

MRF24J40 Data Sheet

IEEE 802.15.4™ 2.4 GHz RF Transceiver

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MRF24J40

IEEE 802.15.4™ 2.4 GHz RF Transceiver

Features:

- IEEE 802.15.4™ Standard Compliant RF Transceiver
- Supports ZigBee®, MiWi™, MiWi P2P and Proprietary Wireless Networking Protocols
- Simple, 4-Wire Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI)
- Integrated 20 MHz and 32.768 kHz Crystal Oscillator Circuitry
- Low-Current Consumption:
	- RX mode: 19 mA (typical)
	- TX mode: 23 mA (typical)
	- Sleep: 2 μA (typical)
- Small, 40-Pin Leadless QFN 6x6 mm² Package

RF/Analog Features:

- ISM Band 2.405-2.48 GHz Operation
- Data Rate: 250 kbps (IEEE 802.15.4); 625 kbps (Turbo mode)
- -95 dBm Typical Sensitivity with +5 dBm Maximum Input Level
- +0 dBm Typical Output Power with 36 dB TX Power Control Range
- Differential RF Input/Output with Integrated TX/RX Switch
- Integrated Low Phase Noise VCO, Frequency Synthesizer and PLL Loop Filter
- Digital VCO and Filter Calibration
- Integrated RSSI ADC and I/Q DACs
- Integrated LDO
- High Receiver and RSSI Dynamic Range

MAC/Baseband Features:

- Hardware CSMA-CA Mechanism, Automatic Acknowledgement Response and FCS Check
- Independent Beacon, Transmit and GTS FIFO
- Supports all CCA modes and RSSI/ED
- Automatic Packet Retransmit Capability
- Hardware Security Engine (AES-128) with CTR, CCM and CBC-MAC modes
- Supports Encryption and Decryption for MAC Sublayer and Upper Layer

Pin Diagram:

MRF24J40

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1.0 OVERVIEW

The MRF24J40 is an IEEE 802.15.4™ Standard compliant 2.4 GHz RF transceiver. It integrates the PHY and MAC functionality in a single chip solution. [Figure](#page-4-1) 1-1 shows a simplified block diagram of a MRF24J40 wireless node. The MRF24J40 creates a low-cost, low-power, low data rate (250 or 625 kbps) Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN) device. The MRF24J40 interfaces to many popular Microchip PIC[®] microcontrollers via a 4-wire serial SPI interface, interrupt, wake and Reset pins.

The MRF24J40 provides hardware support for:

- Energy Detection
- Carrier Sense
- Three CCA Modes
- CSMA-CA Algorithm
- Automatic Packet Retransmission
- Automatic Acknowledgment
- Independent Transmit, Beacon and GTS FIFO Buffers
- Security Engine supports Encryption and Decryption for MAC Sublayer and Upper Layer

These features reduce the processing load, allowing the use of low-cost 8-bit microcontrollers.

The MRF24J40 is compatible with Microchip's ZigBee®, MiWi™ and MiWi P2P software stacks. Each software stack is available as a free download, including source code, from the Microchip web site: http://www.microchip.com/wireless.

FIGURE 1-1: WIRELESS NODE BLOCK DIAGRAM

1.1 IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Standard

The MRF24J40 is compliant with the IEEE 802.15.4™-2003 Standard. The Standard specifies the physical (PHY) and Media Access Controller (MAC) functions that form the basis for a wireless network device. [Figure](#page-5-0) 1-2 shows the structure of the PHY packet and MAC frame.

It is highly recommended that the design engineer be familiar with the IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Standard in order to best understand the configuration and operation of the MRF24J40. The Standard can be downloaded from the IEEE web site: http://www.ieee.org.

FIGURE 1-2: IEEE 802.15.4™ PHY PACKET AND MAC FRAME STRUCTURE

2.0 HARDWARE DESCRIPTION

2.1 2.1 Overview

The MRF24J40 is an IEEE 802.15.4 Standard compliant 2.4 GHz RF transceiver. It integrates the PHY and MAC functionality in a single chip solution. [Figure](#page-7-0) 2-1 is a block diagram of the MRF24J40 circuitry.

A frequency synthesizer is clocked by an external 20 MHz crystal and generates a 2.4 GHz RF frequency.

The receiver is a low-IF architecture consisting of a Low Noise Amplifier (LNA), down conversion mixers, polyphase channel filters and baseband limiting amplifiers with a Receiver Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI).

The transmitter is a direct conversion architecture with a 0 dBm maximum output (typical) and 36 dB power control range.

An internal Transmit/Receive (TR) switch combines the transmitter and receiver circuits into differential RFP and RFN pins. These pins are connected to impedance matching circuitry (balun) and antenna. An external Power Amplifier (PA) and/or LNA can be controlled via the GPIO pins.

Six General Purpose Input/Output (GPIO) pins can be configured for control or monitoring purposes. They can also be configured to control external PA/LNA RF switches.

The power management circuitry consists of an integrated Low Dropout (LDO) voltage regulator. The MRF24J40 can be placed into a very low-current (2 μA typical) Sleep mode. An internal 100 kHz oscillator or 32 kHz external crystal oscillator can be used for Sleep mode timing.

The Media Access Controller (MAC) circuitry verifies reception and formats for transmission IEEE 802.15.4 Standard compliant packets. Data is buffered in Transmit and Receive FIFOs. Carrier Sense Multiple Access-Collision Avoidance (CSMA-CA), superframe constructor, receive frame filter and security engine functionality are implemented in hardware. The security engine provides hardware circuitry for AES-128 with CTR, CCM and CBC-MAC modes.

Control of the transceiver is via a 4-wire SPI, interrupt, wake and Reset pins.

2.2 Block Diagram

FIGURE 2-1: MRF24J40 ARCHITECTURE BLOCK DIAGRAM

2.3 Pin Descriptions

Legend: A = Analog, D = Digital, I = Input, O = Output

2.4 Power and Ground Pins

Recommended bypass capacitors are listed in [Table](#page-9-0) 2-2. VDD pins 1 and 31 require two bypass capacitors to ensure sufficient bypass decoupling. Minimize trace length from the VDD pin to the bypass capacitors and make them as short as possible.

2.5 20 MHz Main Oscillator

The 20 MHz main oscillator provides the main frequency (MAINCLK) signal to internal RF, baseband and MAC circuitry. An external 20 MHz quartz crystal is connected to the OSC1 and OSC2 pins as shown in [Figure](#page-9-1) 2-2. The crystal parameters are listed in [Table](#page-9-2) 2-3.

TABLE 2-3: 20 MHz CRYSTAL PARAMETERS (1)

Note 1: These values are for design guidance only.

2: IEEE 802.15.4™ Standard specifies transmitted center frequency tolerance shall be ±40 ppm maximum.

FIGURE 2-2: 20 MHz MAIN OSCILLATOR CRYSTAL CIRCUIT

2.6 Phase-Locked Loop

The Phase-Locked Loop (PLL) circuitry requires one external capacitor connected to pin 40 (LCAP). The recommended value is 100 pF. The PCB layout around the capacitor and pin 40 should be designed carefully such as to minimize interference to the PLL.

2.7 32 kHz External Crystal Oscillator

The 32 kHz external crystal oscillator provides one of two Sleep clock (SLPCLK) frequencies to Sleep mode counters. The Sleep mode counters time the Beacon Interval (BI) and inactive period for a beacon-enabled device and the Sleep interval for a nonbeacon-enabled device. Refer to **Section [3.15 "Sleep"](#page-118-0)** for more information.

The SLPCLK frequency is selectable between the 32 kHz external crystal oscillator or 100 kHz internal oscillator. The 32 kHz external crystal oscillator provides better frequency accuracy and stability than the 100 kHz internal oscillator. An external 32 kHz tuning fork crystal is connected to the LPOSC1 and LPOSC2 pins, as shown in [Figure](#page-10-0) 2-3. The crystal parameters are listed in [Table](#page-9-3) 2-4.

TABLE 2-4: 32 kHz CRYSTAL PARAMETERS(1)

Note 1: These values are for design guidance only.

2.8 100 kHz Internal Oscillator

The 100 kHz internal oscillator requires no external components and provides one of two Sleep clock (SLPCLK) frequencies to Sleep mode counters. The Sleep mode counters time the Beacon Interval (BI) and inactive period for a beacon-enabled device and the Sleep interval for a nonbeacon-enabled device. Refer to **Section [3.15 "Sleep"](#page-118-0)** for more information.

The SLPCLK frequency is selectable between the 32 kHz external crystal oscillator or 100 kHz internal oscillator. The 32 kHz external crystal oscillator provides better frequency accuracy and stability than the 100 kHz internal oscillator. It is recommended that the 100 kHz internal oscillator be calibrated before use. The calibration procedure is given in **Section [3.15.1.2](#page-119-0) ["Sleep Clock Calibration"](#page-119-0)**.

2.9 Reset (RESET) Pin

An external hardware Reset can be performed by asserting the RESET pin 13 low. The MRF24J40 will be released from Reset approximately 250 μs after the RESET pin is released. The RESET pin has an internal weak pull-up resistor.

2.10 Interrupt (INT) Pin

The Interrupt (INT) pin 16 provides an interrupt signal to the host microcontroller from the MRF24J40. The polarity is configured via the INTEDGE bit in the SLPCON0 (0x211<1>) register. Interrupts have to be enabled and unmasked before the INT pin is active. Refer to **Section [3.3 "Interrupts"](#page-90-0)** for a functional description of interrupts.

2.11 Wake (WAKE) Pin

The Wake (WAKE) pin 15 provides an external wake-up signal to the MRF24J40 from the host microcontroller. It is used in conjunction with the Sleep modes of the MRF24J40. The WAKE pin is disabled by default. Refer to **Section [3.15.2 "Immediate Sleep](#page-124-0) [and Wake-up Mode"](#page-124-0)** for a functional description of the Immediate Sleep and Wake-up modes.

2.12 General Purpose Input/Output (GPIO) Pins

Six GPIO pins can be configured individually for control or monitoring purposes. Input or output selection is configured by the TRISGPIO (0x34) register. GPIO data can be read/written to via the GPIO (0x33) register.

The GPIO pins have limited output drive capability. [Table](#page-10-1) 2-5 lists the individual GPIO pin source current limits.

GPIO0, GPIO1 and GPIO2 can be configured to control external PA, LNA and RF switches by the internal RF state machine. This allows the external PA and LNA to be controlled by the MRF24J40 without any host microcontroller intervention. Refer to **Section [4.2 "External](#page-135-0) [PA/LNA Control"](#page-135-0)** for control register configuration, timing diagrams and application information.

2.13 Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) Port Pins

The MRF24J40 communicates with a host microcontroller via a 4-wire SPI port as a slave device. The MRF24J40 supports SPI (mode 0,0) which requires that SCK idles in a low state. The $\overline{\text{CS}}$ pin must be held low while communicating with the MRF24J40. [Figure](#page-11-0) 2-4 shows timing for a write operation. Data is received by the MRF24J40 via the SDI pin and is clocked in on the rising edge of SCK. [Figure](#page-11-1) 2-5 shows timing for a read operation. Data is sent by the MRF24J40 via the SDO pin and is clocked out on the falling edge of SCK.

Note: The SDO pin 17 defaults to a low state when \overline{CS} is high (the MRF24J40 is not selected). If the MRF24J40 is to share a SPI bus, a tri-state buffer should be placed on the SDO signal to provide a high-impedance signal to the SPI bus. See **Section [4.4 "MRF24J40 Schematic and](#page-138-0) [Bill of Materials"](#page-138-0)** for an example application circuit.

FIGURE 2-5: SPI PORT READ (OUTPUT) TIMING

provide control, status and device addressing for MRF24J40 operations. FIFOs serve as temporary buffers for data transmission, reception and security keys. Memory is accessed via two addressing

methods: Short and Long.

2.14 Memory Organization

Memory in the MRF24J40 is implemented as static RAM and is accessible via the SPI port. Memory is functionally divided into control registers and data buffers (FIFOs), as shown in [Figure](#page-12-0) 2-6. Control registers

FIGURE 2-6: MEMORY MAP FOR MRF24J40

2.14.1 SHORT ADDRESS REGISTER INTERFACE

The short address memory space contains control registers with a 6-bit address range of 0x00 to 0x3F. [Figure](#page-13-0) 2-7 shows a short address read and [Figure](#page-13-1) 2-8 shows a short address write. The 8-bit SPI transfer

begins with a '0' to indicate a short address transaction. It is followed by the 6-bit register address, Most Significant bit (MSb) first. The 8th bit indicates if it is a read ('0') or write ('1') transaction.

FIGURE 2-8: SHORT ADDRESS WRITE

2.14.2 LONG ADDRESS REGISTER INTERFACE

The long address memory space contains control registers and FIFOs with a 10-bit address range of 0x000 to 0x38F. [Figure](#page-14-0) 2-9 shows a long address read and [Figure](#page-14-1) 2-10 shows a long address write. The 12-bit SPI transfer begins with a '1' to indicate a long address transaction. It is followed by the 10-bit register address, Most Significant bit (MSb) first. The 12th bit indicates if it is a read ('0') or write ('1') transaction.

FIGURE 2-10: LONG ADDRESS WRITE

2.15 Control Register Description

Control registers provide control, status and device addressing for MRF24J40 operations. The following figures, tables and register definitions describe the control register operation.

2.15.1 CONTROL REGISTER MAP

FIGURE 2-11: SHORT ADDRESS CONTROL REGISTER MAP FOR MRF24J40

FIGURE 2-12: LONG ADDRESS CONTROL REGISTER MAP FOR MRF24J40

2.15.2 CONTROL REGISTER SUMMARY

Legend: r = reserved

TABLE 2-7: LONG ADDRESS CONTROL REGISTER SUMMARY FOR MRF24J40

MRF24J40

Legend: r = reserved

e
B

MRF24J40

2.15.3 SHORT ADDRESS CONTROL REGISTERS DETAIL

REGISTER 2-1: RXMCR: RECEIVE MAC CONTROL REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x00)

bit 7-0 **PANIDL<7:0>:** PAN ID Low Byte bits

REGISTER 2-3: PANIDH: PAN ID HIGH BYTE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x02)

bit 7-0 **PANIDH<15:8>:** PAN ID High Byte bits

REGISTER 2-4: SADRL: SHORT ADDRESS LOW BYTE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x03)

bit 7-0 **SADRL<7:0>:** Short Address Low Byte bits

REGISTER 2-5: SADRH: SHORT ADDRESS HIGH BYTE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x04)

bit 7-0 **SADRH<15:8>:** Short Address High Byte bits

REGISTER 2-6: EADR0: EXTENDED ADDRESS 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x05)

bit 7-0 **EADR<7:0>:** 64-Bit Extended Address bits

REGISTER 2-7: EADR1: EXTENDED ADDRESS 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x06)

bit 7-0 **EADR<15:8>:** 64-Bit Extended Address bits

REGISTER 2-8: EADR2: EXTENDED ADDRESS 2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x07)

bit 7-0 **EADR<23:16>:** 64-Bit Extended Address bits

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REGISTER 2-9: EADR3: EXTENDED ADDRESS 3 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x08)

bit 7-0 **EADR<31:24>:** 64-Bit Extended Address bits

REGISTER 2-10: EADR4: EXTENDED ADDRESS 4 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x09)

bit 7-0 **EADR<39:32>:** 64-Bit Extended Address bits

REGISTER 2-11: EADR5: EXTENDED ADDRESS 5 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x0A)

bit 7-0 **EADR<47:40>:** 64-Bit Extended Address bits

 $-n =$ Value at POR $1' = B$ it is set $0' = B$ it is cleared $x = B$ it is unknown

bit 7-0 **EADR<55:48>:** 64-Bit Extended Address bits

REGISTER 2-13: EADR7: EXTENDED ADDRESS 7 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x0C)

bit 7-0 **EADR<63:56>:** 64-Bit Extended Address bits

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REGISTER 2-14: RXFLUSH: RECEIVE FIFO FLUSH REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x0D)

REGISTER 2-15: ORDER: BEACON AND SUPERFRAME ORDER REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x10)

Note 1: Refer to IEEE 802.15.4™-2003 Standard, Section 7.5.1.1 "Superframe Structure".

2: PANs that wish to use the superframe structure shall set macBeaconOrder to a value between 0 and 14 and macSuperframeOrder to a value between 0 and the value of macBeaconOrder $(i.e., 0 ≤ SO ≤ BO ≤ 14).$

REGISTER 2-16: TXMCR: CSMA-CA MODE CONTROL REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x11)

Note 1: Refer to IEEE 802.15.4™-2003 Standard, Table 71 – MAC PIB attributes.

Note 1: Refer to IEEE 802.15.4™-2003 Standard, Section 5.4.2.2 "Data Transfer from a Coordinator" and Section 7.3 "MAC Command Frames".

2: Refer to IEEE 802.15.4™-2003 Standard, Table 71: MAC PIB Attributes.

REGISTER 2-18: ESLOTG1: GTS1 AND CAP END SLOT REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x13)

REGISTER 2-19: SYMTICKL: SYMBOL PERIOD TICK LOW BYTE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x14)

bit 7-0 **TICKP<7:0>:** Symbol Period Tick bits

Number of ticks to define a symbol period. Tick period is based on the system clock frequency of 20 MHz. TICKP is a 9-bit value. The TICKP8 bit is located in SYMTICKH<0>. Units: tick (50 ns). Default value = $0x140$ (320 $*$ 50 ns = 16 μ s).

REGISTER 2-20: SYMTICKH: SYMBOL PERIOD TICK HIGH BYTE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x15)

bit 7-1 **TXONT<6:0>:** Transmitter Enable On Time Tick bits**(1)** Transmitter on time before beginning of packet. TXONT is a 9-bit value. The TXONT<8:7> bits are located in PACON2<1:0>. Units: tick (50 ns). Default value = 0x028 (40 $*$ 50 ns = 2 µs). bit 0 **TICKP8:** Symbol Period Tick bit Number of ticks to define a symbol period. Tick period is based on the system clock frequency of 20 MHz. TICKP is a 9-bit value. The TICKP<7:0> bits are located in SYMTICKL<7:0>. Units: tick (50 ns). Default value = $0x140$ (320 $*$ 50 ns = 16 μ s).

Note 1: Refer to [Figure](#page-136-0) 4-4 for timing diagram.

REGISTER 2-21: PACON0: POWER AMPLIFIER CONTROL 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x16)

bit 7-0 **PAONT<7:0>:** Power Amplifier Enable On Time Tick bits**(1)** Power amplifier on time before beginning of packet. PAONT is a 9-bit value. The PAONT8 bit is located in PACON1<0>. Units: tick (50 ns). Default value = $0x029$ (41 $*$ 50 ns = 2.05 μ s).

Note 1: Refer to [Figure](#page-136-0) 4-4 for timing diagram.

REGISTER 2-22: PACON1: POWER AMPLIFIER CONTROL 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x17)

bit 7-5 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

bit 4-1 **PAONTS<3:0>:** Power Amplifier Enable On Time Symbol bits**(1)** Power amplifier on time before beginning of packet. Units: symbol period (16 μs). Minimum value: $0x1$ (default) (1 $*$ 16 μ s = 16 μ s).

bit 0 **PAONT8:** Power Amplifier Enable On Time Tick bit**(1)** Power amplifier on time before beginning of packet. PAONT is a 9-bit value. The PAONT<7:0> bits are located in PACON0<7:0>. Units: tick (50 ns). Default value = 0x029 (41 * 50 ns = 2.05 μs).

Note 1: Refer to [Figure](#page-136-0) 4-4 for timing diagram.

REGISTER 2-23: PACON2: POWER AMPLIFIER CONTROL 2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x18)

Note 1: Refer to [Figure](#page-136-0) 4-4 for timing diagram.

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REGISTER 2-24: TXBCON0: TRANSMIT BEACON FIFO CONTROL 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x1A)

REGISTER 2-25: TXNCON: TRANSMIT NORMAL FIFO CONTROL REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x1B)

4: Bit is cleared at the next triggering of TXN FIFO.

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REGISTER 2-26: TXG1CON: GTS1 FIFO CONTROL REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x1C)

REGISTER 2-27: TXG2CON: GTS2 FIFO CONTROL REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x1D)

REGISTER 2-28: ESLOTG23: END SLOT OF GTS3 AND GTS2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x1E)

bit 7-4 **GTS3-<3:0>:** End Slot of 3rd GTS bits

bit 3-0 **GTS2-<3:0>:** End Slot of 2nd GTS bits

REGISTER 2-29: ESLOTG45: END SLOT OF GTS5 AND GTS4 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x1F)

bit 7-4 **GTS5-<3:0>:** End Slot of 5th GTS bits

bit 3-0 **GTS4-<3:0>:** End Slot of 4th GTS bits

REGISTER 2-30: ESLOTG67: END SLOT OF GTS6 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x20)

bit 7-4 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

bit 3-0 **GTS6-<3:0>:** End Slot of 6th GTS bits If 7th GTS exists, the end slot must be 15.

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REGISTER 2-31: TXPEND: TX DATA PENDING REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x21)

Note 1: Refer to Section 3.8.1.4 "Configuring Beacon-Enabled PAN Coordinator" for more information.

REGISTER 2-33: FRMOFFSET: SUPERFRAME COUNTER OFFSET TO ALIGN BEACON REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x23)

bit 7-0 **OFFSET<7:0>:** Superframe Counter Offset for Align Air Slot Boundary bits**(1)** For Beacon-Enabled mode device. Default value: 0x00. Recommended value: 0x15.

Note 1: Refer to **Section [3.8.1.6 "Configuring Beacon-Enabled Device"](#page-100-0)** for more information.

REGISTER 2-34: TXSTAT: TX MAC STATUS REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x24)

REGISTER 2-35: TXBCON1: TRANSMIT BEACON CONTROL 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x25)

REGISTER 2-36: GATECLK: GATED CLOCK CONTROL REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x26)

bit 2-0 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

REGISTER 2-37: TXTIME: TX TURNAROUND TIME REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x27)

bit 7-4 **TURNTIME<3:0>:** Turnaround Time bits

Transmission to reception and reception to transmission turnaround time. Refer to IEEE 802.15.4™-2003 Standard, Table 18: PHY Constants and Section 7.5.6.4.2 "Acknowledgment". TURNTIME + RFSTBL = aTurnaroundTime = 12 symbols. Units: symbol period (16 μs). Default value: 0x4. Minimum value: 0x2. Recommended values: TURNTIME = 0x3 and RFSTBL = 0x9.

bit 3-0 **Reserved:** Maintain as 0x8

REGISTER 2-38: HSYMTMRL: HALF SYMBOL TIMER LOW BYTE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x28)

bit 7-0 **HSYMTMR<7:0>:** Half Symbol Timer Low Byte bits Units: 8 μs.

REGISTER 2-39: HSYMTMRH: HALF SYMBOL TIMER HIGH BYTE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x29)

bit 7-0 **HSYMTMR<15:8>:** Half Symbol Timer High Byte bits Units: 8 μs.

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REGISTER 2-40: SOFTRST: SOFTWARE RESET REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x2A)

REGISTER 2-41: SECCON0: SECURITY CONTROL 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x2C)

 $000 =$ None (default)

REGISTER 2-42: SECCON1: SECURITY CONTROL 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x2D)

REGISTER 2-43: TXSTBL: TX STABILIZATION REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x2E)

bit 7-4 **RFSTBL<3:0>:** VCO Stabilization Period bits Units: symbol period (16 μs). Default value: 0x7. Recommended value: 0x9. bit 3-0 **MSIFS<3:0>:** Minimum Short Interframe Spacing bits The minimum number of symbols forming a Short Interframe Spacing (SIFS) period. Refer to IEEE 802.15.4™-2003 Standard, Section 7.5.1.2 "IFS" and Table 70: MAC Sublayer Constants. MSIFS + RFSTBL = aMinSIFSPeriod = 12 symbols. Units: symbol period (16 μs). Default value: 0x5.

REGISTER 2-44: RXSR: RX MAC STATUS REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x30)

bit 1-0 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

0 = Security decryption error did not occur

Note 1: Battery low-voltage threshold (BATTH) value set in the RFCON5 (0X205<7:4>) register and the Battery Monitor Enable (BATEN) bit located in the RFCON6 (0x206<3>) register.

REGISTER 2-45: INTSTAT: INTERRUPT STATUS REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x31)

Note 1: Interrupt bits are cleared to '0' when the INTSTAT register is read.

REGISTER 2-46: INTCON: INTERRUPT CONTROL REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x32)

 $-n =$ Value at POR $1' = B$ it is set $0' = B$ it is cleared $x = B$ it is unknown

REGISTER 2-47: GPIO: GPIO PORT REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x33)

REGISTER 2-48: TRISGPIO: GPIO PIN DIRECTION REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x34)

REGISTER 2-49: SLPACK: SLEEP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND WAKE-UP COUNTER REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x35)

bit 7 **SLPACK:** Sleep Acknowledge bit

 1 = Places the MRF24J40 to Sleep (automatically cleared to '0' by hardware)

bit 6-0 **WAKECNT<6:0>:** Wake Count bits Main oscillator (20 MHz) start-up timer counter bits. WAKECNT is a 9-bit value. WAKECNT<8:7> bits are located in RFCTL<4:3>. Units: Sleep clock (SLPCLK) period.**(1)** Default value: 0x00. Recommended value: 0x05F.

Note 1: Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) period depends on the Sleep Clock Selection (SLPCLKSEL) RFCON7<7:6> and Sleep Clock Divisor (SLPCLKDIV) SLPCON1<4:0>.

REGISTER 2-50: RFCTL: RF MODE CONTROL REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x36)

- **Note 1:** Sleep clock (SLPCLK) period depends on the Sleep clock selection (SLPCLKSEL) RFCON7<7:6> and Sleep clock divisor (SLPCLKDIV) SLPCON1<4:0>.
	- **2:** Perform RF Reset by setting RFRST = 1 and then RFRST = 0. Delay at least 192 μs after performing to allow RF circuitry to calibrate.
	- **3:** Recommended sequence RFCTL = 0x06 (reset mode) then RFCTL = 0x02 (transmit mode).

REGISTER 2-51: SECCR2: SECURITY CONTROL 2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x37)

$l - n = Value$ at POR	$'1'$ = Bit is set	$'0'$ = Bit is cleared	$x = \text{Bit}$ is unknown

bit 7-1 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

bit 0 **TURBO:** Turbo Mode Enable bit

 $1 =$ Turbo mode (625 kbps)

0 = IEEE 802.15.4™ mode (250 kbps)

REGISTER 2-53: BBREG1: BASEBAND 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x39)

bit 7-3 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

bit 1-0 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

REGISTER 2-54: BBREG2: BASEBAND 2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x3A)

REGISTER 2-55: BBREG3: BASEBAND 3 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x3B)

REGISTER 2-56: BBREG4: BASEBAND 4 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x3C)

REGISTER 2-57: BBREG6: BASEBAND 6 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x3E)

REGISTER 2-58: CCAEDTH: ENERGY DETECTION THRESHOLD FOR CCA REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x3F)

bit 7-0 **CCAEDTH<7:0>:** Clear Channel Assessment (CCA) Energy Detection (ED) Mode bits If the in-band signal strength is greater than the threshold, the channel is busy. The 8-bit value can be mapped to a power level according to RSSI. Refer to **Section [3.6 "Received Signal Strength Indicator](#page-93-0) [\(RSSI\)/Energy Detection \(ED\)"](#page-93-0)**.

Default value: 0x00. Recommended value: 0x60 (approximately -69 dBm).

2.15.4 LONG ADDRESS CONTROL REGISTERS DETAIL

REGISTER 2-59: RFCON0: RF CONTROL 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x200)

Default value: 0x0. Recommended value: 0x3.

REGISTER 2-60: RFCON1: RF CONTROL 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x201)

bit 7-0 **VCOOPT<7:0>:** VCO Optimize Control bits Default value: 0x0. Recommended value: 0x2.

REGISTER 2-61: RFCON2: RF CONTROL 2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x202)

Note 1: PLL must be enabled for RF reception or transmission.

REGISTER 2-62: RFCON3: RF CONTROL 3 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x203)

bit 2-0 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

REGISTER 2-63: RFCON5: RF CONTROL 5 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x205)

REGISTER 2-64: RFCON6: RF CONTROL 6 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x206)

 $1011 = 3.1V$ $1010 = 2.8V$ $1001 = 2.7V$ $1000 = 2.6V$ $0111 = 2.5V$ 0110 = Undefined

0000 = Undefined

bit 3-0 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

...

Note 1: The Battery Low-Voltage Threshold (BATTH) bits are located in the RFCON5 (0x205<7:4>) register and the Battery Low-Voltage Indicator (BATIND) bit is located in the RXSR (0x30<5>) register.

REGISTER 2-65: RFCON7: RF CONTROL 7 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x207)

bit 5-0 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

REGISTER 2-66: RFCON8: RF CONTROL 8 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x208)

bit 7-5 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

bit 4 **RFVCO:** VCO Control bit

Default value: '0'. Recommended value: '1'.

bit 3-0 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

REGISTER 2-67: SLPCAL0: SLEEP CALIBRATION 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x209)

bit 7-0 **SLPCAL<7:0>:** Sleep Calibration Counter bits

20-bit counter to calibrate the Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) period. The counter contains the count of 16 SLPCLK periods. The SLPCLK period depends on the Sleep Clock Selection (SLPCLKSEL), RFCON7<7:6> and Sleep Clock Divisor (SLPCLKDIV) SLPCON1<4:0> bits. Units: tick (50 ns).

REGISTER 2-68: SLPCAL1: SLEEP CALIBRATION 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x20A)

bit 7-0 **SLPCAL<15:8>:** Sleep Calibration Counter bits

20-bit counter to calibrate the Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) period. The counter contains the count of 16 SLPCLK periods. The SLPCLK period depends on the Sleep Clock Selection (SLPCLKSEL), RFCON7<7:6> and Sleep Clock Divisor (SLPCLKDIV) SLPCON1<4:0> bits. Units: tick (50 ns).

REGISTER 2-70: RFSTATE: RF STATE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x20F)

REGISTER 2-71: RSSI: AVERAGED RSSI VALUE REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x210)

bit 7-0 **RSSI<7:0>:** Averaged RSSI Value bits**(1)**

Note 1: The number of RSSI samples averaged, set by RSSINUMx (0x25<5:4>) bits.

REGISTER 2-72: SLPCON0: SLEEP CLOCK CONTROL 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x211)

Note 1: Ensure that the interrupt polarity matches the interrupt pin polarity on the host microcontroller.

REGISTER 2-73: SLPCON1: SLEEP CLOCK CONTROL 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x220)

bit 7-6 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

bit 5 **CLKOUTEN:** CLKOUT Pin Enable bit The CLKOUT pin 26 feature has been discontinued. It is recommended that it be disabled. 1 = Disable (recommended) $0 =$ Enable (default) bit 4-0 **SLPCLKDIV<4:0>:** Sleep Clock Divisor bits Sleep clock is divided by 2ⁿ, where n = SLPCLKDIV.⁽¹⁾ Default value: 0x00.

Note 1: If the Sleep Clock Selection, SLPCLKSEL (0x207<7:6), is the internal oscillator (100 kHz), set SLPCLKDIV to a minimum value of 0x01.

REGISTER 2-74: WAKETIMEL: WAKE-UP TIME MATCH VALUE LOW REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x222)

bit 7-0 **WAKETIME<7:0>:** Wake Time Match Value bits**(1)** WAKETIME is an 11-bit value that is compared with the Main Counter (MAINCNT) to signal the time to enable (wake-up) the 20 MHz main oscillator when the MRF24J40 is using the Sleep mode timers. Default value: 0x00A. Minimum value: 0x001.

Note 1: Rule: WAKETIME > WAKECNT.

REGISTER 2-75: WAKETIMEH: WAKE-UP TIME MATCH VALUE HIGH REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x223)

bit 7-3 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

bit 2-0 **WAKETIME<10:8>:** Wake-up Time Counted by SLPCLK bits**(1)** WAKETIME is an 11-bit value that is compared with the Main Counter (MAINCNT) to signal the time to enable (wake-up) the 20 MHz main oscillator when the MRF24J40 is using the Sleep mode timers. Default value: 0x00A. Minimum value: 0x001.

Note 1: Rule: WAKETIME > WAKECNT.

REGISTER 2-76: REMCNTL: REMAIN COUNTER LOW REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x224)

bit 7-0 **REMCNT<7:0>:** Remain Counter bits

Remain counter is a 16-bit counter. Together with the main counter times events: Beacon Interval (BI) and inactive period for beacon-enabled devices and Sleep interval for nonbeacon-enabled devices. Units: tick (50 ns).

REGISTER 2-77: REMCNTH: REMAIN COUNTER HIGH REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x225)

bit 7-0 **REMCNT<15:8>:** Remain Counter bits

Remain counter is a 16-bit counter. Together with the main counter times events: Beacon Interval (BI) and inactive period for beacon-enabled devices and Sleep interval for nonbeacon-enabled devices. Units: tick (50 ns).

REGISTER 2-78: MAINCNT0: MAIN COUNTER 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x226)

bit 7-0 **MAINCNT<7:0>:** Main Counter bits

Main counter is a 26-bit counter. Together with the remain counter times events: Beacon Interval (BI) and inactive period for beacon-enabled devices and Sleep interval for nonbeacon-enabled devices. Units: SLPCLK.**(1)**

REGISTER 2-79: MAINCNT1: MAIN COUNTER 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x227)

bit 7-0 **MAINCNT<15:8>:** Main Counter bits

Main counter is a 26-bit counter. Together with the remain counter times events: Beacon Interval (BI) and inactive period for beacon-enabled devices and Sleep interval for nonbeacon-enabled devices. Units: SLPCLK.**(1)**

Note 1: Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) period depends on the Sleep Clock Selection (SLPCLKSEL) RFCON<7:6> and Sleep Clock Divisor (SLPCLKDIV) CLKCON<4:0> bits.

Note 1: Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) period depends on the Sleep Clock Selection (SLPCLKSEL) RFCON<7:6> and Sleep Clock Divisor (SLPCLKDIV) CLKCON<4:0> bits.

REGISTER 2-80: MAINCNT2: MAIN COUNTER 2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x228)

bit 7-0 **MAINCNT<23:16>:** Main Counter bits

Main counter is a 26-bit counter. Together with the remain counter times events: Beacon Interval (BI) and inactive period for beacon-enabled devices and Sleep interval for nonbeacon-enabled devices. Units: SLPCLK.**(1)**

REGISTER 2-81: MAINCNT3: MAIN COUNTER 3 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x229)

bit 7 **STARTCNT:** Start Sleep Mode Counters bits

1 = Trigger Sleep mode for Nonbeacon Enable mode (BO = 0xF and Slotted = 0). Bit automatically clears to '0'.

bit 6-2 **Reserved:** Maintain as '0'

bit 1-0 **MAINCNT<25:24>:** Main Counter bits

Main counter is a 26-bit counter. Together with the remain counter times events: Beacon Interval (BI) and inactive period for beacon-enabled devices and Sleep interval for nonbeacon-enabled devices. Units: SLPCLK.**(1)**

Note 1: Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) period depends on the Sleep Clock Selection (SLPCLKSEL) RFCON<7:6> and Sleep Clock Divisor (SLPCLKDIV) CLKCON<4:0> bits.

Note 1: Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) period depends on the Sleep Clock Selection (SLPCLKSEL) RFCON<7:6> and Sleep Clock Divisor (SLPCLKDIV) CLKCON<4:0> bits.

bit 4-3 **RSSIWAIT<1:0>:** RSSI State Machine Parameter bits

01 = Optimized value (default)

bit 2-0 **TESTMODE<2:0>:** Test Mode bits

111 = GPIO0, GPIO1 and GPIO2 are configured to control an external PA and/or LNA**(1)**

101 = Single Tone Test mode

000 = Normal operation (default)

Note 1: Refer to **Section [4.2 "External PA/LNA Control"](#page-135-0)** for more information.

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REGISTER 2-83: ASSOEADR0: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR EXTENDED ADDRESS 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x230)

bit 7-0 **ASSOEADR<7:0>:** 64-Bit Extended Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-84: ASSOEADR1: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR EXTENDED ADDRESS 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x231)

bit 7-0 **ASSOEADR<15:8>:** 64-Bit Extended Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-85: ASSOEADR2: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR EXTENDED ADDRESS 2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x232)

bit 7-0 **ASSOEADR<23:16>:** 64-Bit Extended Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-86: ASSOEADR3: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR EXTENDED ADDRESS 3 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x233)

bit 7-0 **ASSOEADR<31:24>:** 64-Bit Extended Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-87: ASSOEADR4: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR EXTENDED ADDRESS 4 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x234)

bit 7-0 **ASSOEADR<39:32>:** 64-Bit Extended Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-88: ASSOEADR5: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR EXTENDED ADDRESS 5 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x235)

bit 7-0 **ASSOEADR<47:40>:** 64-Bit Extended Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-89: ASSOEADR6: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR EXTENDED ADDRESS 6 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x236)

bit 7-0 **ASSOEADR<55:48>:** 64-Bit Extended Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-90: ASSOEADR7: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR EXTENDED ADDRESS 7 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x237)

bit 7-0 **ASSOEADR<63:56>:** 64-Bit Extended Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-91: ASSOSADR0: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR SHORT ADDRESS 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x238)

bit 7-0 **ASSOSADR<7:0>:** 16-Bit Short Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-92: ASSOSADR1: ASSOCIATED COORDINATOR SHORT ADDRESS 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x239)

bit 7-0 **ASSOSADR<15:8>:** 16-Bit Short Address of Associated Coordinator bits

REGISTER 2-93: UPNONCE0: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 0 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x240)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<7:0>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-94: UPNONCE1: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 1 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x241)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<15:8>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

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REGISTER 2-95: UPNONCE2: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 2 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x242)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<23:16>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-96: UPNONCE3: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 3 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x243)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<31:24>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-97: UPNONCE4: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 4 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x244)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<39:32>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-98: UPNONCE5: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 5 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x245)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<47:40>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

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REGISTER 2-99: UPNONCE6: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 6 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x246)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<55:48>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-100: UPNONCE7: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 7 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x247)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<63:56>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-101: UPNONCE8: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 8 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x248)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<71:64>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-102: UPNONCE9: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 9 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x249)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<79:72>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

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REGISTER 2-103: UPNONCE10: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 10 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x24A)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<87:80>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-104: UPNONCE11: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 11 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x24B)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<95:88>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

REGISTER 2-105: UPNONCE12: UPPER NONCE SECURITY 12 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x24C)

bit 7-0 **UPNONCE<103:96>:** Upper Nonce bits 13-byte nonce value used in security.

NOTES:

3.0 FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

3.1 Reset

The MRF24J40 has four Reset types:

- Power-on Reset The MRF24J40 has built-in Power-on Reset circuitry that will automatically reset all control registers when power is applied. It is recommended to delay 2 ms after a Reset before accessing the MRF24J40 to allow the RF circuitry to start up and stabilize.
- RESET Pin The MRF24J40 can be reset by the host microcontroller by asserting the RESET pin 13 low. All control registers will be reset. The MRF24J40 will be released from Reset approximately 250 μs after RESET is released. The RESET pin has an internal weak pull-up resistor. It is recommended to delay 2 ms after a Reset before accessing the MRF24J40 to allow the RF circuitry to start up and stabilize.
- Software Reset A Software Reset can be performed by the host microcontroller. The power management circuitry is reset by setting the RSTPWR (0x2A<2>) bit to '1'. The control registers retain their values. The baseband circuitry is reset by setting the RSTBB (0x2A<1>) bit to '1'. The control registers retain their values. The MAC circuitry is reset by setting the RSTMAC (0x2A<0>) bit to '1'. All control registers will be reset. The Resets can be performed individually or together. The bit(s) will be automatically cleared to '0' by hardware. No delay is necessary after a Software Reset.
- RF State Machine Reset Perform an RF State Machine Reset by setting to '1' the RFRST (RFCTL 0x36<2>) bit and then clearing to '0'. Delay at least 192 μs after performing to allow the RF circuitry to calibrate. The control registers retain their values.
	- **Note:** The RF state machine should be Reset after the frequency channel has been changed (RFCON0 0x200).

TABLE 3-1: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH RESET

3.2 Initialization

Certain control register values must be initialized for basic operations. These values differ from the Power-on Reset values and provide improved operational parameters. These settings are normally made once after a Reset. After initialization, MRF24J40 features can be configured for the application. The steps for initialization are shown in [Example](#page-89-0) 3-1.

EXAMPLE 3-1: INITIALIZING THE MRF24J40

Example steps to initialize the MRF24J40:

- 1. SOFTRST (0x2A) = 0x07 Perform a software Reset. The bits will be automatically cleared to '0' by hardware.
- 2. PACON2 ($0x18$) = $0x98$ Initialize FIFOEN = 1 and TXONTS = $0x6$.
- 3. TXSTBL $(0x2E) = 0x95 -$ Initialize RFSTBL = $0x9$.
- 4. RFCON0 (0x200) = 0x03 Initialize RFOPT = 0x03.
- 5. RFCON1 (0x201) = 0x01 Initialize VCOOPT = 0x02.
- 6. RFCON2 (0x202) = 0x80 Enable PLL (PLLEN = 1).
- 7. RFCON6 (0x206) = 0x90 Initialize TXFIL = 1 and 20MRECVR = 1 .
- 8. RFCON7 (0x207) = 0x80 Initialize SLPCLKSEL = 0x2 (100 kHz Internal oscillator).
- 9. RFCON8 (0x208) = $0x10 -$ Initialize RFVCO = 1.
- 10. SLPCON1 $(0x220) = 0x21 -$ Initialize CLKOUTEN = 1 and SLPCLKDIV = 0x01.

Configuration for nonbeacon-enabled devices (see **[Section 3.8 "Beacon-Enabled and Nonbeacon-Enabled](#page-96-0) [Networks"](#page-96-0)**):

- 11. BBREG2 $(0x3A) = 0x80 -$ Set CCA mode to ED.
- 12. CCAEDTH = 0x60 Set CCA ED threshold.
- 13. BBREG6 (0x3E) = 0x40 Set appended RSSI value to RXFIFO.
- 14. Enable interrupts See **[Section 3.3 "Interrupts"](#page-90-0)**.
- 15. Set channel See **[Section 3.4 "Channel Selection"](#page-91-0)**.

Note: Maintain 0x200<3:0> = 0x03

16. Set transmitter power - See "REGISTER 2-62: RF CONTROL 3 REGISTER (ADDRESS: 0x203)".

- 17. RFCTL $(0x36) = 0x04$ Reset RF state machine.
- 18. RFCTL (0x36) = 0x00.
- 19. Delay at least 192 μs.

TABLE 3-2: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH INITIALIZATION

3.3 Interrupts

The MRF24J40 has one interrupt (INT) pin 16 that signals one of eight interrupt events to the host microcontroller. The interrupt structure is shown in [Figure](#page-90-1) 3-1. Interrupts are enabled via the INTCON (0x32) register. Interrupt flags are located in the INTSTAT (0x31) register. The INTSTAT register clears-to-zero upon read. Therefore, the host microcontroller should read and store the INTSTAT register and check the bits to determine which interrupt occurred. The INT pin will continue to signal an

FIGURE 3-1: MRF24J40 INTERRUPT LOGIC

interrupt until the INTSTAT register is read. The edge polarity of the INT pin is configured via the INTEDGE bit in the SLPCON0 (0x211<1>) register.

- **Note 1:** The INTEDGE polarity defaults to: 0 = Falling Edge. Ensure that the interrupt polarity matches the interrupt pin polarity of the host microcontroller.
	- **2:** The INT pin will remain high or low, depending on INTEDGE polarity setting, until INTSTAT register is read.

TABLE 3-3: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH INTERRUPTS

3.4 Channel Selection

The MRF24J40 is capable of selecting one of sixteen channel frequencies in the 2.4 GHz band. The desired channel is selected by configuring the CHANNEL bits in the RFCON0 (0x200<7:4>) register. See [Table](#page-91-1) 3-4 for the RFCON0 register setting for channel number and frequency.

Note: Perform an RF State Machine Reset (see **Section [3.1 "Reset"](#page-88-0)**) after a channel frequency change. Then, delay at least 192 μs after the RF State Machine Reset, to allow the RF circuitry to calibrate.

TABLE 3-4: CHANNEL SELECTION RFCON0 (0x200) REGISTER SETTING

TABLE 3-5: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH CHANNEL SELECTION

3.5 Clear Channel Assessment (CCA)

The CCA signal is an indication to the MAC layer from the PHY layer as to whether the medium is busy or idle.

The MRF24J40 provides three methods of performing CCA. Refer to IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Standard, Section 6.7.9 "CCA".

3.5.1 CCA MODE 1: ENERGY ABOVE THRESHOLD

CCA reports a busy medium upon detecting energy above the Energy Detection (ED) threshold.

- 1. Program CCAMODE 0x3A<7:6> to the value, '10'.
- 2. Program CCAEDTH 0x3F<7:0> with CCA ED threshold value (RSSI value).

The 8-bit CCAEDTH threshold can be mapped to a power level according to RSSI. Refer to **Section [3.6 "Received Signal Strength](#page-93-0) [Indicator \(RSSI\)/Energy Detection \(ED\)"](#page-93-0)**.

3.5.2 CCA MODE 2: CARRIER SENSE **ONLY**

CCA reports a busy medium only upon detection of a signal with the modulation and spreading characteristics of IEEE 802.15.4. This signal may or may not be above the ED threshold.

- 1. Program CCAMODE 0x3A<7:6> to the value, '01'.
- 2. Program CCACSTH 0x3A<5:2> with the CCA carrier sense threshold (units).

3.5.3 CCA MODE 3: CARRIER SENSE WITH ENERGY ABOVE THRESHOLD

CCA reports a busy medium only upon detection of a signal with modulation or spreading characteristics of IEEE 802.15.4 with energy above the ED threshold.

- 1. Program CCAMODE 0x3A<7:6> to the value, '11'.
- 2. Program CCACSTH 0x3A<5:2> with the CCA carrier sense threshold.
- 3. Program CCAEDTH 0x3F<7:0> with the CCA ED threshold (RSSI value).

The 8-bit CCAEDTH threshold can be mapped to a power level according to RSSI. Refer to **Section [3.6 "Received Signal Strength](#page-93-0) [Indicator \(RSSI\)/Energy Detection \(ED\)"](#page-93-0)**.

TABLE 3-6: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH CCA

3.6 Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI)/Energy Detection (ED)

RSSI/ED are an estimate of the received signal power within the bandwidth of an IEEE 802.15.4 channel. The RSSI value is an 8-bit value ranging from 0-255. The mapping between the RSSI values with the received power level is shown in [Figure](#page-94-0) 3-3 and is shown in tabular form in [Table](#page-95-0) 3-8. The number of symbols to average can be changed by programming the RSSINUM (TXBCON1 0x25<5:4>) bits.

The programmer can obtain the RSSI/ED value in one of two methods.

3.6.1 RSSI FIRMWARE REQUEST (RSSI MODE1)

In this mode, the host microcontroller sends a request to calculate RSSI, then waits until it is done and then reads the RSSI value. The steps are:

- 1. Set RSSIMODE1 0x3E<7> Initiate RSSI calculation.
- 2. Wait until RSSIRDY 0x3E<0> is set to '1' RSSI calculation is complete.
- 3. Read RSSI 0x210<7:0> The RSSI register contains the averaged RSSI received power level for 8 symbol periods.

3.6.2 APPENDED RSSI TO THE RECEIVED PACKET (RSSI MODE 2)

The RSSI value is appended at the end of each successfully received packet.

To enable RSSI Mode 2, set RSSIMODE2 = 1 (0x3E<6>). The RSSI value will be appended to the RXFIFO as shown in [Figure](#page-93-1) 3-2.

FIGURE 3-2: PACKET FORMAT IN RX FIFO

TABLE 3-7: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH RSSI/ED

RSSI versus received power (dB) is shown in tabular form in [Table](#page-95-0) 3-8 .

TABLE 3-8: RSSI vs. RECEIVED POWER (dB)

lan)		
Received Power (dBm)	RSSI Value (hex)	RSSI Value (dec)
-100	0x0	0
-99	0x0	0
-98	0x0	0
-97	0x0	0
-96	0x0	0
-95	0x0	0
-94	0x0	0
-93	0x0	0
-92	0x0	0
-91	0x0	0
-90	0x0	0
-89	0x1	1
-88	0x2	$\overline{2}$
-87	0x5	5
-86	0x9	9
-85	0x0D	13
-84	0x12	18
-83	0x17	23
-82	0x1B	27
-81	0x20	32
-80	0x25	37
-79	0x2B	43
-78	0x30	48
-77	0x35	53
-76	0x3A	58
-75	0x3F	63
-74	0x44	68
-73	0x49	73
-72	0x4E	78
-71	0x53	83
-70	0x59	89
-69	0x5F	95
-68	0x64	100
-67	0x6B	107
-66	0x6F	111
-65	0x75	117
-64	0x79	121
-63	0x7D	125
-62	0x81	129
-61	0x85	133
-60	0x8A	138

TABLE 3-8: RSSI vs. RECEIVED POWER (dB) (CONTINUED)

3.7 Link Quality Indication (LQI)

Link Quality Indication (LQI) is a characterization of strength or quality of a received packet. Several metrics, for example, RSSI, Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR), RSSI combined with SNR, etc., can be used for measuring link quality. Using RSSI or SNR alone may not be the best way to estimate the quality of a link. The received RSSI value will be a very high value if a packet is received with greater signal strength or even if an interferer is present in the channel. Hence, for better approximation of link quality, the MRF24J40 reports the correlation degree between spreading sequences and the incoming chips during the reception of a packet. This correlation value is directly mapped to a range of 0-255 (256 values), where an LQI value of 0 indicates that the quality of the link is very low, and an LQI value of 255 indicates the quality of the link is very high. The correlation degree between spreading sequences and incoming chips is computed over a period of 3 symbol periods during the reception of the preamble of a packet.

The LQI is reported along with each received packet in the RX FIFO as shown in [Figure](#page-93-1) 3-2.

3.8 Beacon-Enabled and Nonbeacon-Enabled Networks

The IEEE 802.15.4 Standard defines two modes of operation:

- Beacon-enabled network
- Nonbeacon-enabled network

3.8.1 BEACON-ENABLED NETWORK

In a beacon-enabled network, beacons will be transmitted periodically by the PAN coordinator. These beacons are mainly used to provide synchronization services between all the devices in the PAN and also to support other extended features, like Guaranteed Time Slots (GTS), a Quality of Service (QoS) mechanism for the IEEE 802.15.4 Standard. The PAN coordinator defines the structure of the superframe using beacons.

3.8.1.1 Superframe Structure

The superframe structure is shown in [Figure](#page-97-0) 3-4. A superframe is bounded by the transmission of a beacon frame and can have an active and inactive portion. The coordinator will interact with its PAN only during the active portion of the superframe, and during the inactive portion of the superframe, the coordinator can go to a low-power mode. The active portion of the superframe is divided into 16 equally spaced slots and is composed of three parts: a beacon, a Contention Access Period (CAP) and an optional Contention Free Period (CFP). The structure of the superframe depends

on the values of Beacon Order (BO) and Superframe Order (SO). The CFP, if present, follows immediately after the CAP and extends to the end of active portion of the superframe. Any allocated GTSs shall be located in the CFP of the active portion of the superframe.

All the frames transmitted in the CAP, except Acknowledgement frames and data frames that immediately follow the data request command, must use slotted CSMA-CA. Refer to **Section [3.9 "Carrier](#page-102-0) [Sense Multiple Access-Collision Avoidance](#page-102-0) [\(CSMA-CA\) Algorithm"](#page-102-0)** for more information.

FIGURE 3-4: SUPERFRAME STRUCTURE

3.8.1.2 BO and SO

Values of Beacon Order (BO) and Superframe Order (SO) determine the Beacon Interval (BI) and Superframe Duration (SD).

Beacon Interval (BI) in terms of BO can be expressed as:

 $BI = aBaseSuperframe duration * 2^{BO}$

Similarly, Superframe Duration (SD) in terms of SO can be expressed as:

 $SD = aBaseSuperframe duration * 2^{SO}$

where aBaseSuperframeduration = 960 symbols.

BO and SO can be configured by programming the BO (0x10<7:4>) bits and SO (0x10<3:0>) bits in the ORDER register. For beacon-enabled networks, the values of BO and SO should be in the range, $0 \leq SO \leq BO \leq 14$. If the values of BO and SO are equal, then the superframe does not have any inactive portion. A Beacon Interval can be as short as 15 ms or a long as 251 seconds based on the values of BO and SO.

3.8.1.3 GTS

If a device wants to transmit or receive during CFP, it sends out a "GTS request" in the CAP to the PAN coordinator. The PAN coordinator broadcasts the address of the device number for that device in the beacon frame if resources are available.

To support GTS operation, MRF24J40 uses TXGTS1FIFO and TXGTS2FIFO. The TXGTS1FIFO and TXGTS2FIFO are ping-pong FIFOs and can be assigned to different GTS slots or to the same slots. If both are assigned to the same slot, they take turns for transmission within that slot. TXGTS1FIFO and TXGTS2FIFO can be triggered ahead of their slot time, but transmission from the FIFO will take place exactly at the assigned slot time.

Refer to **Section [3.12 "Transmission"](#page-109-0)** for information on how to transmit a data frame using the TXGTSxFIFOs.

3.8.1.4 Configuring Beacon-Enabled PAN **Coordinator**

The following steps configure the MRF24J40 as a coordinator in a beacon-enabled network:

- 1. Set the PANCOORD (RXMCR 0x00<3>) bit = 1 to configure as PAN coordinator.
- 2. Set the SLOTTED (TXMCR 0x11<5>) bit = 1 to use Slotted CSMA-CA mode.
- 3. Load the beacon frame into the TXBFIFO (0x080-0x0FF).
- 4. Set the TXBMSK (TXBCON1 0x25<7>) bit = 1 to mask the beacon interrupt mask.
- 5. Set INTL (WAKECON 0x22<5:0>) value to 0x03.
- 6. Program the CAP end slot (ESLOTG1 0x13<3:0>) value. If the coordinator supports Guaranteed Time Slot operation, refer to **Section [3.8.1.5 "Configuring Beacon-Enabled](#page-99-0) [GTS Settings for PAN Coordinator"](#page-99-0)** below.
- 7. Calibrate the Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) frequency. Refer to **Section [3.15.1.2 "Sleep Clock](#page-119-0) [Calibration"](#page-119-0)**.
- 8. Set WAKECNT (SLPACK 0x35<6:0>) value = 0x5F to set the main oscillator (20 MHz) start-up timer value.
- 9. Program the Beacon Interval into the Main Counter, MAINCNT (0x229<1:0>, 0x228, 0x227, 0x226), and Remain Counter, REMCNT (0x225, 0x224), according to BO and SO values. Refer to **Section [3.15.1.3 "Sleep Mode Counters"](#page-119-1)**.
- 10. Configure the BO (ORDER 0x10<7:4>) and SO (ORDER 0x10<3:0>) values. After configuring BO and SO, the beacon frame will be sent immediately.

3.8.1.5 Configuring Beacon-Enabled GTS Settings for PAN Coordinator

The following steps configure the MRF24J40 as a coordinator in a beacon-enabled network with Guaranteed Time Slots:

- 1. Set the GTSON (GATECLK 0x26 <3>) bit = 1 to enable the GTS FIFO clock.
- 2. Based on the number of GTSs that are active for the current superframe, program the end slot value of each GTS into the ESLOT registers as shown in [Table](#page-99-1) 3-9.

3. Set the GTSSWITCH (TXPEND 0x21<1>) bit = 1 so that if a TXGTS1FIFO or TXGTS2FIFO transmission error occurs, it will switch to another TXGTSxFIFO.

3.8.1.6 Configuring Beacon-Enabled Device

The following steps configure the MRF24J40 as a device in a beacon-enabled network:

- 1. Set the SLOTTED (TXMCR $0x11<5>$) bit = 1 to use Slotted CSMA-CA mode.
- 2. Set the OFFSET (FRMOFFSET 0x23<7:0>) value = 0x15 for optimum timing alignment.
- 3. Calibrate the Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) frequency. Refer to **Section [3.15.1.2 "Sleep](#page-119-0) [Clock Calibration"](#page-119-0)**.
- 4. Program the associated coordinator's 64-bit extended address to the ASSOEADR registers (0x230-0x237).
- 5. Program the associated coordinator's 16-bit short address to the ASSOSADR registers (0x238-0x239).
- **Note:** The device will align its beacon frame with the associated coordinator's beacon frame only when the source address matches the ASSOEADR or ASSOSADR value.
- 6. Parse the received associated coordinator's beacon frame and extract the values of BO and SO. Calculate the inactive period and program the Main Counter, MAINCNT (0x229<1:0>, 0x228, 0x227, 0x226), and Remain Counter, REMCNT (0x225, 0x224), according to the BO and SO values. Refer to **Section [3.15.1.3](#page-119-1) ["Sleep Mode Counters"](#page-119-1)**.
- 7. Program the CAP end slot (ESLOTG1 0x13<3:0>) value.

3.8.1.7 Configuring Beacon-Enabled GTS Settings for Device

The following steps configure the MRF24J40 as a device in a beacon-enabled network with Guaranteed Time Slots:

- 1. Set the GTSON (GATECLK $0x26<3>$) bit = 1 to enable the GTS FIFO clock.
- 2. Parse the received beacon frame and obtain the GTS allocation information. Program the end slot value of the CAP and each GTS into the ESLOT registers, as shown in [Table](#page-99-1) 3-9.
- 3. Set the GTSSWITCH (TXPEND 0x21<1>) bit = 1 so that if a TXGTS1FIFO or TXGTS2FIFO transmission error occurs, it will switch to another **TXGTSxFIFO**

3.8.2 NONBEACON-ENABLED NETWORK

A nonbeacon-enabled network does not transmit a beacon unless it receives a beacon request, and hence, does not have any superframe structure. A nonbeacon-enabled network uses unslotted CSMA-CA to access the medium. The unslotted CSMA-CA is explained in **Section [3.9 "Carrier Sense Multiple](#page-102-0) [Access-Collision Avoidance \(CSMA-CA\) Algo](#page-102-0)[rithm"](#page-102-0)**. For nonbeacon-enabled networks, both BO and SO are set to 15. Guaranteed Time Slots (GTS) are not supported, and generally, devices require less computing power as there are no strict timing requirements that need to be met.

3.8.2.1 Configuring Nonbeacon-Enabled PAN Coordinator

The following steps configure the MRF24J40 as a coordinator in a nonbeacon-enabled network:

- 1. Set the PANCOORD (RXMCR $0x00<3>$) bit = 1 to configure as the PAN coordinator.
- 2. Clear the SLOTTED (TXMCR $0x11 < 5$) bit = 0 to configure Unslotted CSMA-CA mode.
- 3. Configure BO (ORDER 0x10<7:4>) value = 0xF.
- 4. Configure SO (ORDER 0x10<3:0>) value = 0xF.
- 3.8.2.2 Configuring Nonbeacon-Enabled Device

The following steps configure the MRF24J40 as a device in a nonbeacon-enabled network:

- 1. Clear the PANCOORD (RXMCR 0x00<3>) bit = 0 to configure as device.
- 2. Clear the SLOTTED (TXMCR $0x11<5>$) bit = 0 to use Unslotted CSMA-CA mode.

TABLE 3-10: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH SETTING UP BEACON-ENABLED AND NONBEACON-ENABLED NETWORKS

3.9 Carrier Sense Multiple Access-Collision Avoidance (CSMA-CA) Algorithm

MRF24J40 supports both unslotted and slotted CSMA-CA mechanisms, as defined in the IEEE 802.15.4 Standard. In both modes, the CSMA-CA algorithm is implemented using units of time called backoff periods. In slotted CSMA-CA, the backoff period boundaries of every device on the PAN shall be aligned with the superframe slot boundaries of the PAN coordinator. In unslotted CSMA-CA, the backoff periods of one device are not related in time to the backoff periods of any other device in the PAN. Refer to

IEEE 802.15.4-2003, Section 7.5.1.3 "The CSMA-CA Algorithm" for more information. This section covers the two modes and their settings.

3.9.1 UNSLOTTED CSMA-CA MODE

[Figure](#page-102-1) 3-6 shows the unslotted CSMA-CA algorithm. This mode is used in a nonbeacon-enabled network where the backoff periods of one device are not related in time to the backoff periods of any other device in the network. Refer to IEEE 802.15.4-2003, Section 7.5.1.3 "The CSMA-CA Algorithm" for more information.

Configuring the MRF24J40 for nonbeacon-enabled network operation is covered in **[Section](#page-100-0) 3.8.2 ["Nonbeacon-Enabled Network"](#page-100-0)**.

FIGURE 3-6: UNSLOTTED CSMA-CA ALGORITHM

To configure the MRF24J40 for Unslotted CSMA-CA mode, clear SLOTTED (TXMCR 0x11<5>) bit = 0.

The macMinBE and macMaxCSMABackoff values in the MRF24J40 are set to the IEEE 802.15.4 Standard defaults. To program their values:

- macMinBE Program MACMINBE (TXMCR 0x11<4:3>) bits to a value between 0 and 3 (the IEEE 802.15.4 Standard default is 3).
- macMaxCSMABackoff Program CSMABF (TXMCR 0x11<2:0>) bits to a value between 0 and 5 (the IEEE 802.15.4 Standard default is 4).

FIGURE 3-7: SLOTTED CSMA-CA ALGORITHM

3.9.2 SLOTTED CSMA-CA MODE

[Figure](#page-103-0) 3-7 shows the slotted CSMA-CA algorithm. This mode is used on a beacon-enabled network where the backoff period boundaries of every device on the network shall be aligned with the superframe slot boundaries of the PAN coordinator. Refer to IEEE 802.15.4-2003, Section 7.5.1.3 "The CSMA-CA Algorithm" for more information.

Configuring the MRF24J40 for beacon-enabled network operation is covered in **[Section](#page-96-1) 3.8.1 ["Beacon-Enabled Network"](#page-96-1)**.

To configure the MRF24J40 for Slotted CSMA-CA mode, set SLOTTED (TXMCR 0x11<5>) bit = 1.

To program the battery life extension bit in the Slotted CSMA-CA mode, set BATLIFEXT (TXMCR 0x11<6>) $bit = 1$.

The macMinBE and macMaxCSMABackoff values are set to the IEEE 802.15.4 Standard defaults. To change their values:

- macMinBE Program MACMINBE (TXMCR 0x11<4:3>) bits to a value between 0 and 3 (the default is 3).
- macMaxCSMABackoff Program CSMABF (TXMCR 0x11<2:0>) bits to a value between 0 and 5 (the default is 4).

TABLE 3-11: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH CSMA-CA

3.10 Interframe Spacing (IFS)

Interframe Spacing (IFS) allows the MAC sublayer time to process data received by the PHY. The length of the IFS period depends on the size of the frame that is to be transmitted. Frames up to aMaxSIFSFrameSize (18 octets) in length shall be followed by a SIFS period of at least aMinSIFSPeriod (12) symbols. Frames with lengths greater than aMaxSIFSFrameSize shall be followed by a LIFS period of at least aMinLIFSPeriod (40) symbols. If the transmission requires an Acknowledgment, the IFS shall follow the Acknowledgment frame. [Figure](#page-105-0) 3-8 shows the relationship between frames and IFS periods. Refer to IEEE 802.15.4-2003, Section 7.5.1.2 "IFS" for more information.

The IEEE 802.15.4 Specification defines aMinSIFSPeriod as a constant value of 12 symbol periods. The aMinSIFSPeriod can be programmed by the MSIFS (TXSTBL 0x2E<3:0>) and RFSTBL (TXSTBL 0x2E<7:4>) bits, where aMinSIFSPeriod = MSIFS + RFSTBL.

The IEEE 802.15.4 Specification defines aMinLIFSPeriod as a constant value of 40 symbol periods. The aMinLIFSPeriod can be programmed by the MLIFS (TXPEND 0x21<7:2>) and RFSTBL (TXSTBL 0x2E<7:4>) bits, where aMinLIFSPeriod = MLFS + RFSTBL.

The IEEE 802.15.4 Specification defines aTurnaroundTime as a constant value of 12 symbol periods. The aTurnaroundTime can be programmed by the TURNTIME (TXTIME 0x27<7:4>) and RFSTBL (TXSTBL 0x2E<7:4>) bits, where aTurnaroundTime = TURNTIME + RFSTBL.

TABLE 3-12: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH INTERFRAME SPACING

3.11 Reception

An IEEE 802.15.4 compliant packet is prefixed with a Synchronization Header (SHR) containing the preamble sequence and Start-of-Frame Delimiter (SFD) fields. The preamble sequence enables the receiver to achieve symbol synchronization.

The MRF24J40 monitors incoming signals and looks for the preamble of IEEE 802.15.4 packets. When a valid synchronization is obtained, the entire packet is

FIGURE 3-9: PACKET RECEPTION

demodulated and the CRC is calculated and checked. The packet is accepted or rejected depending on the reception mode and frame filter, and placed in the RXFIFO buffer. When the packet is placed in the RXFIFO, a Receive Interrupt (RXIF 0x31<3>) is issued. The RXFIFO address mapping is shown in [Figure](#page-106-0) 3-9.

The following sections detail the reception operation of the MRF24J40.

3.11.1 RECEPTION MODES

The MRF24J40 can be configured for one of three different Reception modes as shown in [Table](#page-107-0) 3-13. An explanation of each of the modes follows.

TABLE 3-13: RECEPTION MODES

3.11.1.1 Normal Mode

Normal mode accepts only packets with a good CRC and satisfies the requirements of the IEEE 802.15.4 Specification, Section 7.5.6.2 "Reception and Rejection":

- 1. The frame type subfield of the frame control field shall not contain an illegal frame type.
- 2. If the frame type indicates that the frame is a beacon frame, the source PAN identifier shall match macPANId unless macPANID is equal to 0xFFFF, in which case, the beacon frame will be accepted regardless of the source PAN identifier.
- 3. If a destination PAN identifier is included in the frame, it shall match macPANId or shall be the broadcast PAN identifier (0xFFFF).
- 4. If a short destination address is included in the frame, it shall match either macShortAddress or the broadcast address (0xFFFF). Otherwise, if an extended destination address is included in the frame, it shall match aExtendedAddress.
- 5. If only source addressing fields are included in a data or MAC command frame, the frame shall be accepted only if the device is a PAN coordinator and the source PAN identifier matches macPANId.

3.11.1.2 Error Mode

Error mode accepts packets with good or bad CRC.

3.11.1.3 Promiscuous Mode

Promiscuous mode accepts all packets with a good CRC.

3.11.2 FRAME FORMAT FILTER

Once the packet has been accepted, depending on the Reception mode above, the frame format is filtered according to [Table](#page-107-1) 3-14. Command, data or beacon only frames can be filtered and placed in the RXFIFO buffer. All frames (default) can be selected placing all frame formats (command, data and beacon) in the RXFIFO.

TABLE 3-14: FRAME FORMAT FILTER

3.11.3 ACKNOWLEDGMENT REQUEST

If the received packet has the Acknowledgment request bit set to '1' (bit 5 of the Frame Control Field – refer to IEEE 802.15.4 Standard, Section 7.2.1.1 "Frame Control Field"), the TXMAC circuitry will send an Acknowledgment packet automatically. This feature minimizes the processing duties of the host microcontroller and keeps the Acknowledgment timing within the IEEE 802.15.4 Specification.

The sequence number field of the Acknowledgment frame will contain the value of the sequence number of the received frame for which the Acknowledgment is to be sent.

Refer to **Section [3.13 "Acknowledgement"](#page-115-0)** for more information.

3.11.4 RECEIVE INTERRUPT

Once the packet is accepted, depending on the Reception mode (Normal, Error or Promiscuous) and frame format (all, command, data or beacon), it is placed in the RXFIFO buffer and a Receive Interrupt (RXIF 0x31<3>) is issued.

Data is placed into the RXFIFO buffer as shown in [Figure](#page-106-0) 3-9. The host processor reads the RXFIFO via the SPI port by reading addresses, 0x300-0x38F. Address, 0x300, contains the received packet frame length which includes the header length, data payload length, plus 2 for the FCS bytes. An LQI and RSSI value comes after the FCS. Refer to **Section [3.6 "Received](#page-93-0) [Signal Strength Indicator \(RSSI\)/Energy Detection](#page-93-0) [\(ED\)"](#page-93-0)** and **Section [3.7 "Link Quality Indication \(LQI\)"](#page-96-2)** for more information.
The RXFIFO is a 128-byte dual port buffer. The RXMAC circuitry places the packet into the RXFIFO sequentially, byte by byte, using an internal pointer. The internal pointer is reset one of three ways:

- 1. When the host microcontroller reads the first byte of the packet.
- 2. Manually by setting the RXFLUSH (0x0D<0>) bit. The bit is automatically cleared to '0' by hardware.
- 3. Software Reset (see **Section [3.1 "Reset"](#page-88-0)** for more information).

The RXFIFO can only hold one packet at a time. It is highly recommended that the host microcontroller read the entire RXFIFO without interruption so that received packets are not missed.

Note: When the first byte of the RXFIFO is read, the MRF24J40 is ready to receive the next packet. To avoid receiving a packet while the RXFIFO is being read, set the Receive Decode Inversion (RXDECINV) bit (0x39<2>) to '1' to disable the MRF24J40 from receiving a packet off the air. Once the data is read from the RXFIFO, the RXDECINV should be cleared to '0' to enable packet reception.

[Example](#page-108-0) 3-2 shows example steps to read the RXFIFO.

EXAMPLE 3-2: STEPS TO READ RXFIFO

Example steps to read the RXFIFO:

- 1. Receive RXIF interrupt.
- 2. Disable host microcontroller interrupts.
- 3. Set RXDECINV = 1 ; disable receiving packets off air.
- 4. Read address, 0x300; get RXFIFO frame length value.
- 5. Read RXFIFO addresses, 0x301 through (0x300 + Frame Length + 2); read packet data plus LQI and RSSI.
- 6. Clear RXDECINV = 0 ; enable receiving packets.
- 7. Enable host microcontroller interrupts.

3.11.5 SECURITY

If the received packet has the security enabled bit set to '1' (bit 3 of the frame control field; refer to IEEE 802.15.4 Standard, Section 7.2.1.1 "Frame Control Field") a Security Interrupt (SECIF 0x31<4>) is issued. The host microcontroller can then decide to decrypt or ignore the packet. See **Section [3.17 "Security"](#page-127-0)** for more information.

3.12 Transmission

IEEE 802.15.4 Standard defines four frame types: Acknowledgment, Data, Beacon and MAC Command frame. The transmission of the Acknowledgment frame is handled automatically in hardware by the MRF24J40 and is covered in **Section [3.13 "Acknowledgement"](#page-115-0)**. Hardware management of the transmission of data, beacon and MAC command frames are handled in four transmit (TX) FIFOs.

Each TX FIFO has a specific purpose depending on if the MRF24J40 is configured for Beacon or Nonbeacon-Enabled mode. Configuring the MRF24J40 for beacon-enabled network operation is covered in **Section [3.8.1 "Beacon-Enabled Network"](#page-96-0)**. Configuring the MRF24J40 for nonbeacon-enabled network operation is covered in **Section [3.8.2 "Nonbeacon-Enabled](#page-100-0) [Network"](#page-100-0)**.

The four TX FIFOs are:

TX Normal FIFO – Used for the transmission of data and MAC command frames during the Contention Access Phase (CAP) of the superframe if the device is operating in Beacon-Enabled mode and for all transmissions when the device is operating in Nonbeacon-Enabled mode.

TX Beacon FIFO – Used for the transmission of the beacon frames.

TX GTS1 FIFO and TX GTS2 FIFO – Used for the transmission of data during the Contention Free Period (CFP) of the superframe if the device is operating in Beacon-Enabled mode. Refer to **[Section](#page-96-0) 3.8.1 ["Beacon-Enabled Network"](#page-96-0)** for more information about guaranteed time slots in Beacon-Enabled mode.

[Figure](#page-109-0) 3-10 summarizes the memory map for each of the TX FIFOs. Each TX FIFO occupies 128 bytes of memory and can hold one frame at a time.

[Figure](#page-110-0) 3-11 shows the flow of data from the TX FIFO to on air packet and summarizes the data, beacon and MAC command frames.

3.12.1 TX FIFOs FRAME STRUCTURE

The TX FIFOs are divided into four fields:

Header length – Used primarily in Security mode and contains the length, in octets (bytes), of the MAC Header (MHR). In Unsecure mode, this field is ignored.

Frame length – Contains the length, in octets (bytes), of the MAC Header (MHR) and data payload.

Header – Contains the MAC Header (MHR).

Payload – Contains the data payload.

When the individual TX FIFO is triggered, the MRF24J40 will handle transmitting the packet using the CSMA-CA algorithm, Acknowledgment of the packet (optional), retransmit if Acknowledgment not received within required time period and interframe spacing. The MRF24J40 will add the Synchronization Header (SHR), PHY Header (PHR) and Frame Check Sequence (FCS) automatically. If a packet is to be

transmitted using in-line security, the Message Integrity Code (MIC) will be appended in the data payload by the MRF24J40. Refer to **Section [3.17 "Security"](#page-127-0)** for more information about transmitting and receiving data in Security mode. In Beacon-Enabled mode, the MRF24J40 will handle superframe timing, transmission of the beacon and data packets during CAP and CFP.

3.12.2 TX NORMAL FIFO

In Beacon-Enabled mode, the TX Normal FIFO is used for the transmission of data and MAC command frames during the Contention Access Phase (CAP) of the superframe.

In Nonbeacon-Enabled mode, the TX Normal FIFO is used for all transmissions.

To transmit a packet in the TX Normal FIFO, perform the following steps:

1. The host processor loads the TX Normal FIFO with IEEE 802.15.4 compliant data or MAC command frame using the format shown in [Figure](#page-111-0) 3-12.

- 2. If the packet requires an Acknowledgment, the Acknowledgment request bit in the frame control field should be set to '1' in the MAC Header (MHR) when the host microcontroller loads the TX Normal FIFO, and set the TXNACKREQ (TXNCON 0x1B<2>) bit = 1. Refer to **Section [3.13 "Acknowledgement"](#page-115-0)** for more information about Acknowledgment configuration.
- 3. If the frame is to be encrypted, the security enabled bit in the frame control field should be set to '1' in the MAC Header (MHR) when the host microcontroller loads the TX Normal FIFO, and set the TXNSECEN (TXNCON 0x1B<1>) bit = 1. Refer to **Section [3.17 "Security"](#page-127-0)** for more information about Security modes.
- 4. Transmit the packet by setting the TXNTRIG $(TXNCON Ox1B<0>)$ bit = 1. The bit will be automatically cleared by hardware.
- 5. A TXNIF (INTSTAT 0x31<0>) interrupt will be issued. The TXNSTAT (TXSTAT 0x24<0>) bit indicates the status of the transmission:

TXNSTAT = 0: Transmission was successful

TXNSTAT = 1: Transmission failed, retry count exceeded

The number of retries of the most recent transmission is contained in the TXNRETRY (TXSTAT 0x24<7:6>) bits. The CCAFAIL (TXSTAT 0x24 < 5 > \triangleright) bit = 1 indicates if the failed transmission was due to the channel busy (CSMA-CA timed out).

3.12.3 TX BEACON FIFO

In Beacon-Enabled mode, the TX Beacon FIFO is used for the transmission of beacon frames during the beacon slot of the superframe.

In Nonbeacon-Enabled mode, the TX Beacon FIFO is used for the transmission of a beacon frame at the time it is triggered (transmitted).

To transmit a packet in the TX Beacon FIFO, perform the following steps:

1. The host processor loads the TX Beacon FIFO with an IEEE 802.15.4 compliant beacon frame using the format shown in [Figure](#page-112-0) 3-13.

- 2. If the beacon frame is to be encrypted, the security enabled bit in the frame control field should be set to '1' in the MAC Header (MHR) when the host microcontroller loads the TX Beacon FIFO, and set the TXBSECEN (TXBCON 0x1A<1>) bit = 1. Refer to **Section [3.17 "Security"](#page-127-0)** for more information about Security modes.
- 3. Transmit the packet by setting the TXBTRIG (TXBCON $0x1A<0>$) bit = 1. The bit will be automatically cleared by hardware. If the MRF24J40 is configured for Beacon-Enabled mode, the beacon frame will be transmitted at the beacon slot time at the beginning of the superframe. In Nonbeacon-Enabled mode, the beacon frame is transmitted at the time of triggering.

3.12.4 TX GTSx FIFO

In Beacon-Enabled mode, the TX GTSx FIFOs are used for the transmission of data or MAC command frames during the CFP of the superframe. Refer to **Section [3.8.1 "Beacon-Enabled Network"](#page-96-0)** for more information about guaranteed time slots in Beacon-Enabled mode.

To transmit a packet in the TX GTSx FIFO, perform the following steps:

1. The host processor loads the respective TX GTSx FIFO with an IEEE 802.15.4 compliant data or MAC command frame using the format shown in [Figure](#page-113-0) 3-14.

FIGURE 3-14: TX GTS1 AND GTS2 FIFOS FORMAT

- 2. If the packet requires an Acknowledgment, the Acknowledgment request bit in the frame control field should be set to '1' in the MAC Header (MHR) when the host microcontroller loads the respective TX GTSx FIFO, and set the TXG1ACKREQ (TXG1CON 0x1C<2>) or TXG2ACKREQ (TXG2CON 0x1D<2>) bit = 1 . Refer to **Section [3.13 "Acknowledgement"](#page-115-0)** for more information about Acknowledgment configuration.
- 3. Program the number of retry times for the respective TX GTSx FIFO in the TXG1RETRY (TXG1CON 0x1C<7:6>) or TXG2RETRY (TXG2CON 0x1D<7:6>) bits.
- 4. If the frame is to be encrypted, the security enabled bit in the frame control field should be set to '1' in the MAC Header (MHR) when the host microcontroller loads the TX GTSx FIFO, and set the TXG1SECEN (TXG1CON 0x1C<1>) or TXG2SECEN (TXG2CON 0x1D<1>) bit = 1. Refer to **Section [3.17 "Secu](#page-127-0)[rity"](#page-127-0)** for more information about Security modes.
- 5. Program the slot number for the respective TX GTSx FIFO in the TXG1SLOT (TXG1CON 0x1C<5:3> or TXG2SLOT (TXG2CON 0x1D<5:3>) bits.
- 6. Transmit the packet in the respective TX GTSx FIFO by setting the TXG1TRIG (TXG1CON 0x1C<0>) or TXG2TRIG (TXG2CON 0x1D<0>) bit $= 1$. The bit will be automatically cleared by hardware. The packet will be transmitted at the corresponding slot time of the superframe.
- 7. A TXG1IF (INTSTAT 0x31<1>) or TXG2IF (INTSTAT 0x31<2>) interrupt will be issued. The TXG1STAT (TXSTAT 0x24<1>) or TXG2STAT (TXSTAT 0x24<2>) bit indicates the status of the transmission:

TXGxSTAT = 0: Transmission was successful TXGxSTAT = 1: Transmission failed, retry

count exceeded

The number of retries of the most recent transmission is contained in the TXG1RETRY (TXG1CON 0x1C<7:6>) or TXG2RETRY (TXG2CON 0x1D<7:6>) bits. The CCAFAIL (TXSTAT 0x24<5>) bit = 1 indicates if the failed transmission was due to the channel busy (CSMA-CA timed out). The TXG1FNT (TXSTAT 0x24<3>) or TXG2FNT (TXSTAT 0x24<4>) $bit = 1$ indicates if the TX GTSx FIFO transmission failed due to not enough time to transmit in the guaranteed time slot.

Addr.	Name	Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
0x1A	TXBCON0							TXBSECEN	TXBTRIG
0x1B	TXNCON				FPSTAT	INDIRECT	TXNACKREO	TXNSECEN	TXNTRIG
0x1C	TXG1CON	TXG1RETRY1	TXG1RETRY0	TXG1SLOT2	TXG1SLOT1	TXG1SLOT0	TXG1ACKREQ	TXG1SECEN	TXG1TRIG
0x1D	TXG2CON	TXG2RETRY1	TXG2RETRY0	TXG2SLOT2	TXG2SLOT1	TXG2SLOT0	TXG2ACKREQ	TXG2SECEN	TXG2TRIG
0x24	TXSTAT	TXNRETRY1	TXNRETRY0	CCAFAIL	TXG2FNT	TXG1FNT	TXG2STAT	TXG1STAT	TXNSTAT
0x31	INTSTAT	SLPIF	WAKEIF	HSYMTMRIF	SECIF	RXIF	TXG2IF	TXG1IF	TXNIF
	0x32 INTCON	SLPIE	WAKEIE	HSYMTMRIE	SECIE	RXIE	TXG2IE	TXG1IE	TXNIE

TABLE 3-16: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSMISSION

3.13 Acknowledgement

An Acknowledgment frame is used for confirming successful frame reception. The successful reception of a data or MAC command frame can be optionally confirmed with an Acknowledgment frame. If the originator does not receive an Acknowledgment after, at most macAckWaitDuration (54) symbols, it assumes that the transmission was unsuccessful and retries the frame transmission. The turnaround time from the reception of the packet to the transmission of the Acknowledgment shall be less than aTurnaroundTime (12) symbols. Acknowledgment frames are sent without using a CSMA-CA mechanism. Refer to IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Standard, Section 7.5.6.4 "Use of Acknowledgments" for more information.

The MRF24J40 provides hardware support for:

- Acknowledgment Request Originator
- Acknowledgment Request Recipient
- Reception of Acknowledgment with Frame Pending bit
- Transmission of Acknowledgment with Frame Pending bit

These features are explained below.

3.13.1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT REQUEST – **ORIGINATOR**

A data or MAC command frame, transmitted by an originator with the Acknowledgment request subfield in its frame control field set to '1', shall be Acknowledged by the recipient. The originator shall wait for at most macAckWaitDuration (54) symbols for the corresponding Acknowledgment frame to be received. If an Acknowledgment is received, the transmission is successful. If an Acknowledgment is not received, the originator shall conclude that the transmission failed. If the transmission was direct, the originator shall retransmit the data or MAC command frame and wait. If an Acknowledgment is not received after aMaxFrameRetries (3) transmissions, the originator shall assume the transmission has failed and notify the upper layers of the failure.

The MRF24,140 features hardware retransmit. It will automatically retransmit the packet if an Acknowledgment has not been received. The Acknowledgment request bit in the frame control field should be programmed into the transmit FIFO of interest and the applicable xACKREQ bit should be set:

- TXNACKREQ (TXNCON 0x1B<2>) When the TX Normal FIFO transmits a frame, an Acknowledgment frame is expected. If an Acknowledgment is not received, retransmit.
- TXG1ACKREQ (TXG1CON 0x1C<2>) When the TX GTS1 FIFO transmits a frame, an Acknowledgment frame is expected. If an Acknowledgment is not received, retransmit.
- TXG2ACKREQ (TXG2CON 0x1D<2>) When the TX GTS2 FIFO transmits a frame, an Acknowledgment frame is expected. If an Acknowledgment is not received, retransmit.

When the frame is transmitted, the MRF24J40 will expect an Acknowledgment frame within macAckWaitDuration. If an Acknowledgment is not received, it will retransmit aMaxFrameRetries.

The macAckWaitDuration value can be programmed by the MAWD (ACKTMOUT 0x12<6:0>) bits.

The aMaxFrameRetries value is a constant and not configurable. The number of retry times of the most recent TXNFIFO transmission can be read in the TXNRETRY (TXSTAT 0x24<7:6>) bits. The number of retry times for the TX GTS1 FIFO and TX GTS2 FIFO can be programmed or read in the TXG1RETRY (TXG1CON 0x1C<7:6>) and TXG2RETRY (TXG2CON 0x1D<7:6>) bits.

3.13.2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT REQUEST – RECIPIENT

The MRF24J40 features hardware automatic Acknowledgment. It will automatically Acknowledge a frame if the received frame has the Acknowledgment request subfield in the frame control field set to '1'. This will maintain the RX-TX timing requirements of the IEEE 802.15.4 Specification.

Automatic Acknowledgment is enabled by clearing the NOACKRSP (RXMCR 0x00<5>) bit = 0. To disable automatic Acknowledgment, set the NOACKRSP $(RXMCR 0x00 < 5) bit = 1.$

The transmission of an Acknowledgment frame in a nonbeacon-enabled network, or in the CFP, shall commence aTurnaroundTime (12) symbols after the reception of the data or MAC command frame. The transmission of an Acknowledgment frame in the CAP shall commence at a backoff slot boundary. In this case, the transmission of an Acknowledgment frame shall commence between aTurnaroundTime and (aTurnaroundTime + aUnitBackoffPeriod) symbols after the reception of the data or MAC command frame.

The IEEE 802.15.4 Specification defines aTurnaroundTime as a constant value of 12 symbol periods. The aTurnaroundTime can be programmed by the TURNTIME (TXTIME 0x27<7:4>) and RFSTBL (TXSTBL 0x2E<7:4>) bits where aTurnaroundTime = TURNTIME + RFSTBL.

3.13.3 RECEPTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT WITH FRAME PENDING BIT

The status of the frame pending bit in the frame control field of the received Acknowledgment frame is reflected in the FPSTAT (TXNCON 0x1B<4>) bit.

3.13.4 TRANSMISSION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT WITH FRAME PENDING BIT

The frame pending bit in the frame control field of an Acknowledgment frame indicates that a device has additional data to send to the recipient following the current transfer. Refer to IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Standard, Section 7.2.1.1.3 "Frame Pending Subfield".

Acknowledgment of a data request MAC command – In response to a data request MAC command, if the MRF24J40 has additional (pending) data, it can set the frame pending bit of the Acknowledgment frame by setting DRPACK (ACKTMOUT $0x12 < 7$) = 1. This will only set the frame pending bit for an Acknowledgment of a data request MAC command.

TABLE 3-17: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3.14 Battery Monitor

The MRF24J40 provides a battery monitor feature to monitor the system supplied voltage. A threshold voltage level (BATTH) can be set and the system supplied voltage can be monitored by the Battery Low Indicator (BATIND) to determine if the voltage is above or below the threshold. The following steps set the threshold and enable battery monitoring:

- 1. Set the battery monitor threshold (BATTH) voltage in the RFCON5 (0x205<7:4>) register.
- 2. Enable battery monitoring by setting BATEN = 1 in the RFCON6 (0x206<3>) register.
- 3. Periodically, monitor the Battery Low Indicator (BATIND) bit in the RXSR (0x30<5>) register to determine if the system supply voltage is above or below the battery monitor threshold (BATTH).

3.15 Sleep

The MRF24J40 can be placed into a low-current Sleep mode. During Sleep, the 20 MHz main oscillator is turned off, disabling the RF, baseband and MAC circuitry. Data is retained in the control and FIFO registers and the MRF24J40 is accessible via the SPI port. There are two Sleep modes:

- Timed Sleep Mode
- Immediate Sleep and Wake Mode

3.15.1 TIMED SLEEP MODE

The Timed Sleep Mode uses several counters to time events for the Sleep and wake-up of the MRF24J40. The following sections cover Sleep clock generation, calibration and counters.

3.15.1.1 Sleep Clock Generation

[Figure](#page-118-0) 3-15 shows the Sleep clock generation circuitry. The Sleep Clock (SLPCLK) frequency is selectable between a 100 kHz internal oscillator or a 32 kHz external crystal oscillator. The Sleep Clock Enable (SLPCLKEN) bit in the SLPCON0 (0x211<0>) register can enable (SLPCLKEN = 0 ; default setting) or disable $(SLPCLKEN = 1)$ the Sleep clock oscillators. The SLPCLK frequency can be further divided by the Sleep Clock Divisor (SLPCLKDIV) 0x220<4:0> bits. The SLPCLK frequency can be calibrated; the procedure is listed in **Section [3.15.1.2 "Sleep Clock Calibration"](#page-119-0)** below.

The 100 kHz internal oscillator requires no external components. However, it is not as accurate or stable as the 32 kHz external crystal oscillator. It is recommended that it be calibrated before use. See **Section [3.15.1.2 "Sleep Clock Calibration"](#page-119-0)** below for the Sleep clock calibration procedure.

To select the 100 kHz internal oscillator as the source of SLPCLK, set the SLPCLKSEL bits (RFCON7 0x207<7:6> to '10')

The 32 kHz external crystal oscillator provides better frequency accuracy and stability than the 100 kHz internal oscillator. The 32 kHz external crystal oscillator external circuitry is explained in detail in **[Section](#page-9-0) 2.7 ["32 kHz External Crystal Oscillator"](#page-9-0)**.

To select the 32 kHz external crystal oscillator as the source of SLPCLK, set the SLPCLKSEL bits (RFCON7 0x207<7:6>) to '01'.

3.15.1.2 Sleep Clock Calibration

The SLPCLK frequency is calibrated by a 20-bit SLPCAL register clocked by the 20 MHz main oscillator (50 ns period). Sixteen samples of the SLPCLK are counted and stored in the SLPCAL register. To perform SLPCLK calibration:

- 1. Select the source of SLPCLK.
- 2. Begin calibration by setting the SLPCALEN bit (SLPCAL2 0x20B<4>) to '1'. Sixteen samples of the SLPCLK are counted and stored in the SLPCAL register.
- 3. Calibration is complete when the SLPCALRDY bit (SLPCAL2 0x20B<7>) is set to '1'.

The 20-bit SLPCAL value is contained in registers, SLPCAL2, SLPCAL1 and SLPCAL0 (0x20B<3:0>, 0x20A and 0x209). The Sleep clock period is calculated as shown in [Equation](#page-119-3) 3-1.

EQUATION 3-1:

 P_{SLPCAL} = SLPCAL $*$ 50 ns/16

The SLPCLK frequency can be slowed by setting the Sleep Clock Division (SLPCLKDIV) bits (SLPCON1 0x220<4:0>).

3.15.1.3 Sleep Mode Counters

[Figure](#page-120-0) 3-16 shows the Sleep mode counters. A summary of the counters are:

Main Counter (0x229<1:0>, 0x228, 0x227, 0x226) – A 26-bit counter clocked by SLPCLK. Together with the Remain Counter times events as listed in [Table](#page-119-1) 3-19.

Remain Counter (0x225, 0x224) – A 16-bit counter clocked by MAINCLK. Together with the Main Counter times events as listed in [Table](#page-119-1) 3-19.

Wake Time (0x223<2:0>, 0x222) – An 11-bit value that is compared with the main counter value to signal the time to enable (wake-up) the 20 MHz main oscillator. [Table](#page-119-2) 3-20 gives the recommended values for WAKETIME depending on the SLPCLK frequency.

Wake Count (0x36<4:3>, 0x35<6:0>) – A 9-bit counter clocked by SLPCLK. During the time the wake counter is counting, the 20 MHz main oscillator is starting up, stabilizing and disabled to the RF, baseband and MAC circuitry. The recommended wake count period is 2 ms to allow the 20 MHz main oscillator to stabilize. [Table](#page-119-2) 3-20 gives the recommended values for WAKECNT depending on the SLPCLK frequency.

Mode	Timed Event
Beacon-Enabled Coordinator	Beacon Interval (BI)
Beacon-Enabled Device	Inactive Period
Nonbeacon-Enabled Coordinator or Device	Sleep Interval

TABLE 3-20: WAKE TIME AND WAKE COUNT RECOMMENDED VALUES

Beacon-Enabled Coordinator mode – [Figure](#page-121-0) 3-17 shows the Sleep time line for Beacon-Enabled Coordinator mode. In this mode, the sum of the main and remain counters is the Beacon Interval (BI) of the superframe. The MRF24J40 will transmit a beacon packet as per Beacon Interval shown in [Equation](#page-121-1) 3-2.

EQUATION 3-2:

Beacon Interval = (MAINCNT * SLPCLK Period) + (REMCNT * 50 ns)

The MRF24J40 alerts the host processor on the boundary of the active and inactive portion via a Sleep Alert Interrupt (SLPIF 0x31<7>). The host microcontroller Acknowledges the interrupt (SLPACK 0x35<7>), at which time, the MRF24J40 turns off the 20 MHz main oscillator. As the main counter counts, when WAKETIME = MAINCNT, the 20 MHz main oscillator is turned on. The wake counter counts as the 20 MHz main oscillator stabilizes and MAINCLK is disabled. The MRF24J40 alerts the host processor with a wake-up alert interrupt (0x31<6>).

FIGURE 3-17: BEACON-ENABLED COORDINATOR SLEEP TIME LINE

Beacon-Enabled Device mode – [Figure](#page-122-0) 3-18 shows the Sleep time line for Beacon-Enabled Device mode. In this mode, the sum of the main and remain counters is the inactive period of the superframe. The MRF24J40 will time the inactive period as shown in [Equation](#page-122-1) 3-3.

EQUATION 3-3:

Inactive Period = (MAINCNT * SLPCLK Period) + (REMCNT * 50 ns)

The MRF24J40 alerts the host processor on the boundary of the active and inactive portion via a Sleep Alert Interrupt (SLPIF 0x31<7>). The host microcontroller Acknowledges the interrupt (SLPACK 0x35<7>), at which time, the MRF24J40 turns off the 20 MHz main oscillator. As the main counter counts, when WAKETIME = MAINCNT, the 20 MHz main oscillator is turned on. The wake counter counts as the 20 MHz main oscillator stabilizes. The MRF24J40 alerts the host processor with a wake-up alert interrupt (0x31<6>).

FIGURE 3-18: BEACON-ENABLED DEVICE SLEEP TIME LINE

Nonbeacon-Enabled (Coordinator or Device) mode –

[Figure](#page-123-0) 3-19 shows the Sleep time line for Nonbeacon-Enabled (Coordinator or Device) mode. In this mode, the host processor puts the MRF24J40 to Sleep by setting the STARTCNT (0x229<7>) bit. At the end of the Sleep interval, the MRF24J40 alerts the host processor with a wake-up alert interrupt (0x31<6>).

EQUATION 3-4:

Sleep Interval = (MAINCNT * SLPCLK Period) – WAKETIME + [(REMCNT * 50 ns)/2]

3.15.2 IMMEDIATE SLEEP AND WAKE-UP MODE

In the Immediate Sleep and Wake-up mode, the host microcontroller places the MRF24J40 to Sleep and wakes it up.

To enable the Immediate Wake-up mode, set the IMMWAKE (0x22<7>) bit to '1'.

To place the MRF24J40 to Sleep immediately, perform the following two steps:

- 1. Perform a Power Management Reset by setting the RSTPWR (0x2A<2>) bit to '1'. The bit will be automatically cleared to '0' by hardware.
- 2. Put the MRF24J40 to Sleep immediately by setting the SLPACK (0x35<7>) bit to '1'. The bit will be automatically cleared to '0' by hardware.

Wake-up can be performed in one of two methods:

1. Wake-up on WAKE pin 15. To enable the WAKE pin, set the WAKEPAD (0x0D<5>) bit to '1' and set the WAKE pin polarity. Set the WAKEPOL (0x0D<7>) bit to '1' for active-high signal, or clear to '0' for active-low signal.

or

2. Wake-up on register. To wake up the MRF24J40 from Sleep via the SPI port, set the REGWAKE $(0x22<6)$ bit to '1' and then clear to '0'.

After wake-up, delay at least 2 ms to allow 20 MHz main oscillator time to stabilize before transmitting or receiving.

[Example](#page-124-0) 3-3 summarizes the steps to prepare the MRF24J40 for wake-up on WAKE pin and placing to Sleep.

EXAMPLE 3-3: IMMEDIATE SLEEP AND WAKE

The steps to prepare the MRF24J40 for immediate sleep and wake up on WAKE pin

Prepare WAKE pin:

1. WAKE pin = low

- 2. RXFLUSH (0x0D) = 0x60 Enable WAKE pin and set polarity to active-high
- 3. WAKECON (0x22) = 0x80 Enable Immediate Wake-up mode

Put to Sleep:

- 4. SOFTRST (0x2A) = 0x04 Perform a Power Management Reset
- 5. SLPACK $(0x35) = 0x80 Put MRF24J40$ to Sleep immediately

To Wake:

- 6. WAKE pin = high Wake-up
- 7. RFCTL (0x36) = 0x04 RF State Machine reset
- 8. RFCTL (0x36) = 0x00
- 9. Delay 2 ms to allow 20 MHz main oscillator time to stabilize before transmitting or receiving.

TABLE 3-21: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH SLEEP

3.16 MAC Timer

Many features of the IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Standard are based on a symbol period of 16 μs. A 16-bit MAC timer is provided to generate interrupts configurable in

multiples of 8 μs. The MAC timer begins counting down when a value is written to the HSYMTMRH (0x29) register. A HSYMTMRIF (0x31<5>) interrupt is generated when the count reaches zero.

TABLE 3-22: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MAC TIMER

3.17 Security

The MRF24J40 provides a hardware security engine that implements the Advanced Encryption Standard, 128-bit (AES-128) according to the IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Standard. The MRF24J40 supports seven security suites which provide a group of security operations designed to provide security services on MAC and upper layer frames.

- AES-CTR
- AES-CCM-128
- AES-CCM-64
- AES-CCM-32
- AES-CRC-MAC-128
- AES-CRC-MAC-64
- AES-CRC-MAC-32

Security keys are stored in the Security Key FIFO. Four security keys, three for encryption and one for decryption, are stored in the memory locations shown in [Figure](#page-127-1) 3-20.

The security engine can be used for the encryption and decryption of MAC sublayer frames for transmission and reception of secured frames and provide security encryption and decryption services to the upper layers. These functions are described in the following subsections.

3.17.1 MAC SUBLAYER TRANSMIT ENCRYPTION

A frame can be encrypted and transmitted from each of the TX FIFOs. [Table](#page-127-2) 3-23 lists the TX FIFO and associated security key memory address and control register bits.

FIGURE 3-20: MEMORY MAP OF SECURITY KEY FIFO

Note: The TX GTS2 FIFO and TX Beacon FIFO share the same security key memory location.

TABLE 3-23: ENCRYPTION SECURITY KEY AND CONTROL REGISTER BITS

Note: The TX GTS2 FIFO and TX Beacon FIFO share the same security key memory location.

To transmit a secured frame, perform the following steps:

1. The host processor loads one of the four TX FIFOs with an IEEE 802.15.4 compliant frame to be encrypted using the format shown in [Figure](#page-128-0) 3-21.

FIGURE 3-21: SECURITY TX FIFO FORMAT

- 2. Program the corresponding TX FIFO 128-bit security key into the Security Key FIFO memory address, as shown in [Table](#page-127-2) 3-23.
- 3. Select the security suite for the corresponding TX FIFO and program the security select bits as shown in [Table](#page-127-2) 3-23. The security suite selection values are shown in [Table](#page-128-1) 3-24.

TABLE 3-24: SECURITY SUITE SELECTION VALUE

- 4. Encrypt and transmit the packet by setting the Security Enable (TXxSECEN) = 1 and Trigger $(TXxTRIG)$ bits = 1 for the respective TX FIFO. as shown in [Table](#page-127-2) 3-23.
- 5. Depending on which TX FIFO the secure packet was transmit from, the status of the transmission is read as,

TX Normal FIFO – A TXNIF (INTSTAT 0x31<0>) interrupt will be issued. The TXNSTAT (TXSTAT 0x24<0>) bit indicates the status of the transmission:

- $TXNSTAT = 0$: Transmission was successful
- TXNSTAT = 1: Transmission failed, retry count exceeded

The number of retries of the most recent transmission is contained in the TXNRETRY (TXSTAT 0x24<7:6>) bits. The CCAFAIL (TXSTAT 0x24<5>) bit = 1 indicates if the failed transmission was due to the channel busy (CSMA-CA timed out).

TX GTSx FIFO – A TXG1IF (INTSTAT 0x31<1>) or TXG2IF (INTSTAT 0x31<2>) interrupt will be issued. The TXG1STAT (TXSTAT 0x24<1>) or TXG2STAT (TXSTAT 0x24<2>) bit indicates the status of the transmission:

TXGxSTAT = 1: Transmission was successful

TXGxSTAT = 0: Transmission failed, retry count exceeded

The number of retries of the most recent transmission is contained in the TXG1RETRY (TXG1CON 0x1C<7:6>) or TXG2RETRY (TXG2CON 0x1D<7:6>) bits. The CCAFAIL (TXSTAT 0x24<5>) bit = 1 indicates if the failed transmission was due to the channel busy (CSMA-CA timed out). The TXG1FNT (TXSTAT 0x24<3>) or TXG2FNT (TXSTAT 0x24<4>) bit = 1 indicates if TX GTSx FIFO transmission failed due to not enough time to transmit in the guaranteed time slot.

3.17.2 MAC SUBLAYER RECEIVE DECRYPTION

To receive and decrypt a secured frame from the RXFIFO, perform the following steps:

1. When a packet is received and the security enable bit $= 1$ in the frame control field, the

FIGURE 3-22: SECURITY RX FIFO FORMAT

MRF24J40 issues a Security Interrupt, SECIF (INTSTAT 0x31<4>). The Security Interrupt indicates to the host microcontroller that the received frame was secured. The host microcontroller can choose to decrypt or ignore the frame. The format of the received frame is shown in [Example](#page-129-0) 3-22.

- 2. If the decryption should be ignored, set the SECIGNORE (SECCON0 0x2C<7>) bit = 1. The encrypted packet can be discarded or read from the RXFIFO and processed in the upper layers.
- 3. The host microcontroller loads the security key into the RX FIFO Security Key memory location as shown in [Table](#page-129-1) 3-25.

TABLE 3-25: DECRYPTION SECURITY KEY AND CONTROL REGISTER BITS

- 4. Select the security suite and program the RXCIPHER (SECCON0 0x2C<5:3>) bits. The security suite selection values are shown in [Table](#page-128-1) 3-24.
- 5. Start the decryption by setting the SECSTART $(SECCON0 0x2C < 6$ > bit = 1.
- 6. When the decryption process is complete, a Receive Interrupt (RXIF 0x31<3>) is issued.
- 7. Check the decryption status by reading SECDECERR (RXSR 0x30<2>) SECDECERR = 0: No Decryption Error SECDECERR = 1: Decryption Error
- **Note:** If decryption error has occurred and the packet in the FIFO needs to be discarded, then set RXFLUSH (RXFLUSH 0x0D<0>) $bit = 1$.

3.17.3 UPPER LAYER ENCRYPTION

To encrypt an upper layer frame, perform the following steps:

- 1. The host microcontroller loads the TXNFIFO with the upper layer frame for encryption into the TXNFIFO using the format shown in [Figure](#page-130-0) 3-23. The header length field indicates the number of octets (bytes) that is not encrypted.
- **Note:** The header length field, as implemented in the MRF24J40, is 5 bits long. Therefore, the header length maximum value is 31 octets (bytes). This conforms to the IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Specification. However, it does not conform to the IEEE 802.15.4-2006 Standard. The work around is to:
	- Use a header length no longer than 31 octets (bytes)
	- Implement a security algorithm in the upper layers

FIGURE 3-23: UPPER LAYER ENCRYPTION AND DECRYPTION FORMAT

- 2. The host microcontroller loads the 13-byte NONCE value into the UPNONCE12 through UPNONCE0 (0x240 through 0x24C) registers.
- 3. Program the 128-bit security key into the TX Normal FIFO Security Key FIFO memory address, 0x280 through 0x28F.
- 4. Select the security suite and program the TXNCIPHER (SECCON0 0x2C<2:0>) bits. The security suite selection values are shown in [Table](#page-128-1) 3-24.
- 5. Enable Upper Layer Security Encryption mode by setting the UPENC (SECCR2 $0x37<6$) bit = 1.
- 6. Encrypt the frame by setting the TXNTRIG (TXNCON 0x1B<0>) bit and TXNSECEN (TXNCON $0x1B<1$) to 1.
- 7. A TXNIF (INTSTAT 0x31<0>) interrupt will be issued. The TXNSTAT (TXSTAT 0x24<0>) bit = 0 indicates the encryption has completed.
- 8. The encrypted frame is available in the TXNFIFO and can be read by the host microcontroller.

Application Hint: The encryption can be checked by decrypting the frame data (refer **Section [3.17.4 "Upper Layer Decryption"](#page-131-0)**) and comparing it to the original frame data.

3.17.4 UPPER LAYER DECRYPTION

To decrypt an upper layer frame, perform the following steps:

- 1. The host microcontroller loads the TXNFIFO with the upper layer frame for decryption into the TXNFIFO using the format shown in [Figure](#page-130-0) 3-23. The header length field indicates the number of octets (bytes) that are not encrypted.
- 2. The host microcontroller loads the 13-byte NONCE value into the UPNONCE12 through UPNONCE0 (0x240 through 0x24C) registers.
	- **Note:** The header length field, as implemented in the MRF24J40, is 5-bits long. Therefore, the header length maximum value is 31 octets (bytes). This conforms to the IEEE 802.15.4-2003 Specification. However, it does not conform to the IEEE 802.15.4-2006 Standard. The work around is to:
		- Use a header length no longer than 31 octets (bytes)
		- Implement a security algorithm in the upper layers
- 3. Program the 128-bit security key into the TX Normal FIFO Security Key FIFO memory address, 0x280 through 0x28F.
- 4. Select the security suite and program the TXNCIPHER (SECCON0 0x2C<2:0>) bits. The security suite selection values are shown in [Table](#page-128-1) 3-24.
- 5. Enable Upper Layer Security Decryption mode by setting the UPDEC (SECCR2 $0x37 < 7$) bit = 1.
- 6. Start Decrypting the frame by setting the TXNTRIG (TXNCON 0x1B<0>) bit to 1.
- 7. A TXNIF (INTSTAT 0x31<0>) interrupt will be issued. The TXNSTAT (TXSTAT 0x24<0>) bit = 0 indicates that the decryption process has completed.
- 8. Check if a MIC error occurred by reading the UPSECERR (0x30<6>) bit:

UPSECERR = 0: No MIC error

- UPSECERR = 1: MIC error occurred; write '1' to clear error
- 9. The decrypted frame is available in the TXNFIFO and can be read by the host microcontroller.

TABLE 3-26: REGISTERS ASSOCIATED WITH SECURITY

3.18 Turbo Mode

The MRF24J40 provides a Turbo mode to transmit and receive at 625 kbps (2.5 times 250 kbps). This mode enables higher data rates for proprietary protocols.

To configure the MRF24J40 for Turbo mode, perform the following steps:

- 1. Enable Turbo mode by setting the TURBO (BBREG0 0x38<0>) bit = 1.
- 2. Set the baseband parameter, PREVALIDTH (BBREG3 0x3B<7:4>) bits = 0011.
- 3. Set baseband parameter, CSTH (BBREG4 0x3C<7:5>) bits = 010.
- 4. Perform a baseband circuitry Reset, RSTBB (SOFTRST 0x2A<1>) = 1.

NOTES:

4.0 APPLICATIONS

4.1 Antenna/Balun

[Figure](#page-134-0) 4-1 is an example of the circuit diagram of a balun to match to a 50 Ω antenna. A balun is the impedance transformer from unbalanced input of the PCB antenna and the balanced input of the RF transceiver (pins RFP and RFN).

FIGURE 4-1: EXAMPLE BALUN CIRCUIT DIAGRAM

[Figure](#page-134-1) 4-2 shows the measured impedance of the balun where the center of the band is very close to 50Ω. When using low tolerance components (i.e., ±5%) along with an appropriate ground, the impedance will remain close to the $50Ω$ measurement.

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4.2 External PA/LNA Control

External PA, LNA and RF switches can be controlled by the MRF24J40 internal RF state machine. [Figure](#page-135-0) 4-3 shows a typical application circuit with external PA, LNA and RF switches. Setting TESTMODE (0x22F<2:0>) bits to '111' will configure pins, GPIO0, GPIO1 and GPIO2, to operate according to [Table](#page-135-1) 4-1. The external PA/LNA timing diagram is shown in [Figure](#page-136-0) 4-4.

TABLE 4-1: GPIO EXTERNAL PA/LNA SIGNALING

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4.3 PCB Layout Design

The following guidelines are intended to aid users in high-frequency PCB layout design.

The printed circuit board is comprised of four basic FR4 layers: signal layout, RF ground, power line routing and ground (see [Figure](#page-137-0) 4-5). The guidelines will explain the requirements of these layers.

- It is important to keep the original PCB thickness since any change will affect antenna performance (see total thickness of dielectric) or microstrip lines characteristic impedance.
- The first layer width of a 50 Ω characteristic impedance microstrip line is 12 mils.
- Avoid having microstrip lines longer than 2.5 cm, since that line might get very close to a quarter wave length of the working frequency of the board which is 3.0 cm, and start behaving as an antenna.
- Except for the antenna layout, avoid sharp corners since they can act as an antenna. Round corners will eliminate possible future EMI problems.
- Digital lines by definition are prone to be very noisy when handling periodic waveforms and fast clock/switching rates. Avoid laying out a RF signal close to any digital lines.
- A via filled ground patch underneath the IC transceiver is mandatory.
- A power supply must be distributed to each pin in a star topology and low-ESR capacitors must be placed at each pin for proper decoupling noise.
- Thorough decoupling on each power pin is beneficial for reducing in-band transceiver noise, particularly when this noise degrades performance. Usually, low value caps (27-47 pF) combined with large value caps (100 nF) will cover a large spectrum of frequency.
- Passive components (inductors) must be in the high-frequency category and the SRF (Self-Resonant Frequency) should be at least two times higher than the operating frequency.

4.4 MRF24J40 Schematic and Bill of Materials

4.4.1 SCHEMATIC

FIGURE 4-6:MRF24J40 SCHEMATIC

MRF24J40

MRF24J40

4.4.2 BILL OF MATERIALS

TABLE 4-3: MRF24J40 BILL OF MATERIALS

5.0 ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Absolute Maximum Ratings(†)

† **NOTICE:** Stresses above those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress rating only and functional operation of the device at those or any other conditions above those indicated in the operation listings of this specification is not implied. Exposure to maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

TABLE 5-1: RECOMMENDED OPERATING CONDITIONS

TABLE 5-2: CURRENT CONSUMPTION

Typical Values: TA = 25°C, VDD = 3.3V

TABLE 5-3: RECEIVER AC CHARACTERISTICS

Typical Values: TA = 25°C, VDD = 3.3V, LO Frequency = 2.445 GHz

TABLE 5-4: TRANSMITTER AC CHARACTERISTICS

TABLE 5-5: EXAMPLE SPI SLAVE MODE REQUIREMENTS

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NOTES:
6.0 PACKAGING INFORMATION

6.1 Package Marking Information

40-Lead QFN

Example

6.2 Package Details

The following sections give the technical details of the packages.

40-Lead Plastic Quad Flat, No Lead Package (ML) – 6x6x0.9 mm Body [QFN] with 0.40 mm Contact Length

Note: For the most current package drawings, please see the Microchip Packaging Specification located at http://www.microchip.com/packaging

Notes:

- 1. Pin 1 visual index feature may vary, but must be located within the hatched area.
- 2. Package is saw singulated.
- 3. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M.
	- BSC: Basic Dimension. Theoretically exact value shown without tolerances.

REF: Reference Dimension, usually without tolerance, for information purposes only.

Microchip Technology Drawing C04-118C

APPENDIX A: REVISION HISTORY

Revision B (October 2008)

Rewritten the entire data sheet.

Revision C (August 2010)

This document includes the updated technical information.

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N

O Oscillator

R

MRF24J40

S

T

WWW, On-Line Support 2

NOTES:

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