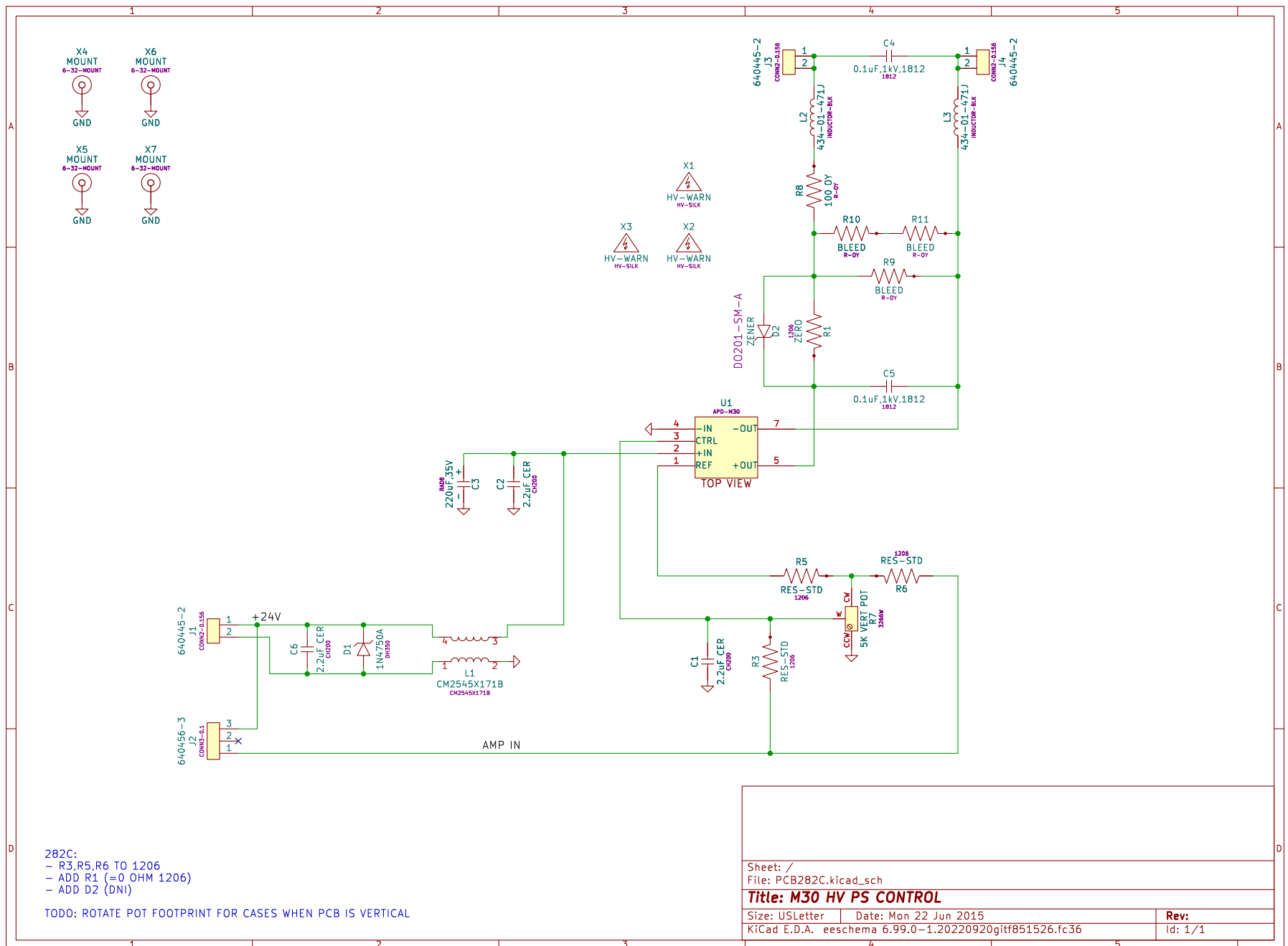
Title: HIGH-CURRENT PS FOR AVRK, INCLUDING -TR, -DPF

Size: A4	Date: 2022-06-29	Rev: 3A
KiCad E.D.A. eeschema 6.99.0-1.20221011git10f728c.fc36		Id: 1/1

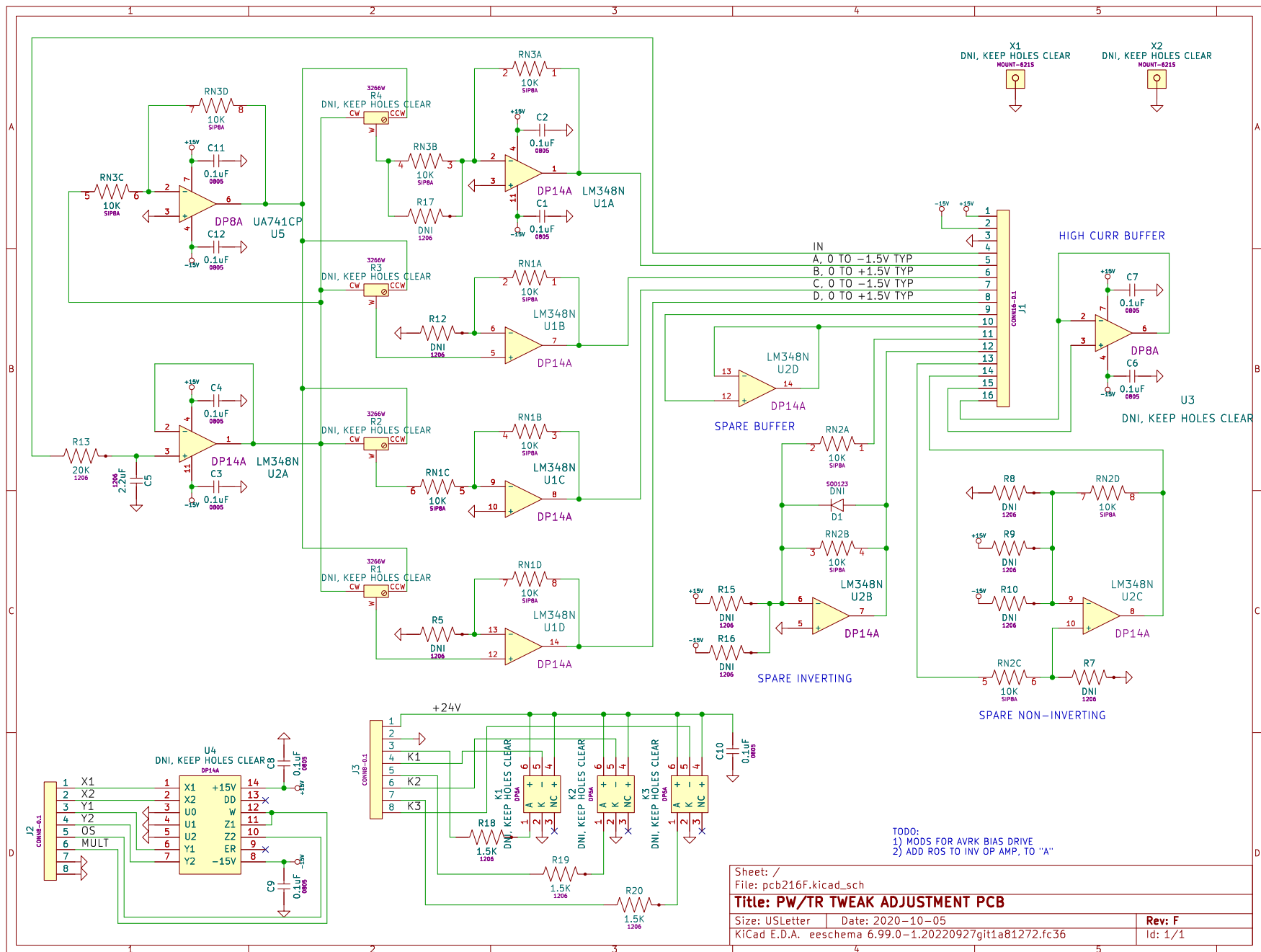
PCB 158R7 - LOW VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY



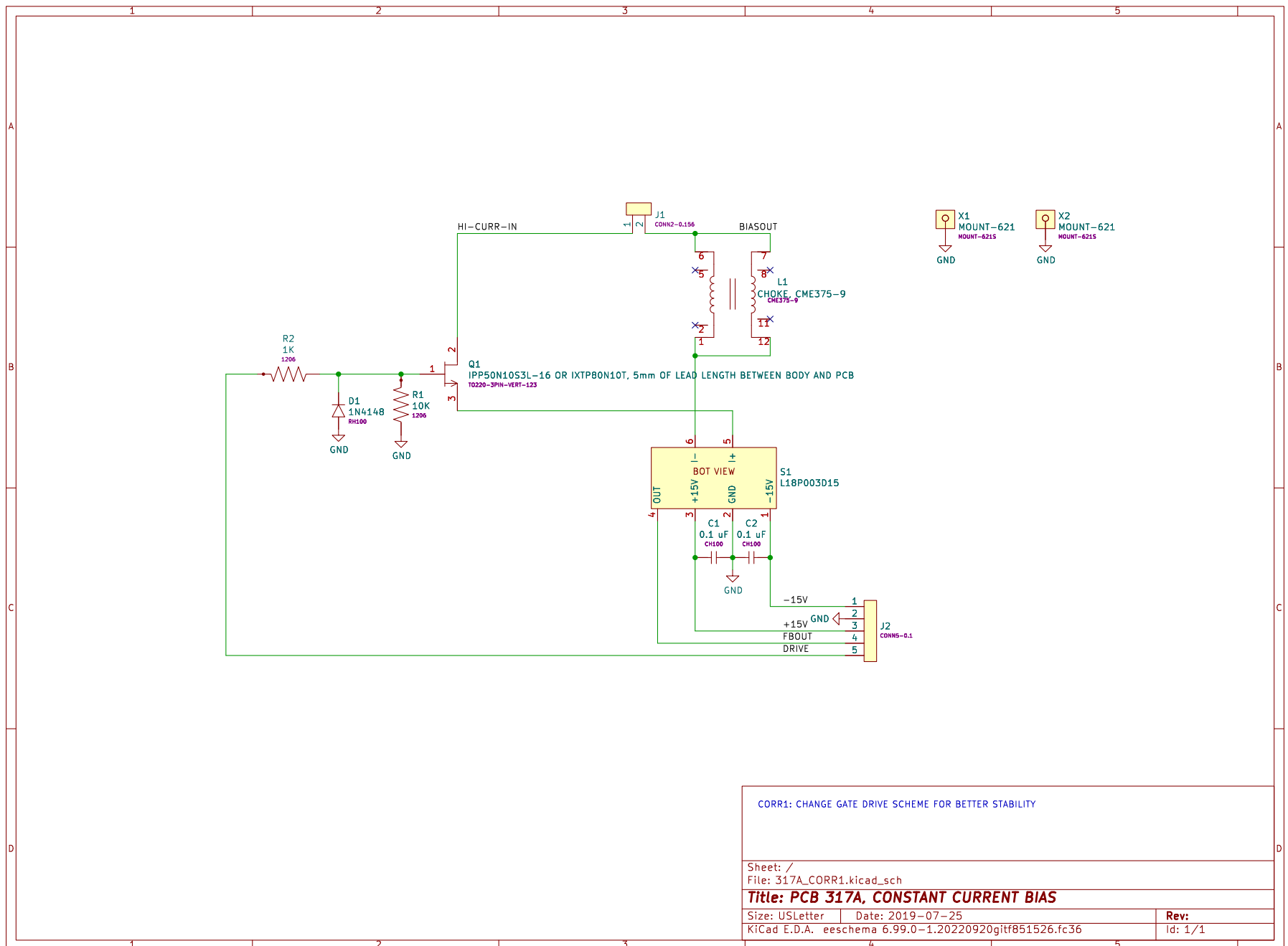
PCB 282C - HIGH-VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY



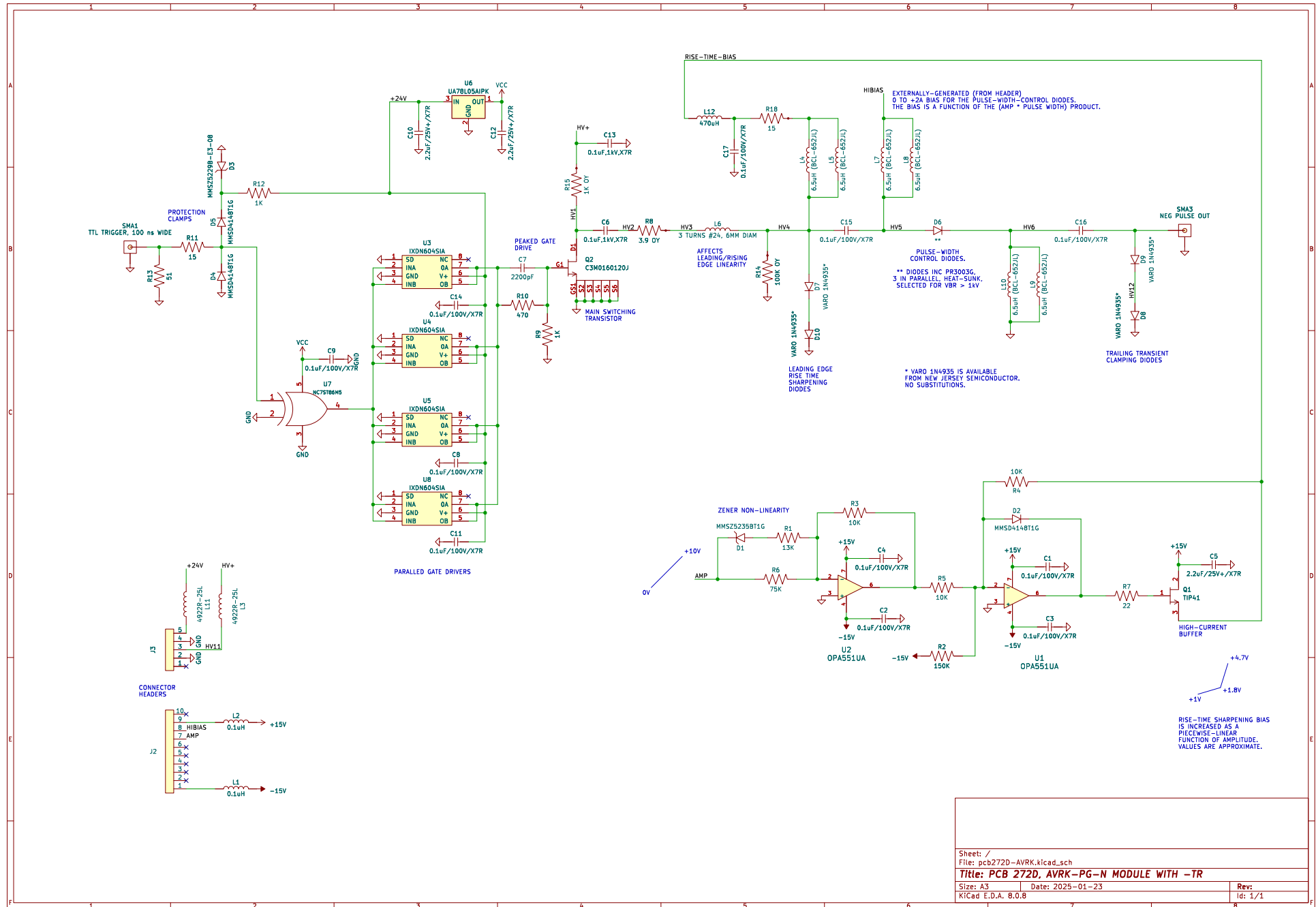
PCB 216F - OP AMP TWEAKS



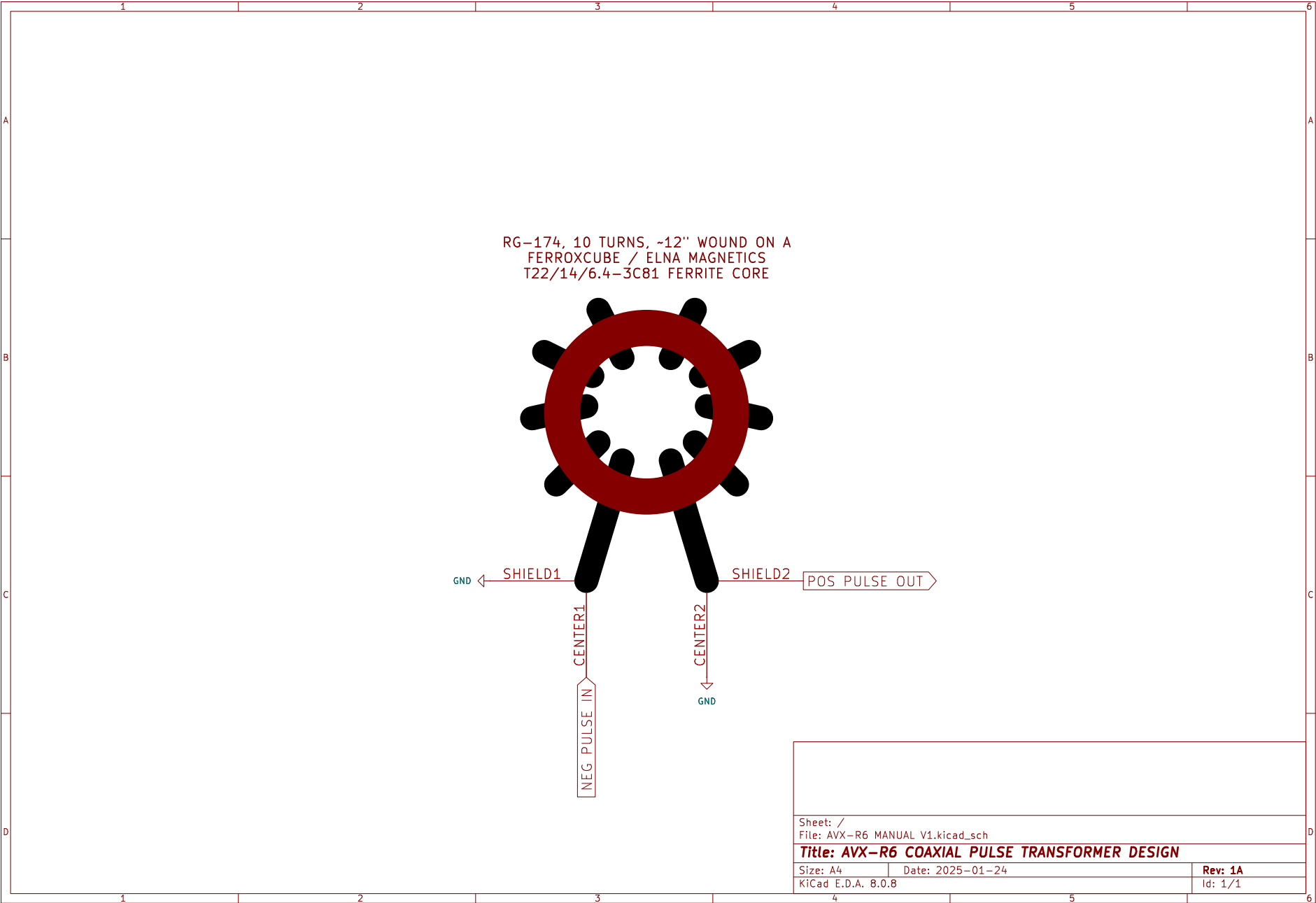
PCB 317A - AMPL/PW BIAS



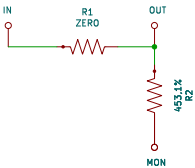
PG-N MODULE, MAIN PULSER CIRCUIT



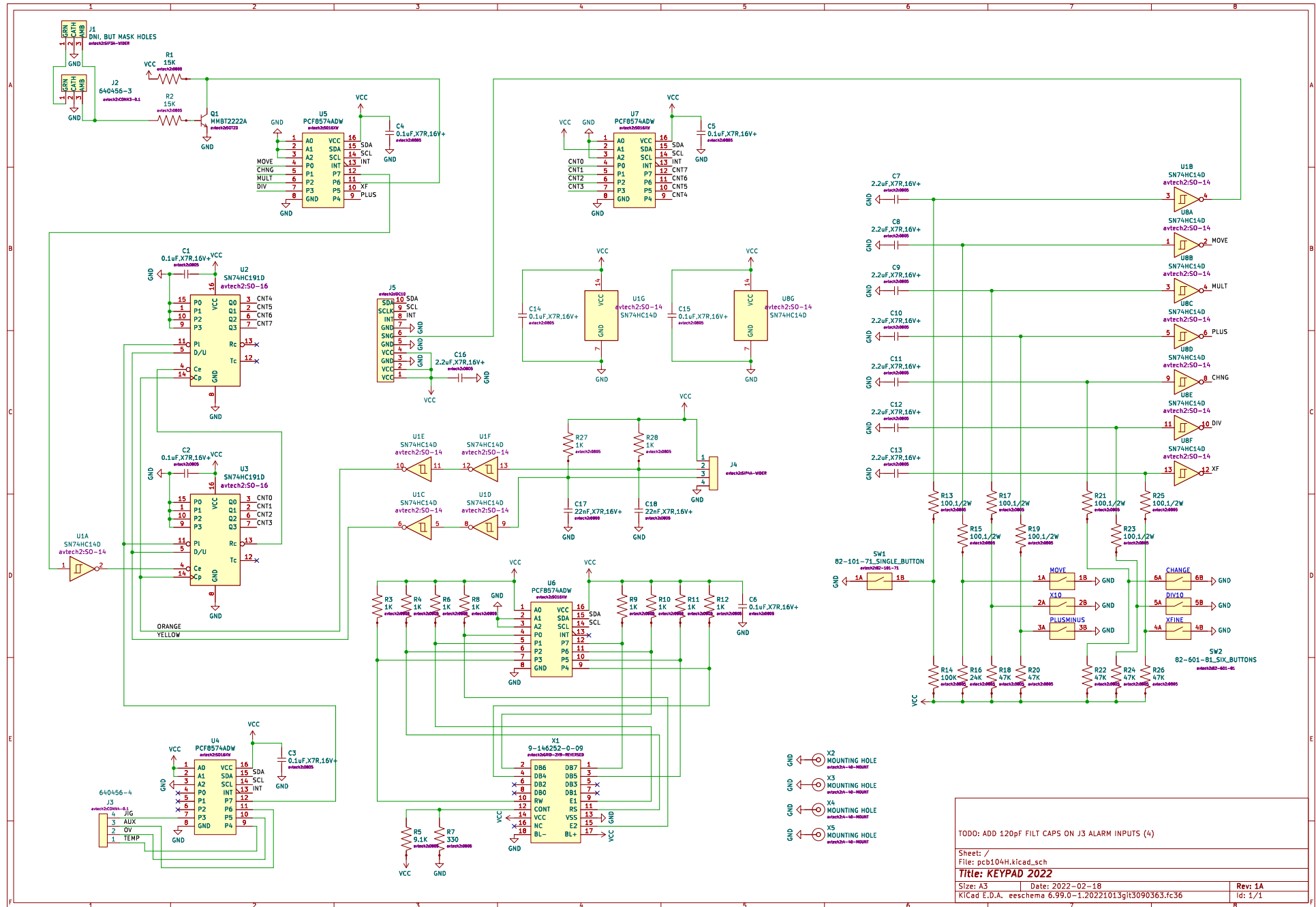
AVX-R6 MODULE, POLARITY-INVERTING TRANSFORMER



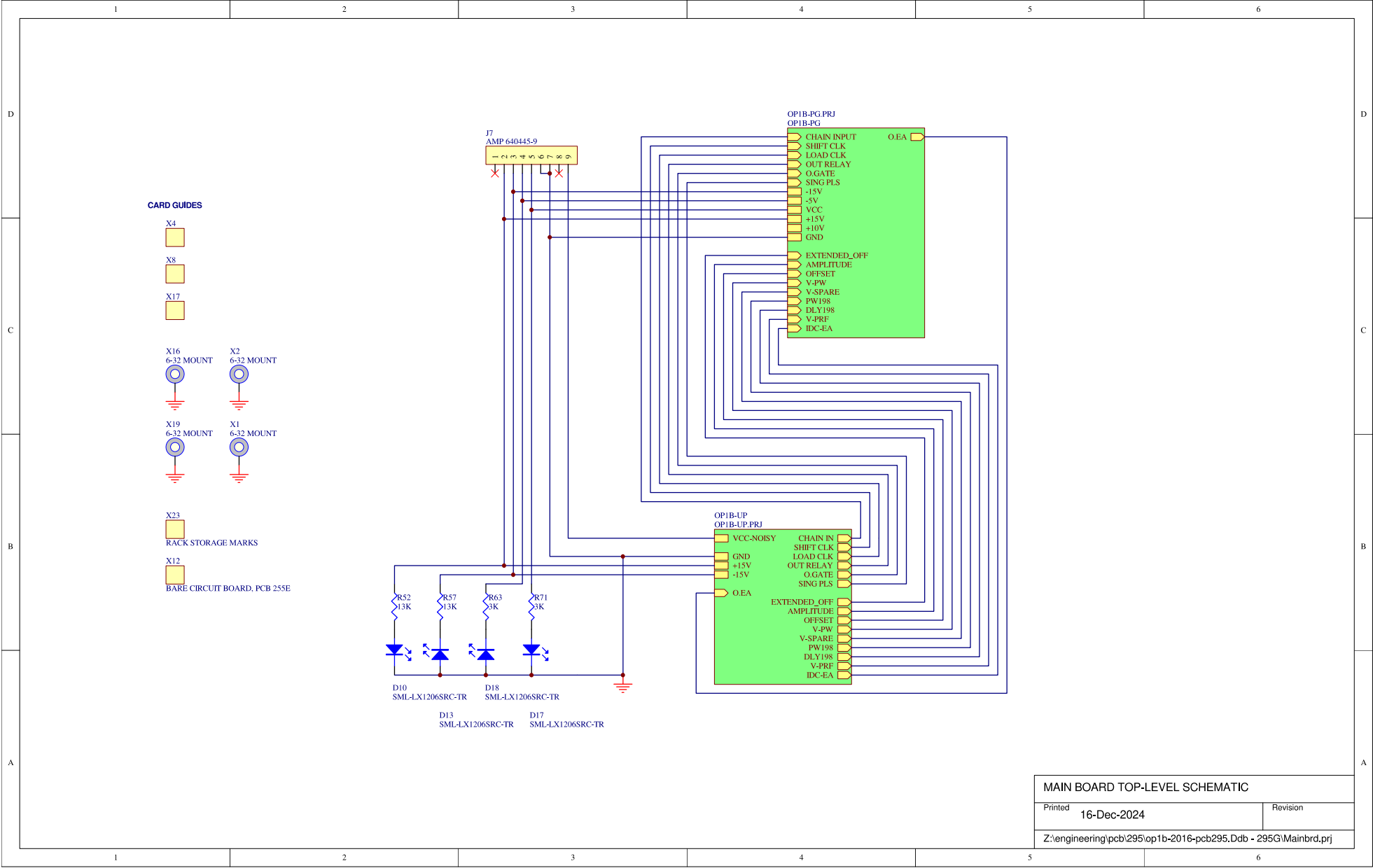
MON MODULE



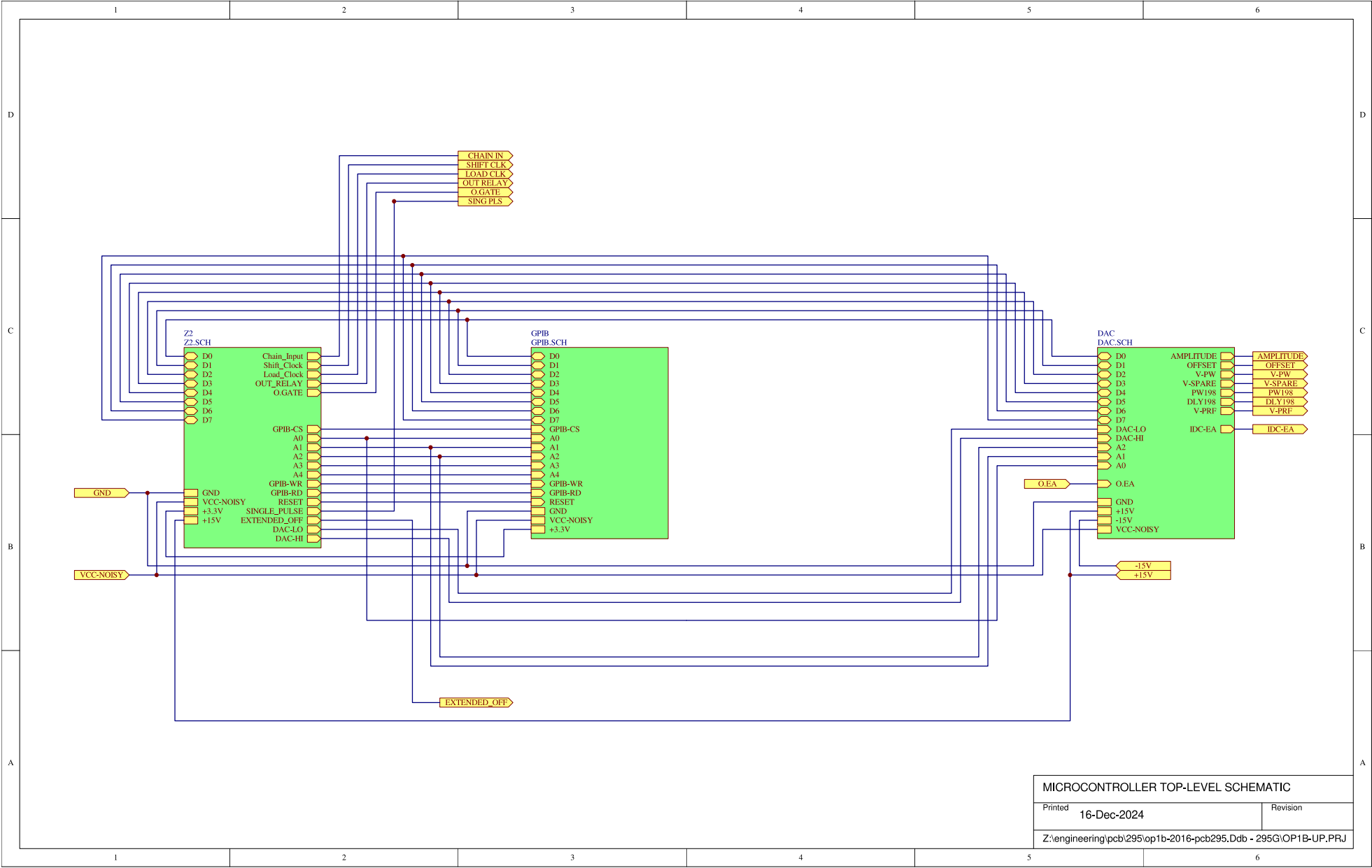
PCB 104H - KEYPAD / DISPLAY BOARD



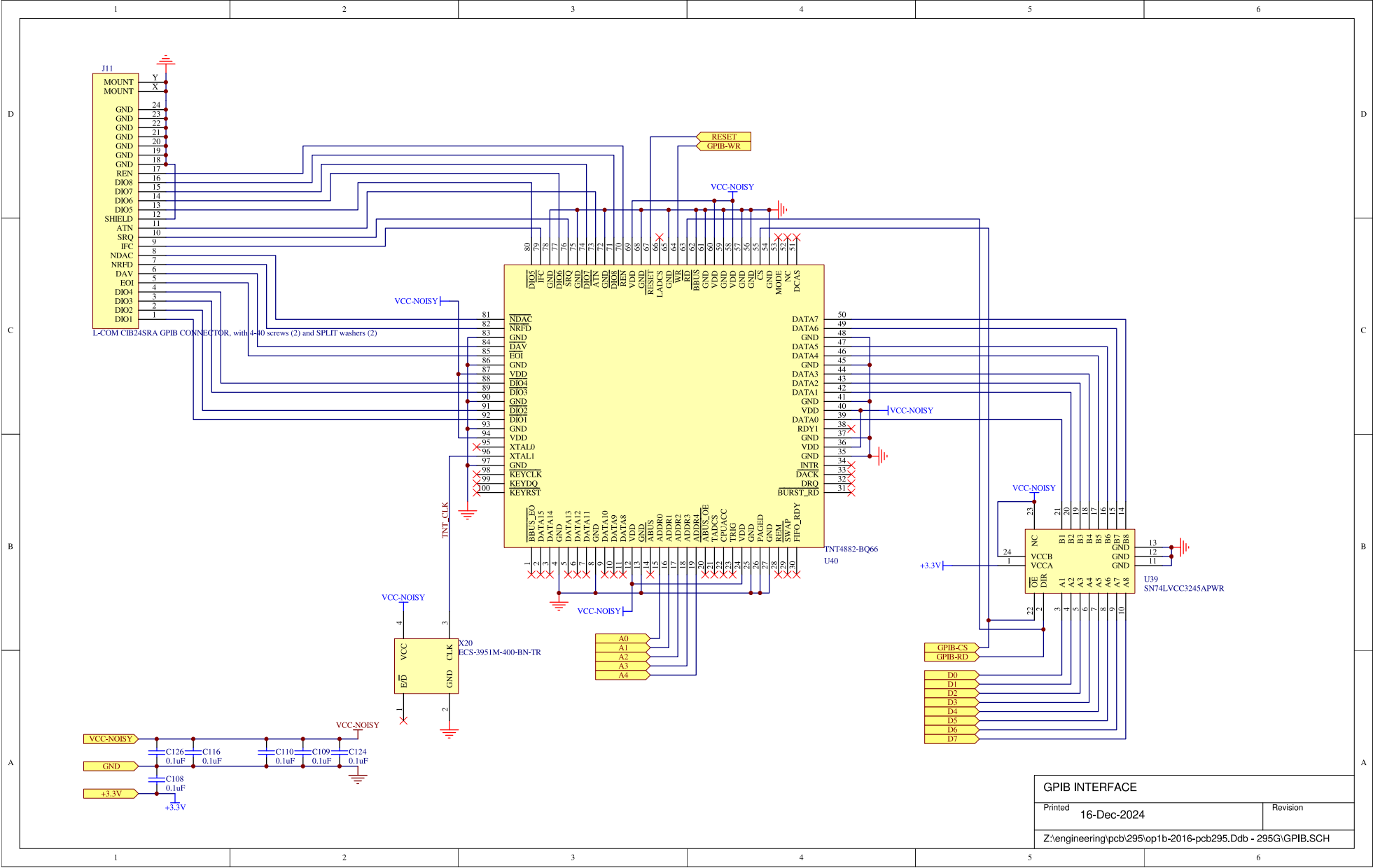
PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 1 OF 13, TOP-LEVEL



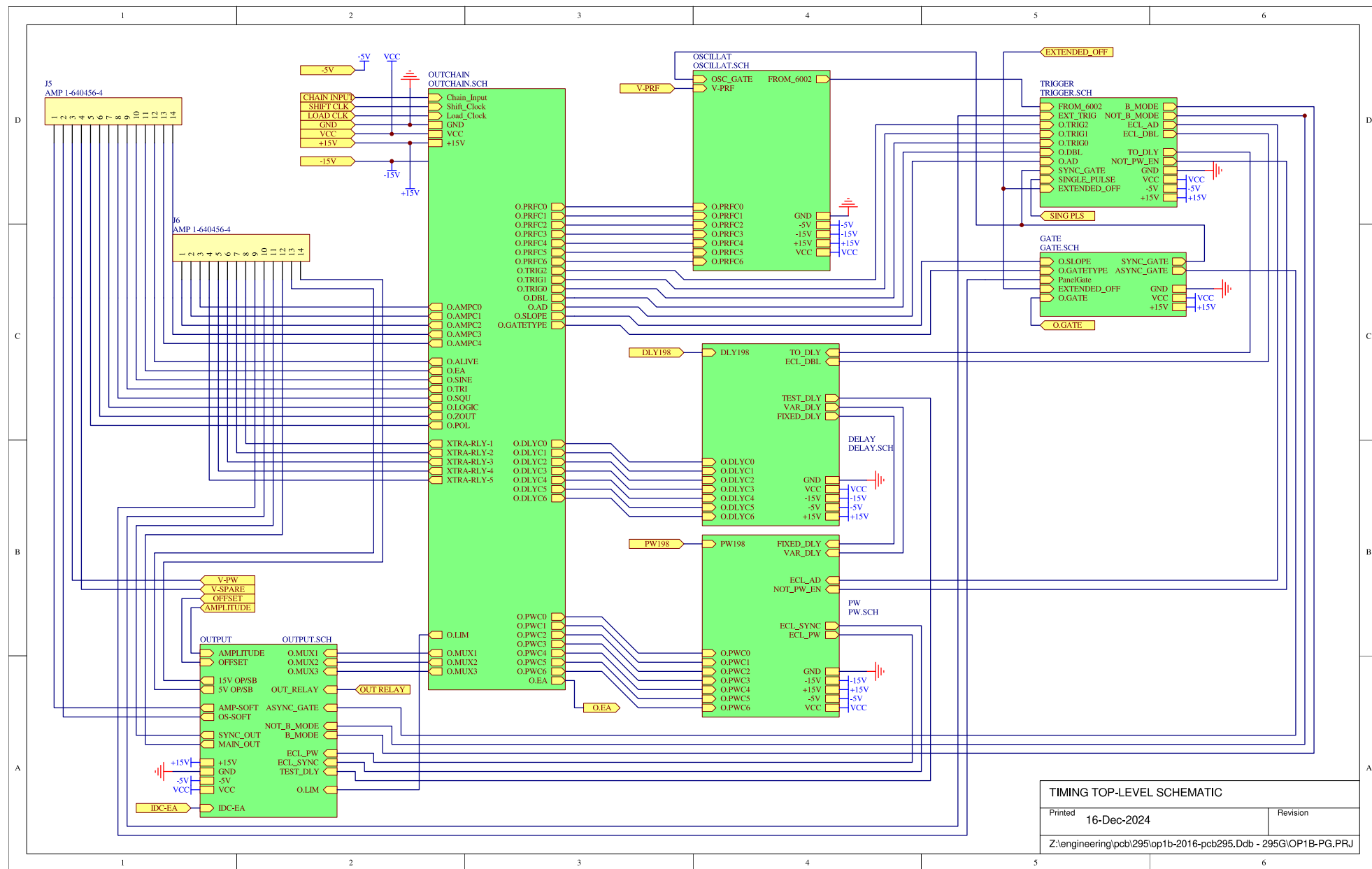
PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 2 OF 13, MICROCONTROLLER TOP-LEVEL



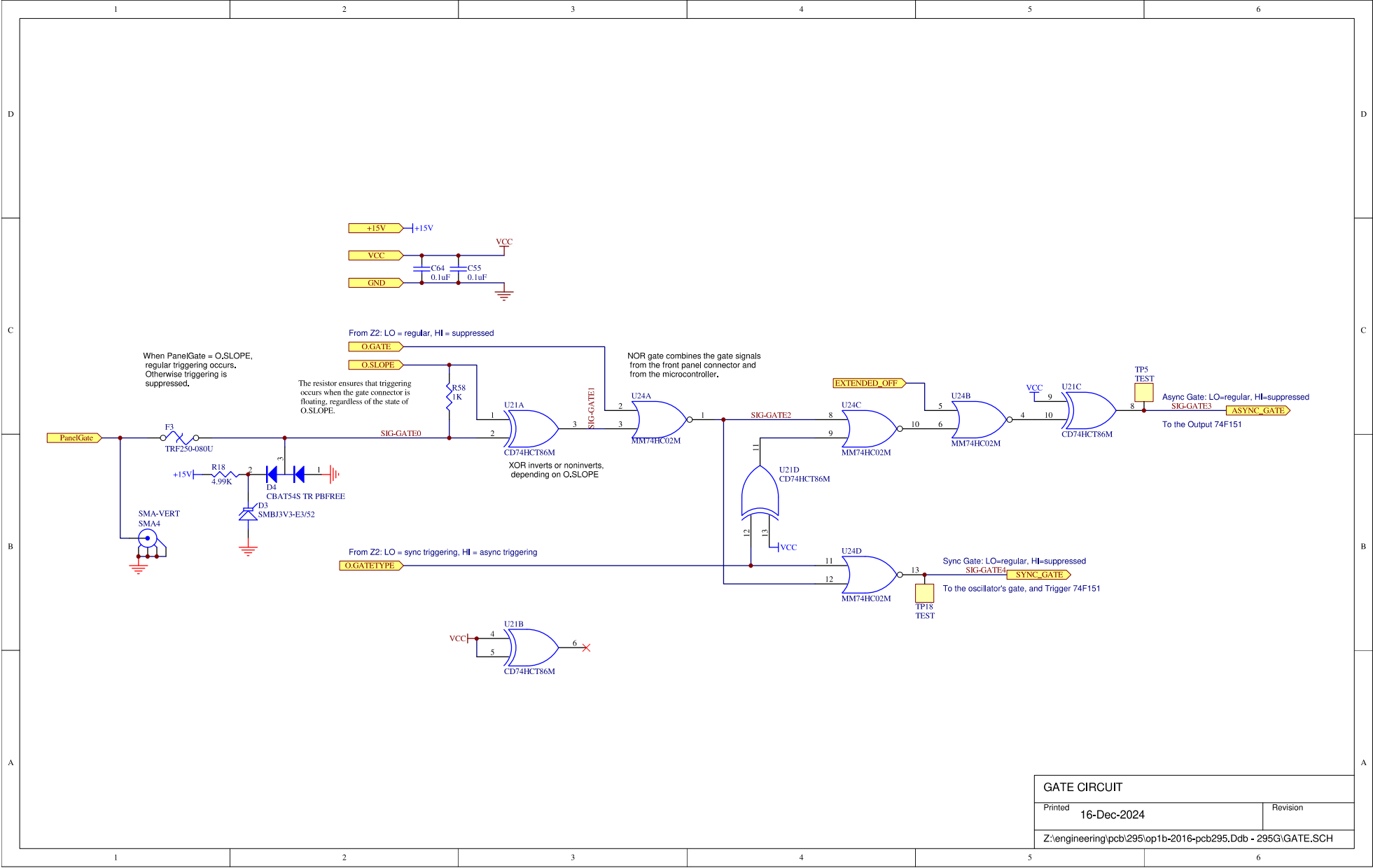
PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 4 OF 13, GPIB INTERFACE



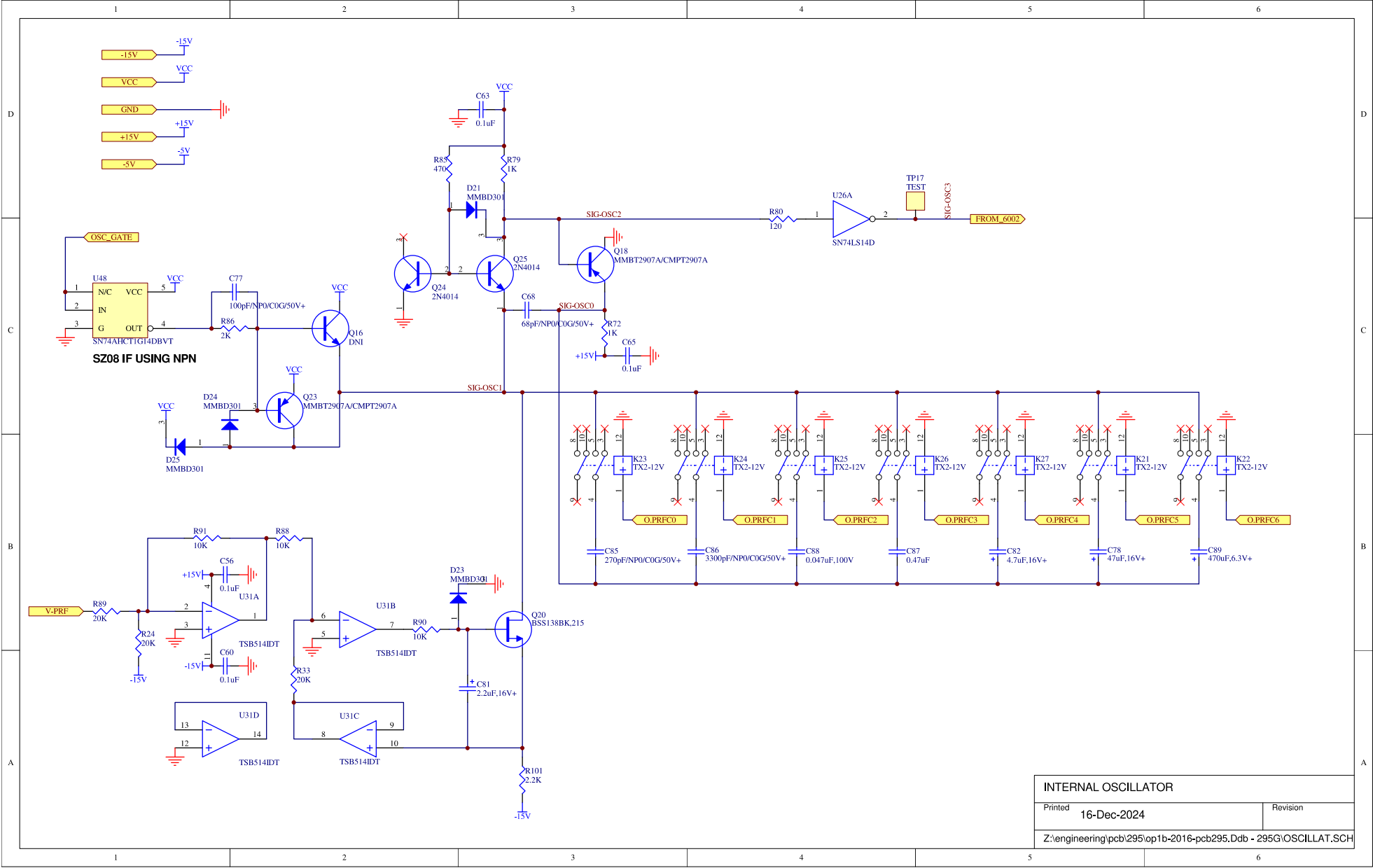
PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 6 OF 13, TIMING TOP-LEVEL



PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 7 OF 13, GATE CIRCUIT



PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 8 OF 13, OSCILLATOR

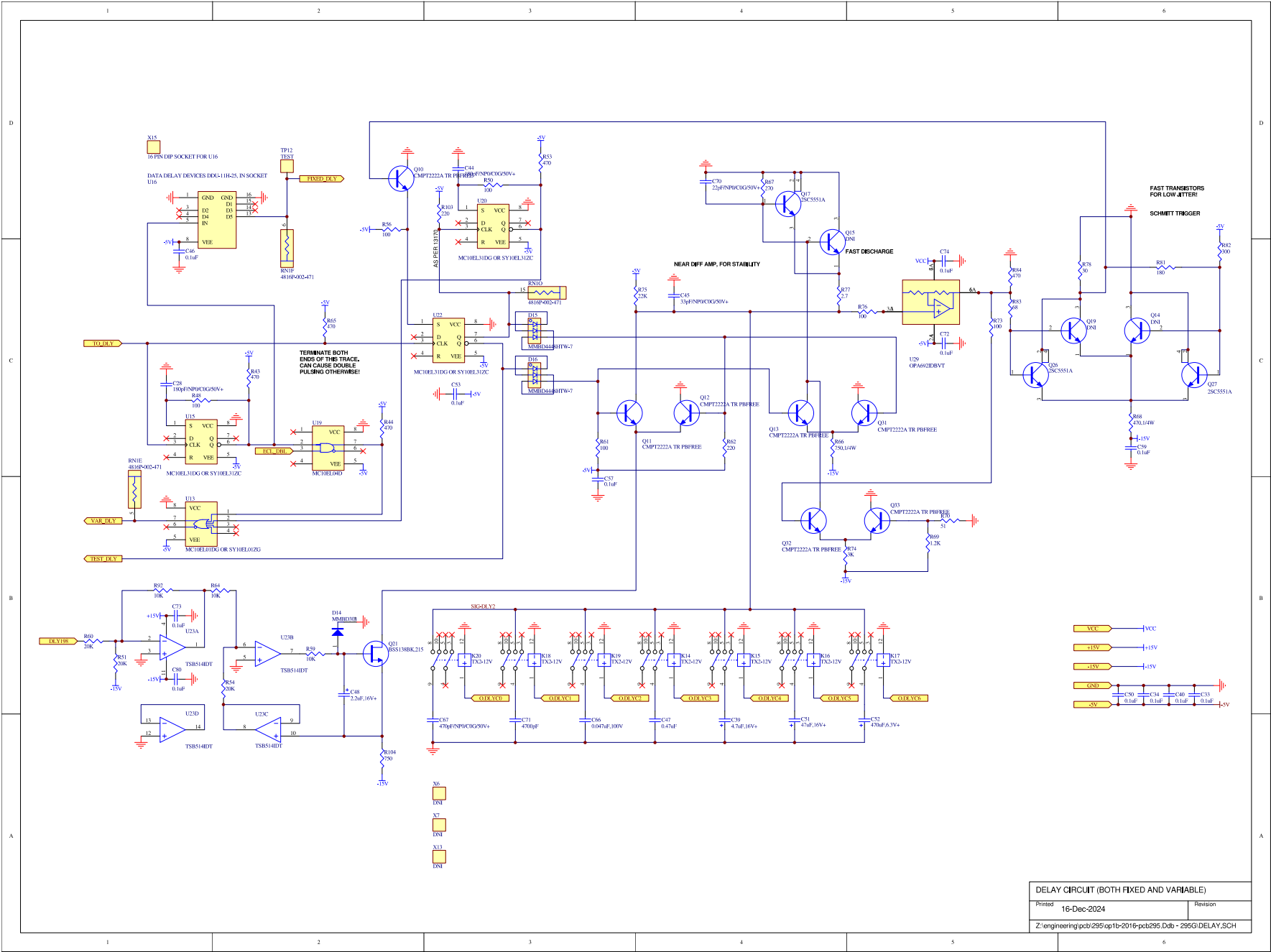


The PCB layout is organized into several functional blocks:

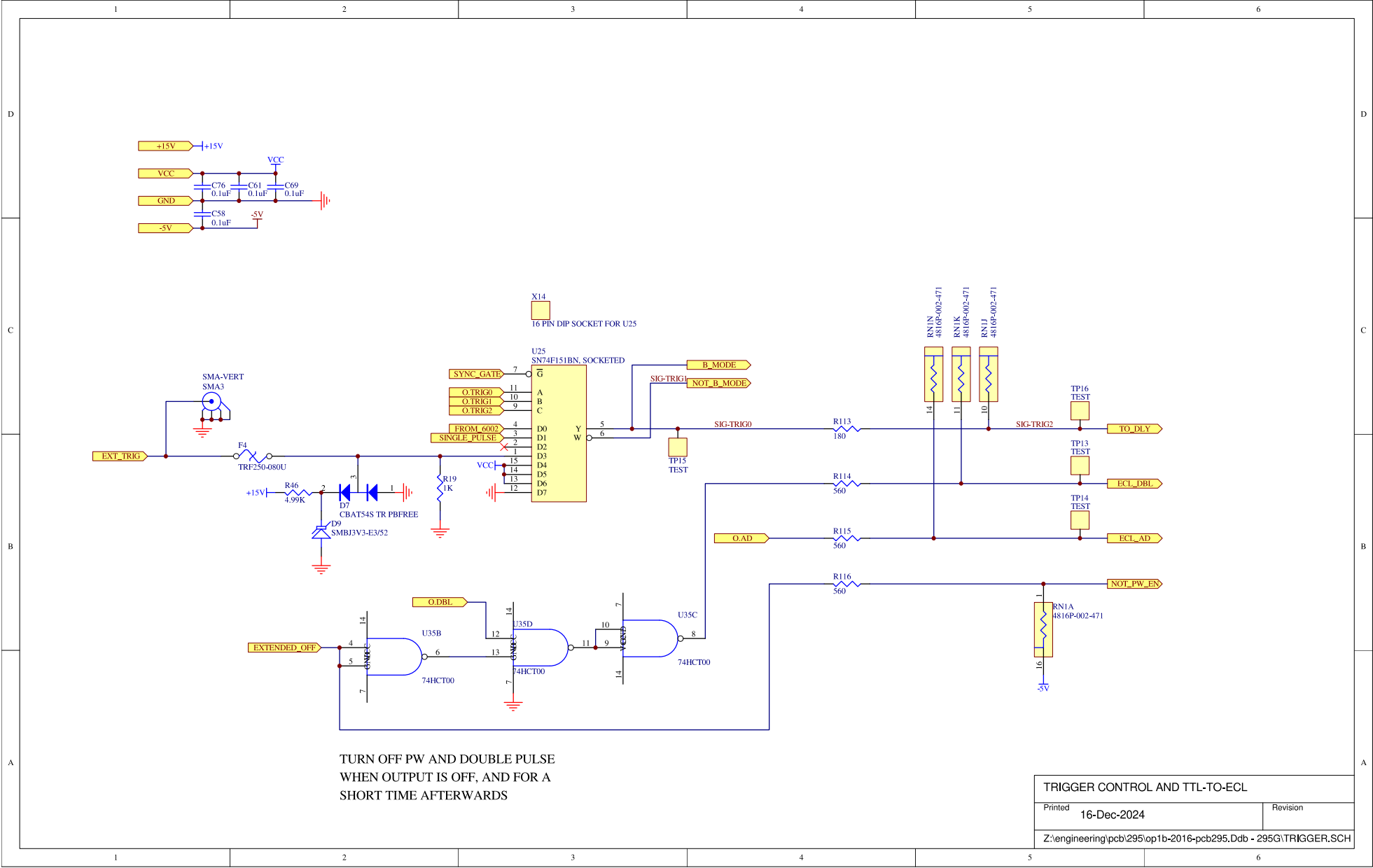
- Power Supply:** Features a +15V and -5V rail. The +15V rail includes a 100µF electrolytic capacitor (C1) and several 0.1µF decoupling capacitors (C2, C3, C8, C10, C13, C15, C17, C19). The -5V rail has a 100µF electrolytic capacitor (C1) and 0.1µF decoupling capacitors (C3, C8, C13, C15, C17, C19).
- Signal Processing:** The input signal (ECL_SYNC) is processed by a series of op-amp buffers (U27, U49, U3) and comparators (U1A, U1B, U5A, U5B) to generate a 250kHz square wave (SIG-OUT3). The output is filtered by a 2.2µF capacitor (C5) and a 100K resistor (R16).
- Output Stage:** The square wave drives a push-pull MOSFET pair (Q2, Q3) through a 10K resistor (R10). The MOSFETs are driven by a 250V/0.80U MOSFET driver (U4A, U4B) and a 250V/0.80U MOSFET driver (U4A, U4B). The output is filtered by a 2.2µF capacitor (C5) and a 100K resistor (R16).
- Protection:** The circuit includes a 250V/0.80U MOSFET driver (U4A, U4B) and a 250V/0.80U MOSFET driver (U4A, U4B) to protect the MOSFETs from overcurrent and thermal shutdown.

The layout includes various test points (TP1, TP2, TP3, TP4, TP5, TP6, TP7, TP8, TP9, TP10) and a 250V/0.80U MOSFET driver (U4A, U4B) to protect the MOSFETs from overcurrent and thermal shutdown.

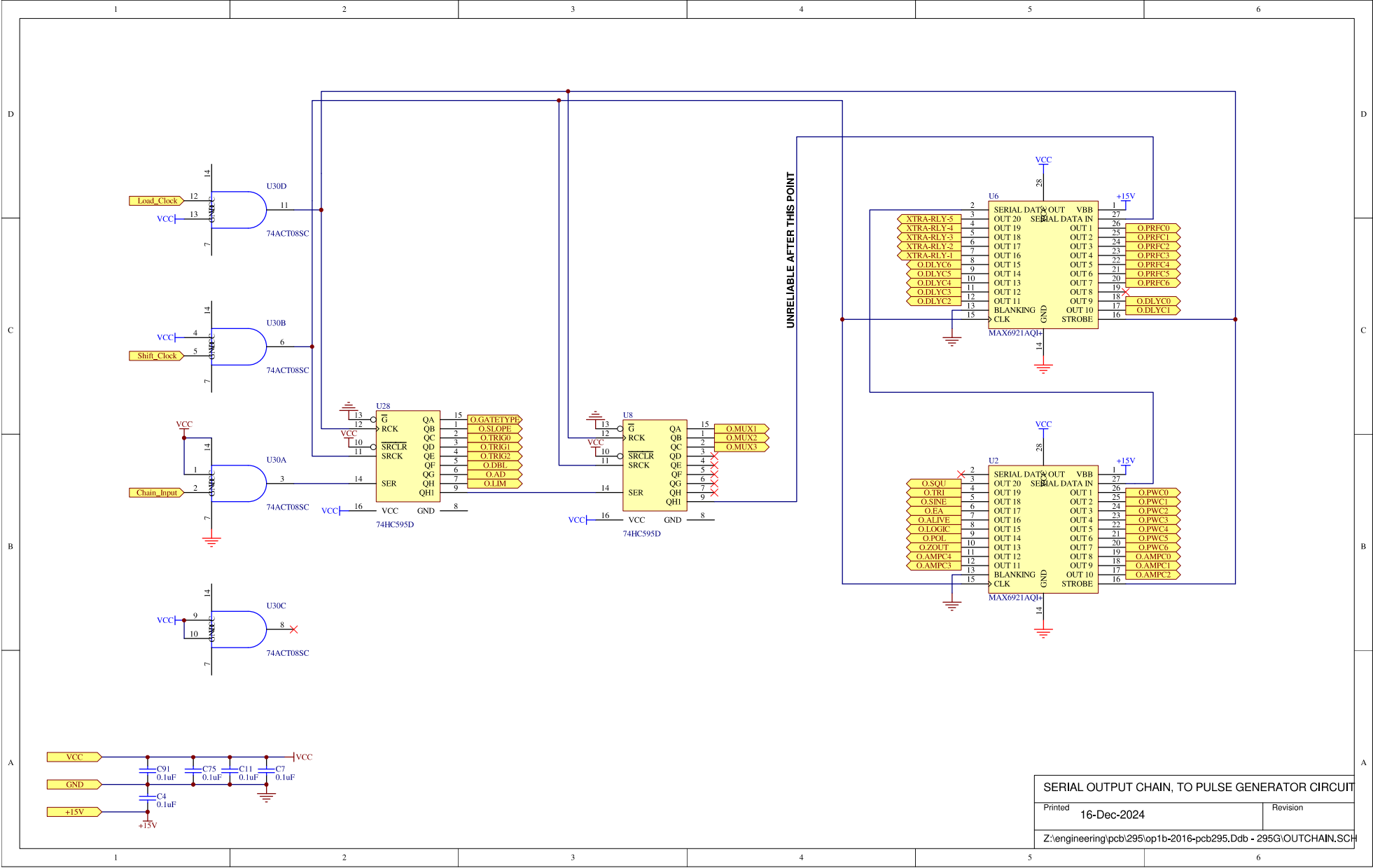
PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 10 OF 13, DELAY CIRCUITS



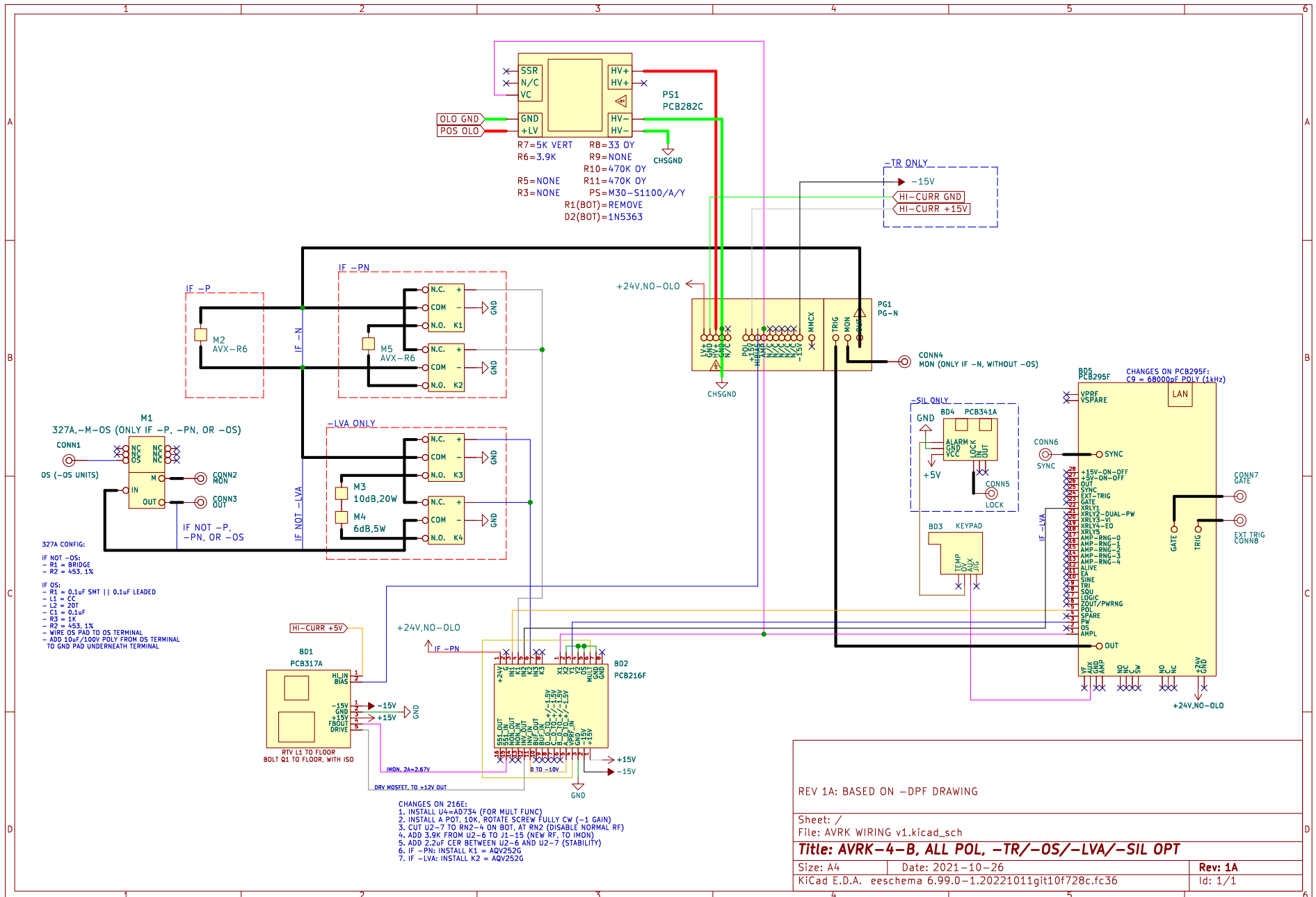
PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 12 OF 13, TRIGGER SELECT



PCB 295G - MAIN CONTROL BOARD, 13 OF 13, SHIFT REGISTERS



MAIN WIRING



PERFORMANCE CHECKSHEET