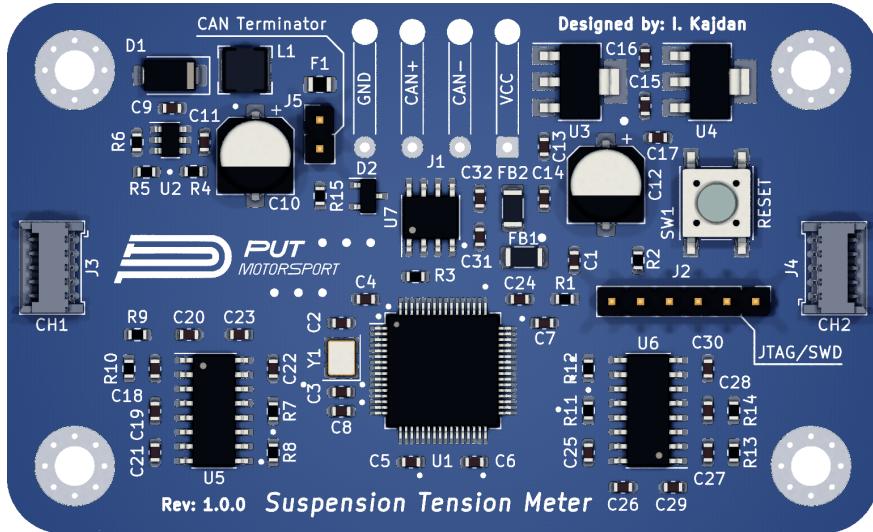


Enhancing Suspension Performance: Suspension Tension Meter

In the world of motorsports and vehicle engineering, precise measurement and data collection play a crucial role in optimizing performance. One of the devices that allows us to measure such data is a Suspension Tension Meter. It's a circuit designed to measure uniaxial forces acting on push-rods and transmit the collected data over the Controller Area Network (CAN) bus.



This PCB is a part of a larger-scale project undertaken by PUT Motorsport, the racing team associated with the Poznan University of Technology.

Since 2014, we have been continuously engaged in the design, manufacturing, and testing of racing cars. These cars undergo rigorous evaluation during international competitions, where teams from all over the world participate.

Lately, we were focused on developing and enhancing an autonomous car. A numerous design choices have been made throughout this process to optimize its performance and to make it adhere to the technical rules and regulations.

JLCPCB's commitment to excellence and dedication to innovation perfectly align with our team's goals and aspirations. As a leading PCB fabrication house, JLCPCB's support is invaluable in helping us achieve our objectives in the competitive world of motorsport.

At its heart, this advanced circuit is built around the STM32L4 microcontroller unit (MCU), renowned for its efficiency and versatility in embedded systems. The STM32L4 MCU forms the brain of the operation, orchestrating the collection and transmission of critical suspension data.

What makes the Suspension Tension Meter precise is the use of the NAU7802 precision low-power 24-Bit Dual-Channel Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC). This specialized IC is engineered to provide precise measurements from strain gauge sensors, ensuring that the forces acting on the push-rods are accurately and reliably recorded.

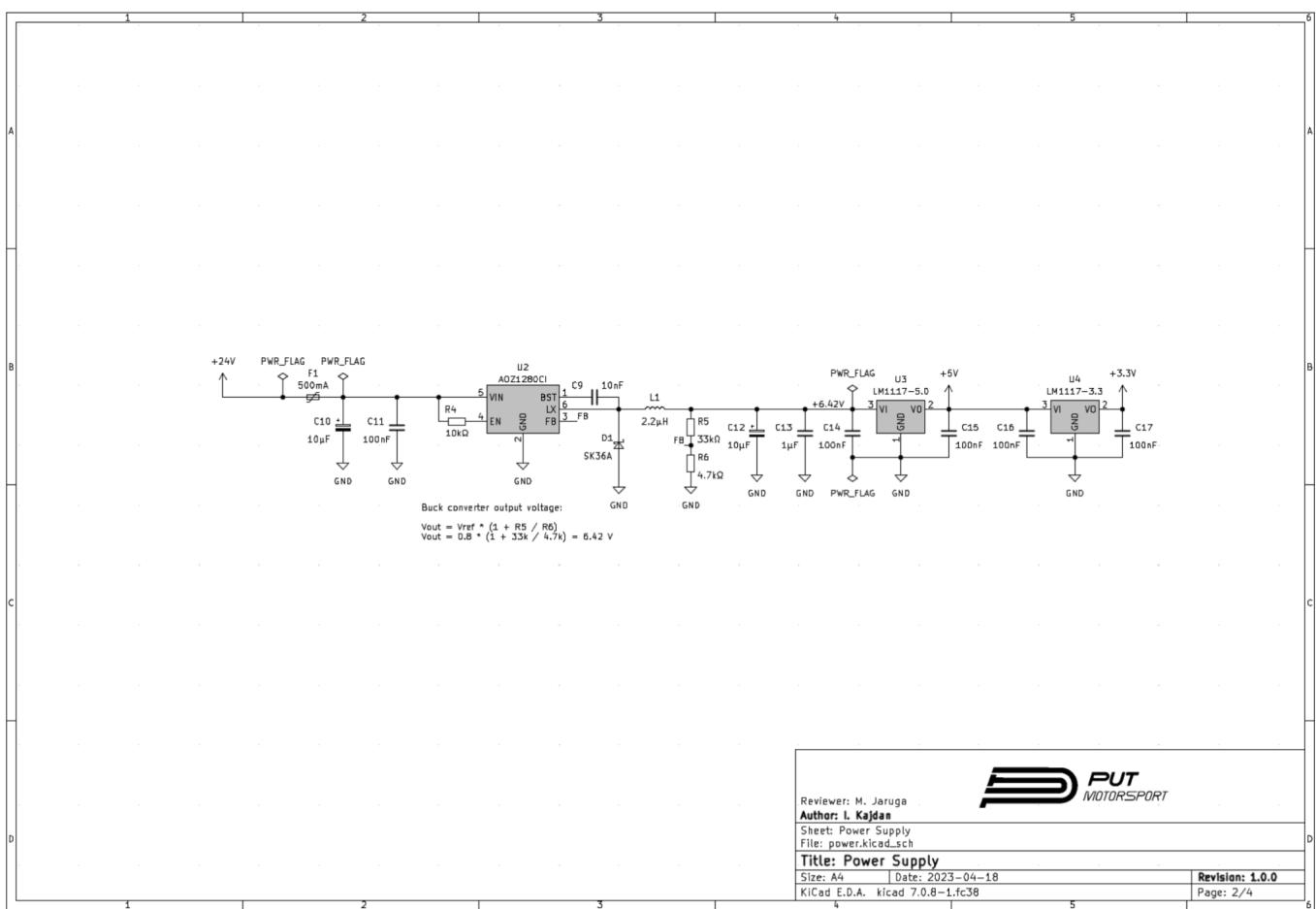
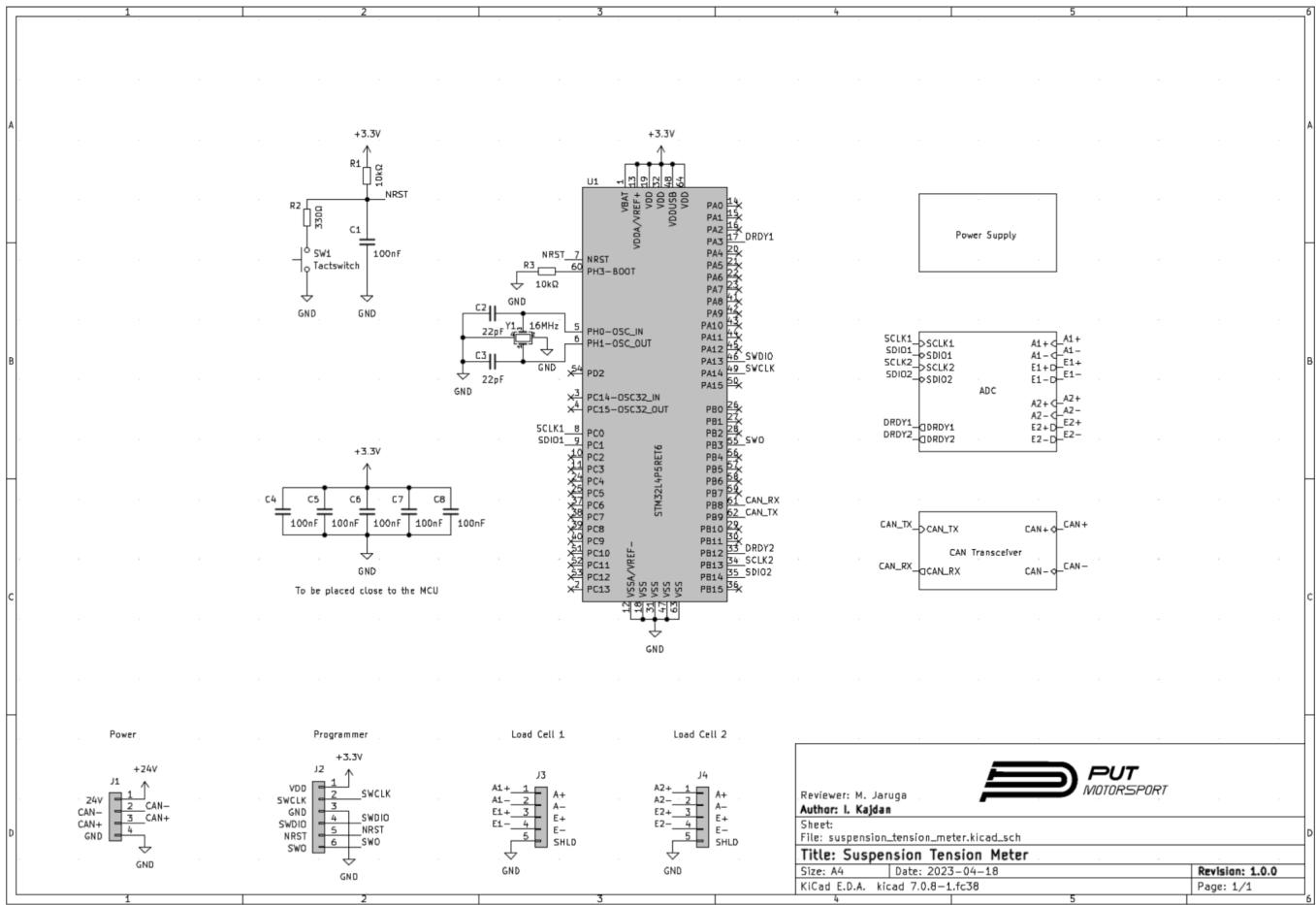
The key to the accuracy of this system lies in the high resolution and precision offered by the 24-bit ADC. It can capture even the slightest changes in tension with exceptional sensitivity, making it an invaluable tool for our engineers looking to fine-tune the suspension system.

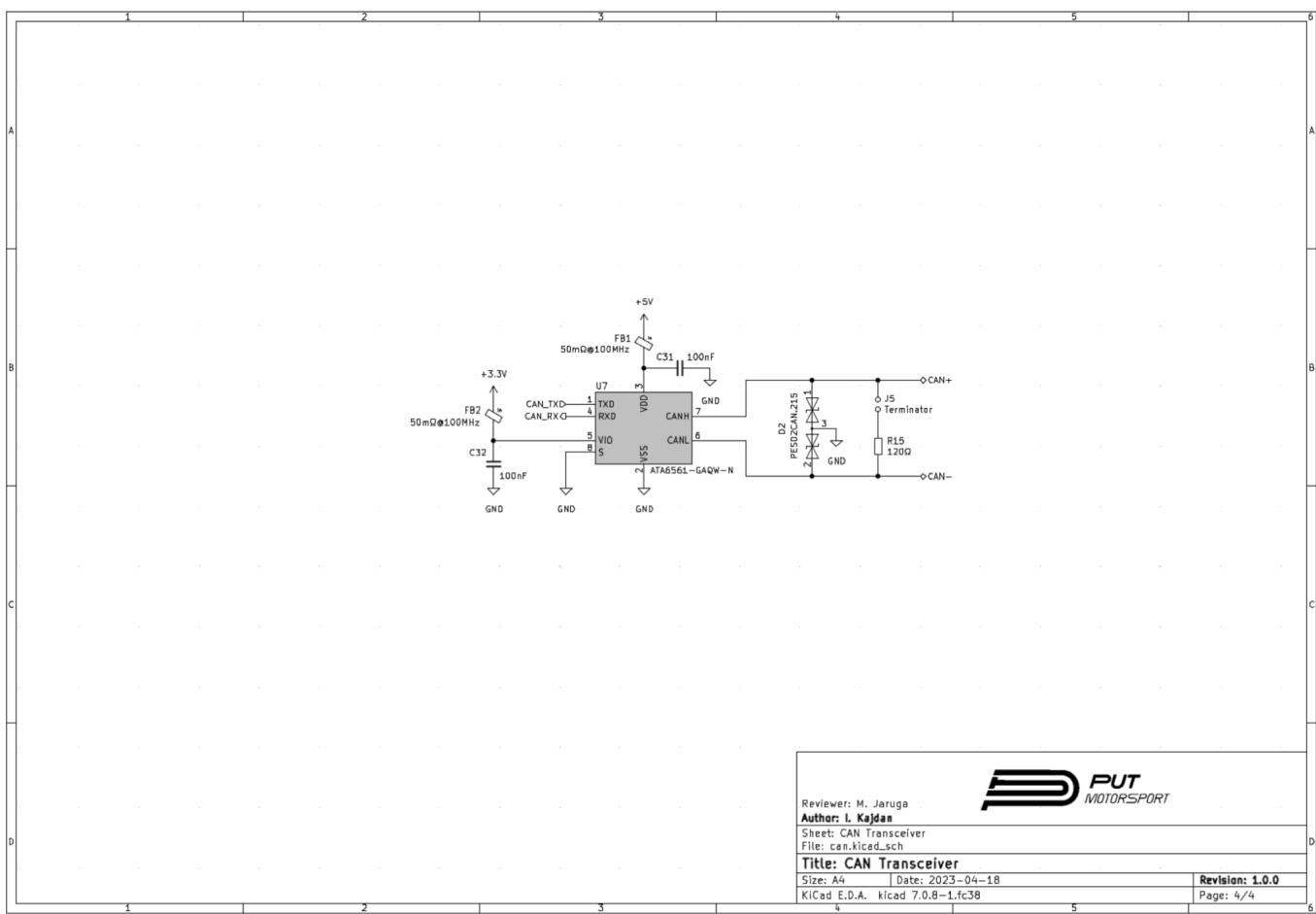
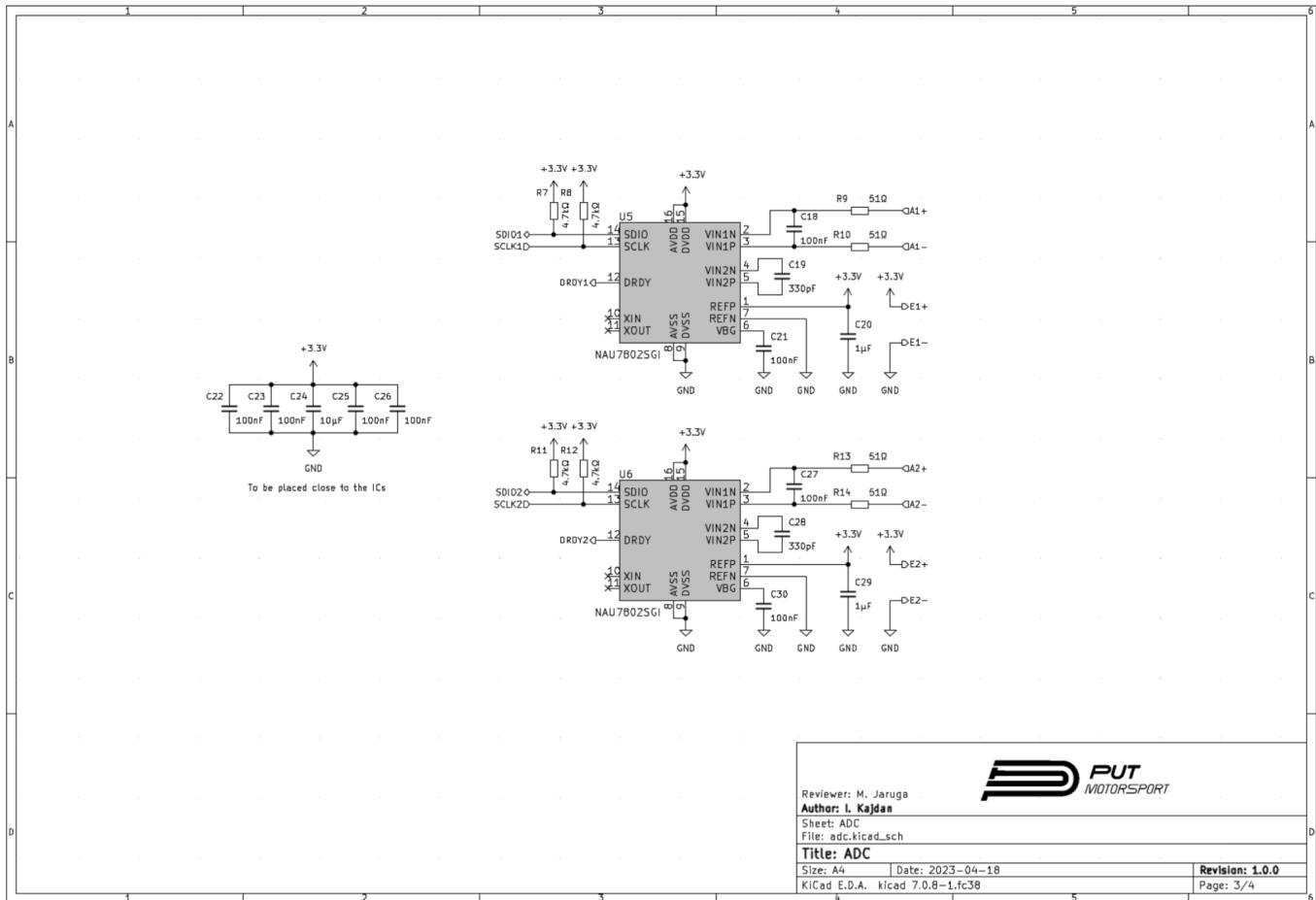
As vehicles hurtle down the racetrack or navigate challenging terrains, the Suspension Tension Meter's ability to provide real-time data over the CAN bus opens up a world of possibilities. Having the telemetry data, we can use it to make adjustments to the suspension settings, optimizing the vehicle's handling and overall performance.

In the Suspension Tension Meter, the CAN interface serves as the backbone of data transfer, ensuring seamless communication between the circuit's STM32L4 MCU and other relevant components or systems within the vehicle. This integration allows real-time transmission of precise suspension data over the Controller Area Network. The CAN interface's deterministic and low-latency characteristics are essential in this context, enabling engineers and drivers to fine-tune the suspension settings in real time, enhancing the vehicle's handling and overall performance on the track.

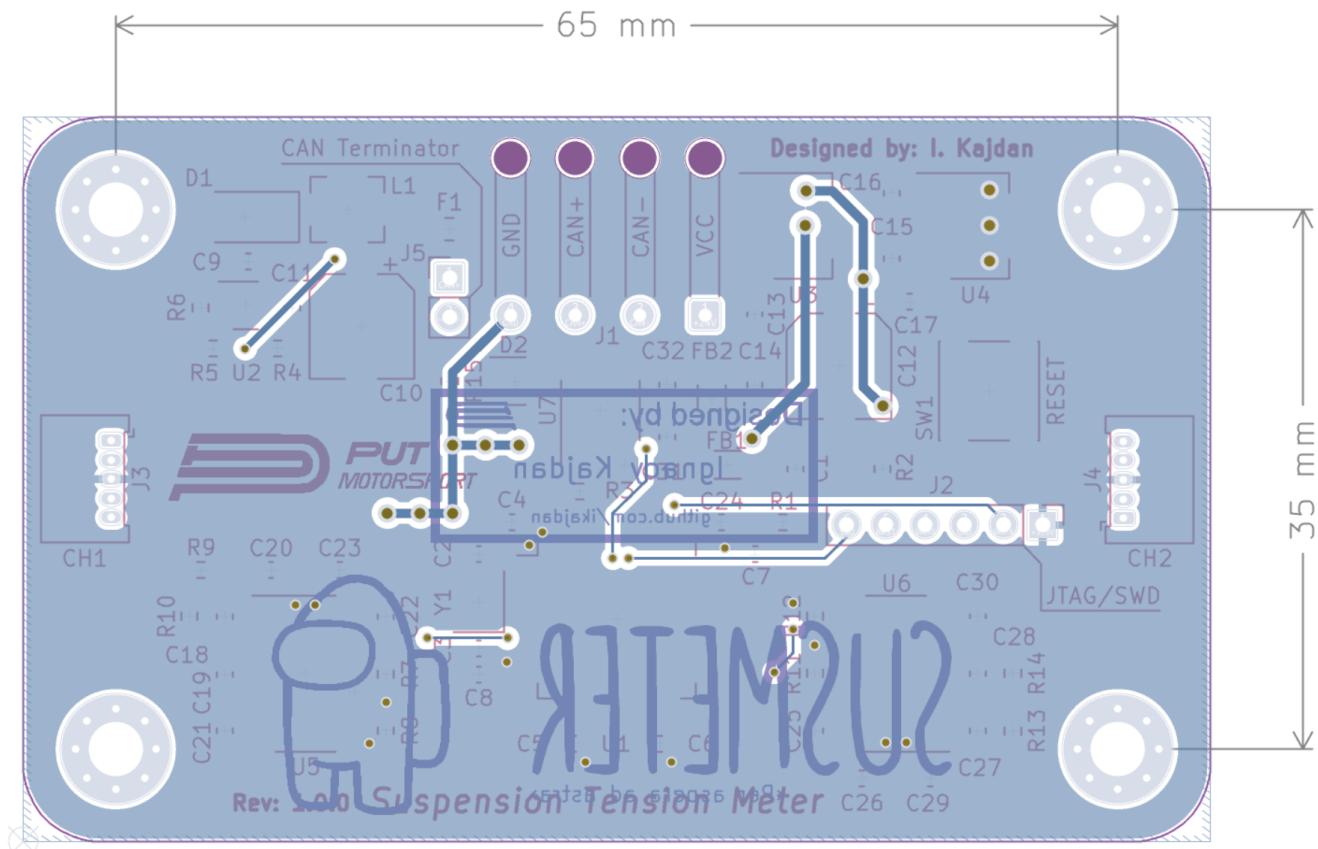
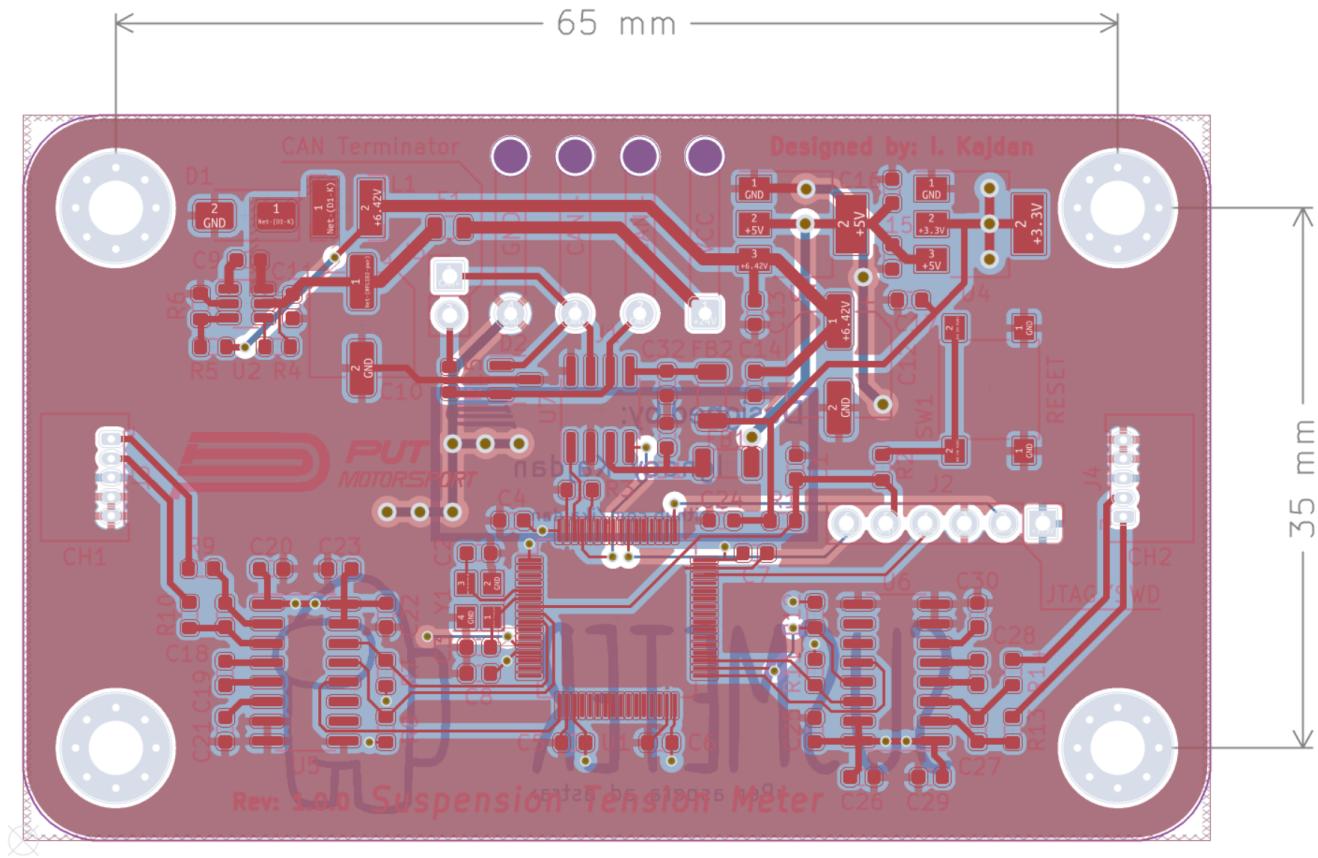
The whole project including both the hardware, and the firmware is open source. The repository is available at [PUT-Motorsport/PUTM_EV_SUSPENSION_TENSION_METER_2023](#).

Schematic

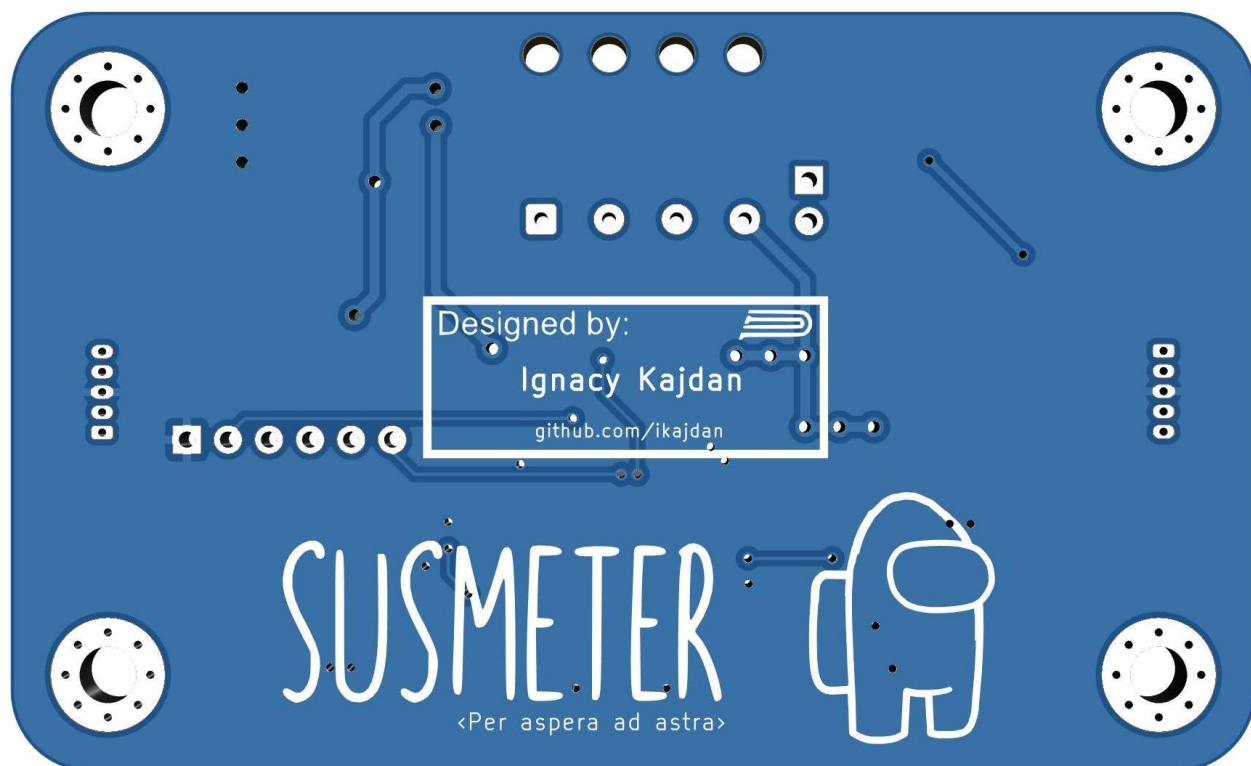
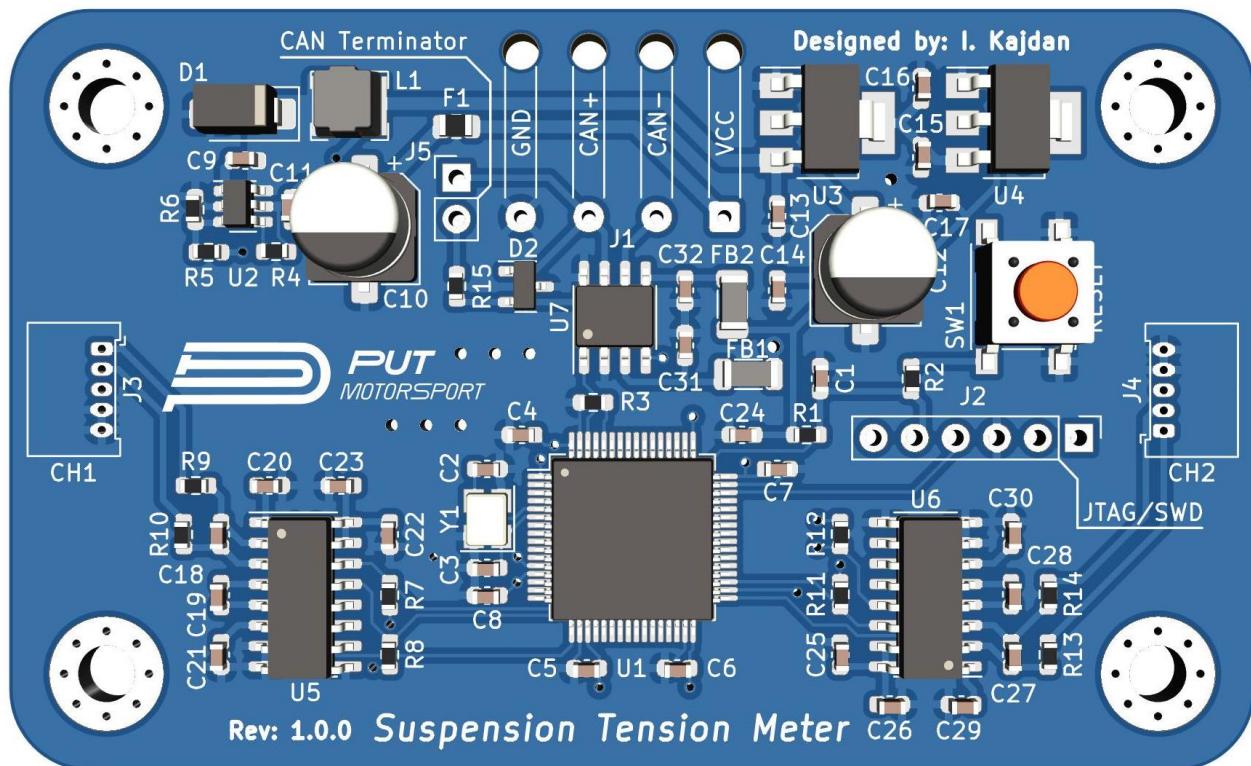




PCB Layout



3D Render



Ordering a PCB from JLCPCB

Now that we've got our PCB design done, it's time to place an order. For that, you just have to go to jlcpcb.com, and click on the "Instant Quote" button.

The screenshot shows the JLCPCB homepage. At the top, there are navigation links for Live Chat, Need Help?, Ship to, Why JLCPCB?, Capabilities, Support, Resources, Order now, My file, Sign in, and a shopping cart icon with 0 items. Below this is a banner for "Mechatronics Components Available Now!" featuring various industrial components like a wheel, handle, and sensors. On the left, there's a "Shop Now >" button. In the center, there are input fields for "Add gerber file", "Layers" (set to 2), "Dimensions" (100 x 100 mm), "Quantity" (5), and a prominent blue "Instant Quote" button which is highlighted with a red border. Below these fields, there's a news banner about Flex PCBs.

You don't have to worry about any settings for now — you will be able to adjust every option on the next page.

The screenshot shows the JLCPCB order configuration page. At the top, there are tabs for Standard PCB/PCBA (which is selected and highlighted with a red border), Advanced PCB/PCBA, SMT-Stencil, and 3D/CNC. To the right are buttons for USD, Order now, My file, Sign in, and a shopping cart icon with 0 items. Below this is a large central area for uploading a Gerber file, with a red border around the "Add gerber file" button. It also includes instructions for ordering, upload history, and a note about accepting zip or rar files up to 20 MB. On the left, there are dropdown menus for Base Material (FR-4, Flex, Aluminum, Copper Core, Rogers, PTFE Teflon), Layers (set to 2), Dimensions (100 x 100 mm), PCB Qty (5), and Product Type (Industrial/Consumer electronics, Aerospace, Medical). On the right, there are sections for Charge Details (Special Offer \$2.00, Via Covering \$0.00, Surface Finish \$0.00), Build Time (2 days \$0.00, 24 hours \$7.10), Calculated Price (\$4.00 - \$2.00 = \$2.00), and Shipping Estimate (EuroPacket \$4.10, 6-10 business days, 0.29kg). A "SAVE TO CART" button is located at the bottom right of the main form area.

Upload the production files using the “Add Gerber File” button. After that, you will be able to see a preview of your PCB.

Some options will be adjusted according to your design.

The screenshot shows the JLCPCB website's PCB configuration interface. At the top, there are tabs for "Standard PCB/PCBA", "Advanced PCB/PCBA", "SMT-Stencil", and "3D/CNC". Below the tabs, two images of the PCB are shown: a blue PCB with various components and a white PCB with a blue solder mask labeled "SUSMETER". A message indicates "Detected 2 layer board of 47x77mm(1.85x3.03 inches)". On the left, configuration options include "Base Material" (FR-4), "Layers" (set to 2), "Dimensions" (77mm x 47mm), "PCB Qty" (5), and "Product Type" (Industrial/Consumer electronics). On the right, "Charge Details" show a special offer of \$2.00, and a "Calculated Price" of \$4.00-\$2.00. A red box highlights the "SAVE TO CART" button. Below it, shipping details show "EuroPacket" delivery in 6-10 business days at \$4.10 for 0.18kg.

Next, you can change the settings according to your preferences. Every option here is clearly marked and described. Hover over a question mark to get a detailed description.

After the last glance at your PCB using the “Gerber View” function, you can now place your order.

In the case of this project, it was only \$2 for 5, 2-layers PCBs! It only takes around 3 to 4 days to manufacture such board. (The production time has been extended from the usual 2 days due to the choice of a custom solder mask color).

To place the order, click on the “SAVE TO CART” button. Fast and cheap, right?

Why we Choose JLCPCB

JLCPCB (Shenzhen JLC Electronics Co., Ltd.), is one of the largest PCB prototype enterprises in China and a high-tech manufacturer specializing in a quick PCB prototype and small-batch PCB production. JLCPCB's dedication to quality is unmistakable. We are delighted to have found a partner that combines **premium quality with low prices and fast production times**.

In short, if you're looking for a PCB fabrication house that offers a winning combination of top-notch results, low prices, and rapid production times, look no further than JLCPCB. Our PCB projects have never been more efficient and cost-effective, and we are thrilled with the experience.

Thank you, JLCPCB! ❤️