Data620 Testing Device - Project Overview

The **Data620 computer** is a unique machine built entirely with analog electronic circuitry. It uses a **VersaLOGIC signaling scheme**, where a logical **0** is represented by **0 V**, and a logical **1** is represented by **-12 V**. This unconventional voltage scheme distinguishes it from modern digital systems and makes troubleshooting its boards particularly challenging.

The Data620 is constructed from standard electronic components—resistors, capacitors, diodes, and transistors—across a large number of printed circuit boards (PCBs). Some of these boards may include faulty components, and currently, there is **no dedicated testing device** to verify their functionality.

This project aims to develop such a testing device, enabling systematic diagnostics and repair of Data620 PCBs.

Current Status

The **conceptual design** of the VersaLOGIC board tester is now **complete, simulated, and validated** through multiple proofs of concept. All the heavy lifting on the theoretical side is done.

A more detailed status report can be found on the status page.

The remaining work primarily focuses on:

- **PCB design** – to enable practical testing of Data620 boards.
- **Software development** – implementing the testing logic for the board tester.

In short, the foundation is solid, and we are now entering the **"making it real" phase**.

Project Scope

- **Hardware:** Preliminary designs and SPICE simulations are complete, showing that the concept is viable.
- **Software:** Development will proceed now that a stable hardware design exists.
- **Independence:** This project is an independent effort, not affiliated with Usagi Electric or other existing Data620 projects. That said, collaboration opportunities are welcome.

Community & Feedback

As this project is still evolving, **constructive feedback and suggestions** from the community are highly appreciated.

For more context about the Data620 computer:

- Retrocomputing Forum: Data-620 Transistor Minicomputer
- GitHub: Nakazoto/Data620
- YouTube: Data620 Overview

We thank **Usagi Electric** and the community for their ongoing dedication to preserving this remarkable piece of computing history.

License Overview

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

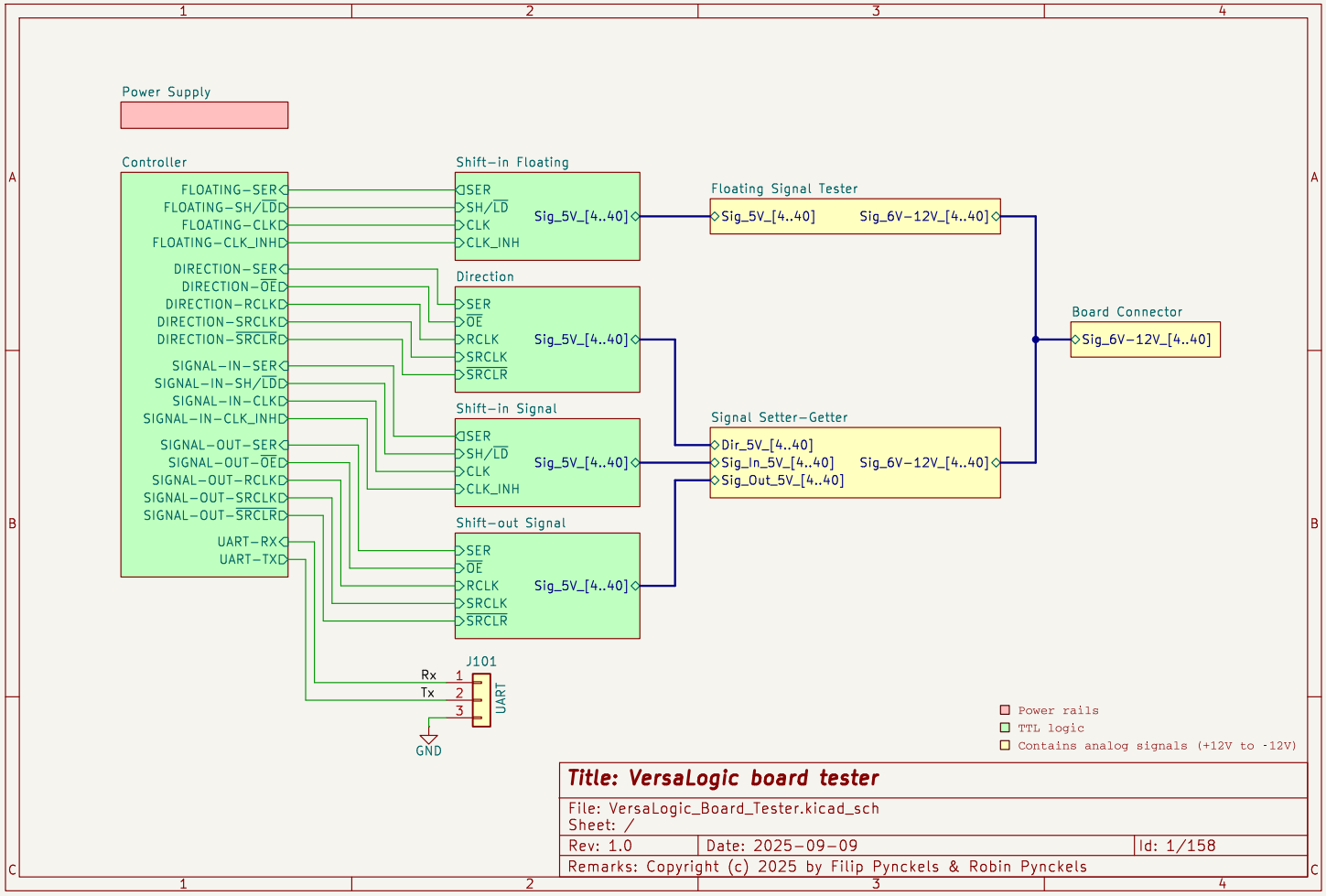
The controller source code, build scripts, and related software files are licensed under the **MIT License**.

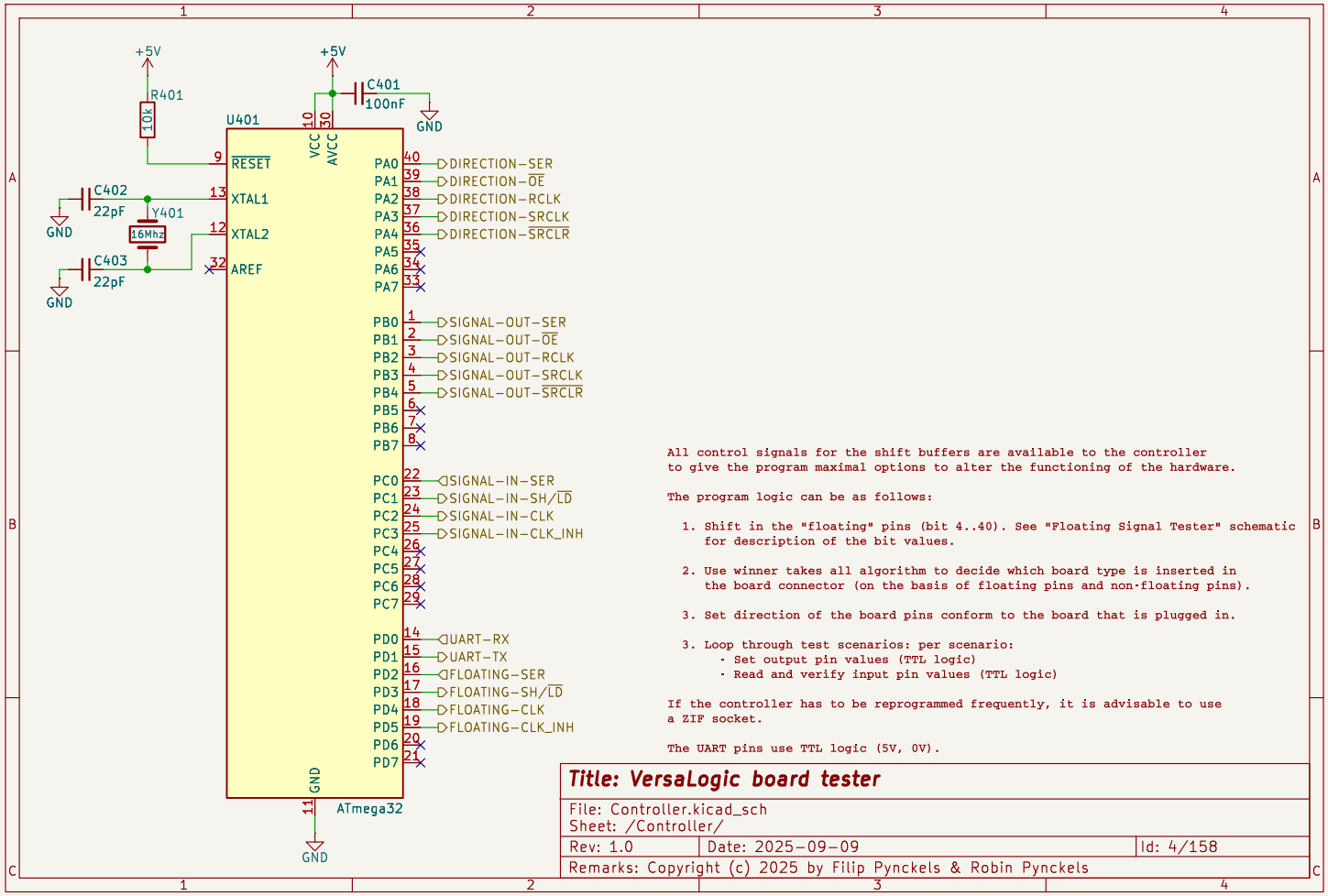
See MIT for the full text.

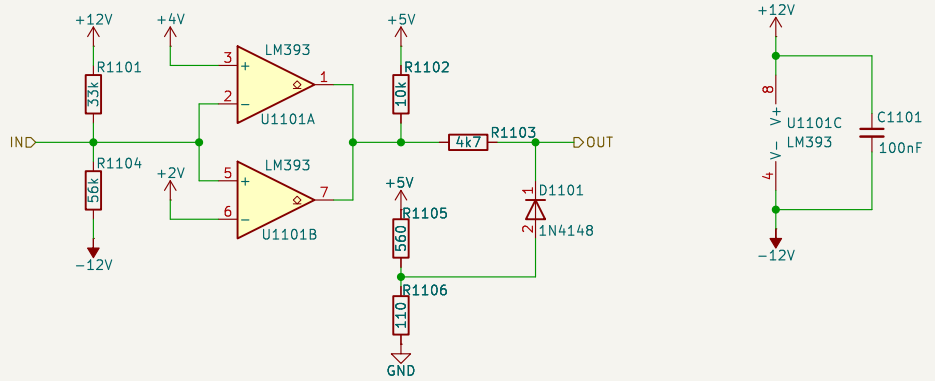
Documentation

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.

See CC-NC-SA for the full text.


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
Power rails
TTL logic
Contains analog signals (+12V to -12V)
Title: VersaLogic board tester
File: VersaLogic_Board_Tester.kicad_sch
Sheet: /
Rev: 1.0
Date: 2025-09-09
Id: 1/158
Remarks: Copyright (c) 2025 by Filip Pynckels & Robin Pynckels


+5V
R401
10k
U401
VCC
AVCC
C401
100nF
GND
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 to 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 (on the basis of floating pins and non-floating pins).
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
Date: 2025-09-09
Id: 4/158
Remarks: Copyright (c) 2025 by Filip Pynckels & Robin Pynckels



Input - Tri-state (0V, -12V, floating)
Can be pulled up to +6V when there is short circuit on the 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/		
Rev: 1.0	Date: 2025-09-09	Id: 11/158
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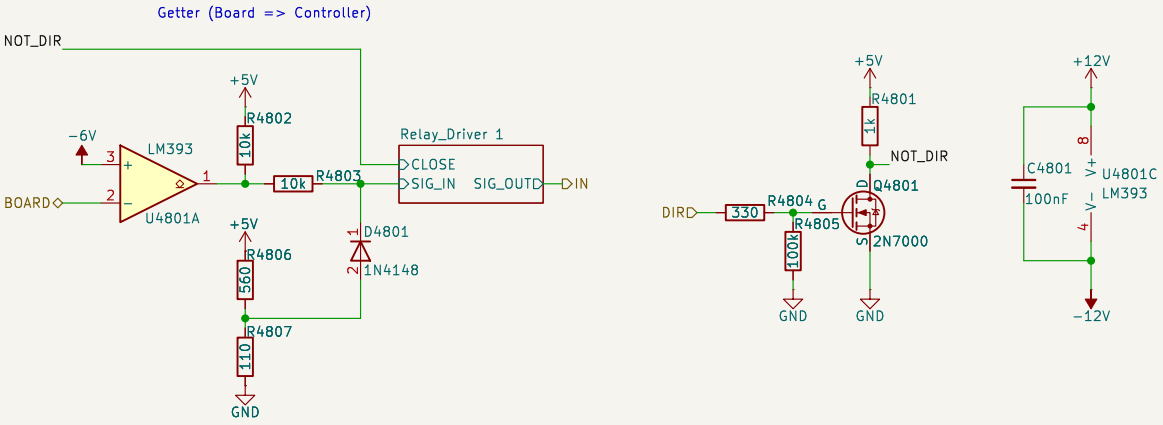


```
-------------------------------------------
--- Direction is 0 (input to controller) ---
-------------------------------------------

If DIR = 0V Then outgoing 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 incoming 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	Date: 2025-09-09	Id: 48/158
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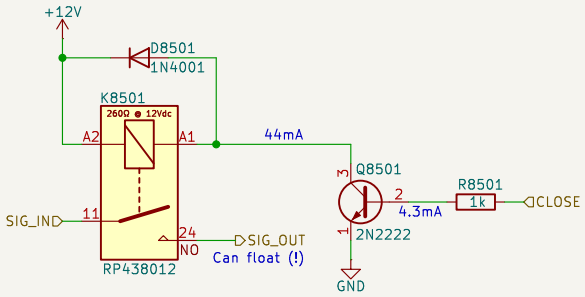
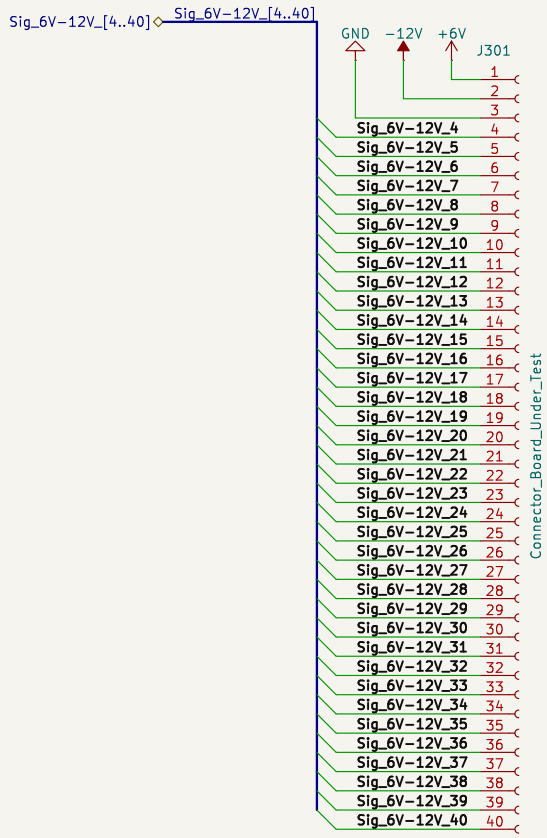



```
If CLOSE = 5V then SIG_IN => SIG_OUT
If CLOSE = 0V then High-Z => SIG_OUT (floating)
Else              Undefined behaviour (!)
```

Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Relay_Driver.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Signal Setter-Getter/Setter-Getter 4/Relay_Driver 1/

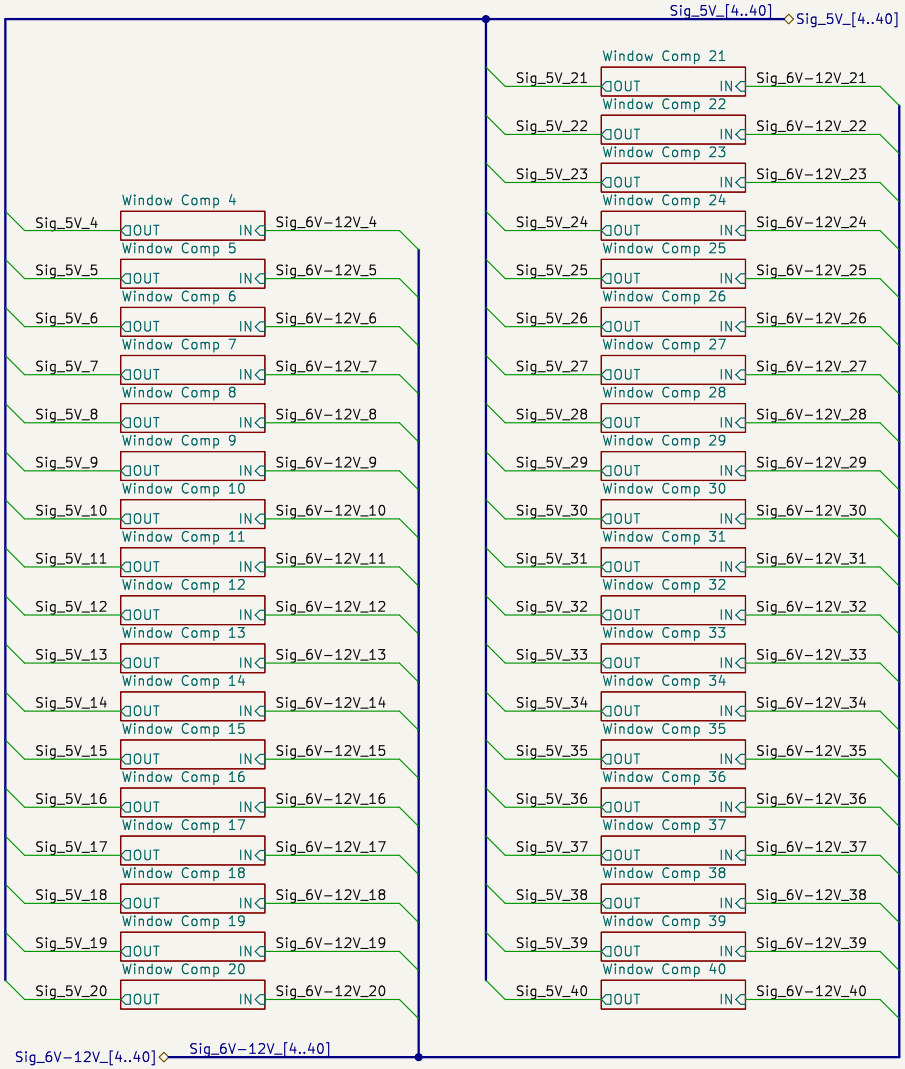
Rev: 1.0	Date: 2025-09-09	Id: 85/158



Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Board_Connector.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Board Connector/

Rev: 1.0 | Date: 2025-09-09 | Id: 3/158



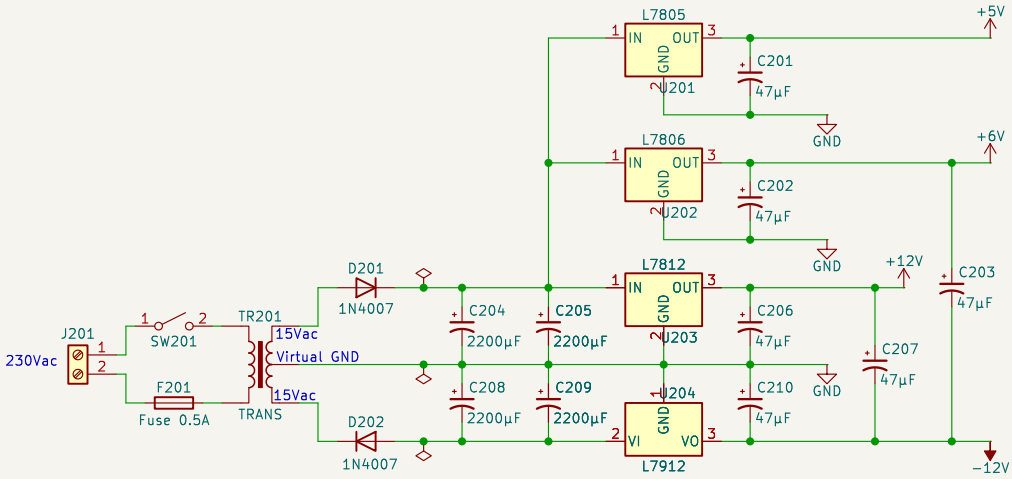
Input - Tri-state bus (0V, -12V, floating)
Can be pulled up to +6V when there is short circuit on the board under test

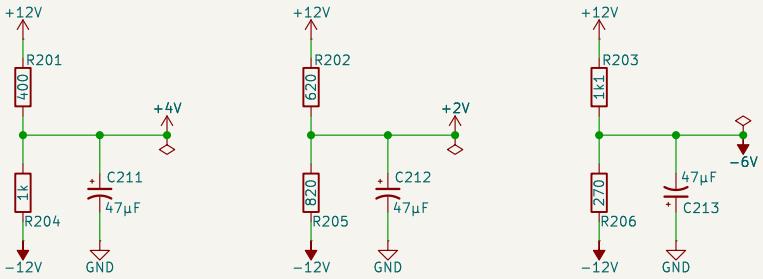
Output - Digital bus (TTL logic): 5V (true) in case input is floating
GND (false) in case output is not floating

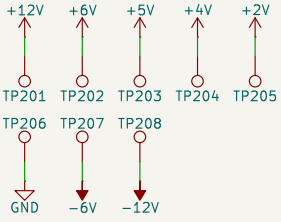
Title: VersaLogic board tester

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

Rev: 1.0 | Date: 2025-09-09 | Id: 9/158





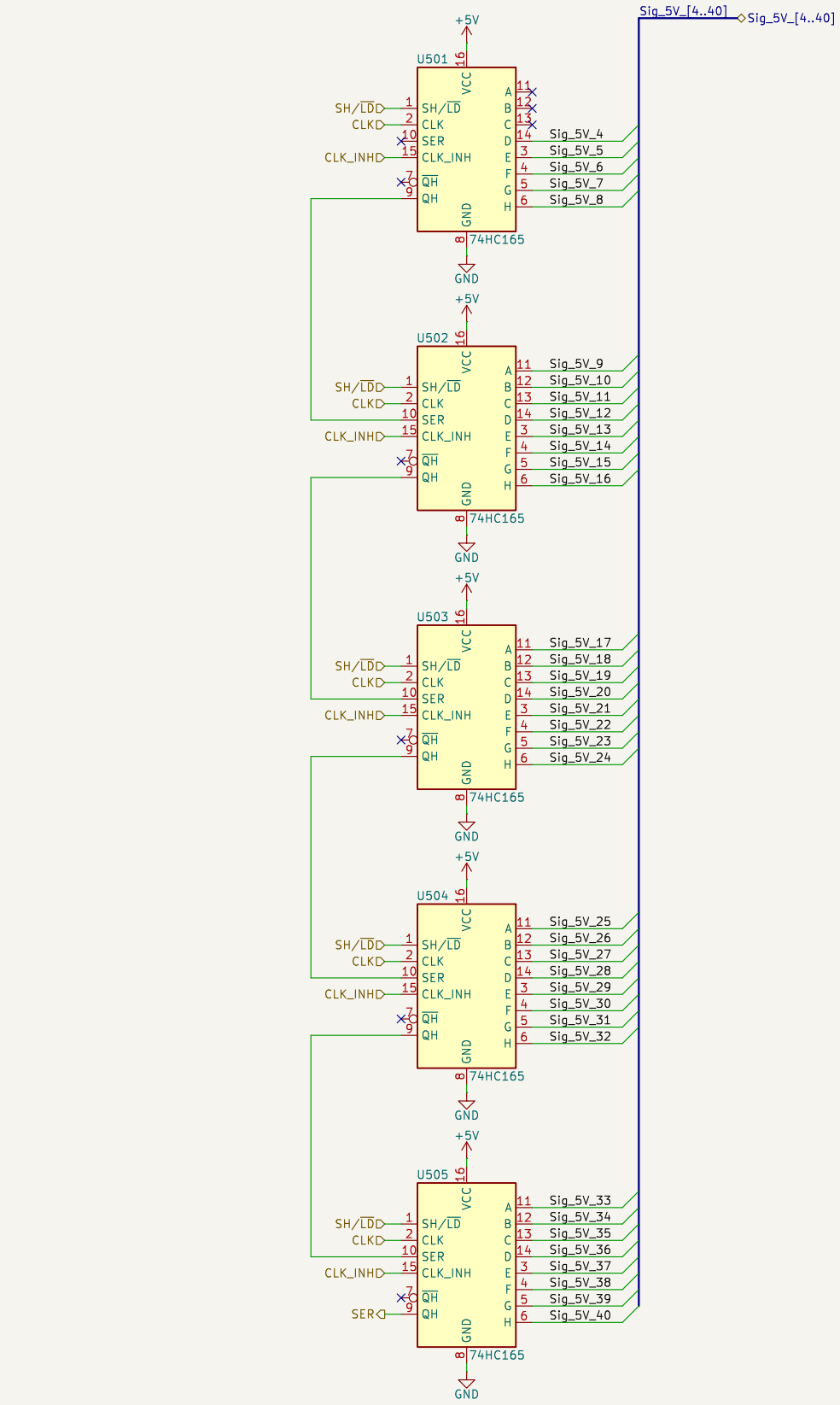


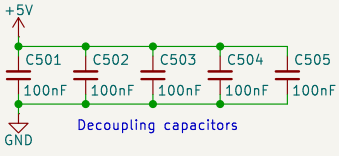

```
+12V - Supply for operational amplifiers       => min 1A   available
 +6V - Supply for board under test             => min 1A   available
 +5V - Supply for controller and logic signals => min 1A   available
 +4V - Voltage to test for floating signals    => max 10mA needed
 +2V - Voltage to test for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

Note: The pins +12V, +6V, +5V, +4V, +2V, GND, -6V, -12V are global pins. When
      dividing the PCB in multiple parts the necessary power supply pins have
      to be passed to the different boards into which the PCB is divided.
      One method to do this is to create a "power bus" that passes all power
      supply rails to the different PCB's.
```

Title: VersaLogic board tester

File: Power_Supply.kicad_sch
Sheet: /Power Supply/

Rev: 1.0 | Date: 2025-09-09 | Id: 2/158





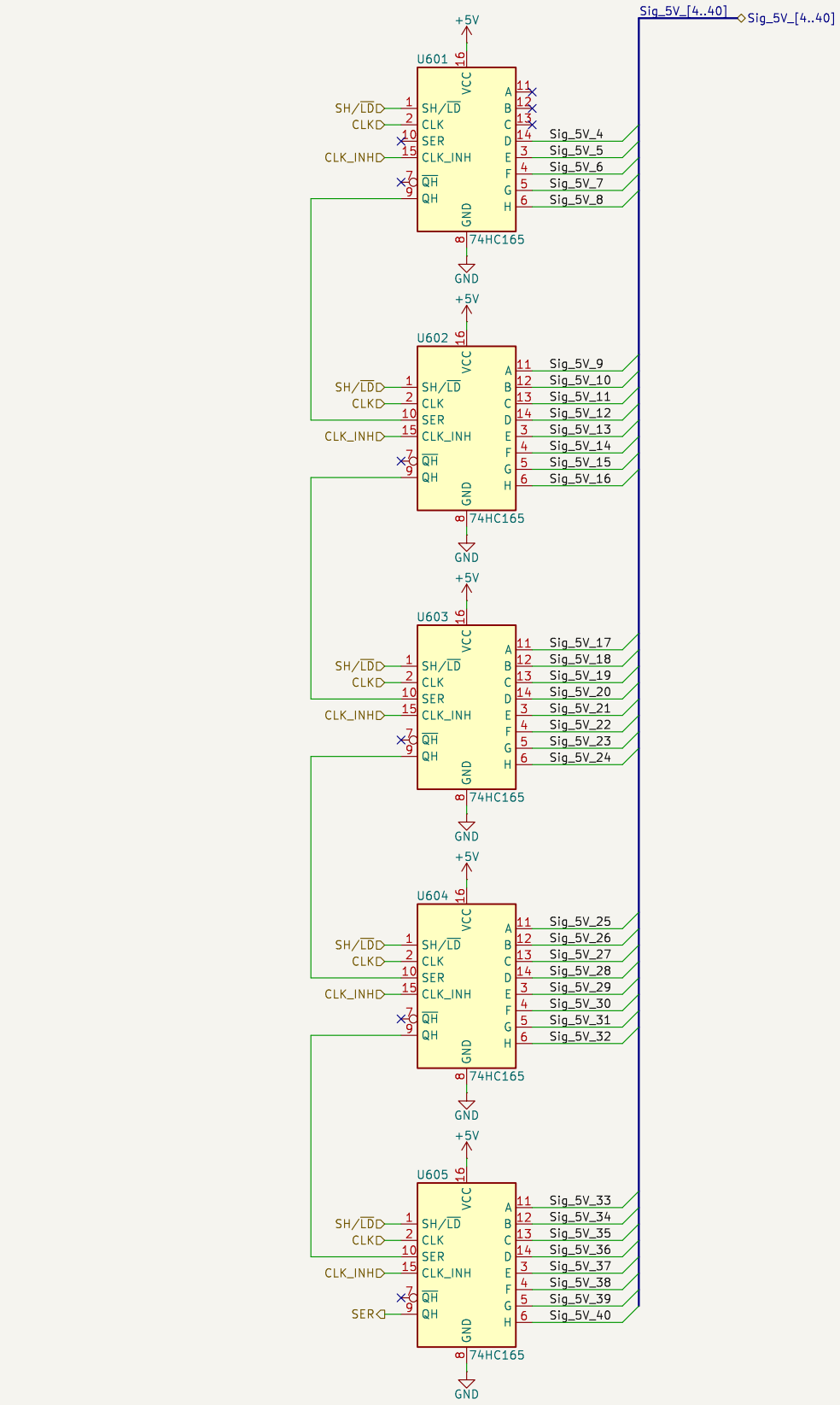
Input - Parallel input (TTL logic) on digital bus (5V, 0V)
Output - Serial output to controller

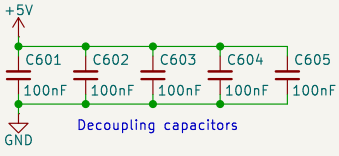
All control signals are broken out to the controller to give the program maximal options to alter the functioning of the hardware.

Title: VersaLogic board tester

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

Rev: 1.0 | Date: 2025-09-09 | Id: 5/158





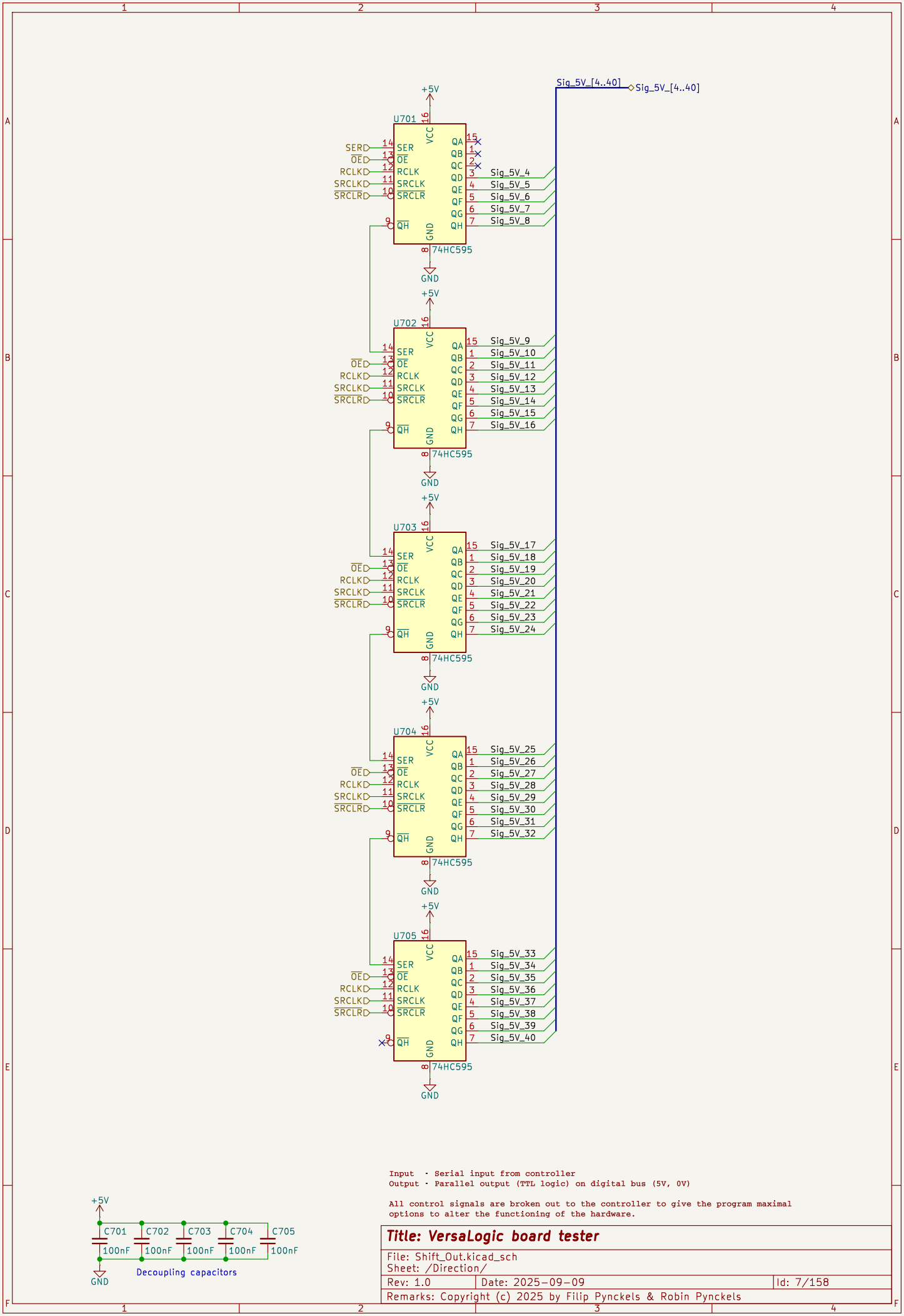
Input - Parallel input (TTL logic) on digital bus (5V, 0V)
Output - Serial output to controller

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 | Date: 2025-09-09 | Id: 6/158


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
Sig_5V_21
Sig_5V_22
Sig_5V_23
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Sig_5V_30
Sig_5V_31
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
Date: 2025-09-09
Id: 7/158
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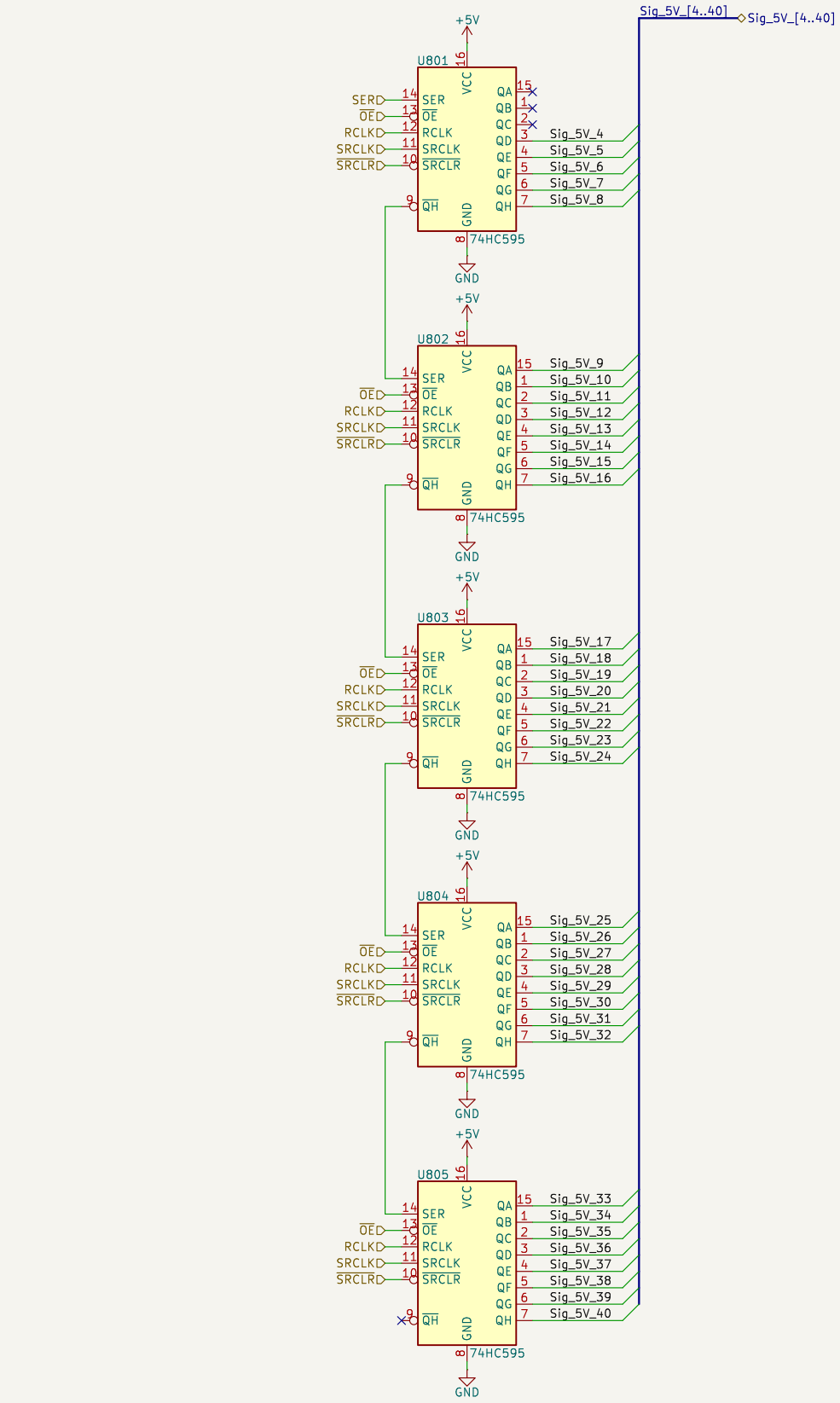
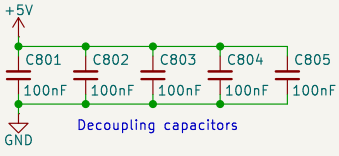




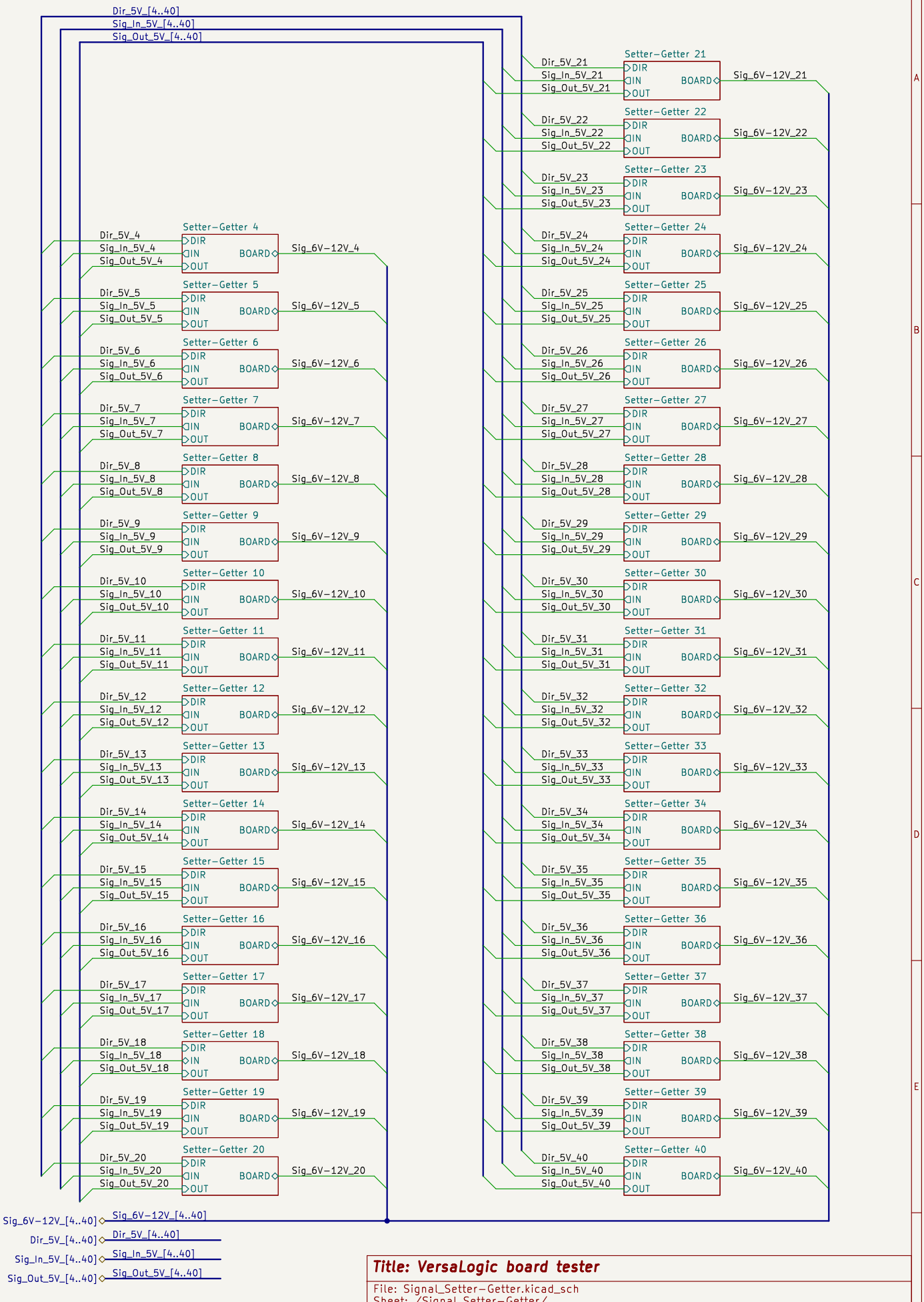
Input - Serial input from controller
Output - Parallel output (TTL logic) on digital bus (5V, 0V)

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 | Date: 2025-09-09 | Id: 8/158



Title: VersaLogic board tester

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

Rev: 1.0	Date: 2025-09-09	Id: 10/158