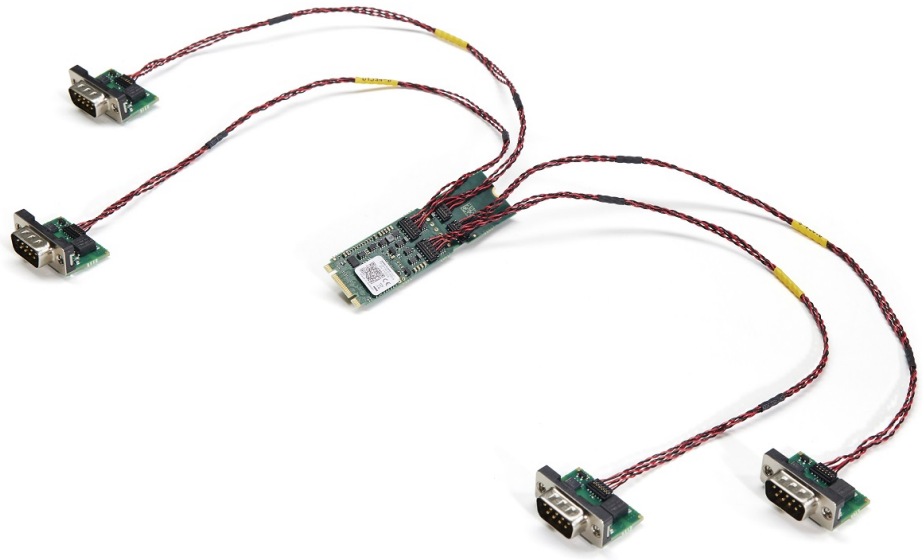
# Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN User's Guide



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https://www.kvaser.com

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We believe that the information contained herein was accurate in all respects at the time of printing. Kvaser AB cannot, however, assume any responsibility for errors or omissions in this text. Also note that the information in this document is subject to change without notice and should not be construed as a commitment by Kvaser AB.

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# 1 About this manual

This manual is intended for Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN users. This document contains a description of the hardware's properties and general instructions for connecting the device to a computer.

# 2 Introduction

This section will describe the functions and features of the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN.

## 2.1 Welcome to Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN

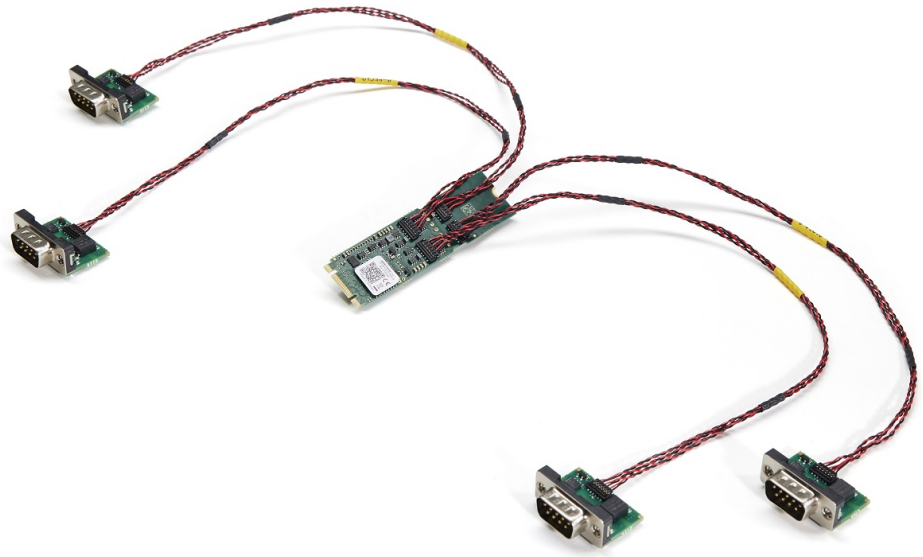

Figure 1: Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN

Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN is a modular and small, yet advanced, multi-channel real-time CAN interface that handles transmission and reception of CAN messages on the bus with a high timestamp precision. It has four distributed CAN modules that are connected to a 22 x 80 mm M.2 card. The Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN is compatible with applications that use Kvaser's CANlib. This guide applies to Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN devices using at least firmware and driver versions listed in Table 1. For minimum compatible firmware and driver versions of Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN see Table 5 on Page 13.

| Device | Product Number | Firmware | Driver (Windows/Linux) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN | 73-30130-01333-9 | v1.4 | v5.52 (kcanf/kvpciefd) |

Table 1: Firmware and driver versions needed to support all functionality present in this guide.

## 2.2 Major features

- B+M keyed M.2 PCI Express CAN interface with four channels.
- Distributed CAN modules, minimising the signal integrity impact when connected to CAN-bus systems.
- Compact footprint, ideal for embedded applications, thanks to the M.2 card size of 22 x 80 mm.
- Supports CAN FD, up to 8 Mbit/s.
- Quick and easy plug-and-play installation.
- Supports both 11-bit (CAN 2.0A) and 29-bit (CAN 2.0B active) identifiers.
- 100 % compatible with applications written for other Kvaser CAN hardware with Kvaser CANlib.
- High-speed CAN connection (compliant with ISO 11898-2), up to 1 Mbit /s.
- Fully compatible with J1939, CANopen, NMEA 2000® and DeviceNet.
- Supports silent mode for analysis tools – listen to the bus without interfering.
- Supports simultaneous usage of multiple Kvaser interfaces.
- Kvaser software-based TimeSync – time synchronization with a host-referenced clock source (see Section 4.5, Software-based TimeSync, on Page 13 for more details).
- Supports SocketCAN.

## 2.3 Interface

Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN provides a CAN bus interface through the PCIe system bus in a B or M keyed M.2 slot.

## 2.4 Additional software and documentation

The Kvaser CANlib SDK includes everything you need in order to develop software applications interacting with Kvaser CAN and LIN hardware. The SDK contains full documentation and many sample programs, written in C, C++, C#, Delphi, Python and Visual Basic. Kvaser CAN and LIN hardware is built around the same common software API. Applications developed using one device type will run without modification on other device types.

The latest versions of documentation, software and drivers can be downloaded for free at www.kvaser.com/download.

# 3 Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN hardware

In this section you can read more about the CAN channels and power supply.

## 3.1 Hardware installation

The Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN may be inserted in any free B or M keyed M.2 slot with PCI Express connectivity on the host computer. You do need to switch the power off before inserting or removing the device. For the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN to communicate with the host computer, compatible versions of the Kvaser driver and firmware must be used. The firmware is downloaded and installed directly on the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN. The driver is installed on the host computer.

The latest version of the drivers, `kvaser_drivers_setup.exe`, and firmware can be downloaded from www.kvaser.com/download.

## 3.2 M.2 PCI Express connection

The Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN is a card of type M.2 with B+M keying, see Figure 2.



Figure 2: M.2 card of Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN

## 3.3 CAN channels (CAN modules)

The Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN includes four CAN modules, see Figure 3 on Page 8, with one module per channel and layout as described in Figure 4 on Page 8. Pico-EZmate 6-pin PCB connectors are used for the interface between the modules and the M.2 card. A 30 cm long cable is included for each CAN module for the connection to the M.2 card, see Section 4.2, CAN connectors, on Page 10 for pinout information.

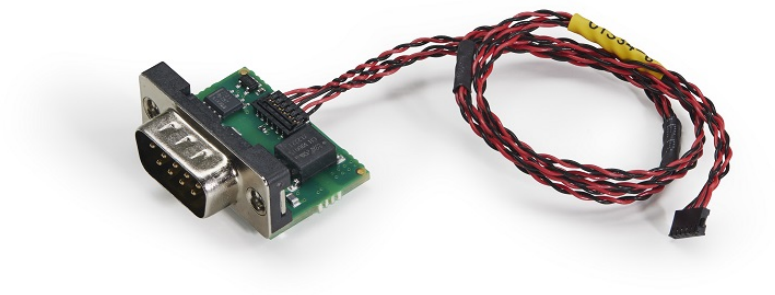

Figure 3: A CAN module for the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN.

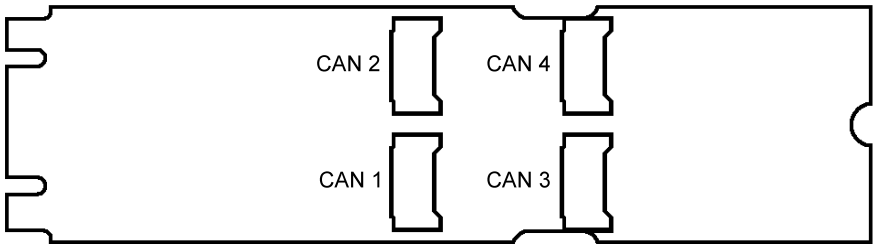


Figure 4: CAN channel layout for the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN.

## 3.4 Power supply

The Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN is only powered using +3.3 V from the M.2 connector.

## 3.5 LED Indicators

The Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN has two green LED indicators, see Figure 5. The first LED indicator blinks at a rate of 1 Hz when the PCI Express communication with the host is established. If only power is supplied, this indicator remains steadily lit, serving as an indicator of the power status to the device. The second LED indicator maintains a steady light whenever one or more CAN channels are active.

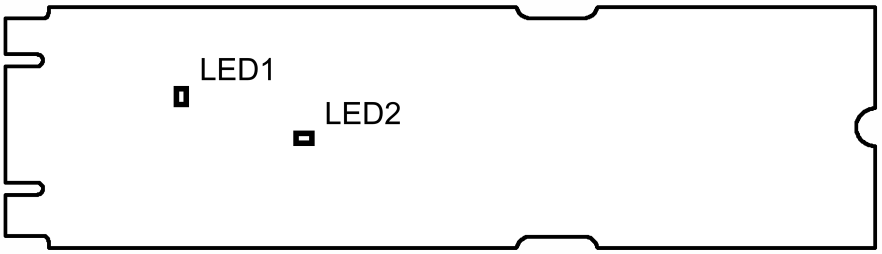


Figure 5: LEDs on the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN.

## 3.6 Troubleshooting

Use "Kvaser Device Guide" in the Control Panel to verify that the computer can communicate with the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN. If the firmware version shown is all zeros, there are communication problems.

# 4 Appendices

In this section you will find technical information about the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN and its connectors.

## 4.1 Technical data

In Table 2 below you will find the technical specifications of Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN.

| | |
|---|---|
| CAN Channels | 4 |
| CAN Transceivers | MCP2561FD (Compliant with ISO 11898-2) |
| CAN Controller | Kvaser CAN IP in FPGA |
| Galvanic isolation | Yes |
| CAN Bit Rate | 20 kbit/s to 1 Mbit/s |
| CAN FD Bit Rate | Up to 8 Mbit/s |
| Time stamp resolution | 1 µs |
| Max message rate | 20000 msg/s per channel |
| Error Frame Detection | Yes |
| Error Frame Generation | Yes |
| Silent mode | Yes |
| Kvaser t Script | No |
| Kvaser CANtegrity | No |
| Host interface | PCIe x1 in an M.2-slot (B or M keyed) |
| Host OS | Windows (7 or later), Linux. |
| Power consumption | Typically 770 mA at 3.3 V. |
| Hardware configuration | Done by software. |
| Dimensions M.2 card | 22 x 80 mm |
| Dimensions CAN module card | 30 x 19 (30 x 26 mm if including edge overhanging connector) |
| Weight | 42 g (including CAN modules and PCB-to-PCB cables) |
| Operating temperature | −40 °C to +85 °C |
| Storage temperature | −40 °C to +85 °C |
| Relative humidity | 0 % to 85 % (non-condensing.) |

Table 2: Technical Specifications.

## 4.2 CAN connectors

The Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN has four CAN channels (modules).

Each CAN module of the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN has a 9-pin D-SUB connector (see Figure 6 on Page 11) which has the pinout described in Table 3 on Page 11.

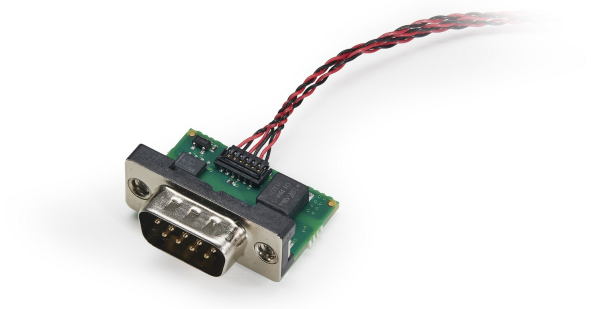

Figure 6: 9-pin D-SUB CAN connector.

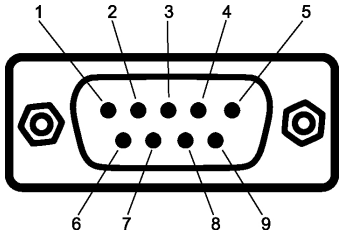


Figure 7: The D-SUB 9 connector pin numbers.

| D-SUB pin number | Function |
|---|---|
| 1 | Not connected |
| 2 | CAN_L |
| 3 | GND |
| 4 | Not connected |
| 5 | Not connected |
| 6 | Not connected |
| 7 | CAN_H |
| 8 | Not connected |
| 9 | Not connected |

Table 3: Configuration of the 9-pin D-SUB connector.

## 4.3 CAN module cabling

The CAN modules are connected to the M.2 card using PCB-to-PCB cabling (see Figure 8 on Page 12). How the pins on the CAN modules are connected to the pins on the M.2 card is described in Table 4 on Page 12.

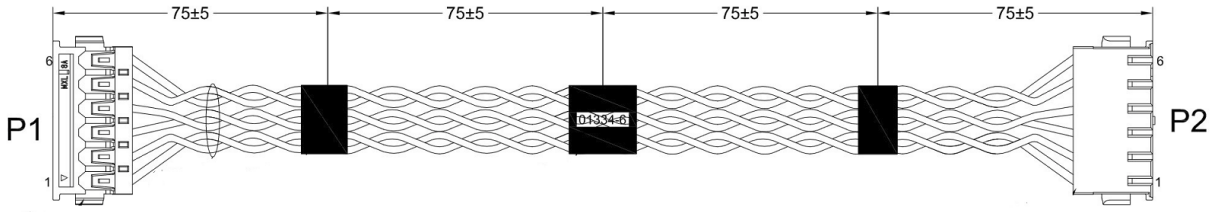


Figure 8: PCB-to-PCB cabling.

| Pin connection 1 | Pair | Pin connection 2 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 5 |
| 6 | 3 | 6 |

Table 4: Connection between pins in the PCB-to-PCB cabling.

## 4.4 Updating the firmware

For the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN to communicate with the host computer, compatible versions of the Kvaser CANlib (including driver) and firmware or SocketCAN Device Drivers must be installed.

The latest versions of firmware and drivers can be downloaded for free at www.kvaser.com/download.

Connect the Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN to your host computer.

For Linux based operating systems, instructions for how to update the firmware when using Kvaser CANlib can be found in the README in the kvflash directory. The corresponding instructions for SocketCAN are found in the kvflash-mmap directory. Read and follow the README carefully. Note: when updating PCIEcan, a complete shutdown of the computer is required in order to power cycle the device.

Use the example utility 'listChannels' in Kvaser CANlib to check the current firmware version.

If your computer is running Windows, start the update.exe application. A window opens showing the Firmware Update Instructions; read and follow those carefully.

To check the current firmware version for a computer running Windows, open "Kvaser Device Guide" which can be found in the Control Panel. Select "Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN" in the tree view to the left, and click on the channel. The firmware revision information now appears in the right half of the window.

The absolute minimum firmware and driver versions needed in order to use Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN are listed in Table 5 on Page 13.

| Device | Min. Firmware Version | Min. Driver Version |
|---|---|---|
| Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN | v1.0 | v5.43 |

Table 5: Minimum compatible driver and firmware versions of Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN.

## 4.5 Software-based TimeSync

Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN supports software-based TimeSync, which enables a hardware clock derived from the interface's onboard clock to be aligned with a host-referenced clock source, such that timestamps from events and messages are consistent and comparable across devices referencing the same clock source. For more information on software-based TimeSync, please refer to https://kvaser.com/timesync-webhelp.

# 5 Safety Instructions

## 5.1 Intended Use

Kvaser interfaces are used to connect computer systems to CAN buses. The Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN is intended for connection to a computer via an available B or M keyed M.2 slot with PCI Express connectivity.

## 5.2 Usage Warning



**WARNING FOR ALL USERS**

WARNING! - YOUR USE OF THIS DEVICE MUST BE DONE WITH CAUTION AND A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE RISKS!
THIS WARNING IS PRESENTED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE OPERATION OF THIS DEVICE MAY BE DANGEROUS. YOUR ACTIONS CAN INFLUENCE THE BEHAVIOR OF A CAN-BASED DISTRIBUTED EMBEDDED SYSTEM, AND DEPENDING ON THE APPLICATION, THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR IMPROPER ACTIONS COULD CAUSE SERIOUS OPERATIONAL MALFUNCTION, LOSS OF INFORMATION, DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT, AND PHYSICAL INJURY TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS. A POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS OPERATING CONDITION IS PRESENT WHEN THE FOLLOWING TWO CONDITIONS ARE CONCURRENTLY TRUE: THE PRODUCT IS PHYSICALLY INTERCONNECTED TO A REAL DISTRIBUTED EMBEDDED SYSTEM; AND THE FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE REAL DISTRIBUTED EMBEDDED SYSTEM ARE CONTROLLABLE OR INFLUENCED BY THE USE OF THE CAN NETWORK. A POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS OPERATING CONDITION MAY RESULT FROM THE ACTIVITY OR NON-ACTIVITY OF SOME DISTRIBUTED EMBEDDED SYSTEM FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS, WHICH MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS PHYSICAL HARM OR DEATH OR CAUSE DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT, DEVICES, OR THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT.
WITH THIS DEVICE, YOU MAY POTENTIALLY:

- CAUSE A CHANGE IN THE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM, MODULE, DEVICE, CIRCUIT, OR OUTPUT.
- TURN ON OR ACTIVATE A MODULE, DEVICE, CIRCUIT, OUTPUT, OR FUNCTION.
- TURN OFF OR DEACTIVATE A MODULE, DEVICE, CIRCUIT, OUTPUT, OR FUNCTION.
- INHIBIT, TURN OFF, OR DEACTIVATE NORMAL OPERATION.
- MODIFY THE BEHAVIOR OF A DISTRIBUTED PRODUCT.
- ACTIVATE AN UNINTENDED OPERATION.
- PLACE THE SYSTEM, MODULE, DEVICE, CIRCUIT, OR OUTPUT INTO AN UNINTENDED MODE.

ONLY THOSE PERSONS WHO:
(A) ARE PROPERLY TRAINED AND QUALIFIED WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF THE DEVICE,
(B) UNDERSTAND THE WARNINGS ABOVE, AND
(C) UNDERSTAND HOW THIS DEVICE INTERACTS WITH AND IMPACTS THE FUNCTION AND SAFETY OF OTHER PRODUCTS IN A DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM AND THE APPLICATION FOR WHICH THIS DEVICE WILL BE APPLIED, MAY USE THE DEVICE.
PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU CAN INTEGRATE THIS PRODUCT AS A SUBSYSTEM INTO HIGHER-LEVEL SYSTEMS. IN CASE YOU DO SO, KVASER AB HEREBY DECLARES THAT KVASER AB'S WARRANTY SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE CORRECTION OF DEFECTS, AND KVASER AB HEREBY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY LIABILITY OVER AND ABOVE THE REFUNDING OF THE PRICE PAID FOR THIS DEVICE, SINCE KVASER AB DOES NOT HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATIONS OF THE HIGHER-LEVEL SYSTEM, WHICH MAY BE DEFECTIVE.

# 6 Disposal and Recycling Information



When this product reaches its end of life, please dispose of it according to your local environmental laws and guidelines.

For information about Kvaser's recycling programs, visit:
https://www.kvaser.com/en/kvaser/recycling-policy.html

# 7 Legal acknowledgements

## 7.1 EU Regulatory Compliance

KVASER **EU Declaration of Conformity (DoC)**

**We**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Company Name: | Kvaser AB | City: | Mölndal |
| Postal address: | Aminogatan 25 | Telephone number: | +46 31 886344 |
| Postcode: | 431 53 | E-mail address: | sales@kvaser.com |

**declare that the DoC is issued under our sole responsibility and belongs to the following product:**

Product: Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN

**Object of the declaration** (identification of apparatus allowing traceability):
Product: Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN
Type: 73-30130-01333-9

**The object of the declaration described above is in conformity with the relevant Union harmonisation legislation:**
Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive 2014/30/EU (Art. 6)

RoHS recast Directive 2011/65/EU (Art. 4.1)

**The following harmonised standards and technical specifications have been applied**
(title, date of standard/specification):

EN 55032 (2015 + A11:2020)

EN 55035 (2017 + A11:2020)

EN 61000-6-2 (2019)

EN 61000-6-3 (2007 + A1:2011)

EN IEC 63000 (2018)

**Signed for and on behalf of:**

| Mölndal | 2023-06-20 | |
|---|---|---|
| Place of issue | Date of issue | Kent Lennartsson, Research Manager |

## 7.2 FCC Regulatory Compliance

KVASER

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Compliance Information Statement

**IDENTIFICATION OBJECT:**
Product: Kvaser M.2 PCIe 4xCAN
Type: 73-30130-01333-9

**APPLICABLE COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS:**
CFR Title 47 Part 15 §15.107, §15.109
This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules.
Operation is subject to the following two conditions:
(1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and
(2) this device must accept any interference received,
including interference that may cause undesired operation.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY (IN USA) NAME:**
Kvaser Inc.
41650 Gardenbrook Road, Suite 130
Novi, MI 48375

Internet contact: support@kvaser.com

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DeviceNet is a trademark of Open DeviceNet Vendor Association, Inc.

NMEA 2000 is the registered trademark of the National Marine Electronics Association, Inc.

For information about Kvaser related CAN patents, see www.kvaser.com/patent.

# 8 Document Revision History

Version history for document UG_98284_kvaser_m2_pcie_4xcan:

| Revision | Date | Changes |
|---|---|---|
| 1.0 | 2023-09-01 | Initial version. |
| 1.1 | 2024-01-23 | Added firmware update instructions for Linux based operating systems. |
| 1.2 | 2024-03-15 | Updated Kvaser logo. |
| 1.3 | 2025-01-14 | Updated the M.2 card dimensions in the Technical data table. |
| 1.4 | 2026-05-11 | Added section about Software-based TimeSync. Minor textual changes. |
| 1.5 | 2026-08-27 | Moved TimeSync information to webhelp webpage. Minor textual changes. |