Data620 Testing Device - Project Overview

The Data620 computer is a unique and fascinating machine built using analog electronic circuitry. It employs a versalogic signaling scheme where a logical **false** or bit value **0** is represented by **0V**, while a logical **true** or bit value **1** is represented by **-12V**. This unconventional voltage scheme sets it apart from many modern digital systems.

Constructed from basic electronic components such as resistors, capacitors, diodes, and transistors, the Data620's entire system is divided into a large number of printed circuit boards (PCBs). Each PCB contains analog circuitry, and it is known that some of these boards may include faulty or erroneous components.

Currently, there is no dedicated testing device available to verify the functionality of these PCBs. Such a device would be highly valuable to anyone restoring or working with the Data620, as it would allow for systematic troubleshooting and repair.

This project represents the first draft towards developing such a testing device. It includes preliminary hardware design concepts and the necessary SPICE simulations to understand and verify the circuitry. However, at this stage, only the hardware draft exists.

Software development for this testing device is in its early stages and will proceed following the completion of a stable hardware version. It also awaits the reverse engineering efforts of the DATA620 PCBs carried out by third parties.

This project is currently an independent effort (not affiliated with Usagi Electric or other existing Data620 projects). We hold great respect for the significant contributions and extensive work carried out by Usagi Electric and the dedicated volunteers contributing to the Usagi Electric Data620 project. Our development is separate, however, we are more than willing to explore opportunities to collaborate and join forces in the future.

As this is an initial draft, the design undoubtedly contains errors and inaccuracies. We warmly welcome constructive feedback and suggestions from the community to improve and refine the project.

For those interested in learning more about the Data620 itself, the following discussion provides valuable insights and historical context:

- https://retrocomputingforum.com/t/data-620-transistor-minicomputer/3847
- https://github.com/Nakazoto/Data620
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YR9E9ZvHkQE

Thank you to all that participate with **Usagi Electric** for your interest and support in preserving this remarkable piece of computing history.

License Overview

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This project contains software, hardware designs, and documentation. Each part is licensed under terms appropriate to its nature. You are free to use, modify, and distribute each component under its respective license terms.

Hardware Designs

The schematics, PCB layouts, and other hardware design source files are licensed under the **CERN Open Hardware Licence Version 2 - Strongly Reciprocal (CERN-OHL-S v2.0)**.

See CERN-OHL-S for the full text.

Software

The controller source code, build scripts, and related software files are licensed under the **MIT License**.

See MIT for the full text.

Documentation

The written documentation, guides, and non-code instructional materials are licensed under the **Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial Share Alike 4.0 International (CC-NC-SA 4.0)** license.

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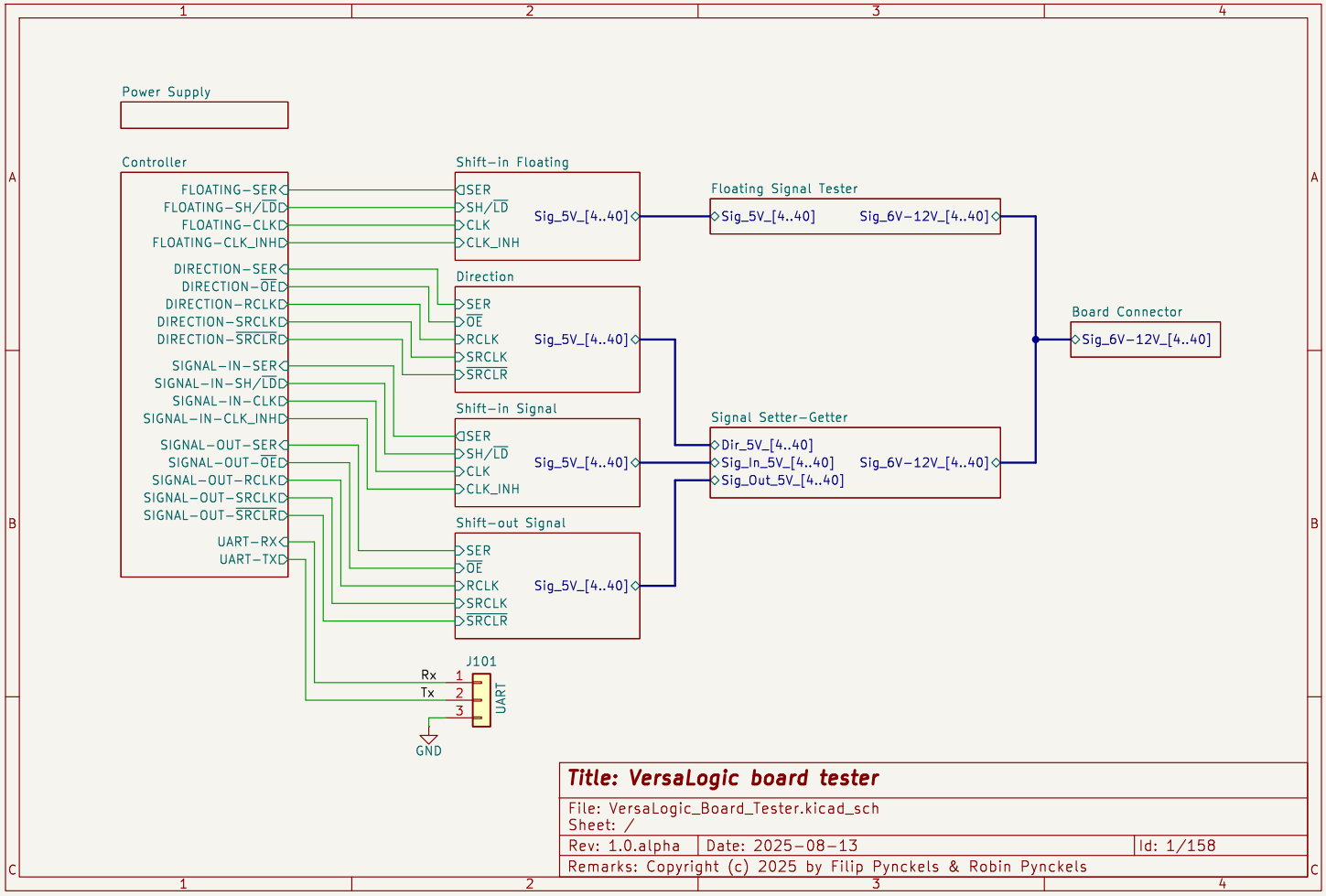
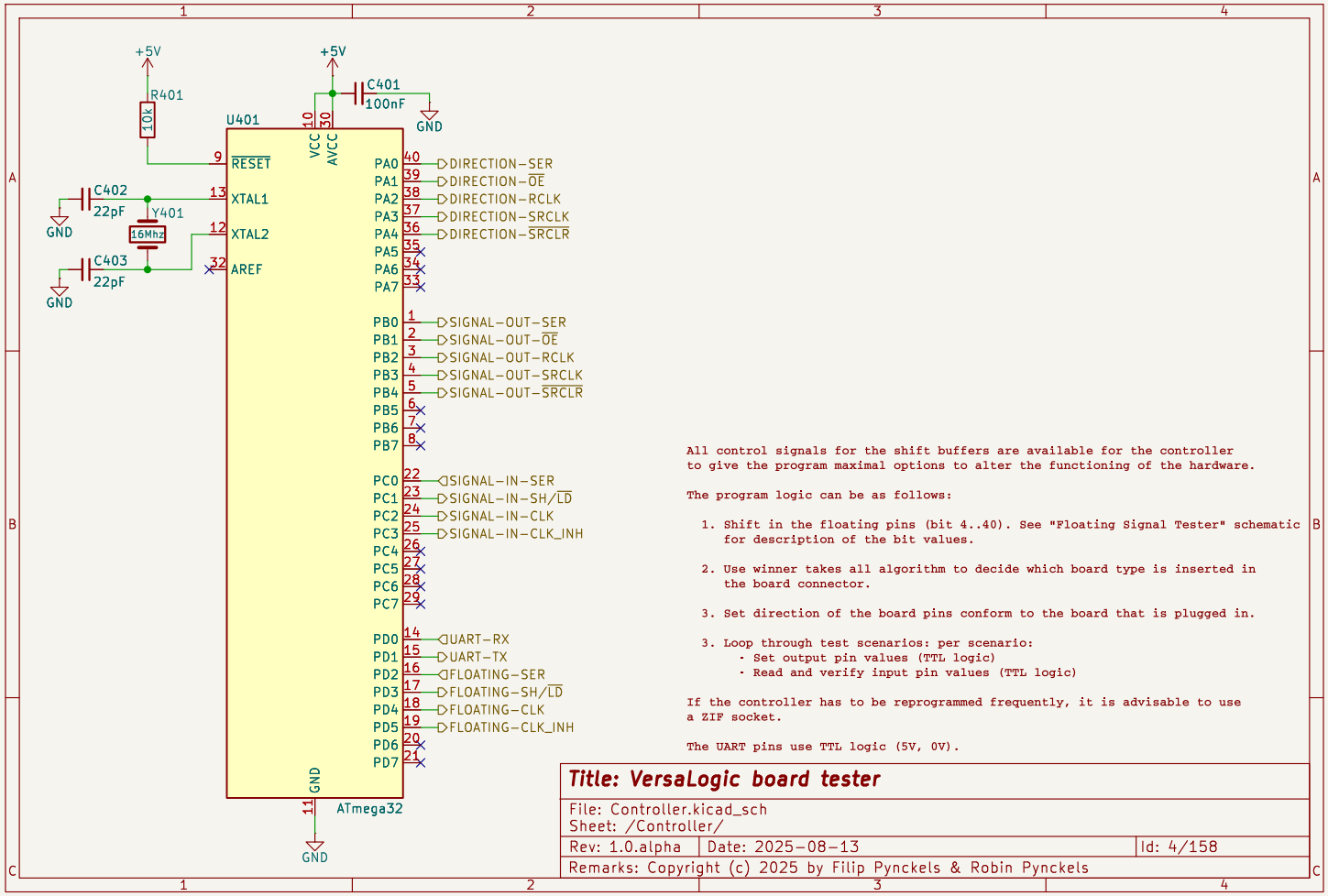

Power Supply
Controller
FLOATING-SER
FLOATING-SH/LD
FLOATING-CLK
FLOATING-CLK_INH
DIRECTION-SER
DIRECTION-OE
DIRECTION-RCLK
DIRECTION-SRCLK
DIRECTION-SRCLR
SIGNAL-IN-SER
SIGNAL-IN-SH/LD
SIGNAL-IN-CLK
SIGNAL-IN-CLK_INH
SIGNAL-OUT-SER
SIGNAL-OUT-OE
SIGNAL-OUT-RCLK
SIGNAL-OUT-SRCLK
SIGNAL-OUT-SRCLR
UART-RX
UART-TX
Shift-in Floating
SER
SH/LD
CLK
CLK_INH
Sig_5V_[4..40]
Floating Signal Tester
Sig_5V_[4..40]
Sig_6V-12V_[4..40]
Direction
SER
OE
RCLK
SRCLK
SRCLR
Sig_5V_[4..40]
Board Connector
Sig_6V-12V_[4..40]
Shift-in Signal
SER
SH/LD
CLK
CLK_INH
Sig_5V_[4..40]
Signal Setter-Getter
Dir_5V_[4..40]
Sig_In_5V_[4..40]
Sig_Out_5V_[4..40]
Sig_6V-12V_[4..40]
Shift-out Signal
SER
OE
RCLK
SRCLK
SRCLR
Sig_5V_[4..40]
J101
Rx
Tx
1
2
3
UART
GND
Title: VersaLogic board tester
File: VersaLogic_Board_Tester.kicad_sch
Sheet: /
Rev: 1.0.alpha
Date: 2025-08-13
Id: 1/158
Remarks: Copyright (c) 2025 by Filip Pynckels & Robin Pynckels


+5V
R401
10k
U401
C401
100nF
GND
VCC
AVCC
RESET
XTAL1
XTAL2
AREF
C402
22pF
Y401
16Mhz
C403
22pF
PA0 DIRECTION-SER
PA1 DIRECTION-OE
PA2 DIRECTION-RCLK
PA3 DIRECTION-SRCLK
PA4 DIRECTION-SRCLR
PB0 SIGNAL-OUT-SER
PB1 SIGNAL-OUT-OE
PB2 SIGNAL-OUT-RCLK
PB3 SIGNAL-OUT-SRCLK
PB4 SIGNAL-OUT-SRCLR
PC0 SIGNAL-IN-SER
PC1 SIGNAL-IN-SH/LD
PC2 SIGNAL-IN-CLK
PC3 SIGNAL-IN-CLK_INH
PD0 UART-RX
PD1 UART-TX
PD2 FLOATING-SER
PD3 FLOATING-SH/LD
PD4 FLOATING-CLK
PD5 FLOATING-CLK_INH
ATmega32
All control signals for the shift buffers are available for the controller
to give the program maximal options to alter the functioning of the hardware.
The program logic can be as follows:
1. Shift in the floating pins (bit 4..40). See "Floating Signal Tester" schematic for description of the bit values.
2. Use winner takes all algorithm to decide which board type is inserted in the board connector.
3. Set direction of the board pins conform to the board that is plugged in.
3. Loop through test scenarios: per scenario:
- Set output pin values (TTL logic)
- Read and verify input pin values (TTL logic)
If the controller has to be reprogrammed frequently, it is advisable to use a ZIF socket.
The UART pins use TTL logic (5V, 0V).
Title: VersaLogic board tester
File: Controller.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Controller/
Rev: 1.0.alpha
Date: 2025-08-13
Id: 4/158
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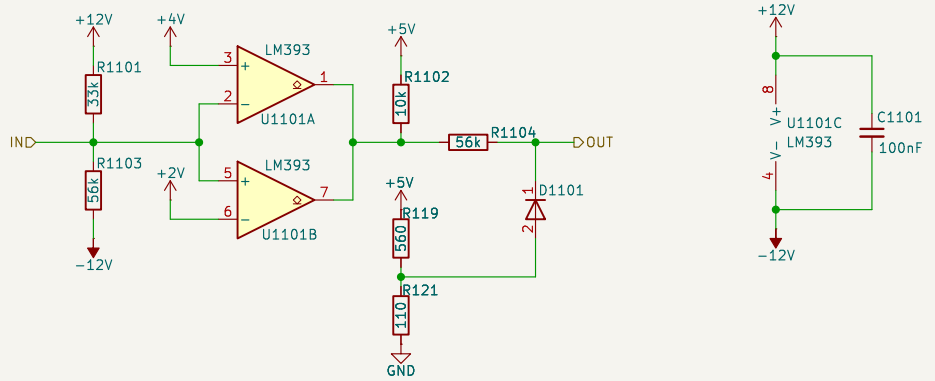

Input - Tri-state (0V, -12V, floating)
Can be pulled up to +6V when short circuit on board under test

Output - 5V in case input is floating (due to open collector comparator and pull-up resistor)
GND in case input is not floating (due to current limited clamping diode)

Title: VersaLogic board tester		
File: Window_Comparator.kicad_sch Sheet: /Floating Signal Tester/Window Comp 4/		
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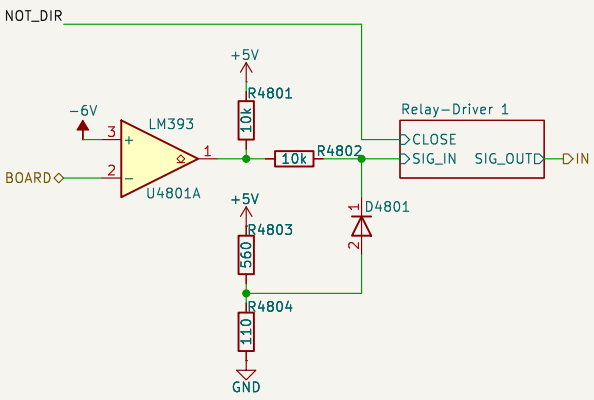
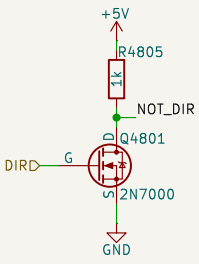
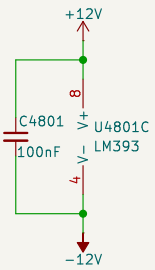
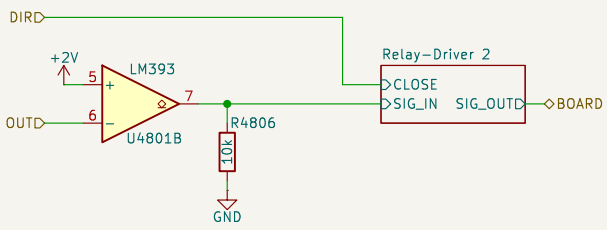
Getter (Board => Controller)







Setter (Controller => Board)



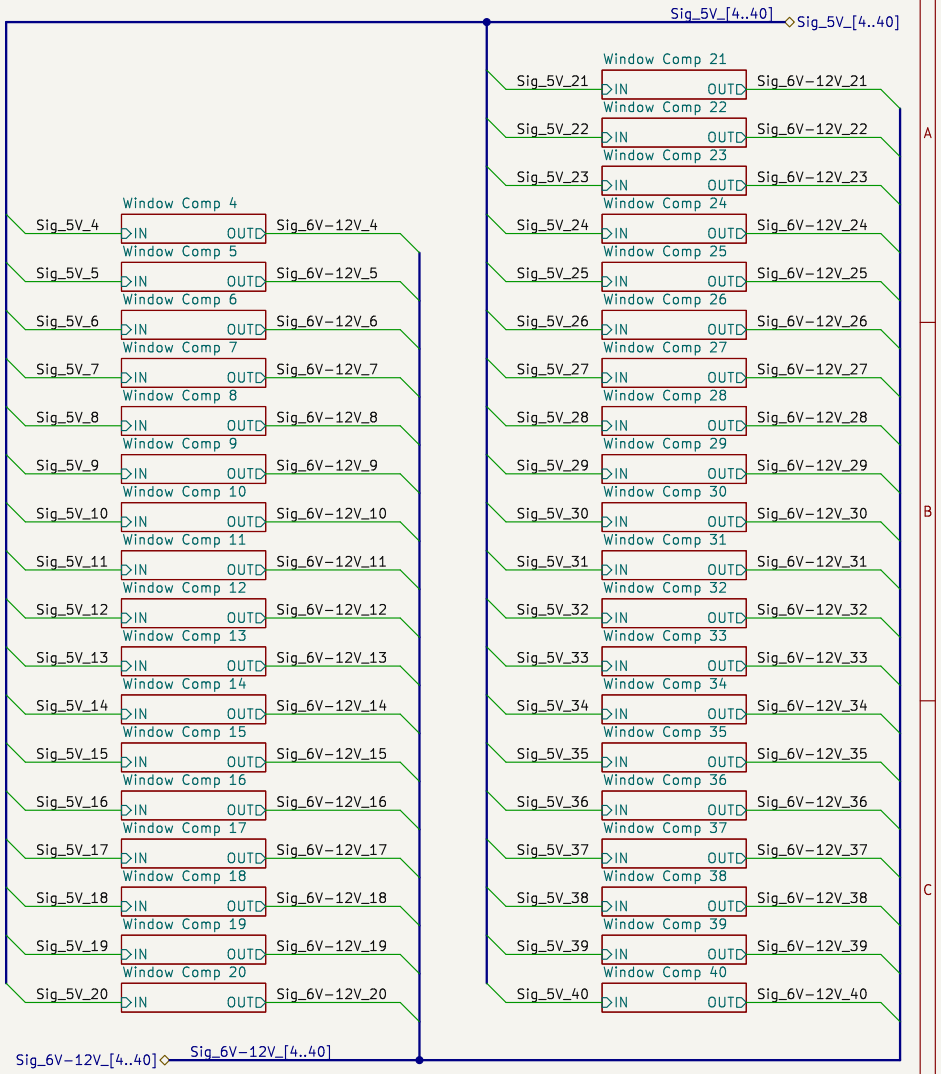

```
-------------------------------------------
--- Direction is 0 (input to controller) ---
-------------------------------------------

If DIR = 0V Then BOARD signal is
                    * scaled from [-12V-true, 0V-false] to [0V-false, 5V-true]
                    * routed to IN pin
                OUT signal is
                    * blocked

-----------------------------------------------
--- Direction is 1 (output from controller) ---
-----------------------------------------------

IF DIR = 5V Then BOARD signal is
                    * blocked
                OUT signal is
                    * scaled from [0V-false, 5V-true] to [-12V-true, 0V-false]
                    * routed to BOARD pin
```

Title: VersaLogic board tester		
File: Setter_Getter.kicad_sch Sheet: /Signal Setter-Getter/Setter-Getter 4/		
Rev: 1.0.alpha	Date: 2025-08-13	Id: 48/158
Remarks: Copyright (c) 2025 by Filip Pynckels & Robin Pynckels		



Input - Tri-state bus (0V, -12V, floating)
Can be pulled up to +6V when short circuit on board under test

Output - Digital bus (TTL logic): 5V (true) in case input is floating
GND (false) in case output is not floating

Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Floating_Signal_Tester.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Floating Signal Tester/

Rev: 1.0.alpha | Date: 2025-08-13 | Id: 9/158

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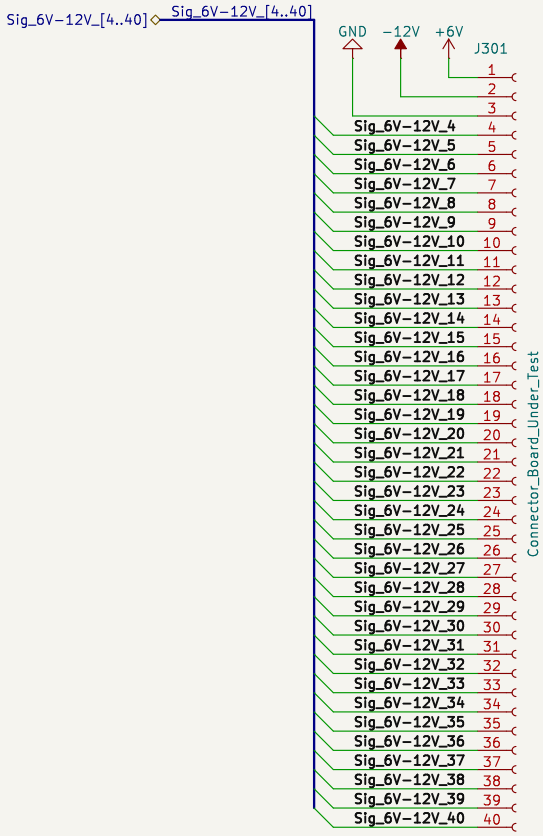

Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Board_Connector.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Board Connector/

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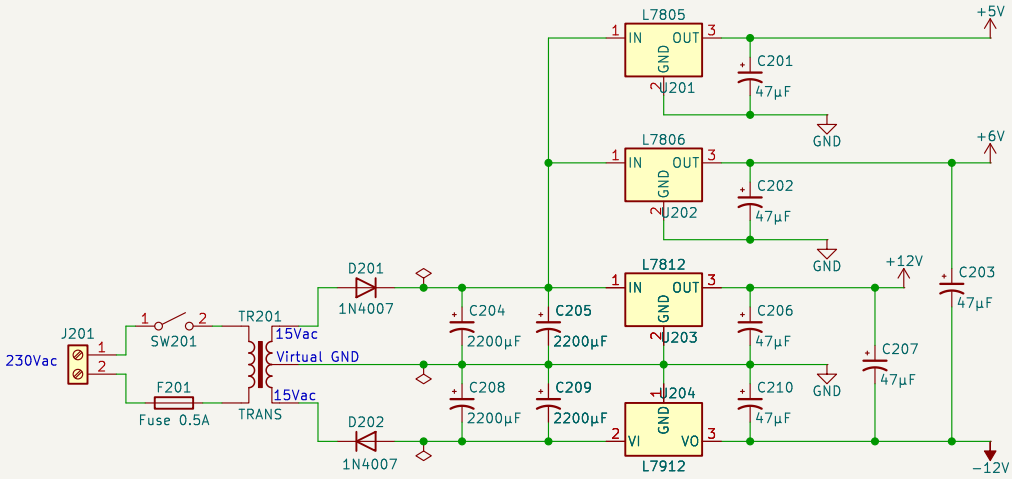
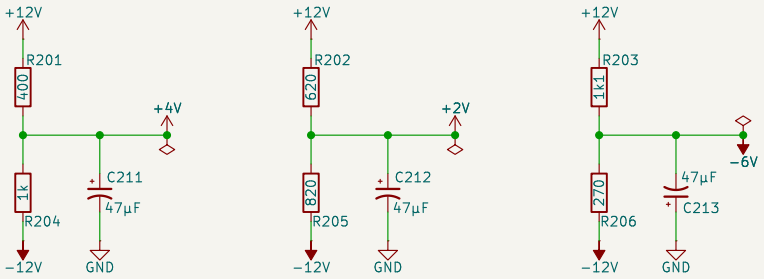
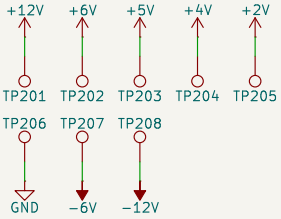


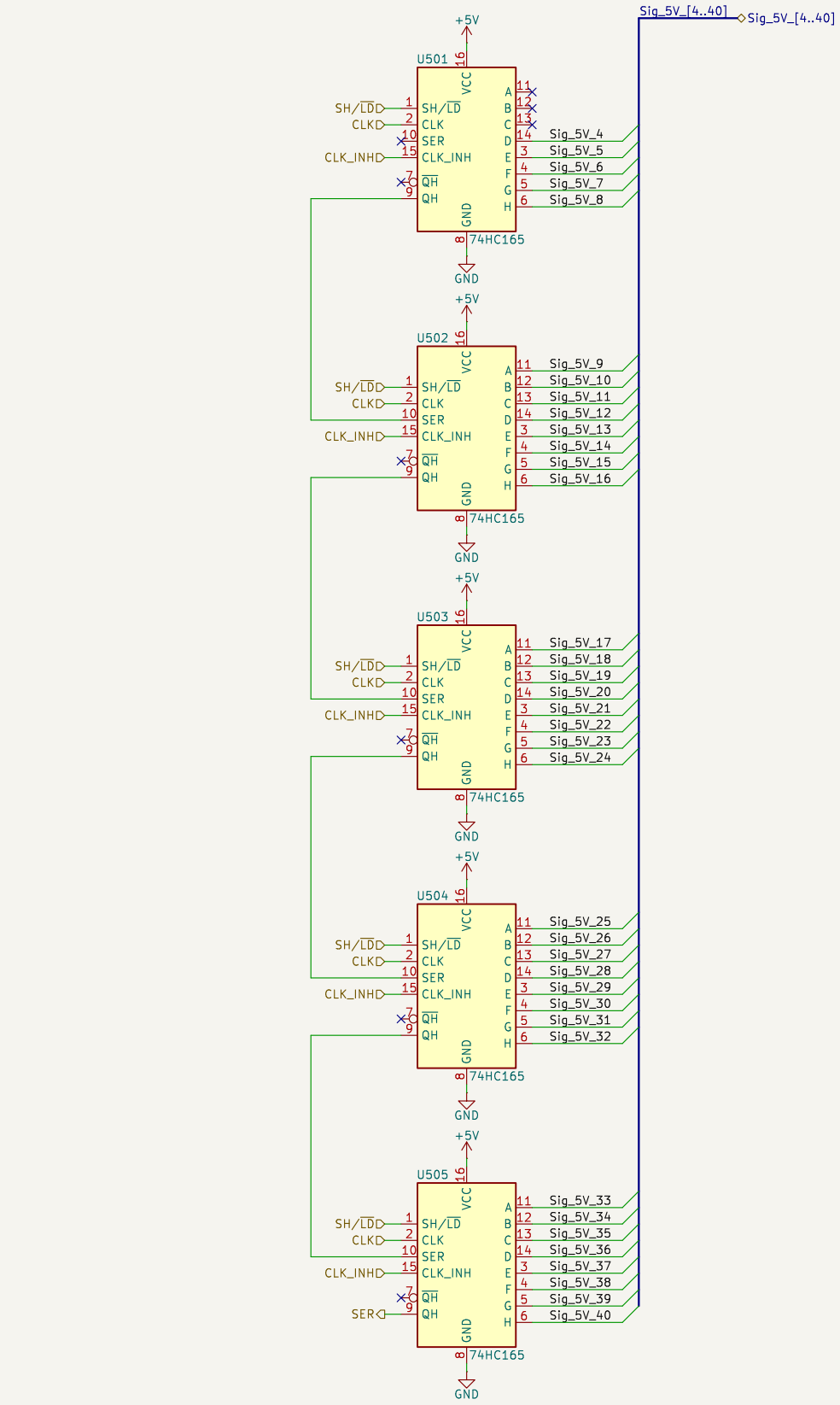


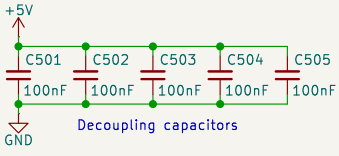



```
+12V - Supply for operational amplifiers       => min 1A   available
 +6V - Supply for board under test             => min 1A   available
 +5V - Supply for controller and logic signals => min 1A   available
 +4V - Voltage to test for floating signals    => max 10mA needed
 +2V - Voltage to test for floating signals    => max 10mA needed
 -6V - Voltage to test for board inverse logic => max 10mA needed
-12V - Supply for board under test             => min 1A   available

Alternative power supply: PC power supply can provide +12V +5V -12V.
                          +6V can be generated with an L7806
                          +4V, +2V, -6V can be generated with voltage divider
```

Title: VersaLogic board tester		
File: Power_Supply.kicad_sch Sheet: /Power Supply/		
Rev: 1.0.alpha	Date: 2025-08-13	Id: 2/158
Remarks: Copyright (c) 2025 by Filip Pynckels & Robin Pynckels		





Input - Parallel input (TTL logic) on digital bus (5V, 0V)
Output - Serial output to controller

All control signals are broken out to the controller to give the program maximal options to alter the functioning of the hardware.

Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Shift_In.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Shift-in Floating/

Rev: 1.0.alpha | Date: 2025-08-13 | Id: 5/158

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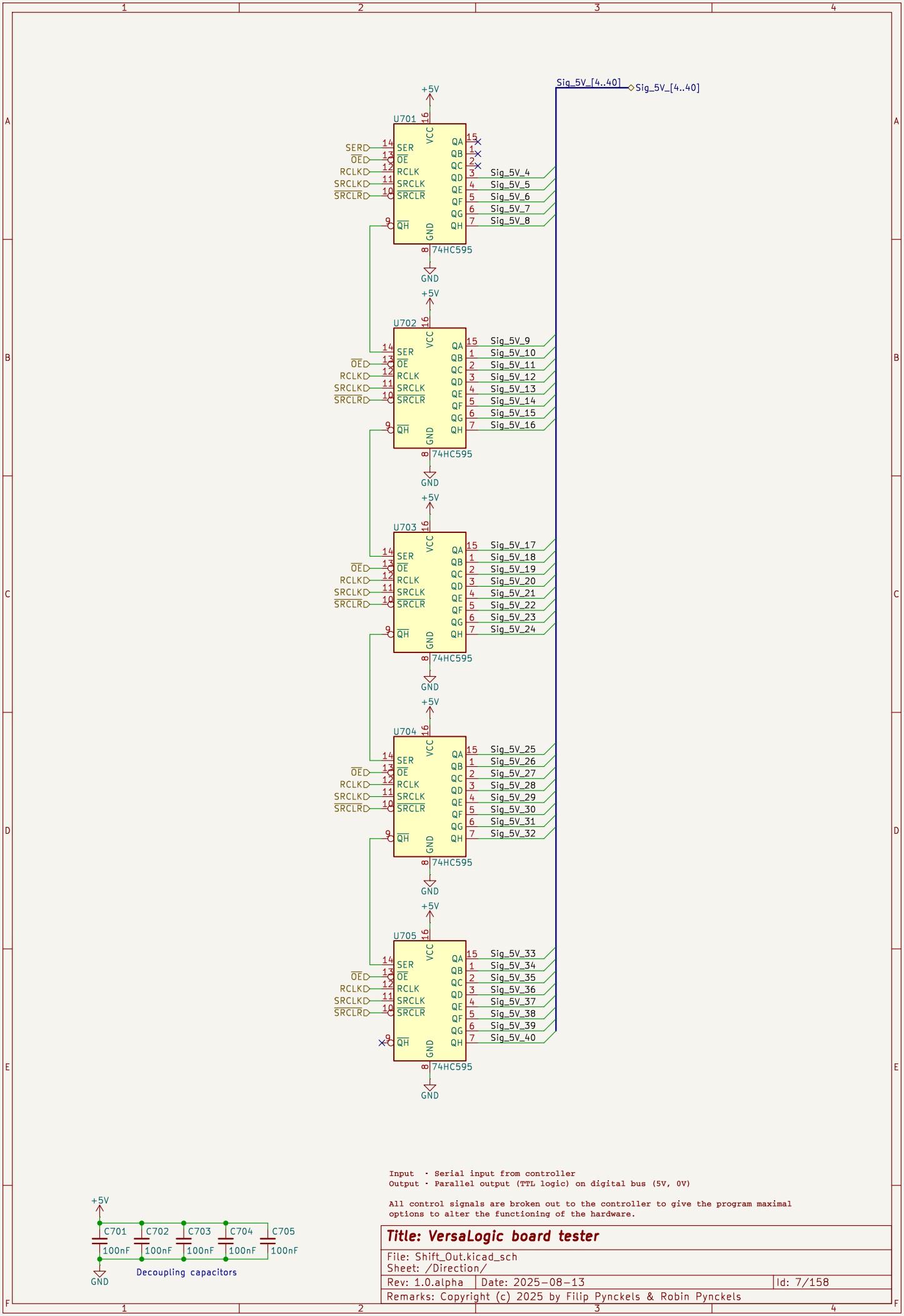
Sig_5V_[4..40]
Sig_5V_[4..40]
U701
U702
U703
U704
U705
74HC595
+5V
GND
SER
OE
RCLK
SRCLK
SRCLR
QH
VCC
QA
QB
QC
QD
QE
QF
QG
Sig_5V_4
Sig_5V_5
Sig_5V_6
Sig_5V_7
Sig_5V_8
Sig_5V_9
Sig_5V_10
Sig_5V_11
Sig_5V_12
Sig_5V_13
Sig_5V_14
Sig_5V_15
Sig_5V_16
Sig_5V_17
Sig_5V_18
Sig_5V_19
Sig_5V_20
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Sig_5V_32
Sig_5V_33
Sig_5V_34
Sig_5V_35
Sig_5V_36
Sig_5V_37
Sig_5V_38
Sig_5V_39
Sig_5V_40
C701
C702
C703
C704
C705
100nF
Decoupling capacitors
Input - Serial input from controller
Output - Parallel output (TTL logic) on digital bus (5V, 0V)
All control signals are broken out to the controller to give the program maximal options to alter the functioning of the hardware.
Title: VersaLogic board tester
File: Shift_Out.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Direction/
Rev: 1.0.alpha
Date: 2025-08-13
Id: 7/158
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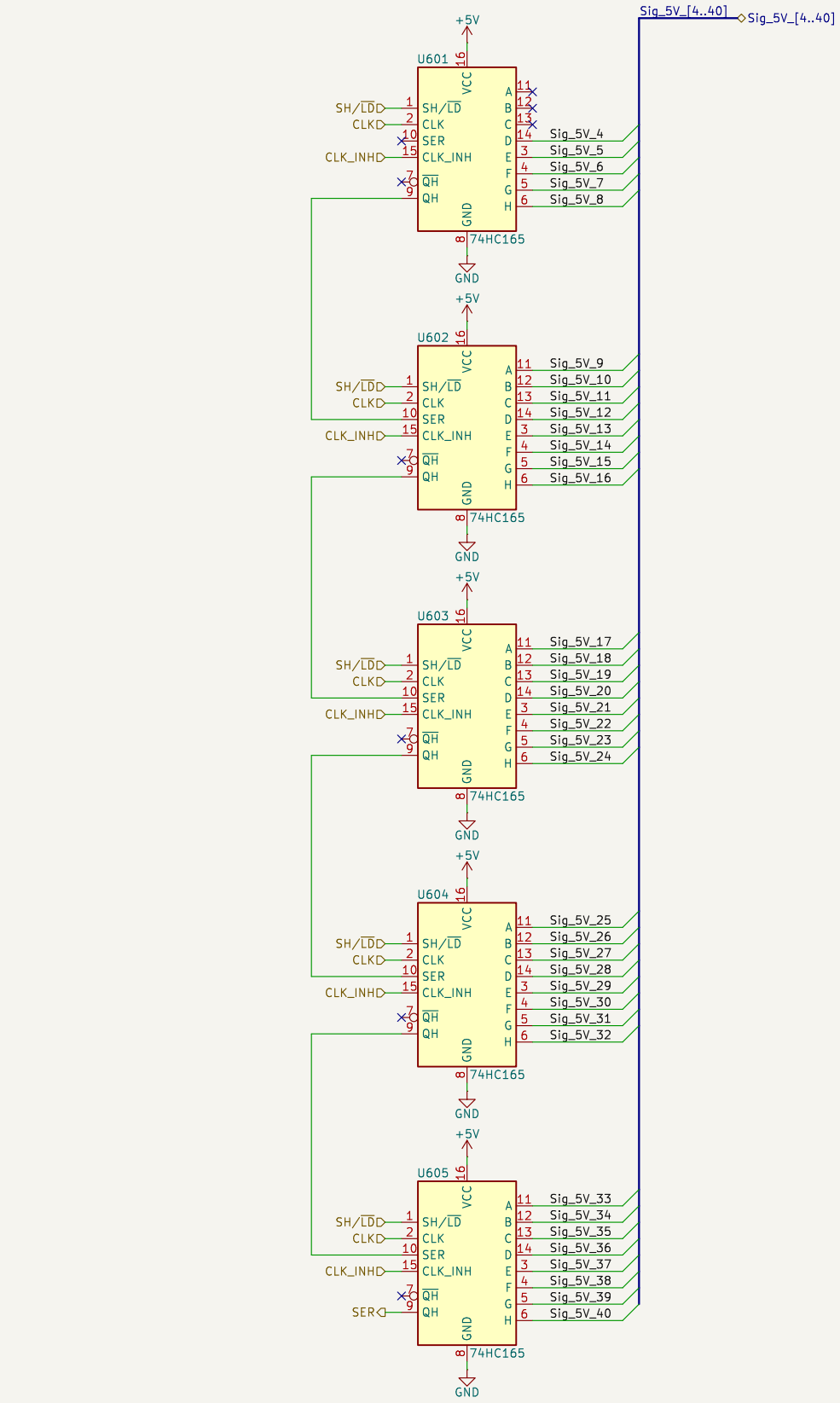

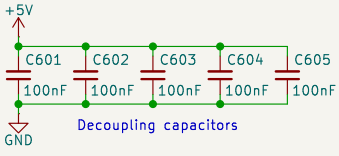

Input - Parallel input (TTL logic) on digital bus (5V, 0V)
Output - Serial output to controller

All control signals are broken out to the controller to give the program maximal options to alter the functioning of the hardware.

Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Shift_In.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Shift-in Signal/

Rev: 1.0.alpha | Date: 2025-08-13 | Id: 6/158

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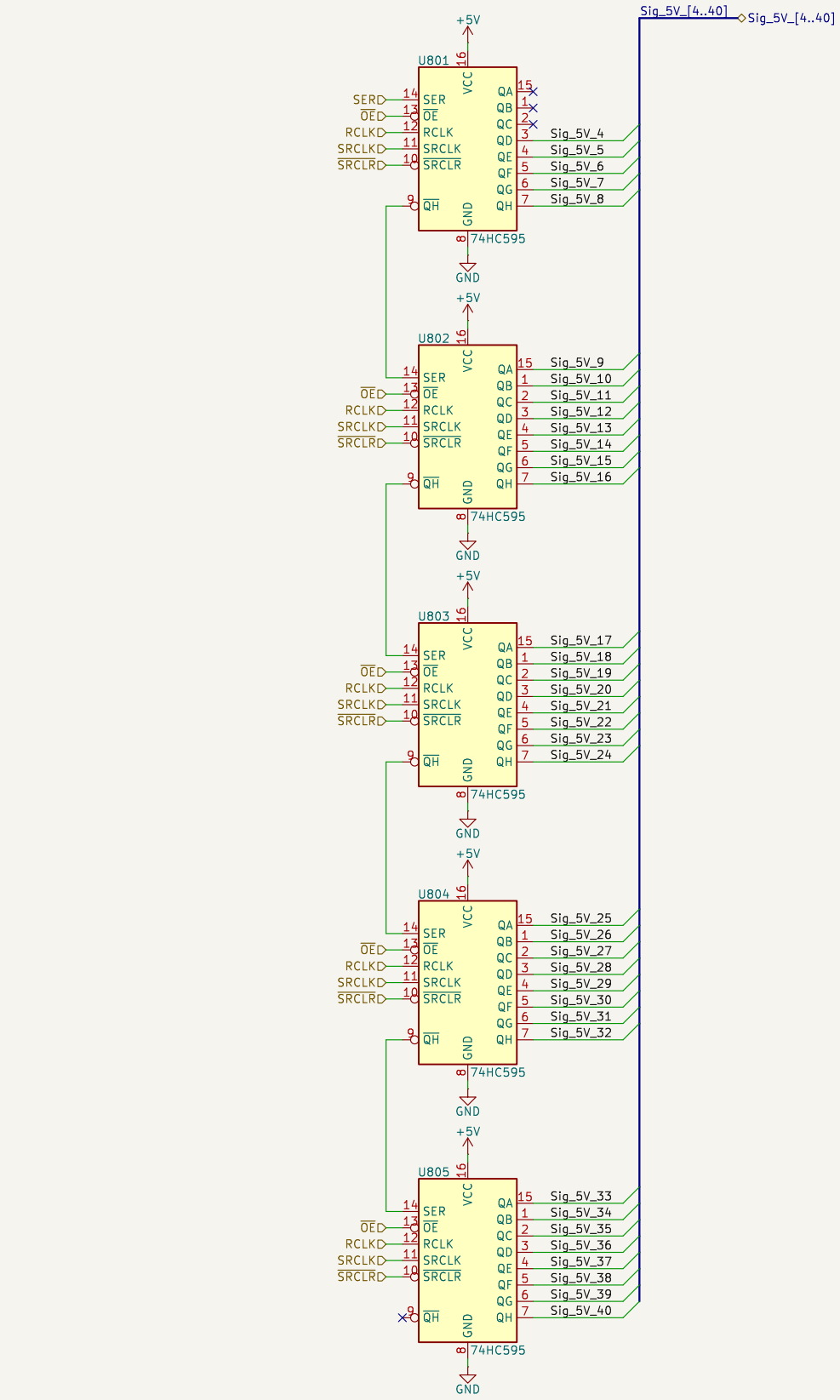

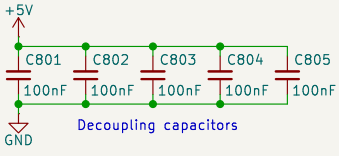

Input - Serial input from controller
Output - Parallel output (TTL logic) on digital bus (5V, 0V)

All control signals are broken out to the controller to give the program maximal options to alter the functioning of the hardware.

Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Shift_Out.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Shift-out Signal/

Rev: 1.0.alpha | Date: 2025-08-13 | Id: 8/158

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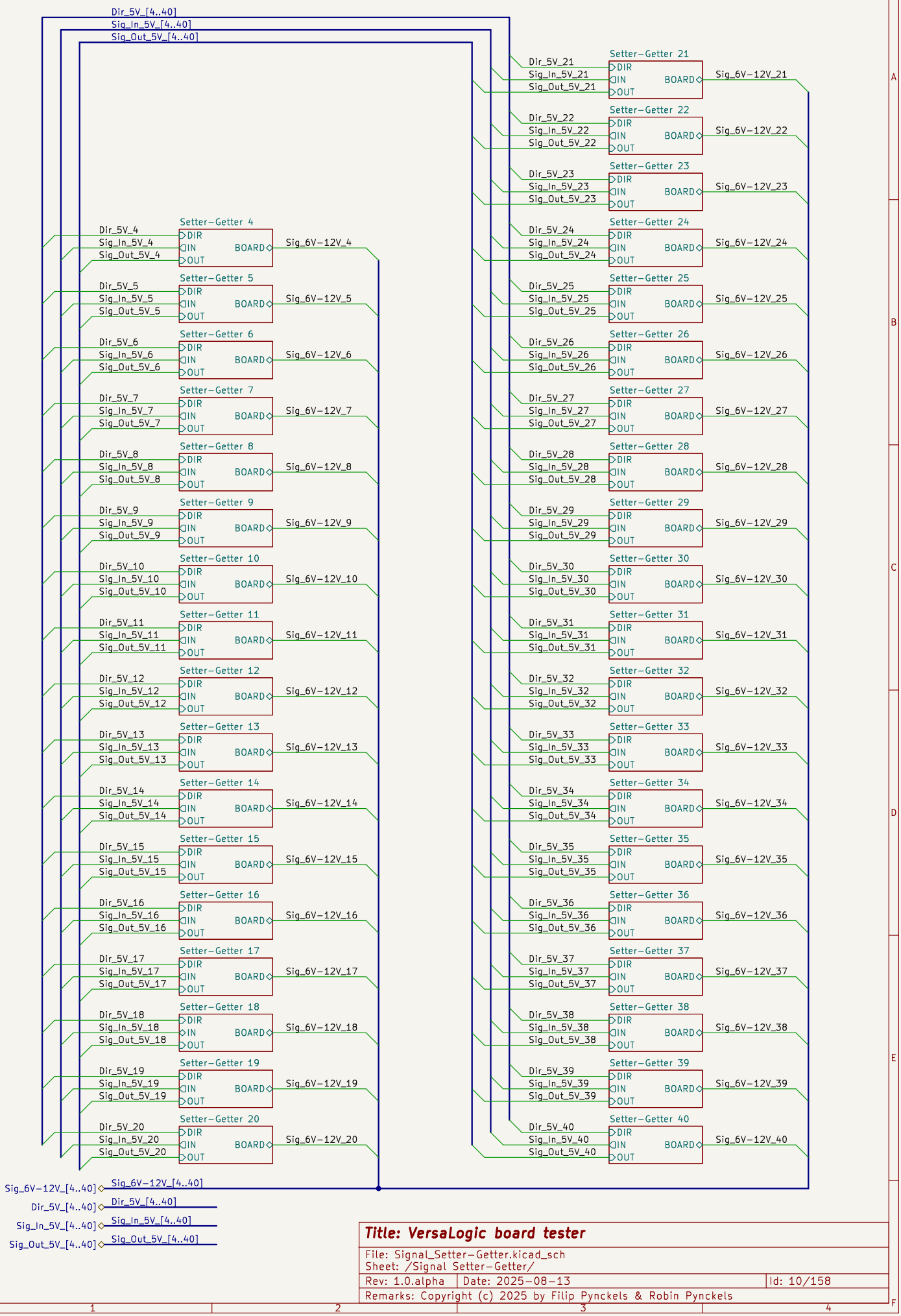

Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Signal_Setter-Getter.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Signal Setter-Getter/

Rev: 1.0.alpha | Date: 2025-08-13 | Id: 10/158

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