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TC-2190 ADAPTER WITH THERMOCOUPLE MINICONNECTORS

This installation guide describes how to install and connect thermocouples and digital I/O signals to the TC-2190 adapter with thermocouple miniconnectors to use with your NI 4350 (ISA, USB) and NI 4351 (PXI, PCI) devices.

Introduction

The TC-2190 adapter consists of a shielded box with 14 miniconnectors that you can use to connect your thermocouples to the NI 435x (ISA, USB, PXI, PCI). This adapter has two 68-pin connectors—one on the front and one on the rear. You can use either of the two connectors to connect the TC-2190 to the NI 435x using an SH6868 shielded cable (recommended) or an R6868 ribbon cable. You can also access the eight digital input/output (I/O) lines and the digital ground of the NI 435x using the spring terminal blocks.

This adapter is designed specifically for ease of use with thermocouples. It features isothermal construction to minimize the temperature gradients across the thermocouple junctions and a high-accuracy thermistor cold-junction temperature sensor.

The TC-2190 connects to all the digital I/O lines on the NI 435x and all but two analog input channels (CH)—CH0 is dedicated to the cold-junction sensor and CH1 is dedicated to auto-zeroing circuitry. Refer to the *NI 4350/4351 User Manual* for further details on the cold-junction sensor and auto-zeroing circuitry.

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What You Need to Get Started

You need the following items to set up and use your TC-2190:

❑ TC-2190 adapter with thermocouple miniconnectors

❑ *TC-2190 Adapter with Thermocouple Miniconnectors Installation Guide*

❑ NI 435*x* (ISA, USB, PXI, PCI) and documentation

❑ One of the following cable assemblies:
   – SH6868 shielded cable (recommended)
   – R6868 ribbon cable

❑ 1/8 in. flathead screwdriver

❑ No. 1 Phillips-head screwdriver

❑ Wire cutters

❑ Wire insulation strippers

❑ Four adhesive rubber feet

Configuring the Shield Ground Jumpers

Jumper W1, located inside the TC-2190 on the bottom of the board, connects the shield of the 68-pin connectors and the TC-2190 metal case to NI 435*x* ground through a 100 Ω resistor (default setting) or directly to NI 435*x* ground, or keeps the metal case and NI 435*x* ground separate.
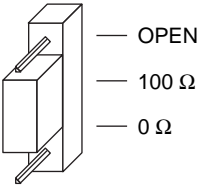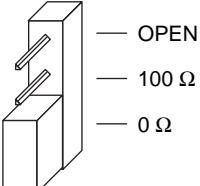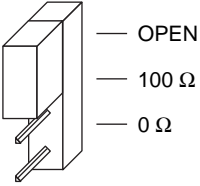
Table 1 shows the configuration options for jumper W1.
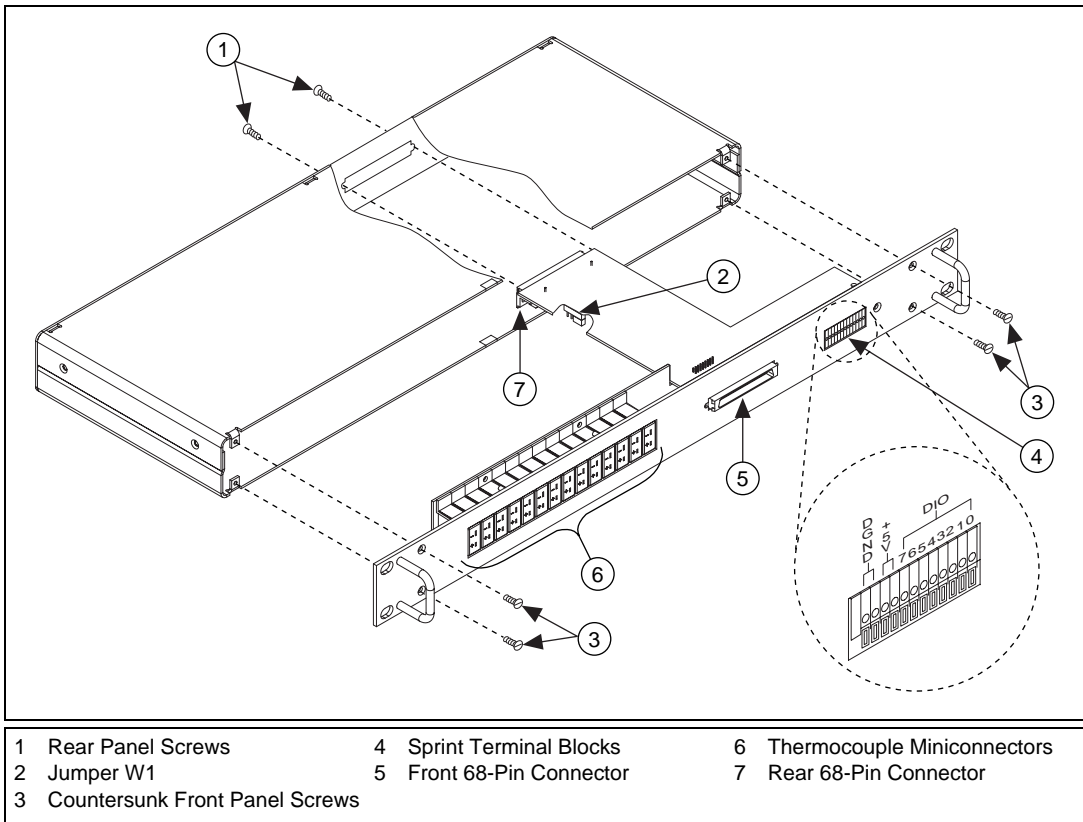
☞ **Note**   *Use the default setting for jumper W1 unless you notice degraded noise performance.*

Table 1. TC-2190 Jumper Configuration Options

Jumper W1 Configuration	Description	When to Use This Configuration
— OPEN — 100 Ω — 0 Ω	100 Ω (factory default)—This setting connects the TC-2190 metal chassis to NI 435x ground through a 100 Ω resistor, while keeping any potential ground loop current very small.	Use this setting when you are using the SH6868 cable, and: • You have not rack-mounted the TC-2190, or • You have mounted the TC-2190 on a rack, but are unsure whether the rack and the TC-2190 are grounded.
— OPEN — 100 Ω — 0 Ω	0 Ω—This setting connects the TC-2190 metal chassis to NI 435x ground.	Use this setting when you are using the R6868 cable and: • You have not rack-mounted the TC-2190, or • You have mounted the TC-2190 on a rack and are sure that the rack and the TC-2190 are not grounded.
— OPEN — 100 Ω — 0 Ω	Open—This setting disconnects the TC-2190 metal chassis from NI 435x ground.	Use this setting when you are using either the SH6868 cable or the R6868 cable, you have mounted the TC-2190 on a rack, and you are sure that the rack and the TC-2190 are grounded.

If you need to change jumper W1, refer to Figure 1 as you perform the following steps:

1. Using the No. 1 Phillips-head screwdriver, remove the four countersunk front panel screws.

2. Remove the two rear panel screws that hold the rear 68-pin connector.

3. Hold the front panel and slide the assembly out of the metal case.

4. Set jumper W1 as needed.

5. Reassemble the TC-2190, following this procedure in reverse order. Do not overtighten the screws.

1	Rear Panel Screws	4	Sprint Terminal Blocks	6	Thermocouple Miniconnectors
2	Jumper W1	5	Front 68-Pin Connector	7	Rear 68-Pin Connector
3	Countersunk Front Panel Screws				

Figure 1. TC-2190 Parts Locator Diagram

Signal Connections

Refer to your *NI 4350/4351 User Manual* for examples on how to connect to your signals.

Connecting Thermocouples

Insert your thermocouple miniconnector to the mating miniconnector on the TC-2190. Each miniconnector is polarized; that is, it has two spades of different widths so that you can insert the thermocouple in only one way.

Do not force the miniconnector; if you encounter difficulty while inserting the miniconnector, check whether the polarity is correct.

Connecting Digital I/O Signals

Refer to Figure 1 as you perform the following steps to connect your digital signals to the TC-2190:

1. Use a wire cutter and wire insulation stripper to strip the wire ends as necessary to connect them to terminal blocks. You can use up to 20 AWG wire for connecting signals.

2. Push the spring below the DIO terminal block with a 1/8 in. flathead screwdriver. This will open the terminal block clasp. Keep the spring pressed through step 3.

3. Insert the stripped wires into the terminal blocks.

4. Release the spring.

The wire should be firmly connected.

Connecting the TC-2190 to Your NI 435*x*

Before installing your TC-2190, make sure you have set jumper W1 correctly for your application.

You can mount the TC-2190 into a 19 in. rack or place it on a work bench near the NI 435*x*. If you do not rack-mount the TC-2190, attach the four adhesive rubber feet included in this kit to the TC-2190 to keep it stationary.

☞ **Note** *To minimize the temperature gradient inside the terminal block and thus maintain its isothermal nature for accurate cold-junction compensation, place the accessory away from extreme temperature differentials.*

Refer to Figure 2 as you perform the following steps to connect the TC-2190 to the NI 435*x*:
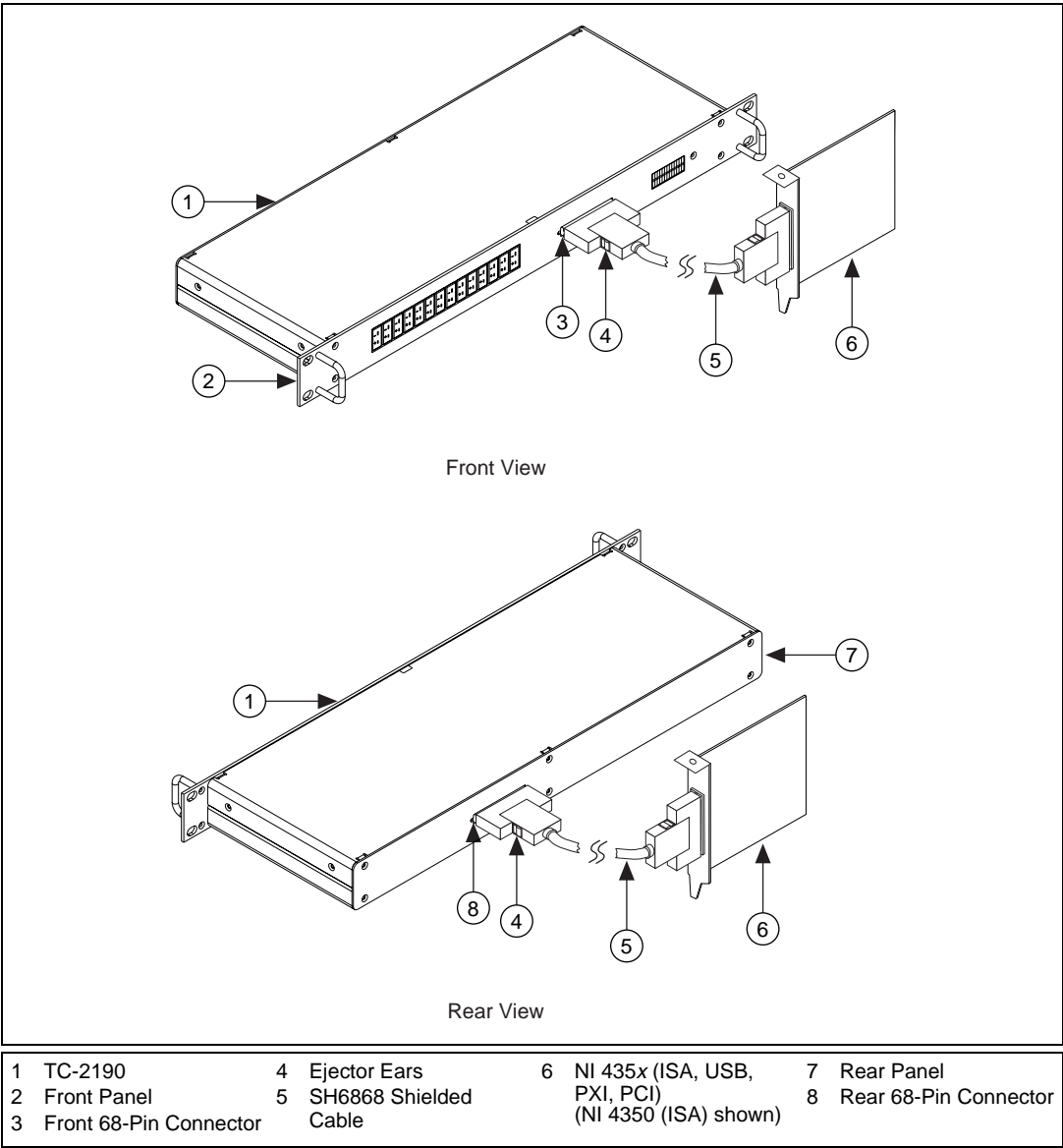
1. Connect one end of the SH6868 or R6868 cable to the TC-2190 connector on either the front or the back, as desired. The two connectors should snap together.

2. Attach the connector on the other end of the SH6868 or R6868 cable to the NI 435*x* I/O connector.

To disconnect the cable from the TC-2190, push the two ejector ears on the cable backshell and gently pull on the backshell. The cable should pop out. Do not pull the cable.

⚠ **Caution** *The connectors of both the TC-2190 and the NI 435x are polarized. Do not force the cable. If you encounter difficulty, check whether the polarity is correct.*

Front View

Rear View

1	TC-2190	4	Ejector Ears	6	NI 435*x* (ISA, USB, PXI, PCI) (NI 4350 (ISA) shown)	7	Rear Panel
2	Front Panel	5	SH6868 Shielded Cable			8	Rear 68-Pin Connector
3	Front 68-Pin Connector						

Figure 2. Connecting the TC-2190 to the NI 435*x*

Cold-Junction Temperature Sensor

The TC-2190 cold-junction temperature sensor consists of a precision thermistor excited by the 25 μA current source on the NI 435x. At 25 °C, the resistance of the thermistor is 5,000 Ω. The thermistor resistance varies from 16,305 to 1,492 Ω over the 0 to 55 °C temperature range. The corresponding sensor output voltage varies from 408 to 37 mV over this temperature range.

To select and measure the temperature sensor, refer to your data acquisition software documentation for programming information.

Alternatively, you can use the following formulas to convert the cold-junction sensor voltage to cold-junction temperature:

$$T(°C) = T_K - 273.15$$

where T_K is the temperature in kelvin.

$$T_K = \frac{1}{a + b \bullet ln\, R_T + c \bullet (ln\, R_T)^3}$$

a = 1.295361 x 10^{-3}
b = 2.343159 x 10^{-4}
c = 1.018703 x 10^{-7}

R_T = resistance of the thermistor in ohms

$$T(°F) = \frac{T(°C) \bullet 9}{5} + 32$$

where $T(°F)$ and $T(°C)$ are the temperature readings in degrees Fahrenheit and degrees Celsius, respectively.

Specifications

Cold-junction sensor accuracy[1] .... 0.06 °C from 15 to 35 °C
0.2 °C from 0 to 15 °C
and 35 to 55 °C

Maximum working voltage[2]
(signal + common mode) .... Each input should remain
within ±42 V of ground

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[1] Includes only the thermistor accuracy. The combined effects of the temperature sensor accuracy, as well as the current source accuracy due to tolerances in all components in the NI 435*x*, the effects caused by temperature and loading, and self-heating and current leakage are discussed in the *NI 4350/4351 User Manual*.

[2] Refer to the NI 435*x* maximum working voltage specification in Appendix A, *Specifications*, of the *NI 4350/4351 User Manual*; use the lower number of the two.