



QUADRO POWER GUIDELINES

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Application Note



DOCUMENT CHANGE HISTORY

DA-07261-001_v03

Version	Date	Authors	Description of Change
01	June 6, 2014	VL, SM	Initial Release
02	June 2, 2015	JK, SM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated to include Quadro M6000, Quadro K5200, Quadro K4200, Quadro K2200, Quadro K1200, Quadro K620, and Quadro K420• Updated with Quadro M6000 power guidelines• Updated PCIe connectors figure (Figure 2)• Added a power requirements for 250 W cards (single 8-pin connector) section• Added a dual 6-pin to 8-pin adapter cable section
03	July 8, 2015	JK, SM	Updated error Table 1

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OVERVIEW

This application note discusses the power requirements of the NVIDIA® Quadro® line of desktop graphics cards. A suitable power supply is necessary to maintain system integrity under computational load.



Figure 1. NVIDIA Quadro Graphics Cards

POWER REQUIREMENTS

The Quadro desktop graphics cards may require auxiliary power within the host chassis. Ensure that your system can deliver the necessary wattage and auxiliary power connectors for all cards in the system. If the supplied power is not adequate, the cards will not function properly. Table 1 specifies the power requirements and power connectors for the various Quadro desktop graphics cards.

Table 1. Quadro GPU Power Specifications

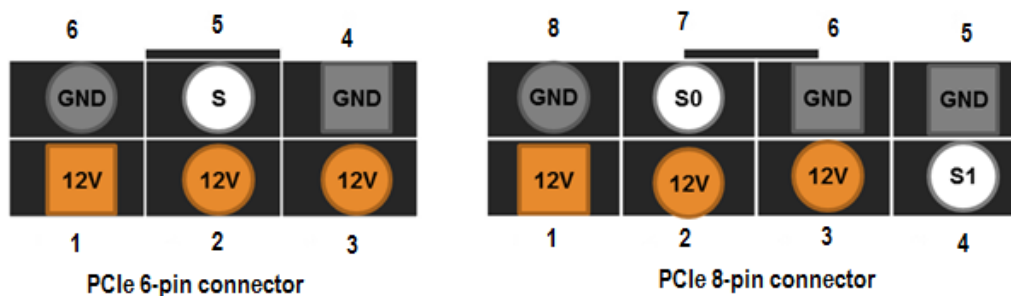
Model	TDP	Required Auxiliary PCIe Power Connectors
Quadro M6000	250 W	8-pin
Quadro K6000	225 W	6-pin + 6-pin
Quadro K5200 Quadro K5000	150 W 122 W	6-pin
Quadro K4200 Quadro K4000	108 W 80 W	6-pin
Quadro K2200 Quadro K1200 Quadro K2000 Quadro K2000D	60 W 45 W 51 W 51 W	N/A
Quadro K620 Quadro K600	41 W 41 W	N/A
Quadro 420 Quadro 410	41 W 38 W	N/A

The TDP (thermal design power) represents the maximum amount of graphics board power that the system power supply should be able to provide to the graphics card.

POWER CONNECTORS

Depending on the Quadro graphics card the end customer is utilizing, external power connectors may be required to fully power up the graphics card.

- ▶ Cards with a TDP under 75 W require no additional connectors.
- ▶ Cards with a TDP of up to 150 W require a single 6-pin PCIe auxiliary connector.
- ▶ Cards with a TDP of up to 250 W will utilize two 6-pin PCIe auxiliary connectors or a single 8-pin PCIe auxiliary connector.



Pin	PEX 6-pin	PCIe 8-pin
1	12V	12V
2	12V	12V
3	12V	12V
4	GND	SENSE1
5	SENSE	GND
6	GND	SENSE0
7	---	GND
8	---	GND

Figure 2. PCIe Connectors

POWER REQUIREMENTS FOR 250 W CARDS WITH A SINGLE 8-PIN CONNECTOR

Typically, the PCIe slot is rated for 75 W and the 8-pin PCIe connector is rated for 150 W. However, based on our testing and surveying the current ecosystem, it was found that the 8-pin PCIe connector can drive up to 175 W. Along with the PCIe slot, it can support a graphics card consuming up to 250 W.

However, due to the increased power delivery on the 8-pin PCIe connector, PSU with a 12V rail capable of driving at least 18A needs to be dedicated for the 8-pin PCIe connector.

POWER ADAPTERS

It is extremely important to understand the board power requirements when selecting power supplies. It is recommended to use a power supply that has all the required connectors. However, if the required connector is not available on a given power supply, it is possible to use adapters to convert existing connectors to PCIe auxiliary connectors.

When using power adapters, it is important to evaluate the rated amperage on the 12V rail that is being used to source the adapter cable. The information is available in the power supply's user manual or it is printed on the power supply casing.



CAUTION: System builders should review the power specifications and guidelines outlined on their system power supply to ensure that the connector limits are not exceeded when using adapters.

PCIe 6-Pin Y-Splitter Cable

It is possible to split a single 6-pin auxiliary PCIe connector into two 6-pin auxiliary PCIe connectors. While NVIDIA does not recommend using the Y-splitter with the Quadro cards, it is extremely important to ensure that the 12V rail on the power supply driving this is capable of handling the additional connector, if one has to use the splitters.

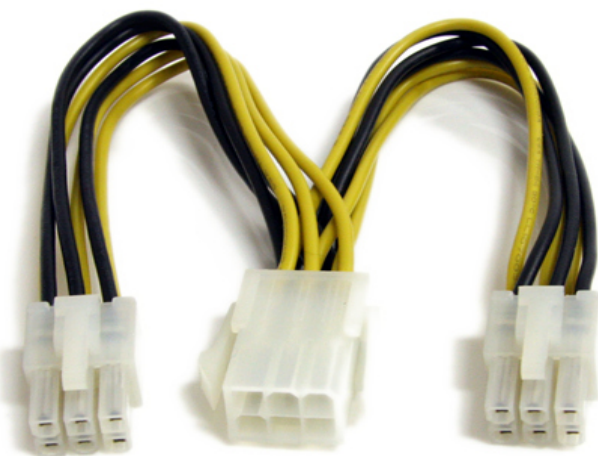


Figure 3. 6-Pin Y-Splitter Cable

PCIe 8-Pin to 6-Pin Adapter Cable

It is possible to split a single 8-pin auxiliary PCIe connector into a single or two 6-pin auxiliary PCIe connectors. If you are using such a splitter, it is important to ensure that

the 12V rail on the power supply driving this is capable of handling the additional connector. Refer to the rated amperage on the 12V rail sourcing the splitter to ensure that the connector limits are not exceeded.



Figure 4. 8-Pin to 6-Pin Adapter Cable

PCIe Dual 6-Pin to 8-Pin Adapter Cable

It is possible to combine two 6-pin auxiliary PCIe connectors into a single 8-pin auxiliary PCIe connector. If you are using such an adapter, it is important to ensure that the 12V rail on the power supply driving this adapter is rated for at least 18A.



Figure 5. Dual 6-Pin to 8-Pin Adapter Cable

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